

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

January 2012

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE DEC. 13 MEETING

Expanded Snow Removal In Cambridge

"The city has a strong snow removal program, but we're always trying to improve," stated Lisa Peterson, Public Works Commissioner at the December ANC meeting.

In addition to clearing snow and ice from 125 miles of public streets, city-owned parking lots, and garages, the Department of Public Works (DPW) clears approximately eighteen miles of public sidewalks, bus stops, and crosswalks in high-use areas. Additionally, last winter DPW removed approximately 20,000 tons of snow due to public safety; usually snow removal is limited because of the considerable cost and lack of space to place snow.

Ms. Peterson, accompanied by John Nardone, Assistant Commissioner for Operations,

described sidewalk snow removal as particularly challenging.

She explained, "There have been requests from residents over the years for Public Works to clear all sidewalks in addition to streets, but the resources needed would be extraordinary. According to our analysis, clearing residential sidewalks could cost \$750,000 per storm, up to ten million dollars for the season, depending on the severity of the winter. Residents would be spending a full percent of their tax rate on snow removal! So we're looking at incremental improvements, including putting our attention on corners."

As part of its approach, DPW enforces the city's snow and ice clearing ordinance, issuing citations as necessary. In 2010, the DPW received 2400 complaints and issued over a thousand citations. To report an uncleared walk, residents may call the Snow Hotline at (617) 349-4903, use the online form at http://bit.ly/cambridge_snow, or download the city's new iReport app from www.cambridgema.gov, Android phone Marketplace, or (available soon) iTunes App Store.

Program Expansion

In addition to receiving feedback from individuals, DPW met with the Cambridge

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



FEB. 14 - 7:30 PM

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

The January 10 ANC meeting has been canceled. Please join us in February!

Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Cambridge Pedestrian Commission about priorities for clearing snow from sidewalk corners and crosswalks.

“We realize that compacted snow at the corners is a problem,” stated Mr. Nardone. “We meet with the crews to go over this issue. We can’t stop all of it from happening, but we’re trying to work with the plow drivers regarding where they’re placing snow.”

Beginning this winter, DPW will hire additional contractors to clear crossings, corners, and bus stops in high traffic areas –approximately 2000 ramps and crossings, and 250 bus stops. Crews will include pick-up trucks, small plow vehicles, as well as workers with shovels and snow blowers. Most snow removal is done by machine but, with significant accumulation, it can take up to three days for snow to be cleared citywide.

Ms. Peterson added, “We expect to learn a lot about our expanded snow removal program this winter. Our infrastructure is challenging in that Cambridge has miles of narrow sidewalks obstructed by street trees and utility poles, making clearing of all sidewalks by machine impossible.”

Community Response

Council members discussed following requests, issues, and suggestions for the city:

- Please pay more attention to plowing Oxford Street
- Consider offering honoraria to plow crews that do exemplary work

- Last year, the universities deposited snow in public parking spaces, rendering them unusable for long stretches of time
- In addition to the diagonal path in the Cambridge Common, please clear a path along the Mass. Ave. edge
- What group is responsible for plowing “little Mass. Ave.”, the triangle-shaped strip of MBTA vents and sidewalk across from Harvard Law School?
- Can the city negotiate with large landowners/institutions for long-term garage parking during snow emergencies?
- Can the city assist with vetting snow removal contractors for hire?

Fred Meyer, long-time resident and ABC Board Director, stated, “It’s inefficient for landowners to deal with sidewalks individually. We should work towards the city taking on responsibility for clearing all the sidewalks on a first pass, paid for by an increase in taxes.”

Stephen Diamond, ANC meeting chair, added, “Snow removal might cost less overall if the city and community collaborated.”

He thanked Ms. Peterson and Mr. Nardone, stating, “Snow clearing is an annual problem. I hope this discussion has been as useful to you as it has been to us!”

City Exemption Program

The city offers an exemption program for low-income elderly people and persons with disabilities. Find out more here:
<http://1.usa.gov/cambridge-snow-assistance>.

Field Trip to LWN Computer Lounge

Council members enjoyed a brief visit to the LWN Computer Lounge, located in ABC’s North Hall Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave.

Colin Barr, LWN Computer Lab Coordinator, explained the lab’s mission and goals, and participants enjoyed light refreshments.



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To learn more, visit our website at agassiz.org/living-well/senior-computer-lounge.



Community

CITYWIDE COMPUTER LAB MEETING

Colin Barr, Living Well Network Computer Lab Coordinator, helped organize and facilitate a meeting hosted at Cambridge Community Television (CCTV), aimed at engaging community computer labs in the city.

