

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

January 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

ANC News: Crosswalk Stripes at Oxford/Wendell, Emergency Climate Congress Report, MMVAC Construction Update, Long Term Planning, Lesley Update	1-3
ABC Community: Gardner Exhibition at Cadbury Commons, ABC Winter Events & Classes, Kristina Snyder Wins Award	4-5
Children's Programs: Kids Sale '09 Report, Hip Hop Festival '10, Preschool Update, Staff Spotlight	5-6
City Wide: Travel Green, Adopt a Sidewalk	7
Sacramento St. Gallery: Wild Utah	7

ANC News

NOTES FROM THE DEC. 16 MEETING

New Crosswalk Stripes Added to Traffic Calming Table at Oxford/Wendell

ANC welcomed Cambridge City Councillor Marjorie Decker's input to their efforts to improve the raised intersection at the junction of Oxford and Wendell Streets. The traffic calming measure (one of two raised platforms on Oxford Street) was installed to slow traffic to protect pedestrians and students of the Maria L. Baldwin School, but residents have worried that the lack of crosswalk markings and signs make the table less effective.

Prior to the evening's meeting, white crosswalk markings were painted on the four ramps surrounding the traffic calming table. Councillor Decker explained that the Department of Public Works (DPW) applied the stripes using white, reflective paint. The markings are an interim effort expected to last until spring 2010, when a

subcontractor will be hired by DPW to paint better-lasting thermoplastic stripes.

History

As reported in previous editions of *The Whistler*, Agassiz residents have been in discussion with Sue Clippinger, Director of the Department of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation, about their request to add vertical stripes to the Oxford/Wendell raised platform to better indicate the crosswalks.

Residents have been particularly concerned about improving pedestrian safety following a fatal accident that occurred on the site in January 2009. (Read about the incident in the February 2009 *Whistler* newsletter, downloadable at agassiz.org.)

Throughout the process, ANC sought assistance from City Councillors. In June 2009, Councillor Decker introduced a City Council order requesting that the City Manager direct the Traffic Department to add crosswalk markings to traffic-calming tables located near schools, playgrounds, and other high-use pedestrian areas. In response, Ms. Clippinger advised waiting until the department had completed studies at the sites. She also stated that stripes painted

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



JANUARY 20 - 7:30 PM

Baldwin School Cafeteria
28 Sacramento Street
(Press buzzer for entry)

AGENDA

- Snow removal on sidewalks and corners
- Discussion of the future of Mass. Ave.
- ABC Board Update
- Revised scheduled for Prentiss Street construction with DPW's Owen O'Riordan

directly on the surface with regular paint would only last a number of months.

Conclusion

Councillor Decker stated of the stripes, completed just shortly before the ANC meeting, “I found the Traffic Department’s recommendation unacceptable and again asked the City Manager to have the stripes painted, preferably in time for the next Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting.”

Following the report and discussion, ANC voted unanimously to compose a letter of gratitude to the City Council, the City Manager’s Office, and the Traffic Department with special thanks extended to Councillor Decker for her dedication and help.



The painted crosswalk stripes in the photos above are experimental and will be replaced by thermoplastic stripes in spring 2010. Photographs by Stephen Diamond.

Emergency Climate Congress Report

Saturday, December 12th marked the first meeting of the Cambridge Climate Emergency Congress, with approximately 150 Cambridge community members and city employees in attendance. The congress’s goal was to review the potential impact of climate change on the city and for community members to discuss methods to reduce Cambridge’s environmental impact. A follow-up meeting is planned for

January 23, 2010.

Ted Live, who attended the congress as ANC’s delegate, reported, “In 2002, Cambridge resolved to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by the year 2010. However, as of December 2009, the city’s GHG emissions are 27% above 1990 levels!. The Emergency Congress is a way for the city to tap into all the intellectual and political power Cambridge has at its disposal.”

Attendees at the congress, a mix of private citizens and professionals, included Mayor Simmons, City Councillor Henrietta Davis, one of five representatives of the National League of Cities attending the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen), and Riverside neighborhood resident Phyllis Smith, late of the ABC Board.

After an introduction to the congress’ goals and process, participants worked in small groups, considering paths citizens and the city government might take to reduce Cambridge’s collective carbon footprint. Examples of the suggestions included:

- * Implementing stricter building codes to encourage energy efficiency
- * Education programs and proposals involving children
- * Property tax incentives to help private homes become energy efficient
- * Studying other cities to identify best practices

Fred Meyer, Realtor
 83 Hammond Street, (617) 876-1200

Owner, University Real Estate,
 overlooking Harvard Square.
 2000 President, MA Realtors.
 Licensed real estate appraiser.

