

## Message from the City Manager

Much has happened in the City of Cambridge since the last issue of *CityView*. I am proud to report that Cambridge continues to retain its status as one of only a handful of cities nationwide to earn three AAA ratings for fiscal management. This is the highest rating that can be awarded to a municipality, affirming our sound financial policies and procedures that will enable taxpayers to save millions of dollars in interest costs for years to come.

During the Democratic National Convention in July, we held a series of events as part of Destination: Cambridge – the Unconventional City. These included an arts fair, historical walks, educational symposia, a Taste of Cambridge, a Salsa Concert with Willie Colon, the City's Dance Party, the Central Square World's Fair and a Community Parade. The Cambridge showcase was a huge success appealing to visitors and residents alike.

In September, we took over publication of *The Cambridge Life*, a biannual magazine for residents and newcomers.

We recently completed construction and/or renovation of various City parks and buildings including Squirrel Brand Park, Dana Park, Donnelly Field, Lowell School Park, Maple Ave. Park and Taylor Square Fire Station. See the Capital Brief on pg. 4.

We continue to benefit tremendously from the Community Preservation Act, which enables the City to receive matching funds from the state for money raised locally to support affordable housing, protect open space and preserve historic buildings.

I encourage you to pick up a copy of the City's FY04 Annual Report for additional highlights. The City's Web Site at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) also serves as an excellent information source.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

## Community Preservation Act (CPA) Funds Top \$35 Million

In November 2001, Cambridge voters approved adoption of the Community Preservation Act, a state law that allows the City to receive matching funds from the state for money raised locally in support of affordable housing, historic preservation and protection of open space. The local portion of CPA funding is raised through a 3% surcharge on property taxes. With the latest appropriation for fiscal year 2005 of \$11 million, the City has appropriated/reserved a total of \$35.1 million in CPA funds, of which approximately \$15 million was the result of the state match.

The CPA surcharge has an essentially neutral impact on tax bills because funding of affordable housing, historic preservation and open space initiatives has been shifted from the tax levy to the surcharge. The City continues to allocate a similar amount of local funds to these initiatives. However, the state match has enabled the City to double the amount of funding appropriated for

these initiatives. To date, Cambridge has received more CPA matching funds from the Commonwealth than any other participating community. Consequently, Cambridge residents will benefit from important housing, historic preservation and open space initiatives throughout the City for years to come.

The CPA Committee, a volunteer committee, appointed by the City Manager consisting of Cambridge residents, representatives from the Affordable Housing Trust, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Cambridge Housing Authority and City staff, makes recommendations for how the CPA funds will be used on an annual basis. Prior to forwarding recommendations to the City Council, the CPA Committee holds an advertised public meeting each spring to solicit input from Cambridge residents regarding priorities in the areas of affordable housing, historic preservation and open space. > continued on page 2

## New Water Meter Reading System to be Installed on all Cambridge Properties

In our continuing effort to improve City services, the Cambridge Water Department will be upgrading manual water meter reading in your home or business to an automated meter reading (AMR) system.

Called EasyRead, this new system utilizes a fully automated technology that will enable us to record actual meter reading of your water usage remotely, thereby eliminating the practice of billing based on estimated usage. A small device called a Meter Transmitter Unit (MTU) will be connected to your water meter. On some properties, the water meter will need to be replaced due to age. If there is no working meter on the property, a new meter will be installed. The MTU will be secured conveniently in your basement or attached to the outside of the building.

This new program is mandatory for all customers. Although there is no cost to

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CityView is published in the spring and fall by the City Manager's Office as a community update for residents. Editor: Ini Tomeu, Public Information Officer, 617.349.4339



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## In the Area of Affordable Housing.....

The \$19.3 million in CPA funds raised in fiscal years 2002 through 2004 for affordable housing initiatives have already been leveraged to support the creation or preservation of approximately 176 units of affordable housing units throughout the City. CPA funds are used in the preservation of expiring use units, acquisition and creation of rental units and creation of first-time homebuyer units. It is important to note that the City, through the Affordable Housing Trust which administers CPA funds for affordable housing, has been able to leverage the amount it has received to almost \$44 million to provide additional units of housing. For FY05, \$8.8 million has been allocated to affordable housing initiatives from CPA funds. Some examples of current and planned projects include:

- Creation of 13 family-sized rental units on Scouting Way in Area 4;
- Creation of 40 rental and homeownership units at Trolley Square;
- Acquisition of 6 affordable rental units in East Cambridge;
- Creation of 9 homeownership units in Porter Square; and,
- Acquisition of 22 new first-time homebuyer units.

