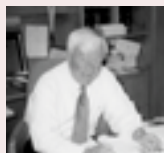


CityView

A publication by the City of Cambridge • Fall 2005/Winter 2006



Message from the City Manager

Providing residents with quality programs and services is a priority for the City of Cambridge. Our array of human service programs dedicated to children and families are second to none. I am proud to report that Cambridge was just named one of the 100 best cities for youth by America's Promise. The newsletter includes articles about this recent honor, as well as our new inclusion initiative to make children and youth programs even more accessible to all, and about the reopening of the Russell Field Athletic Complex dedicated to our young athletes.

The Cambridge City Council and this administration continue to work hard to preserve and create affordable housing for low, moderate and middle-income residents. Through matching funds made possible by the Community Preservation Act of 2001, we have generated over \$47 million in the last four years for affordable housing, historic preservation and open space initiatives. Read more on this page and also learn about our other efforts to maintain affordable housing in Cambridge.

Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, we in Cambridge, like so many others, felt a strong need to help. In coordination with FEMA, we have sent teams of fire, police and medical personnel to the devastated region. Read more about Cambridge efforts on pg. 4.

This newsletter is one of many ways we strive to keep residents informed about the City's programs and services. The City's Web site at www.cambridgema.gov continues to serve as a valuable tool for keeping residents informed. Earlier this year, we also launched Cambridge E-Line, a web-based City information service. Take a moment to read through this newsletter and learn more about our various efforts to serve you better and keep you informed about City news.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Cambridge Recognized in 100 Best Communities for Young People

The City was honored to learn recently that the America's Promise Alliance selected Cambridge as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People. America's Promise Founder General Colin Powell launched the competition in May and Cambridge applied for a place on the prestigious list. Cambridge and the other winners, including Brockton and Barnstable County in Massachusetts, were chosen from among 1,200 entries by a distinguished selection panel of national civic, business and nonprofit leaders.

The applications required detailed information about each community's efforts to fulfill five essential promises critical to the well-being of young people: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others.



▲ *Frisoli Neighborhood Service Project Team*

Cambridge's application highlighted the work of the Agenda for Children's Out of School Time and Literacy Initiatives, the Office of Workforce Development's youth employment and Reaching All Youth activities, the Kids' Council's Youth Initiative, the Cambridge Public Schools' and Cambridge Housing Authority's collaborations around academic achievement

> continued on page 2



Community Preservation Act Generates \$47 Million for Affordable Housing, Historic Preservation, Open Space

In November 2001, Cambridge voters approved adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), 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 open space protection. The local portion of CPA funding is raised through a 3% surcharge on property taxes. With the latest appropriation for fiscal year 2006 of \$12 million, the City has appropriated/reserved a total of \$47.1 million in CPA funds, of which approximately \$20 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, appointed by the City Manager, consists of Cambridge residents, representatives from the Affordable Housing Trust, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Cambridge Housing Authority and City staff. The group makes annual recommendations on how CPA funds should be used.

Prior to forwarding recommendations to the City Council, the CPA Committee holds an advertised public meeting each year to solicit input from Cambridge residents regarding priorities in the areas of affordable housing, historic preservation and open space.

> continued on page 3

100 Best Communities (continued from front page)

and the Cambridge Prevention Coalition's efforts to reduce substance abuse among youth.

"We are thrilled that Cambridge has been recognized for the extraordinary level of collaboration among City agencies and between City and community agencies in supporting the healthy development of our children," said City Manager Robert W. Healy. "The Agenda for Children program, through its Literacy and Out of School Time Initiatives, is supporting families and providers in helping launch children for success. The selection also recognizes Cambridge's outstanding commitment to youth employment and the strong network of programs serving our youth."