See ALL your choices,
 from all real estate companies:
harvardyard.com
agassizcambridge.com

The city will compile a report of the proposals and, at the follow-up meeting in January, the delegates will reconvene to decide which to present to the City Council. Mr. Live added, "Given the wide range of proposals, it will be interesting to see what comes out of the compilation process. I was struck by how many people seemed to be well informed on this issue."

To present an idea or provide feedback, contact Phoebe Sinclair, who can connect you to Mr. Live (who will be attending the next Climate Congress session.) Ms. Sinclair can be reached at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

Read below for opportunities to reduce your own carbon footprint:

Cambridge Energy Alliance: sign up for a free energy audit for your home, whether you rent or own: (617) 491-0488
www.cambridgeenergyalliance.org

Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET): organizes free, hands-on "weatherization" parties to teach volunteers how to lower their energy bills and carbon emissions. Learn more at: www.heetma.com or by emailing heet.cambridge@gmail.com

NStar Electric: enroll in a green energy program and learn energy reduction tips at: www.nstaronline.com/residential

ABC Board Report: Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Update

Stephen Diamond reported that there have been some technical delays to getting the final building permit for the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center, thus work on the building is slightly behind schedule. He stated, "The city wanted to be very careful since the project is recently out of a lawsuit. Also, plans needed to be updated to meet new building codes that did not exist when the art center was first designed."

Mr. Diamond acknowledged the \$400,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund awarded to the art center in 2009, making it possible for construction to begin.

The art center still needs to raise an additional

funds to complete work on the building and site. ABC has initiated a capital campaign to raise the money.

Supporters can get involved by donating \$1,000 to become a patron of the art center, or through purchasing a brick from the Buy A Brick program for \$250. To donate or learn more, visit agassiz.org and click on "Arts."

Long Term Planning in Cambridge

Following up on Cambridge Vice Mayor Sam Seidel's Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee, Agassiz resident Carol Weinhaus reported that approximately fifty people, representing various Cambridge community groups and neighborhoods, attended the meeting held at the Cambridge Senior Center.

Ms. Weinhaus stated that the meeting was an opportunity for neighborhoods to have greater input into the city's processes. Much of the discussion focused on community development, zoning issues, open space, and green space. Participants discussed both short-term and long-term changes. Some participants indicated a need to create a master plan for the city. It was a great opportunity to have input into the city's future plans.

Vice Mayor Seidel will compile the meeting's results, create a report, and then solicit additional feedback from residents across the city.

Lesley University Update

Bill Doncaster, Lesley's Director of Public Affairs, told the Council that Lesley's architects are working on plans for the proposed new home of the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) on the site of the North Prospect Church, at Mass. Ave. and Roseland St. A Lesley/Neighborhoods Working Group meeting is being planned for early 2010.

Mr. Doncaster also reported that the retail space on the first floor of the new dorm at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell Street remains available to lease. The Bank of America ATM should be open soon.

ABC Community

ROBERT GARDNER ART EXHIBITION

Cadbury Commons Independent and Assisted Living presents *Town and Country* by Robert Gardner, an exhibition of aquagraphs (watercolors painted, computer scanned, modified, and retouched). This show, by an Agassiz community member and Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center supporter, will run January 17-February 28, 2010. Join Mr. Gardner for his opening reception on Sunday, January 17 from 2:00-4:00 PM.

- What:** *Town and Country* aquagraphs by Robert Gardner
- When:** Sunday, January 17-Sunday, February 28, 2010
9:00 AM-5:00 PM
- Where:** Cadbury Commons
66 Sherman Street
Cambridge, MA 02140
- Contact:** (617) 868-0575
www.cadburycommons.com



Les parapluies de Paris by Robert Gardner

WINTER EVENTS AND CLASSES AT ABC

Don't let the frigid temperatures keep you away from the many winter offerings of Agassiz Baldwin Community. We hope to see your cheerful, rosy-cheeked faces at the following events and classes. You can learn more on our new website at agassiz.org.

LWN Free Yoga Classes

Cambridge resident Christine Palamidessi, a yoga teacher with over twenty-five years experience, has volunteered to teach a series of free yoga classes for seniors on Saturdays this January. This series of introductory yoga classes will be held on four consecutive Saturdays, beginning January 9th at 9:30 AM.

This class allows for a maximum of eight participants. RSVP early and remember to wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat!

- What:** Free Yoga Classes
- When:** Saturday, January 9-Saturday, January 30
9:30-10:30 AM
- Where:** ABC Community Room
1651 Mass. Ave.
- Contact:** RSVP nmeyer@agassiz.org or
(617) 349-6287 x16

LWN Oxford Spa Tea Talks: "Knitters Unite!"

