

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May 2018

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ANC

NOTES FROM THE APR. 10 MEETING

Curbside Composting Program Expansion

To help Cambridge meet trash reduction goals, the city has expanded the composting program, now allowing all residents in 1-12 unit buildings to responsibly dispose of their food scraps. Michael Orr, Recycling Director at the Department of Public Works (DPW), joined the April 10 ANC meeting to discuss details and answer questions about the program.

According to Mr. Orr's presentation, Cambridge is working to reduce its trash by 30% in 2020 and by 80% in 2050. In 2008, Cambridge households produced 23 pounds of trash per week. With a focus on recycling and composting, which DPW found comprised 60% of trash, that number is now down to 17.5 pounds. However, there's more motivating the city than just trash reduction.

"There is nowhere to put trash," Mr. Orr explained. "The environmental reasons

[for composting] are great, but the market is also telling us that we have to compost."

While the composting program is fairly new to many Cambridge residents, it's not unfamiliar to the city. Mr.

Mr. Orr pointed out that from 1952 to 1973, the city had "Honey Wagons" that collected food scraps as an early form of curbside composting. Since the modern program rolled out, DPW has addressed issues of odor and rodent activity by providing bins that feature ventilation and lockable lids.

The city anticipates further expanding the program to 13+ unit buildings beginning in 2019. In the meantime, Mr. Orr suggested that residents download the Zero Waste Cambridge app to get more information on where to dispose of certain items, check pickup schedules, and receive reminders for collection and street sweeping days.



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NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



May 8, 7:30 PM
Maud Morgan Arts,
20A Sacramento Street

Annual Meeting

The Council will vote to approve the slate for the 2018 ABC Board of Directors. All are invited to attend and meet the Board. Light refreshments, donated by Cambridge Common restaurant, will be served.

Q&A

Q: I live in a multi-unit building, and we have a lot of trash. People throw too much into a container and the lid won't close, and it attracts critters. I foresee a problem like that with [composting]. Any suggestions?

A: The large composting cart is 35 gallons, and the small one is 12. The small can handle 3 units worth of waste, while the large can handle 9. We can give your building as many bins as it needs. Overflowing hasn't been an issue as much as forgetting to latch or lock the bin. It's not any different than trash - it doesn't matter if it's segregated or mixed in with the trash - rodents will find [the food waste]. But the compost bins are lockable, so that helps.

Q: Is there any way we can fix the old bins so they lock better?

A: Email me (morr@cambridgema.gov) and we can come swap it out. The new bins have updated locks, and they're a lot better. The manufacturer was asked to design a bin that could withstand all the raccoons in Toronto.

Q: I work at MIT where we do a lot of composting - we have a bin in our break room. It's really hard to convince people to put egg shells and such in there. What will compel them?

A: It takes awhile for people to get on board, but eventually it will happen (just like recycling.) One piece of compelling info: there is no end in sight for our trash problems -it's not easy or cost-effective. Our first priority has been launching the compost program; [next] we will work on ramping up our outreach.

Q: When this program started, I called to find out if I should stop using my garbage disposal - I was told to keep doing that. I don't use my compost container.

A: We are leaning away from garbage disposals because we have flat pipes in Cambridge, and it could eventually cause a clog. Food scraps with a little bit of grease may even cause a

grease clog, which would be a multi-million dollar project to repair. Composting in the bin can help avoid that.

Q: Can you talk a little bit more about the financing? What happens to the compost? Does the city get money for it?

A: [Recycling and composting] are never really as lucrative as people think. Though, it's 40% cheaper to dispose of than trash. So many different factors go into the cost . . . it's a calculus, but it's definitely going to save money in the long run. Compost costs have gone down while trash costs are going up, so we're moving in the right direction.

For any questions on the composting program, contact Mr. Orr at morr@cambridgema.gov or (617) 349-4815.

Learn more online at:

http://bit.ly/curbside_composting

Rising Housing Costs in Cambridge - A Community Discussion

Skip Schiel, longtime Sacramento St. resident, explained his concerns about rising housing costs in Cambridge in an effort to gather ideas, rally the neighborhood, and urge the city to address the issue.

"I've lived in the same building since 1989," he recounted. "It became mixed-income after the loss of rent control. In 1995, my contract rent (what I'd pay without subsidy) rose from \$1,300 to \$1,700 in just two years, a 30% increase."

