

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November-December 2019

Special Edition!
November-December

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ANC

NOTES FROM THE NOV 12 MEETING

Off-Leash Pilot Program at Sacramento Field

Sacramento Field kicked off its shared use hours pilot program the morning of November 8th, allowing dogs to be inside the park leash-free between 7 and 9 AM. The City of Cambridge instituted the program, which will run until August 31st, in large part due to work and advocacy by Agassiz residents Meg Salocks, Michael Fitzgerald, Sam Seidel, Jill Lepore, Liz McNerney, and Wendy Prellwitz. Members of this group, except Ms. Prellwitz, attended the November 12th ANC meeting to introduce the program to other neighbors and answer any questions about it.

Initially, meeting attendees wanted to know how

the first morning went. Mr. Seidel reported that it was "wonderful," noting the "beautiful" weather.

"A lot of golden retrievers were running around in the fall colors... it looked a little bit like a catalogue," he joked.

Ms. Lepore described it as "exciting," adding that, so far, the program has brought new faces to the park that she hadn't seen around the neighborhood before.

"It's a community-building moment," said Mr. Fitzgerald, who also saw around five to six new dog owners in the first few days of off-leash hours.

After sharing other positive anecdotes, the group said they wanted to hear about others as well. To keep track of these stories and respond to feedback, Ms. Salocks shared that they have set up social media pages on Facebook and Instagram as "People and Dogs of Sacramento Field."

The idea behind a social media presence is to help spread the word about the pilot program, share the rules and etiquette, and interact with the community.

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



January 14, 7:30 PM
Maud Morgan Arts,
20A Sacramento Street

AGENDA

- Meet the owners of Dear Annie, an upcoming wine bar and community space on 1741 Mass. Ave
- A community discussion of the neighborhood name

“We want to be really proactive about it and engage with people if they have suggestions or comments,” Ms. Lepore said.

Since it was a community effort to get the program off the ground, the group emphasized that they see it as a shared responsibility to maintain Sacramento Field as a safe and useful space. Currently, the City is working on updating signs within the park to notify users of the off-leash hours.

This idea is underscored by including both “Rules” and “Etiquette” for the program. While the rules cover the specifics, such as where within the field dogs can be off-leash, the etiquette outlines the basic code of conduct in any spaces shared by both dogs and humans.

One that Ms. Salocks highlighted was about mitigating any potential conflicts between dog owners and their pets. The bullet point states that visitors should “work collaboratively with other dog owners/keepers regarding situations where dogs don’t seem to get along, in order for all people with dogs to have access to the park.”

The group recognized the possibility for concerns from other visitors of the field and hope that open communication will allow them to successfully continue off-leash hours beyond the pilot period.

To learn more about the off-leash hours pilot program or get in touch, you may find “People and Dogs of Sacramento Field” on Facebook and on Instagram as @dogsofsacramentofield.

Daniel Wolf can be contacted via email dewolf@cambridgema.gov.

Q&A

Q: Are there any provision for having an area for dogs with/without vaccinations?

A: Dogs are still welcome at other hours in the park on-leash, which may be better for a puppy that is still getting up to date on vaccinations.

Q: I have [two young kids] and on a couple occasions, they’ve interacted with new dogs on the hill in Sacramento Field. I’m always struck by dog owners who laugh it off, but this is an animal that I don’t know how it will act around others. You were mentioning etiquette... nobody likes to be the bad cop, but we gotta do this right so we can all coalesce here.

A: So far the community has been good about recognizing ‘this person doesn’t want to interact with dogs’ and calling their dog back. We are also open to community feedback around where to set boundaries for dogs to be off-leash during these hours.

Introducing All In Energy

The City of Cambridge recently partnered with nonprofit All In Energy to connect renters and landlords to energy efficiency and utility incentive programs. Its co-founder, Rouwenna Altemose, came to the November 12th ANC meeting to share information about these opportunities and All In Energy’s mission.

The organization is committed to “accelerating an inclusive clean energy economy,” which means both bringing energy efficiency and renewable energy to underserved communities as well as hiring a diverse team for outreach and helping these individuals launch careers in the clean energy industry.

In Cambridge, All In Energy is focusing its outreach on helping renters and landlords in 1-4 unit buildings schedule no-cost home energy assessments through the state’s Mass Save program. During these assessments, homes can receive free LED light bulbs, advanced power strips, high efficiency shower heads and programmable thermostats.