In announcing the award, America's Promise Alliance highlighted the Agenda for Children's Out of School Time Initiative and the Neighborhood Service Project. The Out of School Time Initiative is a collaboration of the community and City out of school time programs, providing training and on-site coaching to help afterschool programs enhance quality. Supported by City funds as well as funds from the Cambridge Community

Foundation, the Initiative provides training and support for directors as well as direct service staff to create cohesive teams to promote the learning and engagement of the City's children, youth and families.

The Neighborhood Service Project (NSP) is a paid community-based service-learning program that introduces young people to the world of work by engaging them in the development of a project that impacts their neighborhood. Run by the Office of Workforce Development and based at the City's Youth Centers, NSP teens, led by a Community Liaison, identify a need in their community, design a project to address the need, and showcase their work to the community at large. This year, the NSP team at Frisoli worked to increase understanding and appreciation for the many cultures that make up East Cambridge, particularly through a multicultural community wide food festival, production of a community cookbook and volunteering at a soup kitchen. The Gately team researched teen pregnancy and teen dating violence as issues in their community. After trainings from the Teen Health Center and Transition House, the group wrote and produced an original play chronicling one girl's struggle with the issues, and held a fundraiser for Transition House. Ellen Semonoff, Assistant

City Manager for Human Services reflected on the announcement. "The credit for our selection as one of America's 100 Best Communities for Young People really goes to the community and City programs which on a daily basis strive to meet the needs of our young people," Semonoff said. "We are very pleased that our collaborative efforts to support program leadership, provide quality training opportunities and build capacity to work with diverse young people and families are being recognized. This recognition will spur us on to continue our efforts."

The winning communities were honored at a special event November 2 in Washington, D.C. Proceeds from the event will go toward helping the children impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The Alliance will also sponsor a yearlong celebration including a special day in each of the winning communities and a series of regional forums across the country that will enable communities to share their success stories and learn effective strategies from one another that will further enrich the lives of their young people.

For more details about the 100 Best competition and the winners, visit www.americaspromise.org.



10!

Frank Dimana and Helen Spann kick up their heels at the Senior Center

Cambridge Citywide Senior Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

In October, the Citywide Senior Center located at 806 Massachusetts Avenue, across from City Hall, celebrated 10 years of service in its beautiful Central Square location. On behalf of the entire staff, Council on Aging Director Eileen Ginnetty has said, "We are truly honored to serve the seniors of Cambridge."

The facility offers four floors of very attractive and comfortable space, housing a Senior Health Clinic and Windsor House Adult Day Health Center in addition to Council on Aging programs. Activities range from recreational to educational, reaching out to seniors from diverse cultural and linguistic groups, and the Center serves senior meals 365 days a year. This Center also has a companion facility, the North Cambridge Senior Center at 2050 Massachusetts Avenue.

For more information, call 617-349-6060.

Winter Fire Safety Tips



With cooler weather upon us, now is a good time for residents to take fire prevention steps in their homes. Homeowners should ensure that heating equipment is serviced properly and fireplaces and chimneys are also inspected to make sure they are functioning. Chief Gerald Reardon and the Cambridge Fire Department recommend the following winter safety tips:

- Keep combustibles away from heating equipment.
- Clean out basements, garages and attics. Remove old paints, thinners and other hazardous waste products that may have accumulated over time. The City conducts three Household Hazardous Waste Collection days annually.
- Use candles safely. Burning candles should be kept one foot away from anything that can burn. Never leave candles unattended, pay particular attention to curtains and draperies near candles.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless deadly gas that is produced as a result of combustion. If heating equipment is not properly operating, the gas may be fed into living spaces instead of being vented through chimneys.
- Remove fuel from lawn mowers before storing them for winter.
- Test smoke detectors monthly. Replace batteries as needed. Replace detectors every 10 years.
- Reduce the use of extension cords.
- Practice escape routes with children.

For more information, visit the Cambridge Fire Department Web site at www.cambridgefire.org.