Join fellow Cambridge knitters on Monday, January 11th for a get-together at Oxford Spa to knit and enjoy a discussion on knitting lead by a teacher from Stitch House in Dorchester. Complimentary tea and coffee will be provided.

- What:** "Knitters Unite!" Oxford Spa Tea Talk
- When:** Monday, January 11th,
9:30-11:00 AM
- Where:** Oxford Spa
102 Oxford Street



Peter G Meyersohn, CFP
Financial Advisor



- Personal Financial Planning
- Mutual Funds
- Life and Disability Insurance*
- Long Term Care Insurance*

400 W. Cummings Park #3650
Woburn, MA 01801 - 6591
(781) 933-2067 ex.108

Registered Office
48 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 661-3080
Peter33087@wradvisors.com

* Insurance products are offered through insurance companies with which Waddell & Reed has a sales arrangement.

Investing, With a Plan®
Member SPIC

Contact: RSVP nmeyer@agassiz.org or
(617) 349-6287 x16

LWN Computer Class: Social Networking

Join us on Wednesday, January 13th for a special computer class on social networking, with guest speaker Colin Rhinesmith!

Mr. Rhinesmith has generously offered his time, taking a break from his role as Community Media Coordinator at Cambridge Community Television. He will be giving an informative talk on the various forms of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, RSS feeds, and Skype. Learn what they are, how they work, and how you can benefit from using them!

What: Introduction to Social Networking
When: Wednesday, January 13th
1:00-3:00 PM
Where: LWN Computer Lounge in the ABC Community Room
1651 Mass. Ave.
Contact: RSVP nmeyer@agassiz.org or
(617) 349-6287 x16

The Living Well Network Computer Lounge is a casual social atmosphere offering public computer access for seniors held every Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 PM.

Maud Morgan Winter Interim Session and Spring Class Offerings

Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center winter session classes begin this January. Visit our website at agassiz.org and click on "Arts" to see our offerings for middle school students and adults, or call (617) 349-6287.

KRISTINA SNYDER WINS BEVERLY BENNER CASSARA AWARD

Kristina Snyder, author of the popular guide *Living Well: A Guide to Elder Services in Cambridge*, received the Beverly Benner Cassara Award on May 27, 2009 due to her "spirit, vision, and sheer determination to accomplish the much-needed yet seemingly impossible."

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Snyder.

The Beverly Benner Cassara Award is presented to an outstanding senior volunteer who embodies Ms. Cassara's, (co-founder and co-chair of the Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse), unique and long-term commitment to the ideals of productive aging, lifelong learning, and understanding that volunteering is an enduring resource to the entire community.

Learn more about the Clearinghouse, located at 42 Brattle Street, by calling (617) 864-6688.



Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

2009 KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE REPORT

ABC extends thanks to all the young shoppers who helped raise scholarship money for Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs. We enjoyed meeting new faces and greeting returning shoppers as they purchased gifts for friends and family. This year our youngest shopper was just two years old!



ABC extends a special thank you to Joie de Vivre, Greenward, Tags Hardware, and an anonymous donor for their continued support. We owe the success of the Kids Only Sale to the generosity of our retail partners, neighbors, and the children. Thanks again and see you next year.

"Re-gift" to the 2010 Kids Only Holiday Sale

Received one flower vase or licorice-scented pencil too many? The Kids Only Holiday Sale extends an open invitation to all supporters seeking new homes for unwanted gifts. We will happily accept new/unopened gifts to sell at next year's event. Drop off items at 20 Sacramento St, care of the Kids Only Holiday Sale, or contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

INTRODUCING ART: ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL

Save the date, Thursday, February 18, for the 14th Annual Hip Hop Festival, our yearly showcase of Hip Hop dance and rap. Held on the Baldwin School Stage in the Maria L. Baldwin School, this wildly popular event draws talented performers from all over Cambridge.



Seating will be general admission. Tickets are \$2 per person or \$5 per family group. Afterschool groups free, but please call ahead. The Hip Hop Festival is co-sponsored by Club Passim's Culture for Kids performance series.

What: 14th Annual Hip Hop Festival
When: Thursday, February 18, 2:00 PM
Where: Baldwin School Stage
28 Sacramento St.

For more information, contact Jacy Edelman, Director of Children's Programs, at jedelman@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x11.

SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Prepared by Priscilla Browne, Preschool Lead Teacher

In January preschool students will learn about community helpers, looking deeper into the world of police officers, fire fighters, postal workers, and more. We are hoping to have a postal worker and/ or another community helper visit the preschool.

Also, the students are beginning a unit on pets, since many of the children have shown an interest in a wide variety of animals.



SPOTLIGHT ON AGASSIZ BALDWIN CHILDREN'S PROGRAM STAFF

Read below to learn about Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool Site-Directors and Sacramento Street Preschool Staff. Want to meet more of our program and office staff? Visit our website at agassiz.org.