Renters can request an assessment without their landlord but involving a landlord can mean eligibility for even further evaluation and more low-to-no cost updates, such as insulation and solar energy. Ms. Altemose pointed out that

those who pay utilities in Massachusetts already contribute to the program, which is why these upgrades are available at low-to-no cost. You can schedule your no-cost home energy assessment as a renter, landlord or homeowner, at allinenergy.org/Cambridge.

In addition to outreach in neighborhoods in the greater Boston area, All In Energy also helps individuals find a career pathway in clean energy. Through community partners, such as local colleges or other organizations, they are able to connect with residents in the same communities that are frequently left out of clean energy adoption. By doing outreach with All In Energy, individuals learn about the clean energy industry and gain valuable customer communication skills, which prepares them for a wide range of jobs in the industry. After a period of time, All In Energy helps connect them to their next job in the industry.

All In Energy is staffed by a range of full-time and part-time staff, as well as paid interns and fellows. For those interested in work opportunities visit allinenergy.org/careers. You can also reach Ms. Altomose via email: rouwenna@allinenergy.org.

Q&A

Q: What if I've done the assessment before?

A: You can receive an assessment every two years. The Mass Save program has changed a lot in the past two years and the incentives for weatherization have increased. There is no longer a cap on the amount of insulation that is eligible in the program. Also, moderate income households (60-80% of state median income) get 100% off insulation, and landlords get 90% off insulation when all units in 1-4 unit buildings take action together.

Q: What if I already have great light bulbs but nothing else?

A: You would just get the things you don't already have. If you already have LED light bulbs, you still can get a free programmable

thermostat, high efficiency showerhead and water faucets, and power strips. You don't have to need everything – we will give you what you don't have.

Q: How many people are taking advantage of this now?

A: Across the state, ~64% of residents know about the program but it doesn't mean they have participated. Anecdotally, when we talk to people, maybe 50% have done something in their home.

Q: What is the solar portion?

A: The City of Cambridge has a number of renewable energy programs, such as Sunny Cambridge and Community Electricity Program. Sunny Cambridge makes it easier to get solar installed on the roof of your home, condo, or multifamily building. The Community Electricity Program allows you to purchase 100% renewable electricity for your apartment, condo or home, even if you can't get solar on your own roof.

Q: How are you attracting people to work in the program and then supporting them?

A: We usually recruit by talking to people and local organizations in the community through community colleges and local universities as well as through traditional online postings. We're currently hiring a Communications Intern, a Customer Action Intern, an Events Representative and Event Coordinator, looking specifically for Spanish speaking individuals.

Once someone is on the team, we provide training on clean energy, energy efficiency products and services, and how to engage residents. We also periodically bring in experts from the field in different careers in clean energy to talk about their jobs to raise awareness, expand boundaries, and pique interest. When folks are ready to transition away, we try to understand what they want to do next, and we help with introductions and recommendations.

In the future, we plan to build a more formal pipeline to partnering companies and organizations.



Community

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK RECAP

Thank you to this year's Thanksgiving Potluck volunteers, who cooked six delicious turkeys, as well as to Agassiz Baldwin staff, Maria



L. Baldwin School custodial and kitchen staff, and all who contributed a delicious dish, good company, and conversation. This year, we also raised \$100 in donations, supporting ABC's Equity & Access Scholarship funding initiative.

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's 48th annual event! See photos online at: <http://bit.ly/48th-thanksgiving-potluck-photos>



KIDS ONLY! HOLIDAY SALE

The 2019 Kids Only! Holiday Sale, was held Thursday, December 12th through Saturday, December 14th and saw dozens of young shoppers. Fourteen teen volunteers assisted children in choosing gifts, and all enjoyed a gift wrapping

station and free hot chocolate on Saturday. This year, the sale was joined by the new Maud's Handmade Holiday Market held upstairs in the Kernan Print Studio, which invited adults and young people alike to purchase gifts created by members of the Maud Morgan Arts community.

Thank you to all the young shoppers and their families. This year, the Kids Only! Holiday Sale helped to raise over \$1500 in support of ABC's Equity & Access Scholarship funding



initiative, which provides scholarships to children and adults, living in poverty or lower middle-income households, to participate in our programs. We also extend a hearty thank you to Joie de Vivre and community members for donating items to this year's event.

