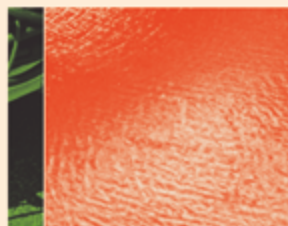


THE CAMBRIDGE LIFE

Go behind-the-scenes and learn about
the impacts of City programs

FALL 2023 / WINTER 2024 | A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS | WWW.CAMBRIDGEMA.GOV/DIGITAL



City Manager's Message

Dear Cambridge Community,

Reflecting on my first 15 months as City Manager, I am filled with deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve our dynamic city and collaborate with our dedicated team. Together, we've made significant strides in advancing the City Council's priorities and embracing the diverse voices within our community.

Our commitment to affordable housing remains unwavering, with a substantial investment allocated for FY24. The City Council's adoption of the Alewife Zoning Working Group's recommendations marks a significant step towards creating a vibrant new district that aligns economic growth with aspirations for housing and environmental resilience.

In addressing the needs of our unhoused population, we've preserved essential emergency shelter beds and introduced new funding to sustain our shelter capacity.

In confronting the global climate crisis, we have invested in critical climate initiatives, including the landmark Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance, underscoring our commitment to sustainability and reducing emissions.

Looking ahead to the late fall and winter, we are excited about the launch of the Cambridge Preschool Program, our largest new financial venture, poised to offer comprehensive early education to Cambridge's youngest learners.

These are a few examples of many in which the City is helping residents meet their basic needs, building community and accessibility, and investing in new projects.



In this exciting edition of *The Cambridge Life*, our staff has highlighted several other unique programs in the City and how they are positively impacting the community.

I'm so grateful for our City leadership and staff, who passionately serve our community. We've accomplished a great deal, and I am looking forward to tackling future challenges and celebrating further successes together.

Enjoy the issue!

Sincerely,
Yi-An Huang

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Yi-An Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

In This Edition

Message from the City Manager **02**

Rise Up Cambridge Gives Relief for Families **04**

Participatory Budgeting in Cambridge Turns 10 **05**



Initiatives Supporting & Inspiring Early Educators **06**

Staff Provide Help with Winter Heating Costs **08**

Cambridge GIS Team Takes Global Stage **09**



Behind the Scenes of Free Food and Summer Fun **10**



Block Party Initiative Triples Neighborhood Celebrations **12**

Creatively Expanding the Urban Forest **14**

Training Reduces Impact of Opioid Overdoses **16**

New Role Integrates a Mental Health Professional with Dispatchers **18**



Logistics Behind Major Renovations at Cambridge Fire Headquarters **19**

A Giant Deer Lands in Inman Square **20**

Dance Party Returns With One of Its Biggest Crowds **21**

Multilingual Highlights **22**

Rise Up Cambridge Gives Relief to Families

The program has helped alleviate poverty among the city's struggling families with children.



In June 2023, the City of Cambridge announced that it was accepting applications for Rise Up Cambridge. The primary goal of the program was to alleviate poverty among struggling families with children and to build financial security through direct cash assistance. Ultimately, the City focused on helping families with children to meet their basic needs.

One family deeply thankful for the program was a single mother and her 7-year-old child. Due to financial hardships, this Cambridge mother was struggling with rent, putting

food on the table, and some things in life that many can take for granted, such as making new memories with her son. With an extra \$500 in her bank account each month, this mom has been able to pay her rent on time and have extra food for the family. It also gave her the opportunity to vacation with her son for the first time, traveling to Salem, Massachusetts, via ferry to visit museums.

As she told us, "We will use this money carefully (and) spend it wisely. Thanks for the Rise Up program."