## In the Area of Historic Preservation.....

CPA funds have also helped support the Cambridge Historical Commission's Preservation Grants program, providing funds to conduct restoration of historic exteriors on affordable housing projects throughout the City. CPA eligible activities include the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of historic resources. \$2.4 million in CPA funds allocated between FY02-04 have been obligated for: preservation grants and to support the renovation of the Cambridge Public Library's historic interior and exterior spaces, the restoration of the historic decorative ironwork at the Police Headquarters, the restoration of the historic Cambridge Common and the restoration of the historic Cambridge Cemetery fence. Additional Historic Preservation projects funded by FY05 CPA funds totaling \$1.1 million include:

- Funding of Preservation Grants Program;
- Floor replacement in City Hall;
- Restoration of the historic Cambridge Common; and
- Restoration of the historic Cambridge Cemetery Chapel.

## In the Area of Open Space.....

As a result of public input from last year's process, the City created a working group to plan and recommend options for the use of CPA open space funds, which would maximize the benefits to residents while adhering to the CPA guidelines. The group included City staff and citizen representatives of the Conservation Commission and Water Board.

Their recommendations to the CPA Committee included implementation of the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan (Northeast Sector Project) and Acquisition of Cambridge Watershed Land. Total funding for these projects is \$3.2 million, which includes the use of \$2.1 million in open space reserves appropriated in prior fiscal years.

It is important to note that in the area of open space preservation, CPA legislation currently restricts communities from spending CPA funds on active and passive recreation-related open space projects; however, the City regularly dedicates other sources of funds for the renovation and maintenance of its many parks and recreation areas.

### Fresh Pond Northeast Sector Project

Specifically, \$1.8 million has been appropriated for Fresh Pond Northeast Sector Improvements. The components of the Northeast Sector Project were identified as high priorities for implementation in the Fresh Pond Master Plan, May 2000. The Northeast Sector Project includes among other items, the following CPA eligible components of the project that include:

- Shoreline, bank and buffer zone restoration;
- Tree thinning and maintenance;
- Invasive species removal;
- Soil enhancement;
- Tree and shrub planting; and
- Creation of a wet meadow.

This project will also improve the land area adjacent to Fresh Pond so that storm water runoff will not degrade the water quality in Fresh Pond. It is anticipated the project will begin in mid-2005.

### Cambridge Watershed Land Acquisition

In addition, \$1.15 million has been appropriated for the purchase of a 16 acre parcel in Lincoln, Massachusetts adjacent to Stony Brook (part of Cambridge's public water supply) which will protect the quantity and quality of the City's water supply. This is part of an overall partnership with the Town of Lincoln to purchase and protect a total of 54 acres of watershed land. This area will be open to Cambridge citizens for habitat study and use of hiking trails. The purchase and sale

of these parcels is scheduled for early 2005.

In addition, \$260,000 has been reserved for future open space projects.

## Lead Safe Cambridge

Lead-Safe Cambridge (LSC), a program of the Community Development Department provides deleading assistance to property owners and their tenants and strives to increase awareness about the dangers of lead. Lead paint poisoning is preventable, yet remains a significant environmental health threat to children. Children usually contract lead poisoning by ingesting fine dust from lead-based paint found in older homes. Lead poisoned children can suffer from permanent learning disabilities, behavioral problems, severe developmental delays, and other serious health conditions. LSC offers a variety of free services including up to \$10,000 per unit as a deferred forgivable loan, lead inspections and comprehensive project management, temporary tenant relocation, referral for blood testing, soil testing and up to \$2,500 per unit in landscaping grants. LSC is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and follows Section 8 guidelines for rental and income limits. For more information, call 617.349.5323 or visit [www.cambridgema.gov/~LeadSafe/](http://www.cambridgema.gov/~LeadSafe/).

