

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

March 2012

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE FEB. 14 MEETING

New Signs for Community Center

Fred Meyer, ABC Board Director and Chair for the February ANC Meeting, introduced two new signs to be placed at 20 Sacramento Street.

One sign will hang from the front eave of the porch and include a removable attachment to indicate shows in the Chandler Gallery. The other (already in place) lists the building's occupants -ABC and Maud Morgan Arts administrative offices (second floor) and Tapestry Feminist Counseling for Women and Men (third floor)- on the glass of the front door.

Mr. Meyer detailed a brief history of ABC as a Cambridge Community School program; next a non-profit organization (called Agassiz Neighborhood Council, incorporated in 1985) responsible for running successful out-of-school-time programs for children, community events,

and an active neighborhood council; and finally an agency with a forty-year history of high-quality community-based programming for all Cambridge (and Boston-area) residents.

With the purchase of 20 Sacramento Street from Harvard University in the early 1990s, Mr. Meyer explained, "Owning such assets, along with an ever-growing staff, required a corporate structure, not just an unincorporated neighborhood association. ANC meeting attendees (a.k.a. the Council) elect the trustees of that corporation. We trustees work for you, which is why we need your approval for something as significant as a new public sign."

Council members reviewed images of the signs and asked questions, including:

Q: Do the signs fit in aesthetically?

A: Wendy Prellwitz, ABC Board Director and architect at Prellwitz Chilinski Associates (the firm that designed the Maud Morgan Art Center) helped with the design. The Cambridge Historical Commission suggested the current colors of the community center building, and the sign complements those colors.

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



MAR. 13 - 7:30 PM

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

- *Cambridge Street Tunnel Repairs, with Harvard University and Cambridge Public Works*
- *Discussion of bicycle lanes and pedestrian safety with Cambridge Community Development*
- *Mass. Ave. Master Plan Update*

Q: Will the signs light up at night?

A: No.

The Council unanimously endorsed the new signs.

MBTA Fare Hikes and Service Cuts

Led by Carol Weinhaus, long-time Agassiz resident and Council member, neighbors discussed extensive service cuts and fare hikes proposed by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA,) resulting from the organization's significant debt.

Ms. Weinhaus stated, "The MBTA has been loaded down with debt when the Massachusetts legislature changed the funding structure in 2000. As the debt has increased, the T has been forced to focus on that instead of on providing public transportation service to the many people who rely on it – residents, students, commuters, and businesses."

ANC considered the benefits and drawbacks of organizing a larger meeting with the MTBA for Agassiz, Neighborhood 9, and the Porter Square community (including Lesley University and Harvard University.) They requested that Ms. Weinhaus, on behalf of the neighborhood, to contact State Rep. Alice Wolf and seek her guidance on how best to understand the problems facing the T, as well as what citizens can do to help.

Update

On the evening of February 22, Ms. Weinhaus attended the special Cambridge City Council

meeting on the MBTA. Cambridge's state legislative representatives and/or their staff were also present. Brian Murphy of Cambridge Community Development Department gave a presentation regarding the proposed service cuts and fare increases. This presentation may be found on the City's website along with additional information at:

<http://bit.ly/cambridge-info-on-mbta-cuts>.

According to the City's website: "The MBTA is holding a public meeting in Cambridge to review its proposed fare increases and service cuts. The meeting will take place on February 29, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 PM."

Residents who wish to comment may attend a public meeting and/or send their comments to the MBTA and copy a City Council member and/or the Cambridge Community Development Department by March 6, 2012.

The MBTA address is 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Fare Proposal Committee.

Traffic Calming on Sacramento Street

Connected to the proposed new signs for 20 Sacramento Street, neighbors discussed issues with vehicles driving too quickly down Sacramento Street.

Catherine Krupnik of Sacramento Street stated that the problem is particularly bad on Thursday and Saturday nights. She noted most at risk for being struck are children and community members entering and exiting Sacramento Field, program participants at ABC and MMA, and students of the Maria L. Baldwin School.

Ms. Krupnik suggested that perhaps the new signs at the community center could be helpful in obtaining better traffic calming for the street.

The council discussed composing a letter to the city asking for traffic calming recommendations for Sacramento and Garfield Streets. The letter



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could include an image of the new signs.

Other Neighborhood News

Richard Griffin, Howland Street resident, informed the council that his street has received a new drainage system and now no longer floods during storms. The Council agreed to compose a letter of gratitude on behalf of Howland Street to the city regarding the welcomed changes.

Harvard University Updates

Prepared by Tom Lucey, Community Relations Director

Bence Site Window Displays:

The window displays in the former Bence Pharmacy retail site are being updated on a regular basis.

Cambridge Street Tunnel Repair:

The City of Cambridge and Harvard University are coordinating to make structural repairs and utility infrastructure improvements to the Cambridge Street Tunnel. Some exploratory and enabling work will begin immediately with more active parts of the project beginning after commencement.

The City and Harvard will coordinate logistics to ensure that there is an open path to cross the plaza area at all times. Owen O’Riordan, Cambridge City Engineer, and Tom Lucey, Director of Community Relations at Harvard, plan to attend the March ANC meeting to discuss the logistic plans in further detail.

Food Truck Program:

The pilot program involving visiting specialty food trucks outside of the Science Center is ongoing and, to date, we have received very positive feedback from the students and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Harvard 375th:

As many of you know, the Harvard community is celebrating its 375th anniversary with a series of events during the academic year including

a library lecture series to commemorate John Harvard’s gift of 400 books.