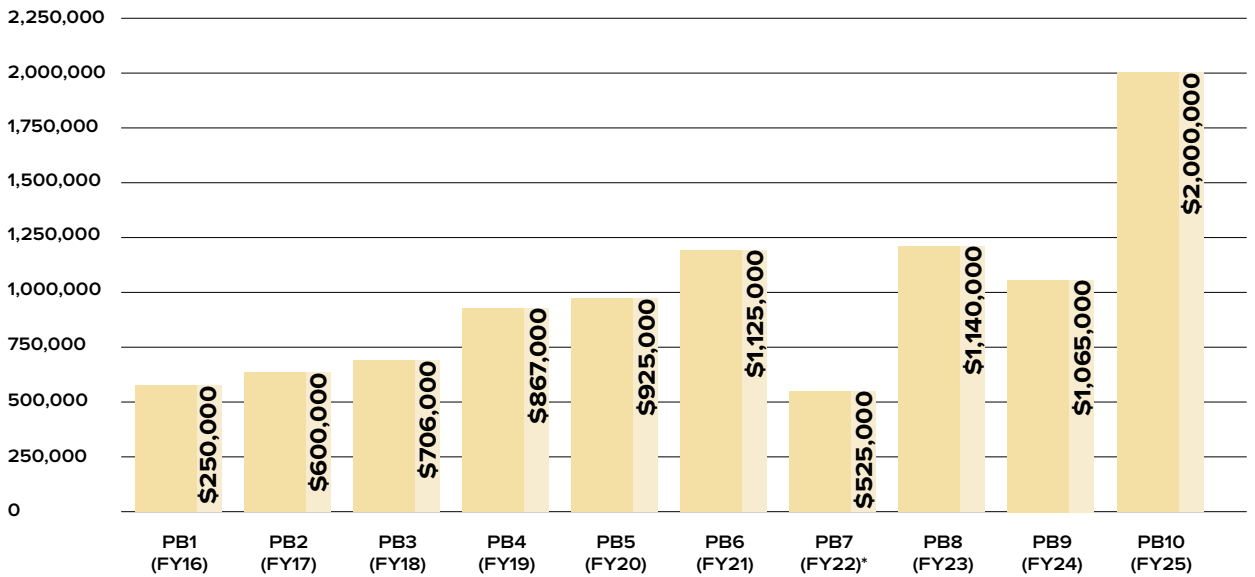
The program provides eligible Cambridge households with at least one child under 21-years-old that earn at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level with \$500 per month for 18 months. Through Rise Up, Cambridge became the first city in the nation to introduce a non-lottery program to provide direct cash assistance to all eligible families. It is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act and operated in partnership with the Office of the Mayor, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, and the Cambridge Community Foundation.

Participatory Budgeting in Cambridge Turns 10!

On its 10th anniversary, Participatory Budgeting allocated a record amount of money and expanded eligible projects.

Participatory Budgeting Funding

Total PB Funding: \$9,481,000



Participatory Budgeting, a democratic process that empowers community members through civic engagement to decide how to spend public funds, turned 10 this fall. In 2022, a record 8,707 Cambridge residents—aged 12 and older—voted on how to spend Participatory Budgeting funding to address community needs. This level of participation represented a 15 percent increase from the previous cycle. Since the inaugural process in 2014, the City of Cambridge has collected more than 7,000 ideas, tabulated more than 56,000 votes, and committed nearly \$9.5 million to Participatory Budgeting projects across 10 cycles.

The City allocated a record-high \$2 million in this 10th process, doubling the previous budget of \$1 million. Projects eligible for funding were expanded to include both capital and operating projects. More than 1,100 ideas were submitted in 2023 and voting for the 10th process will take place in March 2024.

15%

increase in participation level represented in 2022

\$9.5M

committed to Participatory Budgeting since the year 2014

To learn more about Participatory Budgeting, visit the City's website at: pb.cambridgema.gov.

* Abbreviated Participatory Budgeting Cycle due to COVID-19

Initiatives Supporting & Inspiring Early Educators

The Cambridge Office of Early Childhood is working to address workforce needs and to assist with employment supply & demand.