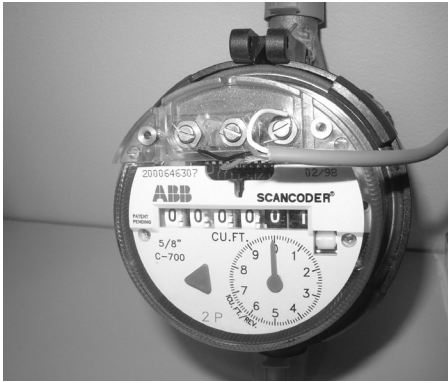


## Accessible Cambridge Taxi Program Offers Improved Services to Disabled Persons And Seniors

The City of Cambridge recently launched the new Accessible Cambridge Taxi (ACT) program in an effort to improve services to disabled and elderly persons. Accessible cabs in Cambridge, (though still independently owned) are now managed by a single company. The new program makes getting a wheelchair accessible taxi in or to Cambridge quick and easy, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling a special phone number, 1.800.616.1ACT (1228).

The ACT program was the result of a two-year collaboration by the Cambridge License Commission, the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Council on Aging, and the Taxicab Subcommittee. For more information visit [www.cambridgecab.com](http://www.cambridgecab.com).





you for this upgrade, we will need to schedule an appointment for installation with many customers, depending on the location and age of the water meter on your property. The City has contracted with Mass Installation, Inc. of Norwood to install MTUs and water meters. If your property requires an appointment, you will receive a postcard notification over the next 12 months. The appointment will typically take

less than one hour and will be scheduled at your convenience. Again, there is no charge for the installation of MTUs or water meters. Water service will not be interrupted unless the meter is being replaced. If your property does not require an installation appointment, a notice will be left acknowledging placement of the new MTU.

When a representative from Mass Installation arrives at your home or facility for your scheduled appointment, please be sure to ask for official Mass Installation identification. Do not let anyone onto your property without proper identification.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the City's new water meter reading system, please do not hesitate to call us at 617-349-6293.

For more information on this program, please visit:  
[www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/amr.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/amr.cfm).



## Animal Commission Advises Caution Regarding Wildlife

The Cambridge Animal Commission reported two separate incidents last month in which a rabid raccoon and a rabid skunk attacked two dogs, one occurring at Fresh Pond and the other in the Lakeview Avenue area. The Commission urges residents to exercise caution and offers the following tips to minimize the risk of encounters with area wildlife, including raccoons, skunks and opossums.

- Make sure your pets are current on their rabies vaccination. All dogs and cats over the age of 6 months are required to be vaccinated against rabies. The recommendation for an unvaccinated animal that encounters a confirmed rabid animal would be humane euthanasia.
- Keep garbage cans securely closed and clean up trash spills quickly. To further discourage animals from entering your trash can, add a rag soaked with ammonia to the garbage with each new load of trash; tie old stockings filled with mothballs or flakes to the handles of the garbage can; or sprinkle the contents of the can with cayenne pepper.
- Secure your home or apartment by capping chimneys, checking vents, gables and eaves and pruning tree branches that overhang your roof.
- Never feed your pet outdoors. Never feed wildlife.
- Do not allow pets to wander loose. There is a citywide leash law for dogs, and the Animal Control office also recommends that all cats be kept indoors.
- Teach your children not to approach stray or wild animals, including baby animals.

If you see a normally nocturnal animal, such as a raccoon, out during the day and behaving abnormally by moving slowly or exhibiting obvious signs of illness, call the Animal Control office at 617-349-4376.

## Fun at Danehy Park Family Day



*Thousands of Cambridge families enjoyed the gorgeous weather during the City's ninth annual Danehy Park Family Day.*

## City Scholarship Program Sees 34% Increase in Donors

This past year was one of the best of record for the City Scholarship Program, with a 34% increase in number of donors. Thanks to the generosity of 1,475 Cambridge residents and businesses, in May the City awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each to 29 recipients of the annual City Scholarship Program, now in its 12th year.

The City Scholarship Program is open to all Cambridge residents. Applicants must be enrolled in or have received acceptance to attend an educational institute beyond high school level prior to disbursement of the scholarship award. Applications for the

City Scholarship Program will be available in City Hall and online at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) beginning in December. The scholarship is a one-time award in an effort to give more eligible applicants a helping hand.

For more information on how to apply for or donate to this program, contact the Finance Department at 617-349-4220 or via e-mail: [finance@cambridgema.gov](mailto:finance@cambridgema.gov).

34%

## Annual City Census

Annual census forms will be mailed after the new year. Answering the census promptly will protect your voter registration status and your rights as a Cambridge resident, regardless of your voter registration or citizen status. For more information, call the Election Commission at 617-349-4361.



