

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

January 2011

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE DEC. 15 MEETING

Reconstruction Planned For Forest Street

Owen O'Riordan, Cambridge city engineer, provided an update on street repairs in the neighborhood associated with the city's ongoing sewer/storm water separation project. Due to the poor condition of many of Agassiz's streets, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has accelerated its plans for the neighborhood by attempting to reconstruct at least one street per year for the next three to four years. This work includes, as needed:

- New gas lines
- New sewer and storm drains (separated)
- New water lines
- Reconstructed street surface and sidewalks
- Improved handicap access ramps
- New street crossing markings

Other goals include emphasizing greater acces-

sibility for pedestrians and protecting the city's tree canopy.

Currently, DPW is finishing sidewalk work on Prentiss St. They will replace a number of trees and invite Prentiss St. residents to host a new tree on their property (at the "back" of the sidewalk) to increase the street's tree canopy.

In March or April 2011, DPW will begin work to upgrade Forest St. and a portion of Frost St. Mr. O'Riordan stated, "By this time next year, all the utility work should be done and the majority of the sidewalk and street work nearly completed."

DPW also plans, if financially possible, to reconstruct the northern portion of Oxford St., from Garfield St. to the Beacon St./Somerville line, expecting the projects to be completed in 2011 or 2012.

If the Oxford Street work moves ahead, DPW will seek residents' input on materials for sidewalks, the options being brick and concrete. The city prefers to use concrete rather than brick due to cost, maintenance concerns, and accessibility issues.

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



JAN. 11 - 7:30 PM

Maud Morgan Arts
20 Sacramento Street, rear
2D Studio, 2nd Floor

AGENDA

LESLEY UNIVERSITY UPDATES

- Art Institute of Boston

MASTER PLAN FOR MASS. AVE.

- Continued discussion

Separately, DPW will upgrade the existing traffic calming tables on Oxford at Wendell and Garfield in 2011.

Concluding the discussion, Stephen Diamond, ANC meeting chair, stated, "I'd like to praise the work that's been done so far. A section of my street, Frost, was completed this past year and the city and the contractor have been most cooperative. A tree had been obstructing the sidewalk and, working with the neighbors, DPW saved the tree and created a passable area for pedestrians. The street lost a parking space but residents, after they saw the improved sidewalk, thought it was great!"

Creating a Mass. Ave. Master Plan

Community Update

Ron Axelrod, representing a group of residents from Agassiz and Neighborhood 9, updated the council on the group's progress in sharing their vision for improvements to Mass. Ave. with city departments.

Mr. Axelrod stated, "We started this project a number of years ago by looking at Mass. Ave. between the Cambridge Common and Porter Square as having lost its character, starting in the 1950s when the street was widened, sidewalks reduced, and many trees removed."

A report created in May 2010, titled "Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard Square to Porter Square: A Proposal for Sustainable Improvements," addressed various practical concerns, including:

- Restoring Mass. Ave.'s character in connec-

- tion with development on both ends
- Increasing the availability and safety of pedestrian crossings
- Reconstructing the geometrics of intersections for one-way traffic that were originally two-way traffic from side streets
- Improving sidewalks, including quality and character of paving
- Improving the viability of street trees and plantings
- Highlight the Avenue as an "arts district" as well as the area's historical aspects

Since presenting the report to the city, the group has taken a number of steps. See below for a loose timeline.

January 2010

With the support of City Councillor Sam Seidel, (who chairs the city's Long-term Planning Committee), the group submitted a memo to the city outlining the scope of improvements they'd like to see.

June 2010

The group met with Mayor David Maher, Councillor Seidel, and department heads of DPW, Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department, and Community Development.

September 2010 and November 2010

The group met again with Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi, Mayor Maher, Councilor Seidel, and city departments. Two city employees, Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning, and Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental and Transportation Planning, were appointed to lead the project.

City Response

Mr. Dash, in attendance at the meeting, stated, "One of the key issues has been that the city doesn't plan to do major roadwork on Mass. Ave. In the past, we've piggybacked improvements on other projects and major roadwork. We found the group's ideas thoughtful and well-developed."



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Mr. Dash explained that, as the city continues to make incremental changes, it will do so according to a thorough master plan devised by a steering committee comprised of neighborhood representatives, city departments, and a consultant. Improvements will be made over a five to ten year period, and the city will host public meetings to talk through design ideas.

Appreciation

The group extended a special appreciation for support from Councillor Seidel (in attendance at the Dec. meeting), Mayor Maher, Stuart Dash, and other city department representatives.

Get Involved!

This meeting is part of an ongoing process. Residents are invited to send ideas and concerns to Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10, or Ron Axelrod at ronaldaxelrod@aol.com.

Download the report "Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard Square to Porter Square: A Proposal for Sustainable Improvements" from ABC's website at www.agassiz.org by clicking on the Neighborhood Council tab.

Lesley University Update

Bill Doncaster, Lesley University's Director of Community Relations, reported that Lesley is moving forward with its application (related to construction of the new Art Institute of Boston) to the Cambridge Planning Board this week.