This December, applications will open for the Cambridge Preschool Program (CPP), a joint initiative of the City and Cambridge Public Schools. It will offer free school-day, school-year preschool to every 4-year-old in Cambridge and some 3-year-olds. Led by the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood (OEC), CPP will ensure that all of Cambridge's preschoolers have equitable access to high-quality learning experiences spanning a variety of preschool programs that families can apply to through a single application. As we prepare to launch this pioneering early education system for the 2024–2025 school year, OEC is focused on the true foundation of every successful classroom: **our educators.**

“Supporting workforce development is a critical component of sustaining high-quality early childhood education,” says OEC’s Workforce Development Manager Emily Callejas. *“Without offering professional development opportunities, we run the risk of losing valuable educators and not attracting new talent to the field.”*

In her role, Callejas is responsible for developing positive long-term relationships with representatives of the early childhood field that will address workforce needs and assist with employment supply and demand. Her work—informed by a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) lens—focuses on fostering career growth, creating job opportunities, offering leadership development, and supporting continued education. *“Our goal is to support the full spectrum of early childhood educator needs, whether you are entry-level or have been in the field for a long time,”* explains Callejas.

This commitment is reflected in the design of the Early Childhood Education Career Training Program, launched last fall in collaboration with the City’s Community Learning Center and Office of Workforce Development. It offers a paid internship track for participants interested in entering early education and a scholarship track for those currently working in the field. It prepares all participants to receive their Child

Development Associate (CDA) credential, which is a nationally recognized credential that leads to opportunities for career growth and advancement.

The Early Childhood Education Career Training Program offers a paid internship track for participants interested in entering early education and a scholarship track for those currently working in the field.

The annual program, which runs from October to June, is in its second year and has expanded to now enroll 9 interns and 11 scholarship educators.

In addition to preschool professionals, OEC’s professional development opportunities extend to the full spectrum of early education providers: family childcare, center-based childcare, and home visiting programs.

The OEC is partnering with Harvard University to offer enrollment and access to the

Certificate in Early Education Leadership (CEEL) program, which aims to support early education leaders with foundational knowledge, skills, and the tools necessary for cultivating optimal learning environments and experiences.

An additional professional development opportunity is the Early Childhood College Scholarship Program, offered in partnership with Fisher College. Scholarship applications that allow educators to take one online college course from a selection of early childhood offerings are available to Cambridge-based early childhood educators three times a year.

“I have learned about the significance of effective communication, handling complex situations, and understanding the needs of families,” says Hanna Loetz, a participant in the scholarship program. “I have also acquired knowledge about financial planning and the various options available for managing a childcare facility.”

Callejas works with more than 114 Cambridge early education programs that serve children from birth through age five. Throughout OEC’s workforce development initiatives, she keeps one word central: **inspiration.**

“The pandemic highlighted the importance of the early childhood education field and, equally, of keeping our educators inspired,” says Callejas. “I am inspired by the love that motivates our educators to work with young children. Young children deserve the best that we can give them, and having growth opportunities ourselves keeps us doing our best work.”

For more information about the Office of Early Childhood’s educator opportunities:

earlychildhoodcambridge.org



Staff Provide Help with Winter Heating Costs

City helps make sure eligible community members for the program know how to apply while also working with utility companies to restore heat for clients.



Apply to the fuel assistance program through April 30 at: cambridgema.gov/FuelAssistance

Every year, the Fuel Assistance Program helps more than **1,200 residents** in Cambridge and Somerville pay their winter heating bills between November 1 and April 30. Most residents don't think about heating bills until temperatures drop, but for the staff that helps manage this crucial service, planning for Fuel Assistance begins in the heat of the summer.

"We begin outreach to existing clients in August," says Claudia Cruz, the director of the Fuel Assistance Program (part of the City's Department of Human Service Programs). This includes mailing over a thousand letters to the residents who participated in the program the prior year to encourage them to re-enroll. **New clients can apply for the Fuel Assistance Program from October 1 through April 30.**

"We work closely with local agencies to make sure community members who are eligible for our program know how to apply and how to get in touch with us," says Cruz. The program has Spanish speakers on staff and enlists translators for applicants who speak other languages.

