

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

February 2010

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE JAN. 20 MEETING

#### **CCTV Plans Civic Journalism Workshop**

"CCTV's website has become a hub for community information," stated Nilagia McCoy, Membership, Outreach, and Promotions Coordinator for Cambridge Community Television (CCTV). "We are a good source for what's happening in specific communities in Cambridge."

As such, Ms. McCoy introduced CCTV's latest project, an event where residents from all over Cambridge can learn how to use new media technologies on behalf of their neighborhoods.

This free workshop and panel discussion, scheduled for Tuesday, April 13 at CCTV, was inspired by CCTV's Neighbormedia program that offers training in civic journalism, blogging, and new media. Workshop participants will learn about technologies that are easy to use

and inexpensive to obtain. Panelists will include prominent Cambridge bloggers, webmasters, and others who are using the Internet to connect people in their communities.

Ms. McCoy explained that CCTV is asking neighborhood groups to sign on as sponsors of the event, helping to spread the word to their constituents. She stated, "We're looking for sponsors to lend more credibility to our event and help attract our target audience: residents who are savvy about what's going on in their neighborhoods."

Following Ms. McCoy's explanation and request, the Agassiz Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to sponsor CCTV's civic journalism workshop event.

#### **Suggest A Panelist**

CCTV is soliciting suggestions of tech-savvy residents interested in participating. To suggest a panelist, contact Nilagia McCoy at (617) 661-6900 x116 or [nilagia@cctvcambridge.org](mailto:nilagia@cctvcambridge.org).

#### **Learn More About CCTV**

Attend a CCTV Orientation. Orientations are free and held at 675 Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square (entrance on Prospect St.)

Learn how to host your own TV show; take

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**FEBRUARY 24 - 7:30 PM**

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

#### **AGENDA**

- ABC Board Report
- Additional items to be announced

classes in video camera usage, editing, lighting, sound, web media, and other topics; crew on productions; join the NeighborMedia civic journalism team; network with other media-makers, and much more! There is no commitment or sign-up required, just stop by to see what CCTV has to offer. Call (617) 661-6900 with questions, or visit [www.cctvcambridge.org/membership](http://www.cctvcambridge.org/membership).

### **Learn More about Neighbormedia**

To learn more about Neighbormedia visit [www.neighbormedia.org](http://www.neighbormedia.org).

### **Schedule Change for Prentiss/Oxford Street Improvements**

Owen O'Riordan, Cambridge City Engineer, reported that reconstruction work on Prentiss St. and upper Oxford St. has been rescheduled to February due to weather. Before construction begins, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will deliver notification flyers and hold a community meeting at the Maria L. Baldwin School.

The repairs are being completed in association with DPW's citywide sewer/storm water separation project. The gas line on Prentiss St. has already been replaced in preparation for the upcoming work and a new sewer line will be installed. Mr. O'Riordan warned that DPW might need to install curb extensions to accommodate trees and maintain accessibility on sidewalks. This could result in the loss of one and a half to two parking spaces.

After Prentiss and upper Oxford have been repaired and repaved, the following streets will be reconstructed on an annual basis: Forrest Street, Frost Street, Newport Road, and Roseland Street.

Funding for these repairs comes from the city's capital budget. Additionally, Mr. O'Riordan noted that lower contractor prices have allowed DPW to fund more projects than they would have been able to otherwise.

### **Beacon St. Hotel Update**

Astrid Dodds provided an update on a hotel proposed for 371 Beacon Street in Somerville, at the junction of Oxford St. and Beacon St. The four-story, thirty-six room hotel includes a sixty-seat restaurant and underground parking that utilizes a mechanical stacking system for twenty-eight vehicles. The building will have a brick-like façade, a canopy, and a widened sidewalk. A two-car drop-off space will be available at the front, and the developer will try to ensure that deliveries to the site are made mid-day rather than during rush hour.

Ms. Dodds reported that there have been numerous community meetings discussing the project, some sponsored by the City of Somerville, some by the developer, and some initiated by abutters and residents. She added, "Somerville has been very hospitable about including Cambridge neighbors."

One issue has been environmental cleanup of the site, which was a gas station for many decades. Most of the escaped gasoline has been cleaned up and the rest is monitored via small wells scattered around the site. Monitoring will continue by the developer's environmental consultant according to Mass. Department of Environmental Protection guidelines. Ten nearby residents are notified of all environmental developments.

Other than it's size (over 10,000 square feet) the project fits within the B-A Zoning District guidelines for Somerville. Some residents remain concerned that the hotel will generate more motor vehicle congestion at an already busy location. A traffic study found that the hotel will not change the level of service (vehicle delays and length of queues). Other residents think the best way to discourage car use by hotel guests is to create more inviting

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pedestrian connections.

“As it stands currently, the area presents a complicated pedestrian crossing problem,” Ms. Dodds told the Council.

