

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

ANC News: Neighborhood Safety Report, Neighbors Discuss Lesley Development, Announcements	1 - 3
ABC Community: Board Update, 37th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck, Prentiss St. Block Party Photos, Renew Cambridge Parking Permits	3 - 4
ABC School Programs: Afterschool Students Prepare for Performance, Intro Arts - MythMasters, Kids Only Holiday Sale	4 - 5
City Wide: Cambridge Library Event, Sign of the Dove Sale, 2008 Flu Clinic	6 - 7
Sacramento St. Gallery: View 51 Works of Art at Small Works Show 2008	7

ANC News

NOTES FROM THE OCT. 15 MEETING

Neighborhood Safety Report

Sergeant Paul Oppedisano, joined by Sergeant Scott Simas of the Harvard University Police Department, addressed resident's concerns about crime and pedestrian safety in the neighborhood.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs

In seeking information about missing pedestrian crosswalk signs along Oxford Street, Sgt. Oppedisano reported that the city plans to repave Oxford Street and will not replace the signs until it has done so. In the meantime, a few of the faded crosswalks have been repainted. Residents also expressed concern about the use of mid-street crosswalks, like the one on Everett St., as they have the potential to be dangerous.

Neighborhood Crime Report

In his crime review for the neighborhood, Sgt.

Oppedisano told the Council that, between August 1 and October 14th, 2008, there were 24 larcenies from motor vehicles. The larcenies in August occurred mostly during daytime hours, while the recent larcenies occurred mostly overnight. All but two involved entry by way of smashed windows. Most of the thefts were of GPS units, but other stolen items included laptops, cell phones, and MP3 players. Also, there was an attempt to steal the tires from a vehicle parked on Hammond Street.

The Cambridge Police Department (CPD) crime analysis unit is responding by analyzing the locations, days, and times that these thefts are taking place, then sending extra "park and walk" units and bike units to "flood the neighborhoods and be in the right place at the right time." So far, there have been four arrests in the city, though none in Agassiz.

In addition to the car larcenies, there were three aggravated assaults (two domestic), three auto thefts (cars recovered), four acts of malicious destruction (including spray-painting on vehicles and a smashed car window), and one house-break on Wendell Street. There were no street

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



NOV. 19- 7:30 PM

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

AGENDA

Updates on:

- **Agassiz Baldwin School Programs**
- **Harvard's Re-Design of the Fire Command Center at Hammond/Museum Streets.**

Discussions:

- **Neighborhood streets and sidewalks**

robberies, weapons /gun violations, or drug violations. Crime in the Agassiz neighborhood, Sgt. Oppedisano stated, has been consistent with crime in the city, though, overall, “there’s less crime in this neighborhood than in other neighborhoods.”

Harvard Police, questioned by residents about safety at the recently completed Northwest Science Building, told the Council that they post one to two officers in the area. In general, they utilize foot, bicycle, and motorcycle patrols. Sgt. Simas stated, “We have stepped up our patrol in the area to make sure people are seeing our officers.”

Safely Tips

The police suggested that residents stay aware of their surroundings, avoid walking on dark streets, refrain from walking alone and from wearing headphones while walking.

Contact

Sgt. Oppedisano urged residents to contact him about their concerns via email at poppedis@CambridgePolice.org.

Neighbors Discuss Lesley Development

Neighborhood activist and long-time resident Willie Bloomstein engaged the Council in brainstorming a list of concerns and community issues related to Lesley University’s development projects in Porter Square. He stated, “I feel Lesley is asking for a lot. It’s appropriate for them to do so as a landowner, just as it’s our right to listen and engage them in a discussion to mitigate our concerns.”

Mr. Bloomstein gave an overview of Lesley’s projects (the new AIB building and other possible new buildings in Porter Square) and recorded feedback from the meeting’s participants about neighborhood issues. Issues discussed included concerns about loss of open /green space, parking impacts, traffic impacts, and the potential canyonization of Mass. Ave. Mr. Bloomstein plans to create a community survey with the information he compiled at the Council meeting, distribute the survey to the

Agassiz community via ABC’s email list, compile the results to determine the community’s top priorities, and then present the survey results in December.