In addition to LWN and CCTV, representatives participated from community centers Margaret Fuller House and Cambridge Community Center, The Cambridge Homes, Career Source, and city programs Cambridge Senior Center, Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge Housing Authority, and Cambridge Public Schools.

Participants described the populations that attend labs, discussed common challenges and the digital divide (issues with access to technology,) as well as brainstormed how to locate and share resources. The discussion will be ongoing as a resource for all computer labs in the city.

LWN INDOOR SOCCER

This winter, team up with the Living Well Network for indoor soccer! Weekly pick-up games will be held one night a week from 7:00-9:00 PM for residents over age fifty. We're looking for eight to twelve players committed to participating at least most of the time.

Interested? Contact Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x10.

LWN MOVIE NIGHT

The LWN Movie Night and Discussion series continues this January with "The Take" at the Maud Morgan Arts Center. A \$3 admission fee supports the program.

Date: Tuesday, January 31
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 2D Studio, Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento Street

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

LWN YOGA

This winter, stay fit with LWN Yoga, taught by Christine Palamidessi Moore. Classes are held on Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 AM at Lesley's University Hall (Porter Exchange), 1815 Mass. Ave.



The schedule for January and February are still being determined, so contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at (617) 349-6287 x10 or psinclair@agassiz.org for more information!

THANKS FOR TAKING OUR SURVEY

ABC extends a hearty thanks to everyone who took our survey, "Get The Information You Want The Way You Want." We look forward to improving how we communicate with you - our program community and supporters- on-line and off.

Also, congratulations to Susan Tiersch and Esme Caramello, the two lucky raffle winners who will receive gift certificates to Hi-Rise Bread Company and Petsi Pies!



Maud Morgan Arts

“CREATIVITY IS ALIVE!”

The Chandler Gallery is proud to present “Creativity is Alive!” This exhibit features jewelry, ceramics, photography, and drawings by Cambridge Rindge & Latin School students. Join us for the opening reception on Thursday, January 26.

Dates: January 23 to March 2
Location: Chandler Gallery,
 20 Sacramento St.
Reception: Thursday, January 26,
 6:00-8:00 PM

The gallery is open weekdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



Images from left: Hope by Hannah Ashe, Moroccan Red by Youssef Eddafali

MAUD MORGAN ARTS WORKSHOPS

Get creative this winter and spring by signing up for a Maud Morgan Arts weekend workshop! MMA members receive 10% discount on tuition. Visit our website for more details at www.maudmorganarts.org.



Sunday Family Workshops

Workshops are open to the entire family on the first Sunday of each month. All workshops run from 12 Noon-2:00 PM and cost \$10 per person.

Date: January 16
Activity: MLK Service Day

Date: February 5
Activity: Pop-up Valentine Cards, Treat Bags, and Decorations

Date: March 4
Activity: Tunnel Books

Date: April 8
Activity: Flags and Banners

Date: May 6
Activity: Something Spring/
 Something Flowers

Adult/High School Workshops

All workshops run from 11:00 AM-4:00 PM. To learn more about our teachers, visit: www.maudmorgan.com/programs/faculty.htm.

Dates: February 25-26
Workshop: Drypoint Magic
Teacher: Chris Minidis

Dates: March 24-25
Workshop: Screenprint Intensive
Teacher: Boriana Kantcheva

Date: Saturday, April 28
Workshop: Drawing
Teacher: Jon Imber

Date: Saturday, April 29
Workshop: Language of Drawing
Teacher: Deb Davidson

Date: May 19-20
Workshop: Watercolor
Teacher: Joel Janowitz



Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

16TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL

Save the date, Thursday, February 23, for the 16th Annual Hip Hop Festival, our annual showcase of Hip Hop dance and music.

Held on the Baldwin School stage in the Maria L. Baldwin School, this wildly popular event draws talented performers from all over Cambridge, including:

- MC Naheem Garcia
- DJ Luke Duke
- Daye Dayz
- Deborah Mason School of Dance
- Community Arts Center
- FloorLords
- Jam'nastics
- Origination

What: 16th Annual Hip Hop Festival
When: Thursday, February 23,
2:00-3:00 PM
Where: Maria L. Baldwin School Stage
(basement level),
28 Sacramento Street
Tickets: \$2 per person, \$5 per family;
Agassiz Baldwin Children's Pro-
gram families free; Afterschool
programs free, but please call
ahead



5TH ANNUAL FLYING ZUCCHINI CAFÉ

Prepared by Emma Mrozicki, Early Childhood Site-Dir.