Cruz and her team of three full-time staff members process hundreds of applications each month, which are reviewed according to the date received. If an applicant is eligible, they are approved for a benefit amount based on their income. If a client receives a benefit amount that partially covers their heating bills, the Fuel Assistance Program staff can refer them to other agencies for further assistance. The team also helps when people face heating emergencies.

"We try our best to help everyone in need, whether that is paying winter heating bills, working with a utility company to get a client's heat restored, or connecting a client to other local and state energy programs that can help them save money," says Cruz.

This commitment to helping the community doesn't end with the winter season. Beginning in February, Cruz and her team start planning the annual Summer Food Program, which provides free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to Cambridge residents ages 18 and younger.

Cambridge GIS Team Takes Global Stage

The Geographic Information System team attended the world's largest conference devoted to GIS and mapping technology.

The Cambridge Geographic Information System (GIS) team was invited to attend the world's largest conference devoted to this mapping technology. GIS Manager Jeff Amero and GIS Web Technology Specialist Katie Grillo, in collaboration with Bill Witts from MIT Facility Information Systems, presented on the Plenary stage at the annual Esri User Conference in San Diego in July 2023.

The event had more than 14,000 in-person attendees, along with thousands more viewing via a live stream. Exploring the theme of 3D visualizations and analysis, Cambridge GIS shared examples of this technology and its use in community engagement and climate resiliency.

The presentation started by showing the Cambridge Neighborhood 3D Web Scene, which allows residents to navigate and explore the city in 3D. This map includes a variety of familiar 2D features brought to life in 3D. The Cambridge GIS custom base map includes many features—including parking spots, crosswalks, and bicycle lanes—that provide the necessary backdrop for all these mapping tools.



“We have found that providing a 3D base map has made outreach with our diverse and engaged community easier,” says Amero. “We are always looking for new ways to leverage our decade-long investment in 3D GIS to support new analysis and visualizations for city staff and the public.”

Team leads shared examples of community engagement and climate resiliency using 3D visualizations and analysis.

Another resource for the public is the collection of crowdsourcing maps. By using these tools, residents can bring attention to specific areas of concern throughout the city. In return, city staff can review comments using a 3D visualization. This helps ensure that the urban planning team is targeting areas that need the most urgent attention.

Readers can learn more about Cambridge GIS at: cambridgema.gov/GIS

Behind the Scenes of Free Food & Summer Fun

Logistics include bidding for the program’s food vendor, recruiting staff, and managing the reimbursement process.

This past summer, the Cambridge Summer Food Program served nearly 61,000 breakfasts, lunches, and dinners to Cambridge children ages 18 and under. At any of the program’s nine public food sites across the city, youth could join staff in games and activities at local parks. The program also provided free lunches to 41 local camps. Behind a summer of free food and fun is the critical mission to address food insecurity in Cambridge. And lots of logistics.

The Summer Food Program is managed by the Department of Human Service Programs’ Summer Food and Fuel Assistance Office. Planning for the program begins in February when the City puts out a bid for food vendors that are required to provide nutritious meals, vegetarian options, and daily delivery of meals. In early spring, staff reach out to local camps to confirm if they are

eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch meals. Then they submit an application to the State—which regulates the program—detailing information about each summer food site.

Recruitment for staff also begins in the spring. Summer Food staff work with Cambridge Recreation to recruit more than 30 young people to work for the program. Cambridge high school students are hired to hand out meals and play with kids at public food sites.

“Our collaboration with Recreation is unbelievable,” says Claudia Cruz, the program’s director. *“Many staff start in early high school and return to the program each summer. It creates a great sense of community for our team.”*

The Office’s four full-time staff run trainings before the start of the program and monitor all 50 sites throughout the



summer to make sure they are following state regulations and training guidelines. The State reimburses the City for costs if food sites are located in an area with a high concentration of low-income households (based on U.S. Census Data) or if at least 50 percent of children enrolled at a camp qualify for free and reduced lunch. Cruz manages the reimbursement process, providing monthly reports of meals received and consumed at each site.