About the survey, he explained, “We’ve done this before with Harvard and it was very successful. In the end, we will have presented our case to Lesley, helped shaped the future of Porter Square, and Lesley will have neighborhood buy-in.

Brief Announcements

Proposed Improvements to T Park in Porter Square
The Agassiz neighborhood will begin to explore with the Cambridge Community Development Department how the Porter Square T park might be turned over to the City of Cambridge. Doing so would permit Cambridge police to have better access to the property (currently they must contact the MBTA Police) and Cambridge Public Works would be responsible for trash removal.

Agassiz resident Carol Weinhaus is organizing an informal working group to review the options. Residents interested in taking part in the process can get involved by contacting Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.

Cook a Turkey for the 37th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck

Phoebe Sinclair announced the date for the 2008 neighborhood Thanksgiving Potluck dinner: Tuesday, November 25th from 5:30–7:30 PM in the Baldwin School Dining Hall at 28



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Sacramento Street. ABC seeks volunteers to roast turkeys (a free turkey will be supplied to volunteers the Monday before the event), and carve turkey during the event. The Thanksgiving Potluck is very popular; neighbors should come early and bring a side dish large enough to feed their family plus a few more.

Lesley University Hosts Community Discussion of AIB Relocation

Residents are encouraged to attend Lesley's Community meeting to learn about and discuss the University's development projects in Porter Square. The meeting will be held in the 2nd Floor Amphitheater at University Hall/Porter Exchange at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 29.

Redesign of Harvard's Fire Command Center

In November, Harvard will present plans for the re-design of the Fire Command Center, a Harvard-owned brick structure located at the corner of Hammond/Museum Streets near Harvard's recently completed Northwest Science Building. The building is being re-designed at the request of residents in the neighborhood.

Agassiz Preschool Update

Agassiz Preschool, a neighborhood institution that has operated out of the basement of North Prospect Church for 30+ years, needs to relocate following Lesley University's acquisition of the building. The preschool made an offer on a building in Somerville but was unable to procure it. They are currently looking at new spaces and for rentals.

Maud Morgan Visual Art Center

The Maud Morgan Visual Art Center (MMVAC) has been tied up in a lawsuit for over six years. Among the possible solutions to create the art center, ABC has been working with Lesley University to include MMVAC studios in the schematic design for the Art Institute of Boston.

ABC Community

ABC BOARD UPDATE

George Hein of Howland Street has been appointed to the ABC Board to fill a vacancy.

COOK A TURKEY

Haven't yet signed up to roast a turkey for the for 37th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck dinner? There's still time! We will deliver a free turkey and roasting pan to your home on the week of the potluck. Please bring the cooked turkey to dinner on the evening of Tuesday, November 25 between 5:00 and 5:30 PM.



Can't cook? We also need volunteers to carve turkeys the evening of the event. To volunteer, contact Phoebe Sinclair at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

A long-standing tradition, the 37th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck dinner welcomes everyone from the Agassiz neighborhood, Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs, and Baldwin Elementary School communities to come together for an evening of celebration, good company, and delicious food.

Neighbors and friends are encouraged to bring a side dish large enough for their family and a few more to share. We look forward to seeing everyone and enjoying food inspired by one another's family traditions.

Date: Tuesday, November 25th
Time: 5:30-7:30 PM
Location: Baldwin School Dining Hall,
Baldwin School
28 Sacramento St.

Note: Please remember that while we will host children's activities, parents are ultimately responsible for their children.

PRENTISS STREET BLOCK PARTY

Please enjoy these photos from the annual Prentiss Street block party, submitted by Stephen Diamond.



