

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May 2012

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE APR. 10 MEETING

Cambridge Police Department Yearly Update

Holly Bernier, Neighborhood Coordinator for the Cambridge Police Department (CPD), provided details about current CPD programs, initiatives, and resources. Below is a selection from her presentation.

24-Hour Anonymous Crime/Drug Tip Hotline

(617) 349-3359

Take your time when leaving a message. Speak clearly and don't rush. Be as specific as possible in providing the following information:

- Location of the incident: street address of building or house, names of nearest intersecting streets, landmarks near the scene.
- Description of the persons involved: height, weight, sex, age, skin and hair color, clothing, and distinguishing marks.
- Description of vehicles: make, model, color, and license plate.

Anonymous Text-A-Tip

(617) 349-3359

Do you know of a crime or suspicious activity that should be reported to Cambridge Police? Send an anonymous text message to Tip411 (847411.) Begin your text with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from police with the option to continue communicating. In emergencies, dial 911.

BridgeStat: Comprehensive Monthly Crime Reports

BridgeStat is a multi-layered, dynamic, intelligence-based approach to crime reduction, quality of life improvement, and personnel and resource management.

Through BridgeStat, the Cambridge Police Department produces a monthly public report to the community on current police priorities in terms of crime, traffic, community concerns, and disorder issues in the city. This is made available on the Cambridge Police Department's website on the first Friday of each month at www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat.

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



MAY 8 - 7:30 PM

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

Annual Meeting

- Election of the 2012/2013 **ABC Board**
- Report on the **Silver Ribbon Committee** and other senior issues, with **Mayor Henrietta Davis**
- Community discussion of **city proposal to re-zone North Mass. Ave.**

Cambridge Youth Police Academy

The Cambridge Youth Police Academy is a six-week/100 hour instructional program designed to expose participating youth to the various duties associated with the law enforcement field through hands-on experience.

C.Y.P.A. operates during the summer for Cambridge youth ages 14-18. Participants sign up through the City of Cambridge Mayor's Program and choose C.Y.P.A. as their work site.

For more information about the program, contact Holly Bernier at (617) 349-6009.

Cambridge Alert Network: 3 Easy Steps to Be in the Know

1. Sign up for emergency alert phone calls, emails, and text messages from CodeRED.
2. Sign up for CitizenObserver for alerts about emerging crime patterns, crime prevention tips, and neighborhood meetings.
3. Sign up for Cambridge E-Line for general City communications.

Visit www.CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork and sign up today!

Graffiti Removal

Cambridge's graffiti removal program involves a cooperative effort between Public Works, the Police Department, residents, and property owners to remove graffiti from private property. Once the graffiti is reported, an inspector is sent out to examine the damage and to schedule cleaning of graffiti on public property. To report graffiti, call Public Works at (617) 349-4800 or email theworks@cambridgema.gov.

MyPD Smartphone App

The MyPD App includes features for checking on the latest CPD news, including Twitter updates and Facebook posts. It can also be used for sharing feedback and questions, finding

directions to the department, and much more. Download it free for Android and iPod or learn more at: <http://1.usa.gov/cambridge-mypd>.

Quality of Service Surveys

The Cambridge Police Department is asking citizens to participate in our Quality of Service Community Surveys. Citizen responses will help CPD as we work to provide the highest quality of police service possible. Fill out paper copies located in libraries across the City or complete the survey online at www.CambridgePolice.org/Surveys.

Residential & Commercial Security Survey

The Residential & Commercial Security Survey is a tool by which a crime prevention officer informs a homeowner, renter, or business owner of the particular areas in which his/her home or business is susceptible to criminal victimization, along with steps that can be taken to reduce and minimize the potential for crime.

To schedule a free residential or commercial security survey, please call (617) 349-3236.

Self-Defense Training

The Cambridge Police Department offers a free Self-Defense Training program for women that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance before progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. To learn



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more about the program, or to place your name on the list for the next class, please call the Community Relations Unit at (617) 349-3236.

Senior Outreach

The Cambridge Police Department assigned officers from the Community Relations Unit to run a seven-week Senior Citizen Police Academy to provide information to seniors about how the various units within the police department operate.

Social Media

For news, information, and updates, find the CPD on social media:

- Follow @CambridgePolice on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/CambridgePolice
- “Like” CPD on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Check us out on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/CambridgePolice

Neighborhood Crime Report

Neighborhood Sergeant Stephen Sennott provided crime statistics for the Agassiz neighborhood for March 2012.

- Aggravated assault: 0
- Auto theft: 1 (March 24)
- Commercial robbery: 0
- Larceny from motor vehicles: 3
- Malicious destruction of property: 3
- Street robberies: 0



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For your buying and selling needs

Sergeant Sennott reminded the Council, “Be vigilant! Larcenies from motor vehicles are difficult crimes to combat because they’re crimes of opportunity. It only takes a second to break a window and go.”

Continued Discussion of Zoning Variance for 1678 Mass. Ave.

Background

At the previous month’s ANC meeting, many residents expressed concern about a pending fast food variance application at 1678 Mass. Ave., which would result in the space being leased to a Dunkin Donuts franchise. The Council sent a letter to the Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeal taking dispute with the city’s process for alerting residents and inadequate opportunity for the community to respond. They also expressed concern about the potential effect on nearby independent businesses.