Like many programs that provide essential services, the Summer Food Program evolved during the COVID-19 pandemic to meet community needs. In 2019, operating from the end of June until mid-August, it consisted of approximately 28 sites (including six public sites) and required meals to be consumed on-site. In 2020 and 2021, the state waived guidelines and the



program expanded to **50 total sites** (nine public locations) and was able to offer **“Grab-N-Go”** options, with the program extended until Labor Day.

The program has significantly evolved to better serve the residents.

“When waivers were lifted in 2022, we worked with DHSP and City leaders to preserve the program’s expansion by allocating City funding to operate sites that no longer qualified for state reimbursement,” explains Cruz. *“We wanted to make sure we could continue providing meals to the community in the way they came to rely upon during the pandemic.”*

This community-centered approach is central to the operation of the Summer Food Program. For the 2023 season, that meant another partnership with Cambridge Recreation to use the War Memorial Recreation Center as a meal distribution site during rainy days. Prior to this change, outdoor sites had to close during inclement weather to follow state guidelines.

“We are always thinking of ways that we can better serve Cambridge residents,” says Cruz.

In August, before the Summer Food Program ends, the office’s full-time staff begins preparing for the Fuel Assistance Program that provides heating bill assistance to eligible low-income households in Cambridge and Somerville.



The Program served nearly

61,000

meals to Cambridge children ages 18 and under

Provided free lunches to

41 Local Camps

In 2020 and 2021 the food program expanded to

50 sites

(9 Public Locations)

Block Party Initiative Triples Neighborhood Celebrations

Block parties have helped transform neighborhood streets and brought neighbors together.

How do you build community, strengthen connections among neighbors, and showcase creativity to make a healthier—and more fun—Cambridge?

Block parties, naturally.

These gatherings help turn neighborhood streets into more convivial and playful public spaces. By bringing neighbors together, the City of Cambridge is fostering community connections and resiliency—helping us reconnect after the coronavirus pandemic and fostering mutual aid for the next time a problem arrives.

The City issued more than \$15,000 for block parties in 2023.

With support from the City Council starting last spring, the Cambridge Public Health Department; Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department; Community Development Department; and Cambridge Arts came together to encourage block parties—especially on streets that haven't hosted one in the past.



The program, which will continue in the summer of 2024 & reflect feedback from the community, does the following:



Eliminates



Free Games & Activities

through the
Play Streets program

Changes a signature requirement

with applicants now only needing to collect signatures in support of the party from 25 percent of households on the block (previously it was 75 percent)



Shortens the approval process

Applications need to be submitted 14 days in advance of the party (previously it was 30 days)



Makes it easier for residents to

host a series of **of** block parties

now that residents can apply just once for block parties **on multiple dates**

The results

More than **75** organizers received **\$200 grants**

Overall, more than **\$15K** was issued for block parties in 2023

Residents hosted **3x** as many block parties in Cambridge during the summer of 2023 than in the previous year

Testimonials

"I'm pretty new here and with COVID I hardly know the people in our neighborhood. Ours was kind of billed as a meet and greet. Everybody made a very concerted effort to introduce themselves to everyone. Now I can put names and faces to people in the neighborhood. I think it's really great to feel connected to our neighbors," says Mary Reynolds of Hancock Street.

Several other neighborhoods have called asking if they can organize block parties too. The block party has been the glue that holds our neighborhood together. Especially through and after the pandemic, authentic connection & a sense of belonging have been so meaningful," says Barbara Best of Antrim Street, where residents held their 46th annual block party in 2023.

Creatively Expanding the Urban Forest

Programs like Forest Friends & Water by Bike Tree Ambassadors are helping to ensure the health of newly planted trees.