Mr. Schiel noted that this has been a trend in the stretch of buildings that comprise 9-19 Sacramento St., where he lives, despite being managed by Homeowners Rehab, a nonprofit dedicated to developing and supporting mixed-income housing. With two homes on the block undergoing expensive renovations, he wondered what impact this will have on residents.

"Gentrification is leading to displacement," he

said. "I'm worried about what will happen with my rent and my ability to pay it, but also the rest of the city, especially low- and middle-income renters."

Cambridge City Councillor Sumbul Siddiqui was able to join the meeting via Skype and share some of the priorities and potential strategies discussed in an earlier City Council Housing Committee meeting.

"All of us have real concerns about these displacement problems and what can be done about them," she began. "We know the city isn't affordable - so what are the tools in our toolbox to fix this problem?"

She outlined plans for an "Affordable Housing Overlay District," which means that areas would be rezoned to incentivize the development of affordable housing. Councillor Siddiqui explained that because this plan is such a big undertaking with a lot of unknowns, the Housing Committee and Council have decided it needs more attention, especially to figure out how to provide incentives to affordable housing developers.

Lee Farris, Vice President of the Cambridge Residents Alliance who has also been working with Envision Cambridge, (a community-wide process to develop a comprehensive plan for the city), provided additional insights. She said, once Envision Cambridge has published its housing report, "the city can hit the ground running."

Ms. Farris also described the "affordable housing overlay" mentioned by Councillor Siddiqui. She said middle-income housing should also be included, but usually that kind of development is only incentivized for affordable housing. Ms. Farris suggested that these issues be discussed publicly, especially regarding changing the density in certain areas, noting that there are trade-offs between open space and affordable housing.

Another attendee brought up the issue of tenant protections, and how that also plays a role in

displacement and gentrification, saying that the city has "done nothing to increase protections for market-rate tenants."

"Cambridge is at the beginning of the conversation of what tenant protections we'd like to see," they stated. "That has to be part of the solution - not just creating affordable units, because we won't be able to create enough for all the people who are being displaced."

A resident who was unable to attend the ANC meeting submitted a letter echoing these sentiments: "If building owners are not acting fairly, make the owners notify [the city] and act humanely," she wrote.

Another attendee, who is a property owner and landlord, expressed that she was happy to be part of this conversation, that "there isn't enough dialogue between renters and owners." She wanted to be able to discuss the issues that matter to her as well as those that interest her tenants.

"I felt stymied actually saying 'what about neighborhood preservation? What do we like about low density neighborhoods?'" she explained. "I want to be part of the solution [yet also preserve] the parts of Cambridge that make it a wonderful place [to live]. I think it's important that we all be respectful of different perspectives as we try to get to [a solution]."

Q&A

Q: What is driving the increase in market prices?

A: Supply and demand - but it's also not that simple. A national/international shift of people wanting to live in cities is a big part of strong demand. Another part is that job structures have changed. Factory jobs are gone and high tech jobs are in, and those folks are well paid, so it's creating short term friction that people with a lot more money can start to buy neighborhood housing and indirectly displace people. Some landlords raise rents just because they can, and those buildings still get filled because there are a lot more people who can afford those prices.

Q: How do we move forward?

A: Mr. Schiel: I think it would be great if a committee or congress consisting of a variety of stakeholders, such as renters, owners, low/middle income earners, etc., could take seriously the idea of convening the concerns of different stakeholders. I do worry about how quickly we could polarize if one group's interests get pitted against another's.

Q: Will these affordable housing projects raise taxes?

A: Fred Meyer, ANC Meeting Chair: A good use of public money is for [affordable housing] . . . higher real estate taxes mean higher revenues for the city. When property values go up, put that money to good use.

Update: The City of Cambridge is hosting an Affordable Housing Week of Action, a range of events to learn more about local housing efforts, from April 28 to May 7, 2018.

What: Affordable Housing Rally
When: Saturday, May 5th, 1:00 PM
Where: City Hall steps, 795 Mass. Ave.

Join City Councillors and members of the Cambridge community in support of affordable housing.

What: Community Celebration
When: Saturday, May 5th, 2:00-4:00 PM
Where: Sennott Park, 305 Broadway

Join us in celebrating the importance of affordable housing in Cambridge. The event will include 3x3 basketball tournaments, family fun activities, refreshments, and cake!