ANC voted unanimously to support a letter, composed by Ms. Dodds, asking Somerville to more fully explore the merits of a crosswalk across Beacon Street connecting the new hotel to the curved sidewalk where Beacon and Oxford meet. Copies of the letter will go to relevant Somerville and Cambridge city departments.

Postscript: On Jan. 20, 2010, the Somerville Board of Zoning Appeal approved this project, with some conditions, including reducing the restaurant seats from 60 to 54.

Mass. Highway plans to rebuild Beacon St. in 2013.

### **Climate Emergency Congress Update**

Council members were invited to review and provide feedback on a list of proposals suggesting changes Cambridge city government and citizens can make to reduce the city’s greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint.

The twenty-nine proposals, generated by participants at the first Cambridge Climate Emergency Congress held in December 2009, were consolidated from approximately three hundred proposals.

Agassiz resident Ted Live, who served as ANC’s delegate to the congress, stated that he expects the number to be further reduced at the next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2010.

### **Snow Removal: Sidewalks and Corners**

Council members watched a video about the importance of clearing sidewalks. The video showed with clarity and good humor how difficult it can be for people with disabilities, parents with strollers, and everyone else to traverse Cambridge’s sidewalks after a snowstorm. In

particular it called attention to difficulty of navigating crosswalks and corners.

Following a discussion of un-shoveled and partially shoveled sidewalks and corners, the Council voted to send a letter to the Cambridge Department of Public Works asking the city to take on responsibility for clearing all of the crosswalks and corners after street plowing. They will also request that the city research the possibilities and costs of clearing at least a first pass on all city sidewalks.

The video, produced by You Are Here, the Cambridge Video News Magazine, can be found at [www.youareherenews.org](http://www.youareherenews.org) or on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3EBUKS\\_RxI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3EBUKS_RxI).

## **ABC Community**

### **BUY A BRICK & BE MY VALENTINE**

Celebrate your love by supporting the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center. Your \$250 donation will pay for an inscribed brick and a card mailed to the object of your affections. Engraved bricks will be placed in the walkways to the new art center. Contact Terry DeLancey at (617) 349-6287 x17 or [tdelancey@agassiz.org](mailto:tdelancey@agassiz.org). For more information, visit [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org).

### **AGASSIZ BALDWIN COMMUNITY THANKS 2010 DONORS**

#### **Donors - Gifts of \$100 or More**

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(scroll down to Cambridge Bloggers)

**Become a Donor!**

Donations to Agassiz Baldwin Community provide valuable funds for many programs and services, including this newsletter, scholarships, community events, and mailings. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

**WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT ...?**

Looking for the scoop on happenings in the Agassiz and greater Cambridge communities? Check out the following resources:

- Our revamped website: [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org)
- Current and archived editions of *The Whistler*\* community newsletter
- Agassiz Baldwin Community kiosk bulletin board, located at the corner of Sacramento and Oxford Streets, next to the Maria L. Baldwin School
- Arts events bulletin board, located in the front hall of 20 Sacramento Street
- Parent/child playgroup and community bulletin boards, Agassiz Baldwin Community Room, North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave.
- Befriend the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center on Facebook
- Our blog posts at [cctvcambridge.org](http://cctvcambridge.org)

\*Subscribe to *The Whistler* for free, or for \$20 for ten hard copy issues mailed directly to your home, by contacting Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org). Free paper copies of *The Whistler* can be found at:

- Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento Street
- Oxford Spa, 102 Oxford St.
- Oxford Laundry, 102 Oxford St.
- Central Barbershop, 1161 Mass. Ave.
- Oxford St. Realty, 1644 Mass. Ave.
- Montrose Spa, 1646 Mass. Ave.
- Harvard Wine Company, 1664 Mass. Ave.
- Century 21 Avon, 1675 Mass. Ave., #5
- Cambridge Trust Company, 1720 Mass. Ave.
- Hunneman & Company/Coldwell, 1730 Mass. Ave.
- Hollywood Express, 1740 Mass. Ave.
- Hair Connection, 1768A Mass. Ave.
- Greenward, 1764 Mass. Ave.

Download archived *Whistlers*, including the first edition published in September 1970, from *The Whistler* archive page on our website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org).




## Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

### HIP HOP FESTIVAL 2010


Introducing Art Performance and Culture for Kids Performance Series present a legendary event for school age children – the 14TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL, a showcase of hip hop dance and rap performed by local professional and youth performers.



This year's program features:  
Community Art Center Dance Crew  
Floorlords  
Jam'nastics



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Somerville High School World Percussion Ensemble

Deborah Mason School of Dance  
Dazya Daye (R&B)  
DJ Luke Duke  
and MC Naheem Garcia

Extended Day: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM  
\$281.00 per week

The registration fee is \$50 per family and 50% of tuition for registered weeks. Outback registration fills quickly, so we encourage families to send in their registration forms and deposits as soon as possible.