A community-wide planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12 at 6:30 PM in

the Amphitheater, 2nd floor, University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave. All are welcome.

ANC Meetings Move to Tuesdays

Don't forget, starting in January 2011, ANC meetings move to the second Tuesday of the month. Join us on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:30 PM in the 2D Studio at Maud Morgan Arts. We hope to see you there!



MAUD MORGAN ARTS WINTER SESSION

Maud Morgan Arts's listing of classes and registration for the Winter Session are now online at www.maudmorgan.org—find class descriptions and information about each of the faculty, as well as links to their websites. Classes start January 18th and run for eight weeks with a break for February vacation week. Please take a look, be tempted, and give in to temptation! You will not be disappointed.

"INTO THE LIGHT: ARTWORK BY FAY'S FRIENDS"

The Chandler Gallery is proud to present "Into the Light: Artwork by Fay's Friends," on exhibit January 18 through February 25, 2011. The show will feature art by:

- Tom Baker
- Appy Chandler
- Ken Clark
- Mary Coogan
- Elizabeth Coxe
- Sunny Dupree
- Aileen Erikson
- Judith Felton
- Faith Hyde
- Frances Pratt

Please join us for the opening reception on Thursday, February 3 from 6:00-8:00 PM.

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The Chandler Gallery is open weekdays from 10 AM-5 PM.



Community

MORE THAN JUST A COMPUTER LOUNGE

Prepared by Colin Barr, LWN Computer Lab Coordinator

The Living Well Network computer lounge is a place where adult community members can gather to socialize, share resources and information, and of course, participate in computer-related activities.



The lounge is located at the Agassiz Baldwin Community Room at North Hall, 1651 Mass. Ave. at Wendell Street, and open Wednesdays from 1 to 3 PM.

Some participants bring in their own laptops and many others use the computers available in the lounge. This last September, ABC upgraded the lounge with five new Mini Macs, two new PC computers, and all new software from a recent grant award.

Participants frequent the lounge for different reasons: some want to solve specific computer problems in a relaxed space and some want to share information and help others solve problems. Others want to attend classes and learn new skills with their neighbors. Either way, the environment is vibrant, informative, and always interesting.

“There isn’t a place in Cambridge where older community members can get this type of casual computer-related attention,” said Colin Barr, LWN Computer Lounge Coordinator. “This is a unique space and a real gem for our community.”

“It’s fun to solve computer problems. I worked with one participant where I took her photo using her iPhone, downloaded the image on the lounge Mini Mac after emailing it to myself, then uploaded the image for use as her Facebook profile photo,” he said.

Here are some other activities participants have been working on at the lounge this season:

- Cleaning up emails and resetting the SPAM filter
- Understanding who is a ‘friend’ on Facebook
- How to create a photo album on iPhone
- Sending email through an iPhone
- How best to organize desktop files in color-labeled folders

Last year the lounge offered specific computer classes that were very popular. We’ll be doing the same this year, and some of the proposed topics include:

- What is an Email Anyway?
- Social Networking
- How Computers Work
- YouTube
- History of Computers
- Craigslist.org and Freecycle.org
- What’s In Your Computer?

The computer lounge is just one offering from the Living Well Network, which provides activities, resources, and fun for older adults in our community.

If you would like to be placed on the Living Well Network’s email list or want more information, please contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10, or Colin Barr at cbarr@agassiz.org.

LWN MOVIE NIGHT AND DISCUSSION SERIES

Prepared by Colin Barr, LWN Computer Lab Coordinator

Stay tuned for our upcoming Movie Night and Discussion series. We will show films at the Maud Morgan Arts Center that we hope will lead to interesting and rousing discussion. What are your favorite films? Let us know!

For more information, please contact Colin Barr at cbarr@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.

JOIN LWN YOGA THIS JANUARY

Join us at LWN Yoga this January! In class, students practice:

- Classical yoga postures to build both strength and flexibility
- Range of motion series for joints
- Body alignment for shoulder, hips and knees
- Breathing techniques from both yoga and Aikido traditions
- Centering exercises from Aikido to access inner power and stability
- Balance poses to build confidence
- Meditation, or the practice of turning inward, to enrich inner awareness

Dates: January 8, 15, 22, 29
Time: 9:30-10:30 AM
Location: Lesley's University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave., Room 4-009
Cost: \$10 per class
Details: Bring a yoga mat and wear loose clothing. Blocks and belts will be provided. Join us!
Contact: Phoebe Sinclair, (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org

Meet the Teachers

Christine Palamidessi, MA 500 RYT, has been a dedicated yogini since the early 80s. She is trained in Iyengar (alignment-inspired) yoga, and has studied advanced pranayama (yogic breathing) in India. She is a registered 500-hour certified Yoga Alliance instructor.



Matthew Bagedonow, Aikido Black, began studying Aikido in the 70s. His teacher, Kanai Sensei, was a direct student of Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido. In addition to his day job as a construction business executive, Matthew teaches Aikido at the MIT dojo.



Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

14TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL

Save the date, Thursday, February 24, 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, including:

- Jam'nastics
- Deborah Mason School of Dance
- Community Arts Center
- DJ Luke Duke
- And more!

