

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

September 2011

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE JUNE 14 MEETING

#### **Community Support for Cambridge Common Enhancements**

Council members voted to approve a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation supporting the City's efforts to renovate the Cambridge Common. The project is proposed to begin in 2014 or sooner, dependent upon funding. The letter requested an accelerated schedule, a new historical component, and additional access points from parking along the outside edge of the Common.

A key point of the design includes the creation of pedestrian and bike pathways on the east side of Mass. Ave. opposite the Cambridge Common. When completed, pedestrians and bicycles will be able to travel along a continuous path with marked street crossings on Mass. Ave. from Harvard Square to the neighborhood.

Other renovations to the Cambridge Common include:

- Landscape and furniture improvements
- Tree plantings
- Reconstructed pathways
- Improvements to the field

The Community Development Department has hosted several public meetings to inform the community about the project and collect input.

#### **Neighborhood Walking Path**

"Do you know where the labyrinth is?" asked Seddon Wylde, Agassiz resident and volunteer with ABC's Living Well Network (LWN.) "Or where the whales are located?"

Providing a brief time line, Ms. Wylde described her experience volunteering to organize activities that encourage older adults to walk for physical and mental health. Offerings included walking companions, group walks, bird watching trips, and historical tours.

Ms. Wylde's most recent inspiration, prompted by a program on National Public Radio proclaiming the importance of walking, was to create a guided route through the neighborhood

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**SEPT. 13 - 7:30 PM**

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

#### **Agenda**

- **Neighborhood discussion with Cambridge City Councillor Leland Cheung**
- **Mass. Ave. Master Plan Update**
- **Your neighborhood news and issues**

highlighting points of interest.

Ms. Wylde enlisted the help of a dozen volunteers to research and write descriptions of thirty sites and local flora, including the aforementioned labyrinth, Julia Child's and e. e. cummings's residences, a Laundromat where two movies were filmed, neighborhood trees, and more.

When complete, the walking path will be printable and available for download from ABC's website. Additionally, the Chandler Gallery will host a corresponding exhibit this September, featuring original art created by local artists, inspired by neighborhood sites.

The opening reception for the show will be held on Sunday, September 25, and participants can also enjoy tours of the neighborhood led by Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, and Jean Rogers, Chief Ranger at Fresh Pond.

**Neighborhood Crime Report**

In addition to the recent crime report statistics, Council members discussed break-ins in the neighborhood with the Cambridge Police Department (CPD.) In particular, residents expressed dismay about an incident in which building management failed to notify building occupants about a break-in.

The Council requested that CPD consider adopting a procedure whereby the police

strongly advise landlords to report break-ins immediately to residents, which the officers agreed to look into.

Neighborhood Sergeant Stephen Sennott informed the Council that, although CPD does not currently consider the housebreaks in the neighborhood to be a crime pattern, a detective has been assigned to the case and police presence has been increased in the area.

Overall, Sgt. Sennott explained that the statistics indicate crime is down throughout the city. He reiterated that, for the most part, the Agassiz neighborhood is safer than other areas."

**Crime Report – March to June 2011**

- Aggravated assaults: 0
- Auto theft: 1
- Commercial robberies: 0
- Housebreaks:
  - March 7, Wendell St. -nothing stolen
  - March 24, Hammond St., - a Cambridge male was arrested in association with this housebreak
  - March 31, Arcadia St. -items stolen
  - June 9, 64 Oxford St. (a 17-unit building) -items stolen included TVs, a laptop, and jewelry
- Larcenies from motor vehicles: 3-4, stolen items included GPS units and laptops
- Malicious destruction of property: tires slashed, mirrors and windows broken, and paint thrown on the side of vehicles
- Street robberies: 2
- Weapons violations: 0

**Lesley University Retail**

Hi-Rise Bread Company will move shortly into the first floor of the Lesley University dorm at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell St. The company has received its permit and expects to open this July. This location will be Hi-Rise's third in Cambridge.

Bourbon Coffee, which is renting space at Lesley's University Hall previously occupied by



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The Gap, also received a permit to build. The coffee shop plans to open when school starts again in the fall.

**Update on AIB**

Architects are working on plans for the Art Institute of Boston (AIB), to be relocated to the former North Prospect Church and a newly constructed building at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Roseland St. Construction is set to begin in spring 2012 with an anticipated timetable of eighteen months, including moving the church to a new location on the site.