Rain location: City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway

What: "Voices of Affordable Housing"
Exhibit Reception
When: Monday, May 7, 5:00-5:30 PM
Where: City Hall lobby, 795 Mass. Ave.

A brief reception will be held to commemorate the individuals and families who participated in the poster campaign and the impact that affordable housing has on the Cambridge community.

Questions? Contact cddat344@cambridgema.gov or (617) 349-4600.

Learn more:
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/HousingWeek>

Harvard University Updates

Prepared by Tom Lucey, Director of Government & Community Relations

HLS building at 1607 Massachusetts Avenue (former Bence Pharmacy site):

Harvard Law School's project to redevelop the site on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Everett Street



remains on schedule to be completed during the fall of 2018. The new structure will be a four-story, 21,000 square foot building with ground floor retail.

The upper three floors of office space will be occupied by Harvard Law School clinical and research programs.

Schedule details include:

- Steel work and installing slabs on the decks for floor plates complete in April 2018
- Installation of building façade; March–July 2018
- Interior fit-out; through August 2018
- Site work; April–July 2018
- Final landscaping and move-in; late fall 2018

There are public realm improvements associated with the project including the replacement of sidewalks on the perimeter of the site. The existing street trees were preserved during construction.

Repairs to Garage Egress Structure at Hammond and Gorham Streets

Beginning in mid-April, new waterproofing will be installed on the garage egress structure located at the corner of Hammond and Gorham Streets. This work will require excavation at the building base on three sides of the structure. The existing landscape elements (arborvitae) that were installed to screen the building will be removed and replanted at the end of the work. It is not the intent to remove any of the trees at this site. Should some arborvitae need to be replaced as a result of the move, new ones will be installed that are similar in height to the existing plants.

Access to Harvard

All Cambridge residents receive free entry to the Harvard Art Museums and are invited to free community events including Observatory Nights at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, community days at Harvard sporting events and dozens of performances at the ARTS First Festival.

For more information on how to access these benefits and to receive a monthly newsletter that has a calendar of community oriented events, visit: <http://community.harvard.edu>

For questions or further informational needs on any of the aforementioned or other Harvard related matters, please contact Tom Lucey at: thomas_lucey@harvard.edu



Community

ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD SLATE

Please join us on Tuesday, May 8th, for our Annual Meeting. The council will vote to approve the slate (below) for the 2018 Board of Directors. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet the Board. Refreshments will be donated by Cambridge Common restaurant.

When: Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 PM
Where: Maud Morgan Arts,
20A Sacramento St.

Board Slate

Officers for a one-year term:

- Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair, Eustis St.
- Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair, Frost St.
- Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.
- Jonathan Lehrich, Treasurer, Cogswell Ave.

Board Directors for a two-year term:

- Deborah Colburn, Nomad, 1771 Mass. Ave.
- Miriam Goldberg, Frost St.
- Fred Meyer, Hammond St.
- Andrea Walsh, Eustis St.

Directors in mid-term:

- Stephen Diamond, Frost St.
- Hull Fulweiler, Howland St.
- Sue Kriegsman, Crescent St.
- Jonathan Lehrich, Cogswell Ave.
- Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.

Nominating Committee:

- Joel Bard
- Terry DeLancey
- Joan Squeri

SAVE THE DATE: BACKYARD BLOCK PARTY

Come celebrate our community and the arts at our 7th annual Backyard Block Party -FREE!

What: Backyard Block Party
When: Sunday, June 3rd
12:00-4:00 PM
Where: 20 Sacramento St., backyard

Enjoy:

- Activities for all ages that inspire artistic expression
- Community Open Mic performances
- Giant bubbles
- Multi-Generation Clothing Swap sponsored by Living Well Network

- Temporary tattoos
- Balloons
- Pop up portrait studio
- Imagination Playground big, blue blocks
- Bocce games on our regulation size court
- Places to sit and relax
- Snacks
- And MORE!

Community Open Mic

NEW in 2018: Sign up to perform at our Community Open Mic! Do you sing, play an instrument, or recite poetry? We want to hear you (please keep your performance family-friendly.) There will be a 2-song or 5-minute limit per performer. RSVP now by emailing: psinclair@agassiz.org.

Temporary Tattoo Contest

As part of the Backyard Block Party, young people and adults alike are encouraged to submit designs to our 2nd annual temporary tattoo contest. Winning designs are chosen via a community vote and the tattoos debut at the Block Party (\$1 per tattoo). Creators of winning designers will also receive a small prize.