Priscilla Brown is Lead Teacher/Director at Sacramento Street Preschool. She has a master's degree from Lesley University in Curriculum and Instruction: Literacy. She brings over sixteen years of preschool teaching experience and is Director II certified. Priscilla is a passionate educator who is dedicated to integrating science, imaginative play, and social development in her teaching practice.



Emma Mrozicki, Early Education Site-Director, received a BA in American Culture from Vassar College and is currently enrolled in the joint Creative Arts in Learning and Elementary Education Masters Program at Lesley University. She has brought her love for creating and exploring to ABC after spending time teaching English and art at schools in Ecuador and Mexico.



Alice Vogler, 1st-5th Grade Site-Director, has worked in afterschool programs for more than ten years. She has her bachelor's of fine arts in sculpture from Pacific Northwest College of Art, and her master's of fine arts from Tufts University and the Boston Museum School. Alice is also a co-curator for a new gallery in Central Square, Cambridge called MEME and is an active artist herself.



City Wide

TRAVEL GREEN IN CAMBRIDGE

Did you know that ABC has free information about “greening” your travel in the greater Boston area? Drop by 20 Sacramento St. to get your free transportation information now!

- * Hub-on-Wheels Boston bike maps
- * Getting Around in Cambridge maps
- * MBTA Official Public Transit System maps
- * EZRide information
- * Information on cutting carbon emissions

To learn more, contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

SNOW REMOVAL: ADOPT A SIDEWALK OR CORNER

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities and representatives from a number of neighborhood associations met in 2009 to discuss snow and ice removal in the city. They are encouraging residents to adopt a sidewalk or corner to help keep them cleared of snow and ice and accessible to citizens of all ages and levels of mobility.

Residents are invited to view this Youtube video on the subject:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3EBUKS_RxI

Read Cambridge’s snow removal policy at:
www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/services/snow.html



BONNY LAMB

Hammond GMAC Real Estate
Two Brattle Square • Cambridge • MA 02138
Office: (617) 497-4400 ext. 282 • Fax: (617) 661-0719
Cell: (617) 803-8080
bonny@greatlistings.com • www.greatlistings.com
blamb@hammondre.com • www.hammondre.com

Call me with your real estate questions.



Sacramento Street Gallery

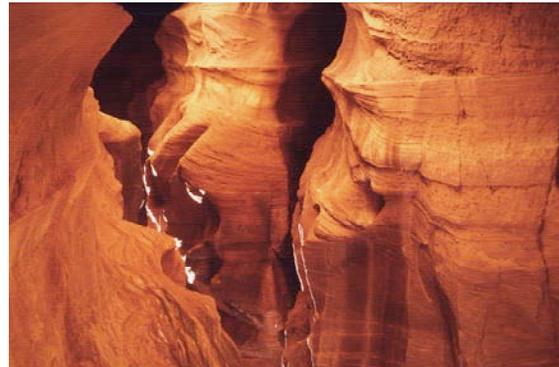
WILD UTAH

Sacramento Street Gallery is proud to present *Wild Utah*, photographs by Harvey Halpern.

States Mr. Halpern of his work, “The natural world around us, especially the realm of true Wilderness, has the beauty and power to astound and move all of us. In an increasingly mechanized and alienating artificial environment in which we spend so much of our time, any glimpse of the natural world acts as a soothing breath of fresh air. My aim as a photographer is to impart to the viewer a sense that there is a world of true Wilderness that is out there waiting to be experienced.”

Please join us for the opening reception on Friday, January 15 from 5:00–8:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

The show runs January 15 to February 19, 2010.
Gallery Hours: Weekdays 10:00 AM-5:00 PM.



Glowing Slot by Harvey Halpern

CITYLINE FIX IT

Small Jobs



- Closets ▪ Shelving
- Tires ▪ Handrails ▪ Grab bars
- Tile and Grout repairs
- Locks and Doors installed

Mike Syppe esyppe@gmail.com
Cambridge 617-491-8867

Community Calendar

January 2010

Saturday, January 9	9:30-10:30 AM	LWN Free Yoga Class, ABC Community Room, North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave., RSVP required
Monday, January 11	9:30-11:00 AM	LWN "Knitters Unite!" Oxford Spa Tea Talk, 102 Oxford St.
Wednesday, January 13	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Friday, January 15	5:00-8:00 PM	<i>Wild Utah</i> by Harvey Halpern opens at Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
Monday, January 18		Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, ABC Office and Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs closed
Wednesday, January 20	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at www.agassiz.org. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

THE WHISTLER JANUARY 2010



Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
P: (617) 349-6287 F: (617) 497-4388
www.agassiz.org

DO NOT FORWARD