For more information, visit Lesley's website at [http://bit.ly/lesley\\_porter\\_square\\_info](http://bit.ly/lesley_porter_square_info), or read the following editions of The Whistler at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org):

- 2006 January, February, April, May, September
- 2007 April, May, December
- 2008 October, December
- 2009 February, March, April, September, November
- 2010 April, May, November
- 2011 February, March

**Harvard Summer Updates**

Please read below for updates provided by Tom Lucey, Director of Community Relations at Harvard University.

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to provide you with an update about some activity scheduled for your neighborhood this summer and to invite you to take advantage of all that Harvard has to offer its neighbors at its museums and other venues.

As you may already be aware, we have begun renovating a portion of the space in the Engineering Science Lab (ESL) building located on Oxford Street. Exterior work that will be completed as part of this project includes bringing the building into compliance with accessibility codes, doing some abatement work, and

making some landscaping improvements. We are also upgrading the landscaping on the part of campus that abuts Harvard's CEA building, located at the corner of Museum and Gorham Streets, and we are doing some restoration work at Harvard Divinity School's Andover Hall.

Construction of the new Harvard Law School building at the corner of Everett St. and Mass. Ave. remains on schedule, and the building should be ready for full occupancy in the beginning of 2012.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to successfully address the sub-surface presence of dry cleaning solvents with bioremediation in and around the retail site north of Everett Street. Because of the area's geology and the number of utilities under Mass Ave, the remediation project is highly complex and iterative, so we can't yet predict definitively when that work will be completed. But we have received reports suggesting that it could take as long as two more years to complete.

We won't be in a position to determine the future of the retail building on the site until the remediation is finished and its ultimate impact on the structure is known, but please be assured that Harvard is ever mindful of the neighborhood desire for a retail presence in that location. We are working to complete remediation activities as quickly as possible, and we will certainly remain in communication with you as the project team continues to make progress.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to learn about various events on campus during the summer and beyond. Please let me know if you would be interested in receiving a monthly e-connect newsletter that provides information about special events, lectures, sports, and programs.

A sample of upcoming events includes Museum Family Days and Farmers' Market at Harvard.

We hope you will avail yourselves of some of these wonderful opportunities right here in your 'back yard,' and that you will bring along your families and friends!

Best wishes,  
Tom Lucey, thomas\_lucey@harvard.edu

### **Recycling on City Streets**

David Stern, Neighborhood 9 resident, visited the council to discuss and present his findings about the state of recycling on city streets. As part of his research, Mr. Stern met with Denise Jillson of the Harvard Square Business Association, interviewed merchants about their recycling needs and issues, and contacted Starbucks about possibly sponsoring recycling bins in Cambridge.

The council's discussion included:

- Is there a way to increase recycling options on city streets?
- How might the universities contribute to the city's efforts?
- Is the student population helping or hindering the state of recycling in the city?

With regards to the college community, Mr. Doncaster commented, "Students urge Lesley to do more in terms of recycling. Systems need to be so easy and intuitive, you almost have to go out of your way not to recycle!"

Ms. Wylde agreed, "When I'm in Europe, I'm amazed how immaculate the streets are. In Cambridge, I pick up trash all the time. Maybe we should have a contest for the cleanest street in Agassiz?"

Cambridge City Councillor Sam Seidel, in attendance at the meeting, informed Mr. Stern and the council that he would share discussion with the City Council to see how they might assist.

### **Mass. Ave. Master Plan Update**

Stephen Diamond, ABC Board Director and long-time Agassiz resident, described the

Mass. Ave. Master Plan project, a collaboration between residents and city departments to improve the Mass. Ave. corridor from the Cambridge Common to Porter Square.

Between March and June 2011, the city hosted three successful and well-attended public meetings. Harvard and Lesley Universities are also contributing to the effort.

Mr. Diamond thanked Councillor Seidel for his support and assistance.

### **Care for Newly Planted Street Trees**

Reprinted from [www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/urbanforestry/](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/urbanforestry/)

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

There are several opportunities for Cambridge residents to get involved in volunteer programs:

#### **Gator Bags**

We would appreciate your help with watering newly planted trees. Gator bags have been installed throughout the city on newly planted trees. If you have one around a tree in front of your house, we ask that you fill the bag once or twice a week.