“The current zoning disallows fast food on this particular stretch of Mass. Ave.,” stated Dennis Carlone, architect/urban designer and Neighborhood 9 resident who led the previous month’s discussion. “Once one comes in, it’s a lot harder to fight a variance the next time.”

Stephen Diamond, ANC Meeting Chair, stated, “We counted fourteen other places along this stretch of Mass. Ave. to purchase coffee and a small snack. The original intention of the variance was to encourage small businesses.”

Applicant Presentation

The applicant for the variance, Brandon Wookalis and his attorney Jim Rafferty, joined the discussion. Mr. Wookalis owns a Dunkin Donuts at 2480 Mass. Ave. in North Cambridge, as well as a store on Memorial Drive near River Street.

Mr. Wookalis told the Council, “I was born and raised in Cambridge. Seven years ago I got involved in the Dunkin Donuts franchise, opening a shop on the blighted site of an old gas station. I believe I bring a different perspective

with my approach: I want the shop to blend in with the neighborhood.

At the beginning in North Cambridge, we got a lot of community push back, but my store is always immaculate and we have customers from elder housing up the street who come with their walkers. I think the store has a nice community feeling. As the owner/operator, I'm at the shop all the time, and we give back by supporting schools and Little League."

Mr. Wookalis presented renderings of proposed facades. "I've always wanted to open a store in this neighborhood, which is vibrant and busy. My vision is for a café that offers sandwiches and healthy options."

According to Mr. Wookalis, the proposed Dunkin Donuts would offer:

- Forty tables inside
- Outside seating
- Over thirty jobs
- Free WiFi
- Exhibition opportunities for local artists
- Sovereign Bank ATM

He concluded, "I hope the way my other stores are handled will reflect on my application. I invite everyone to come up to the North Cambridge store and have a look."

Q&A

Q: What are the signage requirements from the franchise? How much can you adjust the visual appearance?

A: I have some ability to adjust. There are certain regulations from the city as well.

Q: Does the sign light up?

A: Yes. This is allowed under Cambridge zoning.

Q: What would the hours be?

A: Probably 5 AM to 10 PM, like the North Cambridge store.

Q: In order to get a fast food variance for this location, the owner of the space must prove hardship. Can you tell us what that is?

A: The hardship is related to the size of the space, as well difficulty with finding a tenant since December 2011.

Community Response

Following Mr. Wookalis's presentation, the community discussed:

- What constitutes "fast food"
- Which businesses require a fast food variance
- The process by which variances are granted
- Traffic and parking, specifically problems with double-parking
- The occurrence of turn-overs in franchise businesses
- City plans for Mass. Ave. business ordinances going forward

Update

At the April 13 meeting, the Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeal voted 5 to 0 not to grant the variance for a fast food establishment at 1678 Mass. Ave. Eighty-one residents wrote letters opposing the application and over 200 signed a petition against the variance.



Community

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us **Tuesday, May 8th**, for our annual meeting; a once-a-year celebration and social event dedicated to reaching out to one another in a friendly way to begin a successful new year. Everyone is welcome to attend, meet the board, and enjoy light refreshments from Hi-Rise Bread Company and Tavern in the Square at Porter.

What: Annual Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 PM

Where: Maud Morgan Arts Center, 2D studio, second floor

The council will vote to approve the slate (below) for the 2012/2013 Board of Directors.

Officers for a one-year term:

Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair, Eustis St.
Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair, Frost St.
Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.
Gao Wen Shao, Treasurer, Fayette St.

Directors for a two-year term:

Anna Eckert Byrne, Kirkland St.
Fred Meyer, Hammond St.

Directors in mid-term:

Andrea Walsh, Eustis St.
Miriam Goldberg, Frost St.
Hull Fulweiler, Howland St.
Gao Wen Shao, Fayette St.
Stephen Diamond, Frost St.
George Hein, Howland St.
Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.



Living Well Network

LWN SPRING WALKS

This spring, the Living Well Network is planning walking tours for fun, fitness, and learning. Please save the dates!



Walk the Agassiz Neighborhood Path

When: Thursday, May 24, 3 PM
Where: Agassiz Neighborhood

Tour deCordova Museum & Garden

When: Wednesday, June 6, 10:15 AM
Where: Lincoln, MA

Walk Fresh Pond Reservation

When: Thursday, June 14th, 1:00 PM
Where: Cambridge, MA

Stay tuned for details on walking tours of MIT

public art, local public art, local history, and more!

To attend a walk or to learn more, contact Colin Barr, LWN Coordinator, at (617) 349-6287 x21 or cbarr@agassiz.org.

Volunteer!

Do have ideas about where to walk? Would you like to get involved with organizing or leading tours? Let us know! Contact Phoebe Sinclair at psinclair@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x 10.



Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs

YOUNG READERS AT PRESCHOOL

This April, as part of Month of the Young Child, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, first grade students from the Maria L. Baldwin School read to children at Sacramento Street Preschool.



Community Calendar

May 2012

Tuesday, May 8	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Annual Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome
Wednesday, May 9	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Thursday, May 24	3:00 PM	LWN Walks tour of Agassiz Neighborhood Path, 20 Sacramento St. see page 5 for information
Monday, May 28		Memorial Day holiday, ABC Children's Programs and office closed

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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