We hope to see returning and new faces next year at our 34th annual event. See photos online at: <http://bit.ly/kidssalephotos2019>

ABC ANNUAL APPEAL

At ABC, we believe in welcoming and including everyone, lifelong learning, and fostering a culture of creativity and cooperation. This mission would not be possible without the support of our community.

This year, we plan to award over \$200,000 in scholarships through our Equity and Access initiative (up from just \$25,000 only 5 year ago!) to children and local families experiencing the impacts of poverty. Providing scholarships ensures that cost is not a barrier to being a part of our high quality and dynamic programs.

Please join us in keeping our doors open to those who are unable to afford tuition but seek high-quality programs and a place to belong by making a tax-deductible donation at

<https://agassiz.org/about/support-abc/>. 100% of contributions to the annual appeal will support the Equity and Access Scholarship Initiative. Your support will help keep ABC a vibrant, joyous and welcoming place for the whole community.



Living Well Network

INTRODUCING KATHY DALTON, LWN MANAGER

Kathy Dalton is excited to be aging-in-place and looking for new ways to foster community in the city in which she has lived for



over 40 years. She brings over 30 years experience in the non-profit sector, including extensive experience with training, professional development, cooperatives, fundraising, and program management. Previously, she led the diversity efforts at the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, directed a Spanish family camp, and continues to provide Mac and Apple assistance and tutoring.

Kathy graduated from Brandeis and enjoyed the convenience of the 96 bus when attending graduate school in Urban & Environmental Policy at Tufts. She has been connected to Agassiz Baldwin for many years through her daughter, an after-school and Outback alum and Mayor's Youth counselor at Outback. As a lifelong learner, Kathy enjoys Spanish, nature, reading, gardening, and community activism. She volunteers with the Mass. Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition and as a college mentor at Cambridge Rindge & Latin. Contact Kathy at kdalton@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x21.



Maud Morgan Arts

ABC & MMA SUPPORTERS RUN CAMBRIDGE HALF-MARATHON

On November 3rd, 2019, a team of community members ran the 13.1 miles of the Cambridge Half Marathon on behalf of Agassiz Baldwin Community to raise money for Equity and



Access Scholarships, collectively raising \$3,170. The team included ABC work study student Jess Alvarez, who raised \$380, Maud Morgan Arts parent Chrissy Durden, who raised \$455, former MMA teacher Emily Broderick, \$525, ABC parent Adam Hornstine \$810, and ABC Development Coordinator Taylor Mortell, \$1,000.

"I love to run, and I love making art and creating with my two boys," Ms. Durden said of running the race. "That's why I am excited to be running the Cambridge Half Marathon and raise money for Agassiz Baldwin Community and Maud Morgan Arts."

Mr. Hornstine shared that he was inspired to run by ABC's mission.

"We've enrolled our children in ABC programs because we value the diversity of perspectives from families and staff and the strong commitment to social justice," he said. "If you also believe that all children – regardless of their family's financial circumstances – benefit from access to top-notch out-of-school time experiences,

please make a gift today to help fund this important work.”

The Equity and Access Scholarship Initiative provides financial aid for community members and families to participate in programs across our organization, such as afterschool and summer programs, art classes and Living Well Network membership. You can find more information about supporting the Equity and Access Scholarship Initiative on our website: <https://agassiz.org/about/support-abc/>.

SAVE THE DATE: MOD MORGAN PARTY

On March 12th, Maud Morgan Arts is celebrating 10 years of art education with a 60s themed fundraiser. The “Mod Morgan Party” will be held at the Lunder Arts Building at Lesley University and feature a special guest speaker and music by The Love Dogs. More details will be published on the Maud Morgan Arts website (<http://maudmorganarts.org>) under “Calendar & Events.”

“DRAWN FROM WITHIN”: ALL AGENCY SHOW

Year-round, the Chandler Gallery features a variety of work from different talented artists, providing the neighborhood with the very unique experience of freely viewing and enjoying art. Once a year, that art is sourced from Agassiz Baldwin and Maud Morgan’s own staff, giving colleagues, friends, family and neighbors the opportunity to see the creativity and talent that fuels our organization.

Come see what we’ve “Drawn from Within” this year from January 6th-24th, 2020.