A gator bag is a heavy plastic watering bag that goes directly around the trunk of the tree. This system provides a steady source of water directly to the roots of the trees minimizing runoff, evaporation and waste of water. This really makes a difference for a young tree surviving a summer and helping the tree roots to get established.



### Cambridge in Bloom

Cambridge in Bloom is a public-private partnership program dedicated to enhancing local green spaces through improved stewardship of our parks and offers landscaping programs such as: Adopt a Hanging Basket; Adopt a Green Space; Adopt a Park; etc.

### Tree Keepers

Join Tree Keepers, a program to help young trees become hearty, healthy, mature trees. Also, the Committee on Public Planting meets to promote and improve the quality and diversity of public planting throughout Cambridge and our new **Junior Forester Program** is a volunteer opportunity open to local youth between the ages of five and thirteen years.



## Community

### NEW GARDEN DEDICATED TO MARY NAGATOMI

On Saturday June 18th, neighbors gathered to dedicate the new garden beside 20 Sacramento Street in honor of Masumi Mary Nagatomi, a good friend, neighbor, and longtime supporter of Agassiz Baldwin Community (ABC) who passed away in August 2010.

The ceremony took place at 11 AM with those in attendance including Mary's three daughters Aki, Aya, and Kiyo; Terry DeLancey, Executive Director at ABC; George Hein, ABC Board Director; Andrea Walsh, ABC Board Director; and numerous neighbors gathered in celebration. Aki Nagatomi and other speakers thanked Terry Delancey and the Agassiz Baldwin Community for creating the garden, as well as George Hein and Janet Burns for their help planning and planting the garden.

In addition to mainly Japanese-inspired plantings and other plants similar to those in Mary's Wendell Street garden, the Sacramento Street garden features a commemorative stone created

by David Phillips, the artist responsible for the artist pallet weather-vane on top of the Maud Morgan Arts Center (MMA.)



Also displayed is a bird mosaic created by Gail Boyajian, another commissioned piece installed in conjunction with MMA. Both works are beautiful tributes to Mary's elegance and eye for simplicity.

At the ceremony, neighbor Emily Romney pointed out that the ABC now has two memorial tributes for beloved neighborhood members, the Maud Morgan Arts Center and Mary Nagatomi's Garden.

ABC extends gratitude to Mary's daughters, as well as to the many donors who made the garden possible.

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY BARBECUE POTLUCK 2011

Join us at our annual Family & Community Barbecue Potluck on Tuesday, September 27. Meet your neighbors, ABC Children's Program families, and members of the Maria L. Baldwin School community, while sharing good food and enjoying our spacious backyard.



Please bring a side dish, fruit, salad, dessert, drinks, or chips to share. ABC will supply hot-dogs, hamburgers, a veggie option, and drinks.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 27  
**Time:** 5:30-7:00 PM  
**Location:** 20 Sacramento Street, backyard  
**Information:** (617) 349-6287 x10 or email [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org)

**Everyone Is Welcome!** Please remember that children must be accompanied by adults.

**JOIN OUR “GREEN” BOOK CLUB**

This fall, the Cambridge Energy Alliance and ABC are partnering to create a “Green” book club. Join us to read about topics such as sustainable living, renewable energy, and the great outdoors. We want your input and book suggestions! To sign up or learn more contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.



**MAUD MORGAN ARTS FACULTY EXHIBITION**

Ranging from paintings, prints, ceramics and sculpture, to drawings and fashion, this selection of artwork by artists who teach at Maud Morgan Arts, highlights the variety and accomplishments of the faculty.



*“Infant Portrait” by Jameson Copp*

**What:** Maud Morgan Arts Faculty Exhibition  
**When:** Monday, July 18 to Friday, September 16, 2011  
**Where:** Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street

The gallery is open from 10 AM-5 PM, weekdays.

**CHANDLER GALLERY PRESENTS “THE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PATH”**

On Sunday, September 25, join us at the opening reception for “The Agassiz Neighborhood Path.” The path, a walking route through the neighborhood featuring historic and natural places of interest, was created by volunteers in association with the Living Well Network.