**What:** 14th Annual Hip Hop Festival  
**When:** Thursday, February 18 at 2 PM  
**Where:** Maria L. Baldwin School Stage (gym), 28 Sacramento St.  
**Tickets:** General admission is \$2 per person and \$5 per family group. Afterschool programs free with RSVP. Email Jacy Edelman, Director of Children's Programs ([jedelman@agassiz.org](mailto:jedelman@agassiz.org)), with your program name, number of students, and number of adult chaperones.

To learn more about the program and to download an application, visit our website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). For program questions, please contact Jacy Edelman, Director of Children's Programs, at (617) 349-6287 x11 or by emailing [jedelman@agassiz.org](mailto:jedelman@agassiz.org).

### **ENROLL AT SACRAMENTO STREET PRESCHOOL**

Register now for Sacramento Street Preschool  
Sacramento Street Preschool has provided high-quality childcare to preschool age children (ages two years, nine months through five years) for over thirty years. If you are looking for an inviting, social, and stimulating environment for your child, look no further!

Through a curriculum of sensory exploration, dramatic play, music, and visual arts, our primary emphasis is on the social and emotional development of children.

Children can attend two, three, or five days a week. Program hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM, with the option for an extended day until 2:30 PM. Sacramento Street Preschool has open enrollment until all available slots have been filled and is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

#### **Visit Our Program**

Come visit and meet our staff. If you have questions about Sacramento Street Preschool, or would like to schedule a visit, contact Emma Mrozicki, Early Education Site Director, at (617) 349-6287 x14 or [emrozicki@agassiz.org](mailto:emrozicki@agassiz.org). Visit our website at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) to download the 2009-2010 Preschool Registration form.

### **REGISTER FOR OUTBACK SUMMER PROGRAM**

Families from all neighborhoods of Cambridge, the Greater Boston Area, and beyond are invited to sign up for Outback Summer Program. Beginning on July 6 and running through August 27, Outback 2010 promises to keep children engaged and inspired through a variety of arts activities, as well as physical activities, in our shady backyard.



Outback is open to students entering kindergarten through sixth grades in September of 2010. Children will enjoy dance, drama, the visual arts, and sports, as well as several special events and performances and weekly field trips to area beaches.

Tuition rates for the Outback '10 Summer program are as follows:

Regular Day: 8:30 AM-2:30 PM  
\$225.00 per week

## City Wide

### SIGN UP FOR "HIGH READ" NOTIFICATIONS

The Cambridge Water Department's "High Read" notification program contacts property owners soon after an incident of high-usage is detected. Speedy notification allows property owners to repair any leaks and identify other usages that affect the amount of water one uses.

The program requires that customers update their contact information so the Water Department is able to contact property owners as soon as a "high read" is detected. The cost of this program is included in the water rates.

To learn more, please call Brian McCoy at (617) 349-4771 or email him at [HighReads@cambridgema.gov](mailto:HighReads@cambridgema.gov) with your account number, phone number, mailing address, and email address.

Visit the Water Department online at [www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/meter.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/meter.cfm).

### CENSUS 2010 COMPLETE COUNT

The federal 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States —citizens and non-citizens.



**It's Important:** Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for housing, public health, schools, neighborhood improvements, transportation, etc.

**It's Easy:** It takes less than ten minutes to complete the questionnaire.

**It's Confidential:** It is illegal for the Census Bureau to share personal information with any other government agency --not law enforcement, IRS, Welfare, FBI, Immigration, etc. The Cambridge Complete Count Committee urges

everyone in Cambridge to participate in the 2010 Census. The federal 2010 Census forms will be mailed out in March and will ask for household information as of April 1, 2010. If the U.S. Census Bureau does not receive a response from your household, they will mail a second form and conduct follow-up calls and visits.

(It is important to note that the City of Cambridge also conducts an annual street listing census every year. This survey has nothing to do with the federal 2010 Census. Please take the time to complete both forms. The local City of Cambridge street listing census mailing is sent in January and includes a follow-up mailing.)

Learn more about the 2010 Census and why it matters to you and Massachusetts at [www.ma2010census.org](http://www.ma2010census.org).



## Sacramento Street Gallery

### WILD UTAH

Don't miss *Wild Utah*, photographs by Harvey Halpern, at Sacramento Street Gallery.

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



*Glowing Slot by Harvey Halpern*

# Community Calendar

## February 2010

|                        |              |   |
|------------------------|--------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 10 | 6:00-7:30 PM | ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor<br>Public welcome  |
| Monday, February 15    |              | President's Day Holiday<br>ABC School Programs and Office closed  |
| Thursday, February 18  | 2:00 PM      | 14th Annual Hip Hop Festival<br>Maria L. Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street                           |
| Wednesday, February 24 | 7:30-9:00 PM | ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda)<br>Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St.<br>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](http://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 FEBRUARY 2010



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