# Capital Brief

## An Update on Capital Projects in Cambridge



Every year, the City completes, continues or launches major reconstruction, renovation and building projects. These projects range from park and roadway construction to improvement of the City's sewer and stormwater infrastructure, to renovation of City buildings, ballfields and playgrounds. Since many projects can take years to complete and often require vast amounts of the City's personnel and resources, Deputy City Manager Richard C. Rossi oversees capital planning and budgets and monitors all facets of major construction. Below are highlights of some recently completed projects:

**Squirrel Brand Park**, at Broadway and Boardman Streets in Area 4, includes new trees, lawn areas, benches, pathways, small play structures, public art and a renovated community garden.

**Donnelly Field** renovations included improvements to the Little League and softball fields, an updated tot lot, new turf, drainage, bleachers, fencing, lighting and other public amenities.

**Dana Park** renovations included new play equipment, fencing improvements and resurfacing of the playground.

**Lowell School Park** was transformed from an active playground to a more passive park with flower gardens and other amenities.

**Maple Avenue Park** work included a renovated toddler park, unique play equipment, safety surfacing, lighting, irrigation, sidewalks and landscaping improvements.

**Taylor Square Fire Station** renovations included replacement of apparatus and basement floors, windows, doors, façade and historical details of this prominent firehouse. The structure is approaching its centennial and has received upgrades to the major systems of the building, plus new alarm and sprinkler systems. Emphasis has been placed on making the building energy efficient.

An overview of Capital Projects was included in the spring edition of *CityView*. For a current update, visit the City's Web Site at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) and click on the City Manager's section from the top navigation bar, or pick up a copy of the FY04 City of Cambridge Annual Report at City Hall. You can also contact Ini Tomeu, Public Information Officer at 617-349-4339 or [itomeu@cambridgema.gov](mailto:itomeu@cambridgema.gov).

## Cambridge Residents Breathe Easier: City Converts Vehicle Fleet to Biodiesel

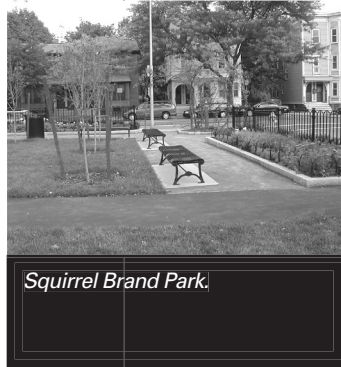


The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce that the majority of its large vehicle fleet is now fueled by biodiesel, a clean burning alternative fuel, produced from domestic, renewable resources. Over 80 city-owned vehicles, including garbage trucks, construction and hauling vehicles, sewer maintenance equipment, forestry equipment, and over a dozen City-owned school buses are now running on biodiesel. Since biodiesel burns cleaner than regular diesel fuel, it contributes to better air quality.

"We are proud to have taken this step toward incorporating a clean technology into our workplace," said City Manager Robert W. Healy. "The City will continue to pursue cleaner vehicle technologies that improve our local air quality and global environment."

## Cambridge Launches Economic Development Initiatives to Revitalize Neighborhoods

The Community Development Department through its Economic Development Division has developed a number of important new programs. Working with HUD, the City has identified key need areas and developed a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRS) that includes Cambridgeport, Riverside and Area 4 as well as adjoining sections of Mid-Cambridge, Wellington-Harrington and East Cambridge. The primary goal of these programs is to empower low and moderate income residents through economic development and training initiatives.



Squirrel Brand Park.

### Best Retail Practices Program

This program is designed to assist Cambridge retailers, restaurateurs and storefront businesses to improve the interior appearance and design of their establishments, their marketing and the operational efficiency of their businesses. The program is divided into three parts: a workshop offered to all Cambridge retailers; individual in-store consultations to eligible applicants, and a matching grant program.

### Cambridge Biomedical Careers Training Program (CBCP): Just A Start

This program expands training opportunities to residents of the City's NRS. The CBCP provides graduates with the necessary skills for entry-level jobs in the biomedical field. CBCP consists of nine months of academic and laboratory training, job counseling and placement assistance. The program includes college level classes, tutoring in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, medical terminology, computer training and laboratory techniques.