In 2019, the City of Cambridge completed its Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP). Meeting 11 times during 2018 and 2019, its Task Force contained 18 private citizens representing residents of Cambridge, subject-matter experts, local institutions, and business groups. The Task Force developed a Technical Report to advise stakeholders on data-driven solutions for preserving and expanding the urban forest and achieving developed goals. **Equity, resilience, and shared responsibility were key tenets of the UFMP's action steps.**

One action recommended in the UFMP was improved promotion and rebranding of our existing "Adopt a Tree" program. **The Forest Friends** program was relaunched in April 2021 to engage more residents in the stewardship of Cambridge's trees. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the program and commit to caring for the tree(s) adjacent to their residences.

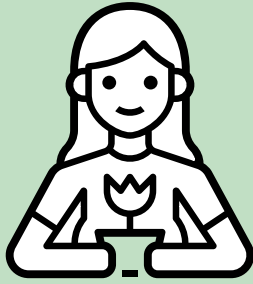
Program participants receive a monthly e-newsletter with reminders and recommendations on caring for and watering trees. After



Since April 2021, there has been a

73%

increase in no. of trees residents have committed to caring for



The City is committed to reaching the goal of planting

1250

per year



the rebranding was undertaken back in April 2021, there has been a **73 percent increase** in the number of trees residents have committed to caring for compared to the same time frame before the rebranding.

Urban Forestry continues its efforts to expand participation in the Forest Friends Program. This supplemental tree watering and care program is efficient and minimizes our carbon footprint since water isn't hauled around the City from tree to tree in trucks. Participants increase a tree's ability to survive in harsh urban growing conditions.

During the summer months, the Urban Forestry Department also employs **six to eight Water by Bike Tree Ambassadors**. Interns use bicycles loaded with hoses and then access fire hydrants to water newly planted trees. Teams of two or three are assigned watering tasks on iPads in Cartegraph, an asset management software utilized by Public Works, to track progress and provide a map for planning routes. During a growing season that

has unusually high rainfall totals, like this past summer, Water by Bike Tree Ambassadors focus on removing weeds from tree wells. Weeds compete with newly planted trees for water and nutrients. Weeds also often obstruct bicycle and pedestrian travel. Ambassadors also engage with residents throughout the day to promote the Forest Friends Program and encourage residents to care for newly planted trees.

When asked what the most rewarding part of being a Water by Bike Tree Ambassador was, Hazen Emerson, who worked the last two summers in the program and is now the program supervisor, said:

"I love looking after the trees in Cambridge. I grew up in Cambridge, and it feels great to look after Cambridge's urban forest, and it's a great way to get involved in the community. I get to meet so many people every day who are thankful that we are looking after the trees and are excited to talk about trees and what we are doing in general."

The City is committed to reaching the goal of planting **1,250 trees per year** as recommended in the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Both the Forest Friends and Water by Bike programs are essential to ensuring the survivability of newly planted trees.

Training Reduces the Impact of Opioid Overdoses

Overdose-prevention training teaches participants about the impact of opioids and how to respond properly.

Many Cambridge residents have been affected by opioid overdoses. Whether they know someone who struggles with a substance use disorder or they've lost a loved one to an overdose, the impact of opioids has been felt across the city. To help make our community safer, the Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD)—in partnership with Somerville Health and Human Services—provides overdose prevention training sessions that are free. Participants learn about the impact of opioids on our community, how to recognize the signs of an overdose, and how to respond properly. This includes how to administer Narcan, the brand name for a form of naloxone that can reverse an overdose when sprayed into the nose of someone who is overdosing. It works by blocking opioids from reaching receptors in the brain that regulate breathing and heart rate, temporarily stopping the overdose and giving the person time to receive medical attention. CPHD offers monthly virtual training sessions to the

public on the first Tuesday of each month from 3–4 p.m. over Zoom. Interested organizations can also reach out to CPHD to set up an in-person or virtual training session for their teams.

CPHD offers monthly virtual training sessions to the public on the first Tuesday of each month from 3–4 p.m. over Zoom.

