

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

December '05

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM THE NOV. 14 MEETING

#### **ANC Welcomes Kool Smiles**

Enter the new Kool Smiles location at 1 Porter Square and you'll have no choice but to smile. Brightly colored walls covered with friendly faces, satellite radio (often tuned to Radio Disney) and several televisions greet guests who visit this Georgia-based dental practice that specializes in treating children ages 0 to 21. "90% of our patients are enrolled in Medicaid or Mass Health," explained Lori Scogin, Community Relations Specialist, who introduced us to the new 6500 square foot facility. "The rest self-pay as we don't yet accept other dental insurances."

In addition to cheerful décor and music, Kool Smiles' kid-specific amenities include an indoor playground, dentists trained in age specific techniques, and staff chosen to represent the diversity of the community served. Ms. Scogin added, "Eight languages are spoken in the Porter Square clinic and all written materials are

offered in both English and Spanish."

Kool Smiles also prides itself on comprehensive community outreach. In addition to operating information tables at community events, they give educational presentations and demonstrations at day cares, community schools, parenting classes, adult education/job prep courses, foster agencies, shelters, etc. to promote "good oral health habits." Because MA law prevents it from doing offsite screenings, Kool Smiles invites individuals and groups for free screenings at the office. Ms. Scogin told us, "Kids get a screenings results form and a goody bag. The staff also holds 'career days' and utilizes science experiments and believe-it-or-not type photos to interest older patients."



Porter Square Kool Smiles Staff

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**DECEMBER 14 - 7:30 PM**

Baldwin School Cafeteria - 28  
Sacramento Street  
(Press buzzer for entry)

#### **AGENDA**

*The Harvard Fund Committee report*

*Intro to the Harvard Fund Tree  
Committee; Its Members, Intentions and  
Vision*

Kool Smiles has a Roxbury location and will be opening a third facility in Mattapan early 2006. For more information, visit the website at: [www.koolsmilespc.com](http://www.koolsmilespc.com) or call 1-800-910-7186 to make an appointment.

**Cambridge Police Department Update**

ANC welcomed Cambridge Police Sgt. Steve Donahue who, accompanied by officers Ed Burke, Philip Chu, and Buckowe Yam, presented this season's crime report. Sgt. Donahue told the council, "There's been a pattern of house-breaks here and in the Peabody neighborhood." Since the beginning of September, 14 incidents have been reported in the Agassiz neighborhood alone with six occurring at 132 Oxford Street (including four attempts during weekends from 10 pm - 5 am.) Most of the break-ins were through unlocked windows and doors, although some were forced entry. The Sergeant explained that break-ins often occur in multi-unit buildings where burglars try numerous apartments until they gain entrance. Also, buildings that don't have limited access (like a concierge who monitors foot traffic) are more often victimized because neighbors sometimes buzz in people they don't know. When queried by residents who were alarmed by the numbers, Sgt. Donahue conceded, "This is an unusually high number [of break-ins] for this time of year." The three accompanying officers added that break-ins are notoriously difficult crime to solve.

Sgt. Donahue handed out a chart titled "Neighborhood Review - Agassiz" detailing other crimes in the neighborhood, including: one auto theft, three incidents of larceny from

an automobile, five incidents of malicious destruction of property, and two street robberies.

Following this report, the police suggested preventive measures that residents can take regarding housebreaks and several other safety tips.

- Safety audits - CPD offers this service on request but will also initiate contact with building managers as deemed necessary. Private individuals can attend these safety audits or request that their landlord do so. Officers will review the home or building, note problems or vulnerabilities and suggest changes (such as landscape alterations). They will also hand out residential safety brochures.
- Locking up - The officers reminded Agassiz residents to be vigilant about not leaving valuable items in view near unlocked windows or doors.
- Calling 911 - Sgt. Donahue noted that residents often feel reluctant to call 911 for fear of inconveniencing the police. "Be extra careful," he said, "Keep an eye out for people who seem not-right and don't be afraid to call 911. We get many calls about people idling in cars on the street and we send officers out to investigate." Less urgent matters (like trucks parked on or blocking sidewalks and noise problems) can be directed to the CPD business line at 617-349-3300.
- Community Alerts - Alerts are issued for a rash of crimes, defined patterns, series of incidents or sexual assault. Crime reports exist as well, but aren't inclusive and only offer limited details. To have your email address added to the community alert list, contact Neighborhood Coordinator Holly Levins at 617-349-3236, or email her at [hlevins@cambridgepolice.org](mailto:hlevins@cambridgepolice.org).
- Population - A resident asked if it would be a good idea to call her city council member to request more police be hired. Sgt. Donahue replied, "The city has a population of 100,000 but there are only 272 officers. We need to grow to 300 or 350. This is something the police will have to address." In the meantime, he agreed residents should feel free to contact their city council members about this issue.