Guidelines:

1. Each person may submit 1 design.
2. Designs should be between 1 inch and 3 inches on all sides.
3. Light colors like yellow will not show up well on skin, so use bright colors like red, and dark colors like black and purple. If you use a light color, try outlining it in black.
4. Keep the theme of your design kid appropriate, please. ABC staff reserve the right to exclude designs that are deemed inappropriate for children.
5. Email your completed designs to mwoods@agassiz.org by 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 10.

Three Winners

Voting will take place on May 12-16.

- Kid's pick- chosen by students in ABC and MMA programs
- Community pick- chosen by community members

- Staff pick- chosen by ABC and MMA staff and faculty

Learn more about the contest by downloading the guidelines PDF: http://bit.ly/abc_tattoo_contest

2017 Photos

Check out photos from last year's event:

http://bit.ly/backyard_block_party_photos_2017



COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTEND LESLEY PRESIDENT PORTRAIT UNVEILING

Members of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council attended the official unveiling of a portrait painted for former Lesley University President Joseph Moore by artist and professor Tony Apesos. Fred Meyer, Stephen Diamond, Carol Weinhaus, and Ron Axelrod (of Neighborhood 9) worked closely with former President Moore as community representatives on a number of projects in the neighborhood, including the dormitory at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Wendell St. and the development of Lesley University Lunder Arts Center, Mass. Ave. and Roseland Street.



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Living Well Network

WEALTH MANAGEMENT: YOUR DREAMS, YOUR PLANS

Are you retired or is retirement right around the corner? Do you wish you understood more about securing your future and your investment options?



Are you on the path that's right for YOU?

The Living Well Network is pleased to present this FREE two-part series with professional speakers who will provide clear and concise information on financial topics relevant to all adults.

May 8: Considering Socially Responsible Investing As Part Of Your Plan

Are your investments supporting companies you don't approve of? Are social issues, or the environment, or corporate responsibility important to you? Find out how focusing on well-managed companies with sustainable business practices makes sense for both ethical and investment reasons. It is possible to invest with a conscience and not sacrifice return.

With presenters Jill Menuck, Esq. of Holtzman & Menuck and Steven A. Dray, CFA, CFP of Zevin Asset Management*

When: May 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Where: Lesley University Porter Campus, 1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA

May 22: Key Ideas For Managing Risk With Insurance

Everyone encounters risks every day. And to protect ourselves we have insurance – homeowners, auto, life, etc. But insurance is tricky. It's not

like buying a chair or a shirt or groceries. When you buy insurance, you're buying a promise. It's a promise that if something catastrophic happens, your carrier is going to assist you. What should you be considering when it comes to buying insurance? Join us to find out.

With presenters Arlene M. Holtzman, J.D., LLM of Holtzman & Menuck, and Barbara Targum of Dwight Rudd Insurance*

When: May 22, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Where: Lesley University Porter Campus, 1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA

Register

Adults of any age are welcome. Pre-registration is required. Contact: dmartin@agassiz.org, (617) 528-0643



Maud Morgan Arts

CHANDLER GALLERY SHOWCASES CRLS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS

There is more to the art of photography than meets the eye. It's a disciplined study of different techniques, concepts, and mechanisms carefully applied by the artist's unique vision. It can be intense, but the AP Photography students at Cambridge Rindge and



Latin School are up to the challenge. As juniors and seniors with years of analog and digital photography classes under their belts, their current endeavor is to amass a body of work that will prepare them for college-level courses. The next step in that process is to publicly share that work in an exhibit.

"Photo Flow: Exhibit by CRLS AP Photography Students" is on display at the Chandler Gallery from April 30-May 18.

Community Calendar

May 2018

Tuesday, May 8	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	LWN Wealth Management Series: Socially Responsible Investing, Lesley University Porter Campus, 1815 Mass. Ave.
Tuesday, May 8	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Annual Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St. All are welcome, please join us!
Wednesday, May 9	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Tuesday, May 22	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	LWN Wealth Management Series: Managing Risk with Insurance, Lesley University Porter Campus, 1815 Mass. Ave.
Monday, May 28		Memorial Day holiday, ABC & MMA 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 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.

The Whistler May 2018



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DO NOT FORWARD