### Health Care Program: Cambridge Health Alliance

This initiative is designed to educate and train workers within the Cambridge Health Alliance system and residents from the NRS. Existing Health Alliance employees are trained for entry-level healthcare jobs, and work on baseline skills and career advancement courses leading to advanced degrees. The program provides career ladders for workers in low-wage healthcare positions. Participants must be willing to complete a step-by-step career development plan, leading to opportunities to obtain more challenging and higher paying jobs.

### Financial Literacy Training

This program is designed as a pre-entrepreneurship program for residents of the NRS area. The goal of the program is to reach residents who may have an interest in micro-enterprise as an alternative or supplement to employment, to teach participants about financial resources and money management, and to refer candidates to programs that help entrepreneurs plan for and start businesses.

**For information on any of these programs contact Elaine Madden at 617-349-4600.**



## Lights On Afterschool!



On October 14, over 5,000 sites across the nation participated in the 5th annual *Lights On Afterschool!* event sending the message that afterschool is one of the keys to children's success. In Cambridge, the City's elected and appointed leadership and the Cambridge Community Foundation hosted an appreciation lunch for over 100 staff from the City-run and community based afterschool programs honoring their ongoing commitment to the City's children. Over the past three years, under the leadership of Cambridge's Agenda for Children, over 40 community and City programs have been engaged in a citywide effort to enhance the quality of afterschool programs. Recognizing that quality afterschool programs can help children grow both academically and socially, the Superintendent of Schools Thomas Fowler-Finn, Mayor Michael A. Sullivan and City Manager Robert W. Healy, congratulated staff on their hard work and encouraged programs to

continue their quality improvement efforts. Ellen Gannett, Director of the National Institute for Out of School Time praised Cambridge for being in the forefront nationally by engaging in a citywide effort to improve program quality.

Afterschool programs also had the opportunity to showcase their programs to the Cambridge School Committee, City Council, School Principals and other leaders from the City and the School Department. Each program had an information table describing its program focus and improvement efforts. "We were pleased to be able to salute the staff who day in and day out nurture our children and help them reach their potential," said Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services. "The quality training initiative for community and City programs is one very important way that the City is investing in the future of our children."



CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Special Upcoming Events:

### Acclaimed Author Katherine Paterson Nov. 17-18

Katherine Paterson, author of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *The Same Stuff as Stars* and two-time recipient of the Newbery Medal and National Book Award, will be the guest speaker at two events in Cambridge. The first event will be a roundtable discussion hosted by Cambridge Public Library Wednesday, November 17, 7 p.m., at the YMCA, 820 Massachusetts Avenue. It will be moderated by Roger Sutton, Editor in Chief of *The Horn Book Magazine*. Participants will include Claudia Highbaugh, Chaplain, Harvard Divinity School and Joan Soble, English Language Arts Teacher, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. On Thursday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m., Ms. Paterson will present *Are You There, God? Asking Big Questions in Children's Literature* at Cambridge Forum, First Parish, 3 Church Street (Harvard Square). Her books will be available for purchase and autographing.

### Storytelling December 4 featuring Chris Van Allsburg

**Caldecott Medal-winning author and illustrator of *The Polar Express*, *Jumanji*, and *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*.**

Cambridge Public Library and Harvard Art Museums invite you to capture the holiday spirit revealed in the beautifully illustrated book *The Polar Express*. Bring your family for story telling, games, slides Saturday, December 4. There will be a morning event, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St. CPL will also present an afternoon event, at 2 p.m., at Durrell Hall, YMCA, 820 Massachusetts Ave.

Both events above are free and open to the public. For more information, call 617-349-4409 or the Fogg Art Museum at 617-495-4402.

## Employment Resources for Residents

The Cambridge Employment Program (CEP) provides free employment assistance to over 400 adult Cambridge residents each year. By appointment, CEP staff are available to provide individualized career counseling and job search assistance; help with resume and cover letter development; assist in identifying job leads and researching employers; provide training on using computers and the Internet for job search; and support for strengthening interview skills. CEP provides on-site walk-in access for program clients to online computers, fax machine and telephone service, job listings from dozens of local employers, and a range of printed materials. To learn more, call 617-349-6166 or stop by the Department of Human Services' Office of Workforce Development at 51 Inman Street.