RENEW YOUR RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT

Don't forget to renew your Residential Parking Permit. Permits may be obtained by mail or in person. If you qualify, apply on-line at www.cambridgema.gov/traffic/ResidentPermitOnline.cfm. Residents can also fill out a mail-in application and mail to the address below, or go in person to:

Traffic, Parking & Transportation
City of Cambridge
344 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02139

When applying for a resident parking permit

include or bring with you:

1. Application (use for mail-in only)
2. Copy of your vehicle registration for walk-in & mail-in
3. Proof of residency
4. Fee of \$8.00 in check or money order (fee waived if you are age 65 or older or have disability plates or placard)
5. Additional parking permits can be obtained for other residents in household and cost \$8.00
6. If required:
 - Senior citizen - proof of age
 - Person with disabilities - disability placard (copy of front & back)

Your vehicle must:

- Be registered in your name at your Cambridge address
- Be principally garaged at your Cambridge address
- Weigh less than 2.5 tons
- Leased vehicles must still be registered in Mass. and principally garaged at your Cambridge address
- See Office of Transportation website for information on company vehicles.



Agassiz Afterschool Programs

COMING TO AN AUDITORIUM NEAR YOU

Prepared by Alice Vogler, 1-5 Site Director

The 1-5th graders in Agassiz Afterschool have been working nonstop on their performance,

"Megan's Fabulous Birthday Party", which will take place on Friday Dec 5th in the Baldwin School Gym at 5:30 PM.

Our kids were so inspired by the first Introducing Art Performance "The Women Who Outshone the Sun," presented by Behind the Mask Theater that they wanted to adapt their own folktale into a play. "Megan's Fabulous Birthday Party" was written and inspired by the Mali folktale: "Mee-An and the Magic Serpent" by Baba Wague Diakite.

At Drama Club's request, Sarvi Moshfegh, our wonderful Drama and Music Specialist, started working with the kids to develop and change the characters to better fit their own personalities and realities! Each person wrote their own lines inspired by the characters and their "take" on the moral of the story. Our African Drummers and Dancers are also working on a special piece for the performance. And everyone has been helping with set and prop design.

Our Kindergartners are also planning on being showcased in the performance, but you'll have to come and see them for yourself. Put it on your calendars today. Come celebrate with us!

INTRODUCING ARTS - MYTHMASTERS

Anthony Cascio and Lindsay Flathers, the Mythmasters, blow the dust off centuries of stories from ancient Greece, bringing the power, majesty, and magic of Mount Olympus to life.

Myths explored include Phaeton and Helios, Orpheus and Eurydice, and Echo and Narcissus.



Through a skillful blend of theatrical techniques (mime, comedy, drama, puppets, masks, costumes, music, reverence, irreverence, and lots of audience participation), the gods and goddesses, heroes and villains, monsters and maidens of Greek mythology come alive on-stage to walk the earth once more.

- When:** Thursday, November 20
2:00 PM
- Where:** Baldwin School Stage,
28 Sacramento Street
- Tickets:** Afterschool groups free, \$2 per person, \$5 per family. School groups please call ahead.

For more information, call (617) 349-6287. We hope to see you there!

NEXT MONTH: ANNUAL KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE

Kids Only Holiday Sale

Fun and inexpensive gifts for kids to purchase for family and friends in a safe environment with the help of Agassiz Afterschool staff.

Sale held at 20 Sacramento St. in the Gallery. Weekdays starting Wednesday, Dec. 10 ending Friday Dec. 19. Open 3-6 PM.

Proceeds Benefit Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs Scholarship Fund

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City Wide

CELEBRATING JAMES MARSHALL AND HUMOR IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Prepared by Cambridge Public Library

In honor of the new collection, *George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends*, we will share an evening of appreciation for its author, James Marshall. A panel discussion will include several authors who contributed essays to the book.



What was the creator of George and Martha like? What is the influence of James Marshall's work? How do children respond to his books? What makes a book funny?

Roger Sutton, editor in chief of *The Horn Book Magazine*, will moderate this discussion. He will be joined by authors and illustrators Susan Meddaugh and David Wiesner, children's literature expert Anita Silvey and Cambridge school librarian Susan Moynihan, who introduces first graders to George and Martha each year.

This event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required. Books will be available for purchase and autographing.