**Fred Meyer, Realtor**

83 Hammond Street  
617-876-1200

Owner, University Real Estate,  
overlooking Harvard Square.  
Past President, MA Assoc. of Realtors.  
Licensed real estate appraiser.

See all available homes now at  
[agassizhomes.com](http://agassizhomes.com)  
[harvardyard.com](http://harvardyard.com)

In closing, ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond thanked Sgt. Donahue and Officers Burke, Chu and Yam for attending, stating, "You're doing a great job and your work is of great interest to the community."

**Mass. Ave. Zoning and Harvard Fund Committee Updates**

ANC meeting chair Stephen Diamond briefly mentioned the Massachusetts Avenue Overlay District Zoning proposal. The collective of residents from Agassiz, Porter and Neighborhood 9 who have been meeting with the City Council, the City Planning Board and Community Development are still in negotiation about changes to the proposal they hope will positively benefit and help retain independent businesses along Mass. Ave. The proposal was scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, Nov. 30, but has since been canceled until further notice.

Mr. Diamond also discussed the Harvard Fund Committee. The committee currently consists of three members, Ellen Friedman, Miriam Goldberg and Hull Fulweiler. A vote was taken at the ANC Monthly Meeting to elect two new members to the committee. Afterward, the residents went on to make this statement: "As detailed in the MOU, the council recommends that Stephen Prescod and one other person (to be named) be added as citywide representatives to the Harvard Fund Committee and that the committee, after enlargement, proceed to dispatch to the disbursement of funds." A Harvard Fund Committee report has been scheduled for the next ANC Monthly Meeting on December 14 at 7:30 pm in the Baldwin Cafeteria.

## ANC Community

### ANC WELCOMES TWO NEW EMPLOYEES

**Administrative Assistant**

The ANC is pleased to introduce Roger Hucek as our new Administrative Assistant. He joined us October 3rd, taking over for Lindsay Broockman, whose help in training him he describes as "absolutely invaluable." Contact him with any billing and enrollment questions at (617) 349-



6287 or rhucek@agassiz.org.

Prior to joining the ANC staff, Roger held a wide variety of jobs including data entry specialist, composition tutor, and bookseller at Harvard Square's (sadly, now closed) Wordsworth Books. Consequently, he advocates supporting small businesses whenever possible. He recently obtained an MFA in fiction writing from Emerson College. He currently resides near Inman Square in Cambridge, and has lived in the Boston area for four years.

**Community Liaison**

Phoebe Sinclair was excited to join the ANC team this past September, replacing Rob Watson. She looks forward to producing the *Whistler* newsletter and working closely with the Agassiz community. A graduate of Emerson College with a BFA in Writing, Literature and



Publishing, her work history includes four and a half years with the administrative team of a Boston-based Internet start-up, technical-theater work and set painting at Emerson College, and a delightful stint as helper to the grounds keeper at Kasteel Well in the Netherlands, where she enjoyed taking mid-morning tea and learned to mix concrete like a pro.

Very active in her local community, Ms. Sinclair coordinates Greater Boston NOW's Feminist Culture Club, serves on the board for the Boston Knit-Out, and can often be found volunteering for the Boston Science Museum or participating in other local events. Ms. Sinclair recently completed her first young adult novel and is now working on a second, as well as a picture book, and a musical theatre adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*. Originally from the Jersey Shore, Ms. Sinclair relocated to Boston in 1996 and now resides in Allston with her friendly foster cat, Jack.

You can contact her at (617) 349-6287 ext. 10, email her at psinclair@agassiz.org, or drop by the ANC building at 20 Sacramento St. to say hello.

**ANC THANKSGIVING POT LUCK DINNER IS A SUCCESS!**

Our 34th annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner was so well attended that food and desserts flew off the tables almost faster than we could bring them out! The Agassiz Neighborhood Council staff would like to thank all who contributed food, prep and clean up time, turkey-carving skills and good conversation. We look forward to dining with you again next year!