## Employment Opportunities with the City

Did you know that the City of Cambridge is the third largest employer in the City, right after Harvard and MIT? The City has a wide variety of employment opportunities in many different fields. We have both career positions and temporary, full and part-time jobs. Our salaries and benefits are excellent and we give special consideration to City residents. Interested? Check our Web Site at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) under Jobs, or Working in Cambridge.



## Helpful Resources

### **Cambridge Life Magazine**

The City of Cambridge took over production of this biannual magazine for Cambridge newcomers and residents. Look for it in news boxes in your neighborhood.

### **Living in Cambridge – A Guide to City Resources and Services**

This booklet includes an A to Z reference guide to City resources and phone numbers.

### **FY04 City of Cambridge Annual Report**

This 64-page publication includes department overviews and highlights.

For a copy of any of these publications, contact Ini Tomeu, Public Information Officer at 617-349-4339 or via e-mail: [itomeu@cambridgema.gov](mailto:itomeu@cambridgema.gov)

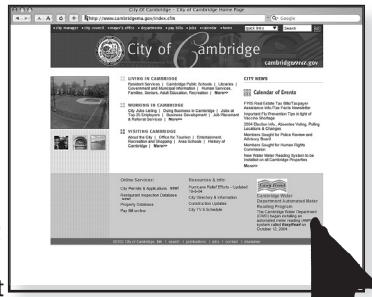
## Commission for Persons with Disabilities Celebrates 25 Years

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will commemorate its 25th Anniversary with a Gala Celebration Wednesday, November 17, 6-9 p.m., at the Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue. Professor Robert B. Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, will be the keynote speaker. The Commission was established in 1979 to act as a clearinghouse on disability and access issues in the City of Cambridge. They strive to raise awareness of disability matters, eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunity for people with all types of disabilities. The Gala will celebrate all that has been accomplished in the past quarter century to make Cambridge a fairly accessible community that welcomes and values the participation of all residents.

## New Online Permits and Applications Directory

We recently launched a new Permits and Application Directory on the City's Web site at

[www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) that enables users to access many City forms from a single web page. A pop-up screen lists the purpose of each form, application process, fee, etc. Forms can be completed and printed on your computer. Some permits, especially those that do not require a fee, can be submitted via e-mail and fax as well. This is a pilot program that includes one-quarter of the permits, applications and forms the City offers to the public. In time, we hope to place all City forms online, along with the ability to pay fees online as well.



## Restaurant Inspection Database

The City has developed a new Restaurant Inspection Database on our Web Site at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) that enables users to browse by location or via a specific address or establishment name. It does not, however, contain historical information. For more information, call Inspectional Services at 617-349-6100.

## Where Do You Turn for Help

Do you know where to go for assistance with health or human service needs? A unique collaboration between the City's Department of Human Service Programs, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Agenda for Children and Somerville Health Foundation, has resulted in the creation of an extensive database of community resources. Visit [www.cambridgesomervilleresourceguide.org](http://www.cambridgesomervilleresourceguide.org) for an online directory of over 600 health and human services programs available to residents of Cambridge and Somerville. It includes information on programs that can assist with services such as housing, health care, child care, after-school programming, food and nutrition, education, employment, mental health, recreation and many other services. For more information, call Allyson Allen, Department of Human Service Programs, at 617-349-6966.

## Senior Town Meeting

In October, the City held its first ever Senior Town Meeting, which attracted over 150 participants. The event provided an opportunity for Cambridge seniors to participate in helpful workshops such as transportation options for seniors, staying active for life, prescription access coverage, coping with aging and activities and social events at the Senior Center. Seniors also participated in a speakout session with the Cambridge City Council, appreciating the opportunity to voice concerns on issues such as transportation challenges and health care access. This event was spearheaded by the City Council's Human Services Committee Chaired by Councillor Denise Simmons, along with staff from the Department of Human Service Programs and the Council on Aging.



## Fire Dept. News:

During the past fiscal year, the Cambridge Fire Department made over 31,000 responses to 12,260 incidents. Over one-third of these calls were for emergency medical services. The department has also been a leader in the Commonwealth in response to hazardous materials for over 20 years. In May, a large-scale weapons of mass destruction (WMD) training exercise was held at Cambridge Discovery Park. Almost 100 first responders from local, state and federal agencies participated. During the past year, over 60 firefighters have attended specialized WMD training provided through the federal government at no cost to the City.