Seating will be general admission. Tickets are \$2 per person or \$5 per family group. Afterschool groups free, but please call ahead.

This year's Hip Hop Festival is co-sponsored by Club Passim's Culture for Kids performance series.

What: 14th Annual Hip Hop Festival

HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT

781-393-0006
mail@highlanddevelopment.net
www.highlanddevelopment.net



Hire the Agassiz art school builder for your next project.

When: Thursday, February 24 at 2 PM
Where: Baldwin School stage,
28 Sacramento St.

- The Food Project
- When Pigs Fly

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

Students also helped raised money for the East End House Emergency Food Pantry by selling handcrafted jewelry.

FOURTH ANNUAL FLYING ZUCCHINI CAFÉ A SUCCESS

Many thanks to our amazing teaching staff, parents, and the Maria L. Baldwin School for helping make this a great Flying Zucchini Café!

The fourth annual Flying Zucchini Café debuted on December 8th and 9th, 2010, and successfully served guests delectable delights from “Around the World” (the year’s theme.) Students from Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool



Kindergarten and 1st-5th grade programs participated in a wide range of activities including: practicing recipes; creating flags, tablecloths, and lanterns to decorate; producing menus; taking reservations; designing T-shirts; serving; and performing in videos and a skit at the events.



The evenings’ fare was cooked using farm fresh produce and donations from:


- Belkin Lookout Farm
- Hi-Rise Bakery
- Iggy’s Breads of the World
- JP Licks
- Lizzy’s Harvard Square
- Olivia’s Organics
- Red Fire Farm
- Reseska Apiaries, Inc.
- Stone Soup Farm




City Wide

LIBRARY WORKSHOPS ON BULLYING

Are you concerned that your child is being bullied by others, or that s/he may be a bully themselves? Please join us for Bullying: a two-part series with Families First Parenting Educator, LaVerne R. Saunders at Cambridge Public Library’s O’Neill branch. These workshops offer ways to teach children skills to help them avoid being bullied or becoming bullies.



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Part I

Helping The Child Who is Bullied
Monday, January 24 at 6:15 PM

Part II

Preventing and Diffusing Bullying Behavior
Monday, January 31 at 6:15 PM

The workshops will be located at the O'Neill Branch Library, 70 Rindge Avenue, Cambridge. Free child care will be provided, but is limited. Registration is required. For more information or to sign up, please call (617) 349-4409 or (617) 349-4023.

Ms. Saunders is a Parenting Educator for Families First, specializing in the areas of violence prevention, anger management, and bullying prevention.



Sponsored by the Greater Boston Early Childhood Resource Center of the Cambridge Public Library, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and Families First Parenting Programs.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR: SHOVEL YOUR WALK

Courtesy of Cambridge Dept. of Public Works

Ice and snow-free sidewalks are everyone's responsibility. Work with your neighbors to ensure your entire block is safe and accessible for all!

- Shove your sidewalk on all sides of your property, down to bare pavement
- Make a path at least three feet wide
- Chop or melt all ice
- Clear ramps at corners and crosswalks
- Keep street drains clear of snow

Remember to remove snow from all sidewalks next to property within twelve hours after snow stops falling during the day, and before 1 PM when snow has fallen overnight. Also, remove

or melt ice within six hours of the time that it forms.

Reach out to your neighbors. Are there neighbors on your street who are elderly, have a disability, or may have difficulty shoveling for any reason?

Avoid a violation. Residents who do not comply will be in violation of City Ordinance and may be fined \$50 per violation per day.

RECYCLE MORE IN 2011

Prepared by Cambridge DPW, Recycling

Christmas Tree Recycling

Weather permitting, bare trees will be collected from residents for recycling on your regular collection day from January 3-14, 2011. Remove stand and all decorations. Do not put in a plastic bag. Place bare trees at the curb by 7 AM on collection day or after 6 PM the night before.

Recycling Christmas trees prevents them from getting buried in the landfill. Trees are recycled into mulch. Every year, City residents recycle thousands of trees.

Recycle Old Phonebooks

Delivery of 2011 phone books has begun! Recycle old and any unneeded new ones. Just remove the plastic wrap or bag. Place phonebooks with mixed paper on collection day. Place paper in a paper, a separate bin or in a paper "toter" on wheels.

If every Cambridge household recycles an old phone book or a new one that is not needed, we could keep about 225,000 pounds of paper out of the trash. That's almost 2000 trees!

Try these two websites to stop receiving yellow page directories: Yellow Pages Association at www.ypassociation.org or Yellow Pages Goes Green at www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org.

Community Calendar

January 2011

Saturday, January 8	9:30-10:30 AM	LWN Yoga Class begins, University Hall, 1815 Mass. Ave., see page 5 for details
Tuesday, January 11	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Monday, January 17		Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, ABC School Programs and office closed
January (Date TBA)	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public 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 e-mail. 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 2011



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DO NOT FORWARD

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting this January, ANC meetings will occur on the second Tuesday of the month. Join us in the 2D studio at the Maud Morgan Arts Center, 20A Sacramento Street.