The 5th annual Flying Zucchini Café, held the evenings of December 7th and 8th 2011, was a huge success! This year's theme was "Eat Your Colors," complete with a rainbow of decorations and healthy colorful foods such as beets, multi-colored carrots, red quinoa, and green lentils.



Students from the Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool Kindergarten and 1st-5th grade programs prepared for weeks leading up to the event by trying out recipes, making table and wall decorations, producing menus and cookbooks, designing the T-shirt, serving food, and visiting local businesses to learn how to host, wait tables, and sell merchandise.

The night of the café, the students cooked, served, showed guests to their tables, and performed in videos, dances, and a drama skit!

Many thanks to the local farms and businesses that donated and supported this year's event:

- Apex Orchards
- Enterprise Farm
- Harvest Co-op
- Iggy's Bread of the World
- JP Licks
- Taza Chocolate
- Trader Joe's
- When Pigs Fly
- Wintermoon Organic Farm
- Rafiki Bistro
- Cambridge Common
- Raspberry Beret

Students also helped raise money for the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House Food Pantry by selling jewelry and other crafts that they made.

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



City Wide

CAMBRIDGE WINTER FARMER'S MARKET

Beginning January 7th, Cambridge Community Center will host the city's first Winter Farmer's Market! In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables all winter long, the market will feature an art gallery, music, food demos, and more!

When: Saturdays, January 7 to April 28
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Where: Cambridge Community Center gym, 5 Callender Street

Learn more at:
www.cambridgewinterfarmersmarket.weebly.com.

CAMBRIDGE IREPORT

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

Ride past a pothole every morning on your way to work? Walk past a burned-out streetlight on your way home every night? Notice unsightly graffiti in your neighborhood? Help the City fix these and other problems by reporting them through Cambridge iReport:
www.cambridgema.gov/iReport.aspx.

Cambridge iReport is your direct connection for commonly requested City services. By using Cambridge iReport, your request is automati-



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cally assigned to the responsible department, and you are given a tracking number and contact information in order to be able to follow up on your request if needed. Reporting an issue takes only a minute and helps make our city a better place to live, work, and visit!

Cambridge iReport is also available on your mobile device from the iTunes App Store and the Android Marketplace.

CPL BULLYING WORKSHOP

Prepared by the Cambridge Public Library

Are you concerned that your child is being bullied by others, or that s/he may be a bully him/herself? These workshops offer ways to teach children skills to help them avoid being bullied or becoming bullies. LaVerne R. Saunders is a Parenting Educator for Families First, specializing in the areas of violence prevention, anger management, and bullying prevention.

Part I

Helping The Child Who is Bullied

Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 PM

Part II

Preventing and Defusing Bullying Behavior

Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 PM

Workshops will take place at the Main Library, Children's Room, 449 Broadway. Free childcare will be provided, but is limited. Registration is required. For more information or to sign up, please call (617) 349-4409.

Sponsored by the Greater Boston Early Childhood Resource Center of the CPL, the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care, and Families First Parenting Programs.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Prepared by Many Helping Hands

Many Helping Hands's second Annual Cam-

bridge Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service will bring together Cambridge residents of all ages to help those in need in Cambridge.

Gather on City Hall steps at 2:00 PM for a kick-off dedication, and then disperse to assist with hands-on projects at the Cambridge YWCA and the Cambridge Senior Center.

Date: Monday, January 16

Time: 2:00-5:00 PM

Location: Cambridge YWCA and Cambridge Senior Center, 7 Temple St. and 806 Mass. Ave.

Tickets: Free, all ages invited

More information at

www.manyhelpinghands.blogspot.com.

RECYCLE MORE IN 2012

Prepared by the Cambridge Recycling Department

Recycle Christmas Trees

Curbside collection of bare trees (remove all decorations and stands, please no plastic bags) begins **Tuesday, January 3 through Friday January 13**, weather permitting. Every year, residents recycle thousands of trees, that the city chips and uses for mulch.

Bring trees and items for recycling to the Cambridge Recycling Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-7:30 PM, as well as Saturdays, 9 AM-4:00 PM, through January 21st.

Recycling eNewsletter

We hope to get at least five-hundred more Cambridge residents to sign up for our eNewsletter by June 1st, and we need your help! Please tell friends, neighbors, and family in Cambridge to stay in the loop and be the first to know about program updates, special collections, and volunteer opportunities.

To subscribe, email recycle@cambridgema.gov.

Thanks for your support and participation.

Community Calendar

January 2012

Monday, January 16		Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, ABC School Programs and office closed
Wednesday, January 18	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Thursday, January 26	6:00-8:00 PM	“Creativity is Alive!” opening reception at the Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento St.
Tuesday, January 31	7:00 PM	LWN Movie Night, Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio

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.

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