Co-sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Company, the Cambridge Public Library, The Foundation for Children's Books, The Horn Book, Inc. and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stata Center, 32 Vassar Street (corner of Main Street) Cambridge

For more information, please call (617) 349-4409; TTY (617) 349-4421 or check www.cambridgepubliclibrary.org. The Stata Center at MIT is accessible by the T and parking is limited. For directions, please see www.mit.edu.

SIGN OF THE DOVE RETURNS TO HARVARD SQUARE

Prepared by Sign of the Dove



Good news! Sign of the Dove Holiday Artisans' Cooperative, now in its 37th season, is back in Harvard Square at 36 JFK Street from Friday, November 7 to December 24 with an opening reception on Thursday, November 13 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

Many faithful customers come back annually looking for Ellen Raja's woolly hats that look like a mop of curly hair, for Sandy Fenton's funky, colorful earrings, and for Ann Schunior's pottery decorated with bird and animal images. They can delight in clay ladybug whistles by new member Marc Mancuso, or necklaces handknit with gold wire and semiprecious stones by Margarita Petrauskiene, another new member.

Showcasing more than 60 artisans, the gallery offers gifts including clothing, pottery, drawings, tree ornaments, handmade soaps, and magnets in a full range of prices from under \$10 to big-ticket items in the hundreds. All the members' work is juried in, so the quality remains high.

Location: 36 JFK Street
Dates & Times: Nov. 7 to Dec. 24
M-S: 10:00 AM-7:00 PM
Sun: 1:00-5:00 PM



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Towers), 364 Rindge Ave.
(North Cambridge)

2008 FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE

Prepared by Cambridge Public Health Department

Cambridge residents (age 9 or older) can receive a free flu shot at any of the Cambridge Public Health Department’s annual flu clinics. While there is no charge to the public for flu shots, seniors are encouraged to bring their Medicare health insurance cards with them to the clinics. Pneumonia vaccine will also be available for adults over 65 years of age at all flu clinics.

NEW! This year the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending that all children age 6 months to 18 years receive flu vaccine. To respond to this need, the health department will provide flu vaccine to children as young as 24 months at the Tobin School clinic on Nov. 8. FluMist, a nasal spray vaccine for healthy children and young adults will be offered at this clinic.

See below for a partial list of flu clinics. For the full list, contact the Cambridge Public Health Department at (617) 665-3855 or go to www.cambridgepublichealth.org.

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2008
Time: 9 AM–11 AM
Location: Citywide Senior Center
806 Mass. Ave. (Central Sq.)

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Time: 10 AM–12 Noon
Location: Cambridge City Hall
795 Mass. Ave. (Central Sq.)

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2008
Time: 9 AM–11 AM
Location: The Cambridge Hospital
Third Floor, Learning Center
1493 Cambridge Street

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2008
Time: 5 PM–7 PM
Fresh Pond Apartments (Rindge

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2008
Time: 1 PM–3 PM
Location: Citywide Senior Center
806 Mass. Ave. (Central Sq.)



**Sacramento
Street Gallery**

VIEW 51 SMALL WORKS

The Sacramento Street Gallery presents the 8th Annual Small Works Show: 51 Cambridge Artists support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center Building Fund. 50% of all profits benefit the Fund. Come see this art exhibit and sale featuring prominent Cambridge-based artists, talked about in “Boston Event Guide”, “Cambridge Chronicle”, and “The Weekly Dig.”

The show runs to December 5th.
Gallery Hours: M-F, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturdays, Noon - 5:00 PM

Special appointments available, call for details:
(617) 349-6287.



*“The Kayaker”
Clara Wainwright*

*“Nomar”
Paul Gray*



Community Calendar

November 2008

Tuesday, November 11		Veteran's Day Holiday ABC School Programs and Office closed
Wednesday, November 12	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor
Wednesday, November 19	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. All are welcome
Thursday, November 20	2:00 PM	Introducing Arts Performance Series presents MythMasters Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St.
Tuesday, November 25	5:30 - 7:30 PM	 37th Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner
Thursday, November 27		Thanksgiving Holiday Cambridge Public Schools, ABC School Programs and Office closed through Friday, November 28

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 NOVEMBER 2008



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DO NOT FORWARD