Agassiz neighbors enjoy a delicious dinner with dishes both traditional and diverse



TNTS (Teachers in Training) bake cookies pre-event



Crescent Street neighbors carve turkeys



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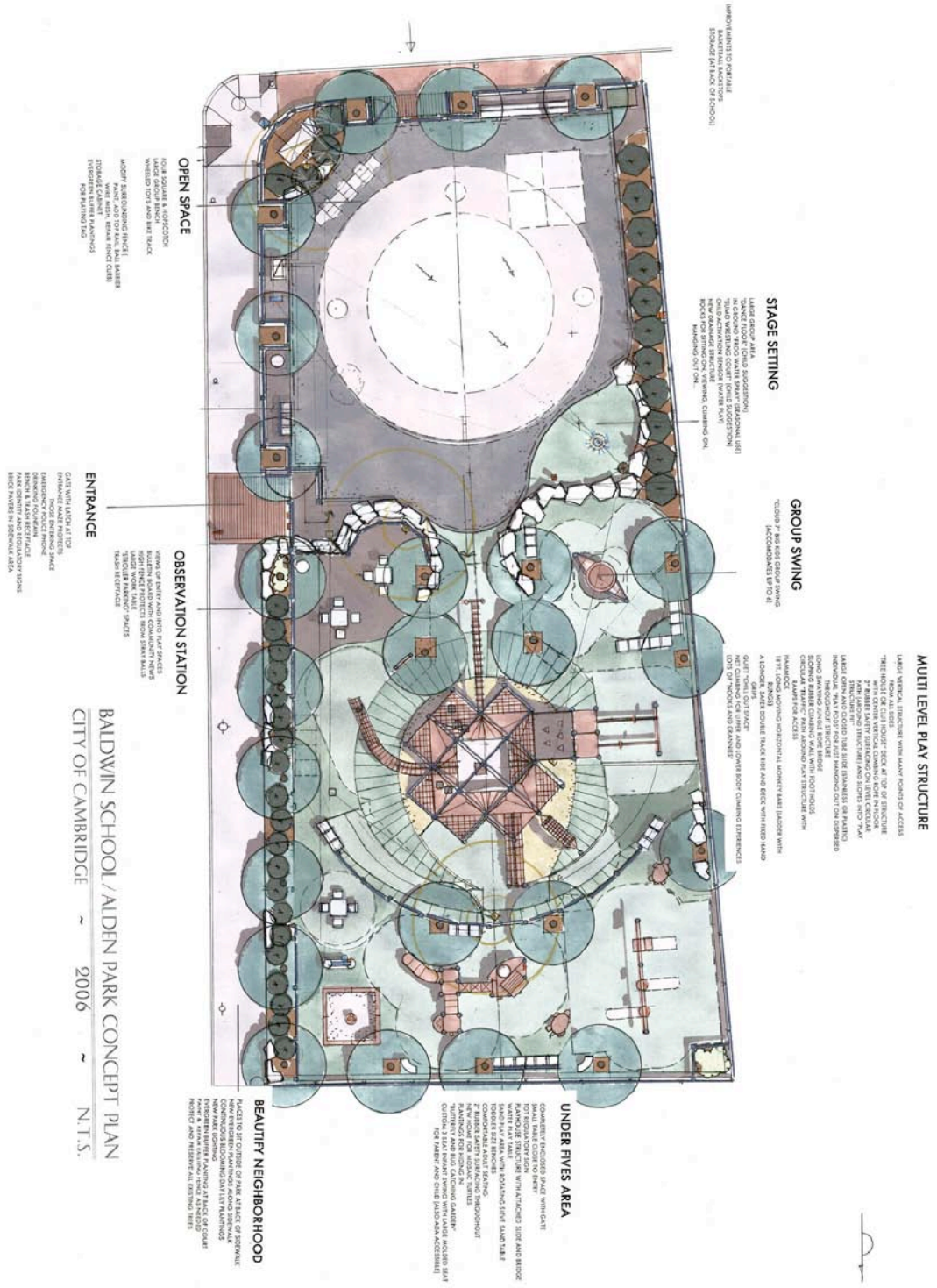
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### ALDEN TOT LOT DESIGN

Below is the updated Alden Tot Lot design as presented by the Department of Cambridge Community Development. Construction is tentatively scheduled for summer 2006. For more information consult the Community Planning /Parks & Open Space page at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov).



BALDWIN SCHOOL / ALDEN PARK CONCEPT PLAN  
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
2006  
N.T.S.