To date, the series has featured Harvard President Drew Faust and Dean of Harvard College Evelyn Hammonds. Future speakers include award-winning writer and essayist Anne Fadiman on Sunday, April 1, and Diane Paulus of the A.R.T and Kathleen McCartney, Dean of Harvard’s Graduate School for Education, who will speak in May.

Harvard On The Move:

Harvard On The Move sponsors weekly walks and runs for both beginners and experienced runners and walkers. The program is a University-wide initiative that promotes physical and psychological wellness for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and neighbors in Cambridge and Boston.

In addition, Harvard On The Move offers workshops and lectures highlighting relevant research and practical information. For the schedule, or to join the mailing list, please email: onthemove-list-join@lists.fas.harvard.edu.

Harvard Skate:

In mid-January, Harvard opened a skating rink in the plaza adjacent to the Science Center and Harvard Yard. The rink is free to all members of the Harvard community and general public. The rink is open Tuesday-Sunday from 12:00-9:00 PM and skate rentals are available for a nominal fee.

Pound Hall:

As you may recall from the public process associated with Harvard Law School’s new Wasserstein Hall/Caspersen Student Center/Clinical Wing building, the east wing of Pound Hall will be removed to create a courtyard in the heart of the Law School campus. Interior work on the demolition of the east wing of Pound Hall has started and exterior work will occur after commencement.

Email Newsletter:

In order to receive our monthly email newsletter featuring special events, resources, and news about what's happening at Harvard, contact Tom Lucey at (617) 495-4955, or visit: <http://www.pages01.net/harvard/econnect>.

City Bike Rack Contest

Prepared by Cambridge Arts Council

The Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) is hosting the first city bike rack design competition for Main Street in Kendall Square. Five artists were selected from the CAC Artist Registry by an independent jury and subsequently invited to submit proposals for unique bike rack designs that would bring playfulness and functionality to a ubiquitous and important sidewalk object.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/bike-rack-contest>.

Live Better Porter Square

Prepared by Cambridge Energy Alliance

Live Better Porter Square is a brand new pilot project to make Porter Square and its neighborhoods a better place for residents and businesses.

Over the next four months we're helping neighbors keep more money in our local economy and create a healthier, cleaner world by lowering their energy bills through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

We are recruiting people who are interested in promoting community involvement and highlighting Porter Square as a model for the rest of the city in terms of thinking locally.

What: Neighborhood Captain Training
When: Saturday, March 3rd, 1-4 PM
Where: Main Library, Beech Room, 449 Broadway, Cambridge

Sign up to get involved or learn more: <http://bit.ly/sign-up-live-better-porter-square>.

Questions? Email Meghan Shaw, Community Outreach Director, at outreach@cambridgeenergyalliance.org.



Community

DONOR CORRECTION

In the February edition of *The Whistler*, we accidentally omitted information about the following donor: Cambridge Community Foundation, Americo J. Francisco Elders Fund. We regret the error.

Agassiz Baldwin Community thanks additional supporters from 2011:

J. E. Hutchinson
Thomas & Monica Hexner
Mario Torroella

LWN MARCH OFFERINGS

Learn about LWN March offerings, including the Computer Lounge, Yoga, Movie Night, and more, by visiting us online at www.agassiz.org/category/living-well.



Maud Morgan Arts

2D SMALL WORKS SALON 2012

Maud Morgan Arts and the Chandler Gallery are pleased to announce the 2012 Small Works Salon 2D Exhibition, juried by Victoria Munroe of Victoria Munroe Fine Arts. The show opens **Monday, April 2nd** and a reception for the artists and the public will take place on **Thursday, April 5 from 6:00-8:00 PM**.

This exhibition is an exciting departure for the Chandler Gallery. The works were submitted by artists from the entire Greater Boston Area

and were selected through a very competitive process. The juror's vision for the show is strongly stated in the uniform outside dimension of all the pieces, and in her choice to solicit only two-dimensional work. The result is a cohesive and visually dynamic exhibition.

Learn more at www.maudmorganarts.org.



Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

INTRO ARTS PRESENTS DIANE EDGECOMB

Introducing Art Performance Series presents Diane Edgecomb, storyteller, performing Rainforest Legends. From the banks of the Amazon River to the heart of the West African jungle, Rainforest Legends brings to life favorite folktales and songs about the animals and plants of these lands.



When: Tuesday, March 6, 2:00-3:00 PM
Where: Maria L. Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street
Tickets: \$2 per person, \$5 per family, free for Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool and Sacramento Street Preschool families, other afterschool groups free with RSVP

For more information, contact Maria Laine, Director of Children's Programs, at (617) 349-6287 x11 or email mlaine@agassiz.org.

HIP HOP PHOTOS ONLINE

With an audience of approximately three hundred, four dance troops and one R&B singer, and an impromptu dance party post-show, the 16th Annual Hip Hop Festival was a big success!

View photos from last month's event online at: www.flickr.com/photos/agassizbaldwin.



City Wide


INSIDE THE ADHD MIND

To learn what goes on within the minds of children diagnosed with ADHD and find specific ways to help them reduce their frustration and stay attentive, attend this workshop led by Jeff Nathan.


What: Inside the ADHD Mind
When: Tuesday, March 20, 6:30-8:00 PM
Where: 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.

This workshop is sponsored by the Greater Boston Early Childhood Resource Center of the Cambridge Public Library and the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



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Community Calendar

March 2012

Tuesday, March 6	2:00-3:00 PM	Introducing Art presents Diane Edgecomb, Maria L. Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento St.
Tuesday, March 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, March 14	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Tuesday, March 27	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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