PRINTMAKING RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITY

Next summer, Maud Morgan Arts is offering an immersive opportunity for two emerging/

mid-level career mixed media printmakers to share a work space at the arts center. Two selected participants will receive exclusive access to print and 2D studios between August 1st–August 29th, 2020.

Artists must be self-starters and ready to dive head first into creating in a community-oriented space. They should also be prepared to hold a larger conversation with the MMA/ABC community about their work.

The selected artists will also collaborate with the MMA admin team to create two workshops for MMA/ABC’s summer children’s programming derived from artwork created throughout the residency. The artists will also have the opportunity to exhibit their work from the residency in a pop-up exhibition at the Chandler Gallery.

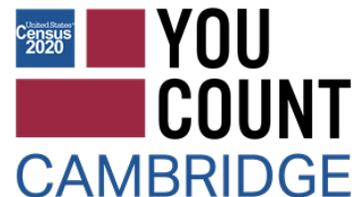
Interested artists must apply digitally through the MMA website at <http://bit.ly/mma-printmaking-residency>.



City Wide

2020 US CENSUS

Each year, the City of Cambridge is required by state law to conduct a census of all residents ages 3 years and older. The form is mailed to every household in Cambridge, usually around the end of January or the beginning of February, but can



also be completed online if there are no changes to your name, address or political affiliation.

Submitting a census is especially important for registered voters, as failure to respond results in removal from the active voting list and potential removal from voter registration rolls. However, non-registered voters are still encouraged to respond as it can help prove residency for public benefits and also provide a more accurate count of Cambridge residents, which impacts the quality of municipal services.

2020 will also include the US Census, which is conducted every 10 years. This census informs how Cambridge is represented in the US Congress and Massachusetts Legislature and impacts the allocation for federal assistance for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, social services and transportation.

More information about the Annual and US Census can be found on the City of Cambridge website: <http://bit.ly/census-2020-info>.

OFF-LEASH PILOT AT SACRAMENTO FIELD

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

In response to public interest in implementing an off-leash dog program at Sacramento Field, the City explored the feasibility of allowing dogs off-leash during limited hours. A community process sought feedback from nearby residents and park users that elicited strong positions both in favor of and against off-leash dog use. Those in favor cited the convenience of having a place for dogs to run off-leash near their homes. Those against were concerned about noise, dog waste, conflicts with users, and the impact on field condition.

At a public meeting in May, a vast majority of attendees (30 community members) spoke in favor of off-leash use at Sacramento Field. After the meeting, the City received two resident petitions – one in favor of off-leash use at the field (117 signatures) and another against off-leash use (55 signatures).

The City also evaluated how and when the field is currently being used by different user groups, including school aged children. While the field is used during the day by the Baldwin School, Agassiz Baldwin Community programs, and other groups, there is limited use of the field in the early morning hours before 9:00 AM.

Given the high level of interest in off-leash use, and acknowledging the concerns raised by some, the City will institute shared use off-leash dog hours on a pilot basis from November 8, 2019 through August 31, 2020. To minimize noise impact on abutters and potential conflicts with programmed school activities, the pilot will permit off-leash use from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM daily. The pilot will be evaluated on:

- Adherence to the City's off-leash dog rules
- Impact on abutters and other field users, especially children; and
- Adverse impacts on field condition.

The City's rules for off-leash dog use include requirements that dog owners remove and properly dispose of all dog waste; keep visual contact with and voice control over their dogs; and suspend off-leash use during programmed school activities.

Please contact Daniel Wolf at dewolf@cambridgema.gov with any comments about the pilot.

To report an issue regarding dogs in Cambridge parks, please contact the Animal Commission at (617) 349-4376.

Off-leash rules: <http://bit.ly/off-leash-rules>
Sacramento Field webpage:
<http://bit.ly/Sac-Field-CDD>



Community Calendar

December 2019 & January 2020

Sunday, December 22		Hanukkah begins at sundown
Tuesday, December 24		ABC Programs & Office closed through Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
Thursday, December 26		Kwanzaa holiday begins, Afterschool Vacation Week, through Tuesday, December 31, 2019
Wednesday, January 1		New Year's Day holiday, ABC School Programs & office, & Maud Morgan Arts closed
Wednesday, January 8	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Tuesday, January 14	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at www.agassiz.org. Items of interest to the neighborhood should be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

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DO NOT FORWARD