Beginning in July 2020, Cambridge and Somerville received federal grant funding from the CDC. An Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant allowed both cities to expand the overdose prevention training already being provided. The Fenway Health Access Program and Somerville Homeless Coalition also received support through this grant to continue training people who use substances and people experiencing homelessness.

Expansions to this training included backpacks handed out to eligible participants filled with harm-reduction supplies, weather-appropriate gear, and other items that may be helpful for those experiencing housing insecurity. The OD2A grants also expanded training opportunities for local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. After the OD2A funding window, both cities are continuing these services through internal budgeting and will likely use opioid settlement funds as they become available.

So far, CPHD has trained **397 participants across 34 overdose prevention training sessions**. After each one, participants are asked to complete a short evaluation survey, including highlighting what parts of the training are most useful. One participant from a nonprofit agency responded: *“Just knowing the procedure to check if someone’s having an overdose, and what to do. Having a plan*



together as a staff as to how to respond. Knowing my staff members (I'm the supervisor) feel confident and have the training they need to help our guests."

Another participant shared this feedback: *"The entire presentation was very well done. Covered a lot of information in a short period of time covering the risk factors/urgency for response on a local and global level. I found the context to be compelling, yet engaging, and appreciated the individual ways to support overdoses and the community (bathroom/businesses) perspective."*

Grant funding is helping expand training and making Narcan and other supplies more accessible.

Many other participants noted that they now feel enabled to carry Narcan themselves and have the confidence to use it, along with the knowledge to recognize when it is needed.

CPHD staff aim to make Narcan and other harm reduction supplies, such as fentanyl test strips, as accessible as possible to everyone who lives, works, learns, and otherwise spends time in Cambridge.

For information about Narcan distribution events and upcoming training opportunities, please contact:

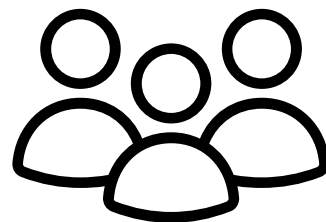
Prevention and Recovery Specialist Danielle McPeak
dmcpeak@cambridgepublichealth.org

Together, we can help reduce the impact of opioid overdose on our community.

The CPHD has trained

397

participants

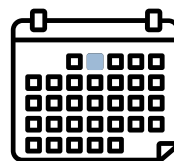


across

34



overdose prevention training sessions



Monthly training sessions

First Tuesday of each month

New Role Integrates a Mental Health Professional with Dispatchers



In 2023, the City of Cambridge designated a new position within the Emergency Communications Department—a 911 Call Center Clinician. This new position, a rarity in many major cities, can be utilized by dispatchers during emergencies for crisis intervention/de-escalation or, when appropriate, to support callers through vulnerable moments before first responders arrive. Additionally, a large part of the 911 Call Center Clinician’s role is to follow up with and provide community members resources to mental health and corresponding services via referrals, facilitating screenings, offering support and advocacy, and short-term case management.

The Clinician will have many roles, including following up with individuals and supporting callers during vulnerable moments before first responders can arrive on scene.

Cara Corin was hired as the ECC’s first 911 Call Center Clinician. A Master of Social Work (MSW) graduate of Boston University, she shares the City of Cambridge’s vision of providing equitable mental health resources to its residents: *“I am so fortunate to have an opportunity to utilize the mental health and other human service agency connections I’ve made to continue to assist Cambridge residents with their most pressing mental health and parallel needs.”*

The City of Cambridge fully recognizes that making mental health resources accessible to its residents is paramount, particularly as

our society continues to move away from stigmatizing mental health to embracing the ways in which we can promote equitable access for any individual who requires or desires assistance with this critical aspect of their overall health.

The 911 Call Center Clinician role has immediately impacted services to residents.

“When a mother called asking for assistance with her son, I was able to understand her personal and systemic concerns, which allowed me to facilitate a collaboration between her family, pre-existing services, and Youth Resource Officers to quell concerns about her son’s safety and the support he will receive in the community,” said Corin.