Once again this year the Fire Department will be the lead agency in Cambridge for the annual Toys for Tots Drive, kicking off on November 10. Last year, over 3,000 toys were delivered to the United States Marine Corps for distribution to needy children.

## Police Update:



### Cambridge Police Neighborhood Sergeants Program

In 1997, Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson instituted a new program of community meetings to help bring residents of each neighborhood together with officers and supervisors who regularly work those neighborhoods. Residents and officers conduct problem-solving sessions whereby all participants have input in identifying problems and developing solutions. Sergeants and Lieutenants are appointed to each of the 12 neighborhoods in Cambridge to allow for contact between residents and police, both at meetings and during regular patrol hours. They also work primarily in their neighborhood assignments, enhancing their knowledge of the neighborhood's problems and concerns. For a listing of neighborhood Sergeants and Lieutenants, call 617-349-3322. For more information on the program, contact the Department's Neighborhood Coordinator Holly Levins at 617-349-6009. Note: These phone numbers should not be used for emergencies or time sensitive complaints.



# Gearing Up for Winter:

## Snow Removal Ordinance and Emergency Parking Bans

With winter upon us, the City wants to remind residents and property owners about their responsibilities related to snow emergency parking bans and the Snow Removal Ordinance.

During substantial storms, the City may declare a Snow Emergency. If so, information is posted as soon as possible on a recorded message at 617-349-4700, online at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) and on Municipal Channel 8. Parking is prohibited on BOTH sides of all major arteries, and often on ONE side of secondary streets. Check signage carefully. Some parking facilities will provide free parking for a limited time during a declared snow emergency. Call 617-349-4700 for more information.

Cambridge property owners are required by law to remove snow from all sidewalks next to their property or business within 12 hours after snow stops falling in the daytime, and before 1 p.m. when snow has fallen overnight. Property owners must also clear ice off sidewalks or treat them with an ice-melting substance within six hours of when ice forms. Make sure catch basins and ramps are clear of snow and debris. Homes or businesses on corners and at crosswalks should clear wide openings on all adjacent sidewalks.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will clear streets as soon as possible, starting with major arteries. Please don't take it personally if they plow snow back into your driveway. As we work to keep streets passable, it is often unavoidable. The City's goals of keeping streets open, returning streets and sidewalks to safe, travelable conditions quickly, and keeping them clear and accessible can only be accomplished with your participation.

### Important Telephone Numbers:

- Emergency: Dial 911
- Snow Emergency Parking Ban Status: 617-349-4700
- 24-Hour Recorded School Link Line: 617-349-6513
- Sidewalk Snow Hotline: 617-349-4903
- Public Works Dept: 617-349-4800
- Snow Exemption Program for low-income elderly/disabled persons: 617-349-6220



# Health Beat

This information was provided by the Cambridge Public Health Department, located at 119 Windsor Street. For more information, please call 617-665-3800.

## Help Prevent the Flu

Due to the national vaccine shortage, the Department of Public Health has mandated that flu vaccine be given only to people in high-risk groups.

This winter you can still protect yourself from the flu even if you are not included in a priority group for the vaccine, or if no vaccine is available. These simple actions can stop the spread of germs and help protect you from getting sick:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- Wash your hands often. This will help protect you from germs.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs are often spread when people touch something that is contaminated with germs and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Other good habits, such as getting plenty of sleep, engaging in physical activity, managing stress, drinking water, and eating good food, will help you stay healthy this winter.

For more information, please call the Cambridge Public Health Department's recorded flu vaccine information line at 617.665.3855, or visit [www.cambridgepublichealth.org](http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org).

## Senior Health

### Ignore Your Teeth and They'll Go Away

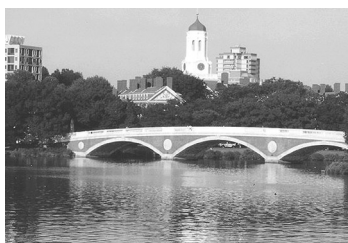
Tooth loss is the result of oral disease of the aging process. Seniors who brush and floss every day, and visit their dentist twice a year may be able to keep their teeth for a lifetime. All seniors, even those without teeth, should receive an annual oral cancer screening. Affordable dental services, including dentures, are available at the Windsor Dental Clinic, 119 Windsor St. The clinic accepts Free Care and other insurance plans. Transportation is available. To learn more, call 617.665.3986.