# Agassiz School Programs

## FAIRY TALE THEATER

Prepared by Courtney deLeyer

November was fairy tale month at the kindergarten afterschool. During the course of the month, all of the activities were centered around fairytales. At the end of the month, as celebration, the children presented two plays that they planned, designed and performed in --all themselves!

The idea took hold after we did an activity of fairytale charades. The children were so excited by this, that we continued doing drama activities and soon many of the kids were voicing an interest in producing a full-on production for their parents.

The kids designed everything themselves. They chose to compose, script and act out two original plays: "The Gingerbread Girl" and "The Three Little Princesses," inspired by classic fairy tales. The plays were a consistent part of our activity choices each week and many of the children enjoyed taking on responsibilities such as set design, invitation production, and costume-making.

Please enjoy these snapshots from the performance.



"Three Little Princesses"



A packed house!



Refreshments for everyone

## City Wide

**HOLIDAY "FUN-RAISER!"**  
Dear Friends and Families of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council,

It is that time of year again when we unleash our dormant consumer and purchase gifts for our

loved ones. Have you ever been at a loss as to what to get that person who has everything, in need of a wonderfully whimsical gift, stumped on the dreaded office swap or looking for a gift to impress? If so you should pop into Joie de Vivre. Joie de Vivre has been providing a fabulous service to our neighborhood for 21 years now. I have worked there on a part-time basis for half of that time! It is an atmosphere of joy and laughter and has everything anyone could need in the realm of gift giving.

Linda Given, the shop owner, has generously offered to donate a portion of her proceeds to us after the holiday season. How does this work?

Just go into **Joie de Vivre** on any **Monday or Tuesday night between the hours of 6pm and 9pm from 11/20 through 12/20**. Upon checking out you will identify yourself as a friend of the Agassiz. Linda will keep track of what our friends spend and donate a percentage of that total back to the afterschool.

Spread the word, come and shop and perhaps I'll see you there!  
**BARB**

**"Fun-Raiser"**  
Joie de Vivre  
1792 Mass. Ave  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-864-8188

**Fresh Pond Ballet**

- \* Classical Ballet
- \* Dance for 2 & 3 Year Olds
- \* Pre-Ballet for 4 Year Olds
- Youth \* Teen \* Adults
- \* Sprung Floor & Marley for Safety



Studio: 1798A Mass. Ave.,  
Cambridge,  
Nina Alonso Hathaway

Register Now!  
[www.freshpondballet.com](http://www.freshpondballet.com)  
617-491-5865

**Join us for a fun-filled holiday evening in Cambridge!**

Enjoy wine, holiday fare and live jazz while you shop in our colorful, imaginative store filled with original art, award-winning books & innovative gifts!

Saturday, December 17  
6:00 - 10:00 pm

**25% off original art!**  
**10% off everything else!**

Barefoot Books Store  
1771 Massachusetts Avenue · Cambridge, MA 02140  
617 349 1610

Our Porter Square neighbors are open late too!

**SOCIAL CALENDAR**

Free concerts at Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborg Chapel)  
50 Quincy St. at Kirkland Street in Cambridge  
All are welcome  
For more information call: (617) 864-4552

Sunday December 18 at 11:00 am  
Music In Service for the Season: Carols and Seasonal Songs for Solo Voices & Ensemble

Saturday, December 24 at 4:45 pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Musical Service with Musical Prelude



**Sacramento Street Gallery**

**DON'T FORGET: KIDS ONLY HOLIDAY SALE BEGINS MONDAY, DEC. 12!**

Kids will enjoy purchasing inexpensive gifts for family and friends in this safe, fun environment with the help of Agassiz Afterschool staff!

**20 Sacramento Street in the Gallery**  
**December 12-16 (Monday-Friday), 3-6 PM**  
**Proceeds Benefit ANC Scholarship Fund**

# Community Calendar

## December 2005

Monday, December 12	3:00 - 6:00 PM	Kids Only Holiday Sale Through Friday, December 16
Wednesday, December, 14	6:00 - 7:30 PM	ANC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor
Wednesday, December, 14	7:30 - 9:00 PM	ANC Monthly Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Baldwin School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street All are welcome
Wednesday, December, 21		First Day of Winter
Friday, December 23		ANC Winter Holiday through Monday, <b>January 2</b>
Sunday, December 25		Hanukkah begins at Sundown Christmas Day
Monday, December 26		Kwanzaa begins Through Sunday, January 1st

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## The Whistler December 2005

Agassiz Neighborhood Council

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**DO NOT FORWARD**