If residents or someone you love would like to connect with the 911 Call Center Clinician regarding mental health and/or parallel issues:

Please call the Cambridge Police non-emergency line, 617-349-3300, and request to be connected to the 911 call center clinician.

Logistics Behind Major Renovations at Cambridge Fire Headquarters



In late September, Cantabrigians peeking out of their windows in Riverside and Mid-Cambridge late at night may have witnessed a unique sight—a motorcade escorting a truck with a 110-foot trailer through the city’s streets. The truck carried a first for Cambridge: a modular fire station, transported in four parts from Canada and delivered to 15 Hovey Avenue. This will be the temporary location of Cambridge Fire Station 10 during the Cambridge Fire Headquarters comprehensive renovation that began in the fall of 2023.

The massive effort to transport a pre-built fire station **2,800 miles** involved multiple City departments that cooperatively planned how the **210,000-pound truck** would travel through city streets, including temporarily moving low-hanging traffic signals and alerting Cambridge residents about the construction project.

In November, the City of Cambridge began an estimated

\$62 million renovation of Cambridge Fire Headquarters at 491 Broadway. The extensive renovation, that will maintain the façade of the historical building will include an energy-efficient, all-electric upgrade (including enhanced safety features), updated locker rooms, individual bunkrooms, improved kitchen and fitness facilities, and new solar panels to align with the City’s Net Zero goals.

During the Fire Headquarters renovation, firefighters have moved into a temporary facility.

During the Fire Headquarters renovation, which is expected to be completed in 2026, **firefighters have moved into Station 10.** It is a temporary fire facility located at **15 Hovey Avenue** (across from Spaulding Hospital), while administration staff have relocated to 23 Bay Street.

The temporary Station 10 on Hovey Avenue consists of **four large fire module apparatus bays** that are connected to **six trailers** that house the kitchen, gym, bunk rooms, bathrooms, and common spaces. The design team, Ted Galante Architecture Studio, presented the City with this creative solution of building a modular fire station to house equipment and staff during the renovation.

The fire module apparatus bays were shipped from Canada and carefully transported through the City.

The arrival of the four large fire station modules, pre-fabricated in Canada, was an extraordinary feat. The flatbed trucks were approximately **200 feet long** and could only travel at night and, at times, at only **5-10 miles per hour**.

A Giant Deer Lands in Inman Square

The deer was inspired by the history of the Square being a “little bit out of the way.”



A crane carefully swung Edge of the Forest, a **12-foot-tall steel sculpture of a deer** into place in the heart of Cambridge’s Inman Square in July. The sculpture’s creator, Mark Reigelman, watched as workers anchored it into place.

The deer was inspired by the history of the Square being a “little bit out of the way.”

The Brooklyn-based artist’s idea for the **3,500-pound deer**—and its title—was inspired by the history of this recently reconstructed and improved intersection.

Reigelman notes that, before 1876, this area was largely referred to as Atwood’s Corner for James Atwood.

“Atwood, a traditional surname for someone who lives ‘at the wood,’ marked an on-the-nose rendition for what would become a region that lay on the proverbial edge,” Reigelman says. *“In the 1950s, when local streetcar service was shut down leaving Inman Square ‘just a little bit out of the way,’ the community developed its roots as a hub for fringe movements, artists, and activists.”*

Edge of the Forest—which Reigelman has nicknamed “**Leaf**”—was funded via the City of Cambridge’s Percent-for-Art ordinance. Through

the Inman Square Intersection Improvements project, surrounding sidewalks and the plaza were also improved. Additionally, new water mains, bike lanes, and lights were installed, along with better storm drain systems to address the repercussions of our warming climate. Reigelman’s deer design was assembled by Demiurge in Denver from laser-cut sheets of steel. After being trucked to Cambridge, the sculpture serves as a landmark in the reconstructed and improved square.

Nickname: **Leaf**



Weight: **3,500 lbs.**

Readers can discover more than **280** works of contemporary public art in every neighborhood in the City of Cambridge via our online **Public Art Map**:

cambridgema.gov/publicartmap.