the Whistler

Newsletter of the Baldwin Neighborhood Council | Winter-Spring 2026

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Baldwin Neighborhood Council News

NOTES FROM THE JANUARY 13 BNC SPECIAL MEETING

The PAIR Project

On January 13th, the Baldwin Neighborhood Council heard a special presentation by Elizabeth Badger, a Baldwin resident and Senior Attorney for the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project, and Ragini Shah, Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Immigrant Justice Clinic at Suffolk University.

Ms. Badger and Ms. Shah spoke about the latest developments in the immigration landscape and their impact on the local communities in Cambridge and the greater Boston area. After their presentation, they were able to answer some questions from the Neighborhood Council.

The PAIR Project began in 1989 and provides free legal services to asylum seekers and promotes the rights of detained immigrants. The Immigrant Justice Clinic is a full-year clinic at Suffolk University, in which law students engage in various projects to support immigrant justice.

In their presentation, Ms. Badger and Ms. Shah shared resources for those looking to volunteer or help in some way. The options they shared included:

- Volunteering as a court observer via a court-watch system, which can entail documenting and helping advocates understand what's happening in immigration court
- Calling the LUCE hotline to report ICE presence (visit www.lucemass.org for more information)
- Providing rides to appointments, organized through the Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund (www.beyondbondboston.org)
- Volunteering as an interpreter
- Organizing and petitioning local institutions such as local law schools and law firms to take on immigration cases

To learn more about and make a donation to the PAIR Project, you can visit their website: www.pairproject.org.



NEXT BNC MONTHLY MEETING

November 10, 6:00 PM

Join a fall gathering of neighbors at local favorite, Little Crepe Cafe at 102 Oxford St.

RSVP: https://bit.ly/bnc-rsvp

NOTES FROM THE APRIL 14 BNC MEETING

Little Crêpe Café

Jean Dany Joachim, owner of Little Crêpe Café at 102 Oxford Street, attended the April 14th Baldwin Neighborhood Council meeting to share updates on his application for a license to sell beer and wine at the restaurant.

At the time of the BNC meeting, Mr. Joachim had applied over a year ago and was awaiting a site visit. His plan was to begin serving just beer and wine, no liquor, in the afternoons and evenings to expand the business beyond its typical breakfast and lunch hours.

Previously, the café had obtained 1-day licenses to serve wine during special events, such as the weekly Friday evening poetry readings.

"The place is different on Friday evenings," Mr. Joachim explained. "It feels so inspiring."

In addition to some questions about Mr. Joachim's plans for the new beer and wine license, council members and residents praised the café for the ways it has enhanced the community, particularly how the café has stayed open during the Crescent Street Halloween celebrations and its support of the arts.

Update

Since coming to the April BNC meeting, The Little Crêpe Café was able to obtain a license to serve wine and beer and now offers these options during the evening poetry events.

Q&A

Q: What hours will you be serving beer and wine?
A: Afternoons and evenings. The café currently stays open until 7:30 PM, but typically extends to 8 PM on Fridays.

Q: Will it affect whether people will be able to bring their children?
A: It would be like taking a child to a restaurant that serves alcoholic beverages, not like a bar.

Q: What can BNC do to support?
A: In the past, individual council members have written letters of support or attended Zoom meetings about the application. Crescent Street residents helped spread the word on their email list.

Q: Do you have any outdoor seating?
A: We were told we'd need to pay a fee in order to have outdoor seating, but we are thinking about adding benches.

Nagomi Bento



Nagomi Bento, a restaurant serving Japanese comfort food, opened its second location earlier this year at 1670 Mass. Ave. The restaurant's owners, Naohiro Shimaguchi and Nagisa Ikemura, joined the meeting to introduce themselves and their business to the area. The original Nagomi Bento location is in Somerville's Bow Market, which was founded in 2022.

They explained that bento is like a Japanese "lunch box" and the restaurant focuses mainly on take out, grab-and-go service but there is some seating space for dine-in. At the time, they said they were unaware of any local competitors o ffering the same or similar menu.

Update

When it first opened, Nagomi Bento had limited lunchtime hours, and the owners explained that they hoped to expand their hours as they hired additional staff. They are now open 11 AM to 8 PM Monday through Sunday.

To learn more about Nagomi Bento, visit either location in Cambridge or Somerville, and or their website at: nagomibento.com.

Community Calendar
Fall 2026

Tuesday, November 10	**6:00-7:30 PM**	Baldwin Neighborhood Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 11		MLBCC Closed for Veterans Day
Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27		MLBCC Closed for Thanksgiving

The Whistler is published periodically from September-June by the Maria L. Baldwin Community Center, distribution 600 in 2022. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by email or mail. The newsletter is available online at www.mlbcc.org. Editorial team: Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison & Editor; Jessica Leach, Scribe; Ashley Yee, Guest Writer.

MLBCC is located on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett people, and their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag.

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Baldwin Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
P: (617) 349-6287 F: (617) 336-0017
www.mlbcc.org

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