A corresponding art exhibit, on display from September 25 to October 28, in the Chandler Gallery will feature neighborhood-specific work by local artists:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Jane Goldman      | Jill Hoy            |
| Boriana Kantcheva | Andrea Kadomiya     |
| Mary Kenny        | Catherine Kernan    |
| Sherry Leffert    | Diane Norris        |
| Judith Prager     | Wendy Prellwitz     |
| Alexandra Sheldon | Clare Walker Leslie |
| Seddon Wylde      |                     |

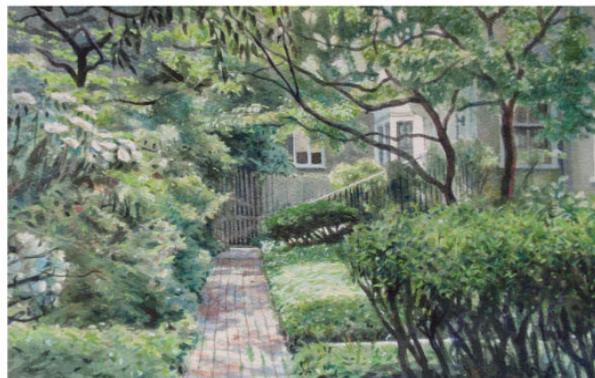
**What:** “Agassiz Neighborhood Path” opening reception and walking tours  
**When:** Sunday, September 25th, 12 Noon-5:00 PM  
**Where:** Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street

Tours (depart from gallery):

- 1:00-2:00 PM: Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the Cambridge Historic Commission, will lead a historic tour
- 3:00-4:00 PM: Jean Rogers, Chief Ranger at Fresh Pond, will lead a tree tour

In addition, a map and guide will be available to participants on the day of the reception, as well as for download from the Agassiz Baldwin Community website at <http://agassiz.org/living-well/agassiz-neighborhood-path>.

**Celebrating the Agassiz Neighborhood**



*“The Approach to Julia Child’s House” by Jane Goldman*



## Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

### REGISTER FOR AGASSIZ BALDWIN AFTERSCHOOL

Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool is currently enrolling for the 2011/2012 school year. Our popular out-of-school time program will begin on Wednesday, September 7th for children entering first through fifth grade and Friday, September 9th for children enrolled in Kindergarten.

Our licensed program provides arts and crafts choices, homework assistance, and physical activities. The afterschool staff consists of a talented and diverse range of teachers, including musicians, dancers, and art educators. Children may also sign up for classes with our professional specialist teachers.

#### Open House

Join us on **Tuesday, September 6th** for the Kindergarten and 1st-5th Grade Open House. Tour the space, meet the teaching staff, and talk with other Afterschool parents. The Kindergarten Program is located at 20 Sacramento Street and the 1st-5th Grade Program is located at 28 Sacramento Street in the Maria L. Baldwin School, lower level.

#### Visit Us Any Time

We encourage families to visit our program and meet the staff. For more information, or to schedule a visit, email [jedelman@agassiz.org](mailto:jedelman@agassiz.org) or call (617) 349-6287 x11 to speak with Jacy Edelman, Director of Children's Programs.



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#### Scholarships and Vouchers

Limited scholarship funding is available and vouchers are accepted year-round. Enrollment is on a first-come-first-served basis and spaces are limited.

#### Learn More

For details and to download the 2011/2012 registration form, visit: [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org).

## City Wide

### CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

#### Valente Branch Library: Portuguese Songs and Stories for Children

Please join us second and fourth Wednesday of each month for an exciting new program! We'll sing Portuguese songs and enjoy a story or two.

- What:** Portuguese Songs and Stories for children of all ages and their caregivers
- When:** September: 14th, 28th October: 12th, 26th
- Where:** Valente Branch Library, 826 Cambridge Street (next to the King Open School)
- Information:** Contact Mary Carter at (617) 349-4015

#### Reading Together: A Book Group for Kids Who Are Learning English

Read and talk about some terrific books while practicing your English! This book group will be held on the second Monday of each month, beginning September 12th. Pizza will be served.

- What:** Book group for kids in grades three to five
- When:** Mondays, 5:30 PM
- Where:** Whale Room, Main Library, 449 Broadway
- Register:** (617) 349-4038

# Community Calendar

## September 2011

Tuesday, September 13	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Wednesday, September 14	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Sunday, September 25	12:00-5:00 PM	Reception for "The Agassiz Neighborhood Path" at the Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street
Tuesday, September 27	5:30-7:00 PM	Annual Family & Community Barbecue, 20 Sacramento Street

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](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 September 2011



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**DO NOT FORWARD**

Keep up with Agassiz Baldwin Community and Maud Morgan Arts online at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org) and [www.maudmorganarts.org](http://www.maudmorganarts.org).