### Elder Abuse: Help Is Available

Is someone you care about hurting you? Any form of mistreatment that could harm an older person is considered elder abuse. This can mean physical or emotional abuse by a family member or caregiver, sexual abuse, neglect by caregivers, and abandonment. Many seniors don't seek help because they want to protect the abuser or fear retaliation. However, if you (or someone you know) are being harmed, help is available by calling the 24-hour Elder Abuse Hotline at 1.800.922.2275. In an emergency situation, call 911.

### Medical Plan for Frail Older Adults

Adults (age 55 or older) who are nursing home-eligible may qualify for the Elder Service Plan of Cambridge Health Alliance. The plan provides free or low-cost medical care and other services to frail adults so they can live safely at home. Services may include hospital and emergency care, prescription drugs, home visits, meals, personal care, and dental care. For more information, call 617.499.8372 or 617.499.8376 (información en Español).



## 2005 Resident Permits Now Available

The Traffic Parking & Transportation Department announces that 2005 Resident Parking Permits are now available. Current permits do not expire until January 31, 2005. Applications are available online at: [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic) though residents

must renew by mail or in person in order to provide proof of residency. Renew by mail to avoid delays.

The office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday evenings through February 7, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 8:30 a.m. to Noon on Fridays. For more information, call 617-349-4700.

The featured permit photo is of the 2005 Resident Sticker Photo Contest Winner: Weeks Footbridge over the Charles River by David Maloney.



# Arts About Town

## "Unite for Arts" Benefit Dec. 1



Support the art and soul of the city! Local and national performing artists with ties to Cambridge will play a benefit event Wednesday Dec. 1, 7 p.m., at Sanders Theatre,

Harvard University. Proceeds will support the Cambridge Arts Council's annual grant programs. Dance, theatre and music are on the bill, including a headline performance by international jazz recording artist Nnenna Freelon. Tickets are \$25-\$100. (Top price includes exclusive post-show reception with the artists.)

## Summer in the City (SIC)

For the 13th year, the Cambridge Arts Council presented

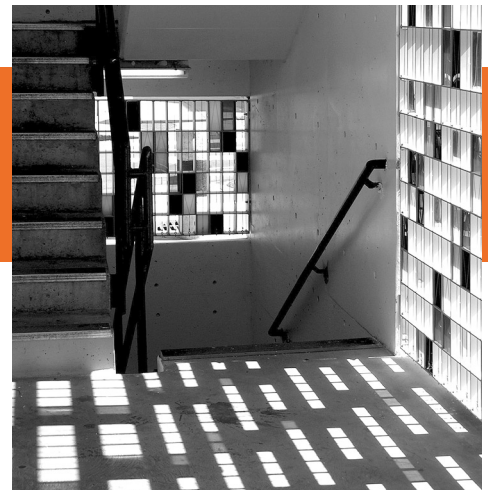


free performances in parks and public spaces to 3,000 people. Special thanks to all our sponsors!

For more information on CAC programs and services, call 617-349-4380 or visit [www.cambridgeartscouncil.org](http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org).

## CAC Gallery Exhibits

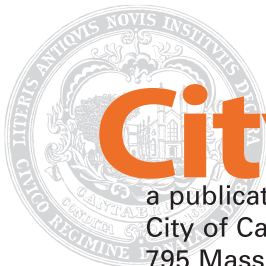
The CAC Gallery at Cambridge City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, presents through November 18, Self-Sufficient – A Site/Nonsite Venture. This exhibition features artists Ken Goldberg, who brings a humanist philosophy to the field of robotics; BBS, a group of three artists who operate in the realm of installation/performance/drawing; and (((RE: SOUND))) Collective, a group of Boston artists/performers who draw attention to musical and cultural movements that have flourished outside of the mainstream in Jamaica, the Bronx, and London; and Vaughn Bell, a Boston artist who creates personal biospheres.



From December through January, the Gallery will exhibit the work of Mags Harries and Lajos Heder, creators of Drawn Water, the public art for the Walter J. Sullivan Water Purification Facility at Fresh Pond.

## Newly Commissioned Public Art

The Green Street Garage was recently enhanced by Dot Matrix, a beautiful work of public art created by artist Edwin Andrews. Sculptural elements of color, light, and geometry run the full height of the corner stairwell at the intersection of Green and Pearl Streets (photo above).



# CityView

a publication of the Office of the City Manager  
City of Cambridge

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