CPA PROJECTS TO DATE

Affordable Housing Projects

The \$28.1 million in CPA funds raised in fiscal years 2002 through 2005 for affordable housing initiatives have already been used to support the creation or preservation of approximately 328 affordable housing units. 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 with this commitment, the City has been able to leverage more than \$80 million from other funding sources. For FY06, \$9.6 million has been allocated to affordable housing initiatives from CPA funds. Some examples of current and planned projects include:

- Construction of 8 affordable homeownership units under way on Rindge Avenue;
- Construction of 40 affordable rental and homeownership units under way at Trolley Square;
- Creation of 14 affordable homeownership units on Mass. Ave.;
- Creation of 9 affordable homeownership units in Porter Square;
- Acquisition of 15 affordable rental units at scattered sites around the City;
- Acquisition of 22 new first-time homebuyer units.



Trolley Square now under construction.

Historic Preservation Projects

CPA funds 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. Approximately \$3.5 million in CPA funds allocated between FY02-05 have been obligated for: preservation grants; and to support renovation of the Cambridge Public Library's historic interior and exterior spaces; a feasibility study for the restoration of the historic decorative ironwork at the Police Headquarters; floor and stair replacement in City Hall; restoration of historic Cambridge Common; and the restoration of the historic Cambridge Cemetery fence and chapel.



Cambridge Cemetery.

Historic Preservation projects funded by FY06 CPA funds totaling \$1.2 million include:

- Continued Funding of Historic Preservation Grants Program;
- Additional Funding for Floor Replacement in Public Areas of City Hall;
- Additional Funding for the Restoration of the Historic Cambridge Common;
- Collins Branch Library Accessibility Project;
- Fresh Pond Golf Course Club House Tower and Clock Renovation;
- Brattle-Craie Historic Wall Repair Project.

Open Space Projects

It is important to note that in the area of open space preservation, the CPA legislation currently restricts community expenditure of 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.

Major open space initiatives funded from CPA funds over the past few years include: the implementation of the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan (Northeast Sector Habitat Restoration Project) for \$1.8 million, with construction scheduled to begin this fall; and the purchase of a 16 acre parcel in Lincoln, Massachusetts adjacent to Stony Brook (part of Cambridge's public water supply) for \$1 million. This land acquisition 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 is open to Cambridge citizens for habitat study and use of hiking trails. In addition, \$153,654 was used in July 2005 to purchase a parcel of land at 12-14 Watson Street for a passive open space/community garden.

In FY06, upon the recommendation of the open space working group, \$1.2 million was appropriated to continue the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan implementation (\$400,000) and for the Mahoney's Site Restoration (\$800,000) which is the re-development of an urban commercial space located on Memorial Drive that will provide public access for passive open space recreation.

Affordable Housing Benefits From New Construction

The Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1998 to encourage production of affordable housing units through the private market. Developers of private housing developments are required to provide 15% of their units as affordable. In exchange they may receive a density bonus providing an equivalent number of additional market rate units. The program has succeeded in producing 259 affordable housing units: 155 rental units and 104 home ownership units for income qualified families. Several hundred units are expected to be under construction in the next few years.

Recent developments are located in all parts of the city. Some examples include: One First Street, 350 Third Street in East Cambridge, the Brickworks condos in North Cambridge, 60 Aberdeen Ave. in Neighborhood 10, and 773 Concord Ave. in the Concord Alewife area. Due to the strength of the housing market, private developers continue to show interest in building more housing in Cambridge, which will result in even more privately developed affordable units.

Attaining Affordable Homeownership in Cambridge

Did you know that Cambridge supports assistance programs to help families and individuals become homeowners?

First-Time Homebuyer Classes

The Community Development Department offers free education and counseling for first-time homebuyers. The First Time Homebuyer Workshop, offered regularly to everyone throughout the year, consists of four 2-hour sessions to assist potential homebuyers in understanding the home buying process. Specialized classes are offered as well in foreign languages and on buying multi-family properties. Some 500 people attend these classes each year. In addition, approximately 150 workshop participants take advantage of free counseling on their particular circumstances for home buying. Class schedules are found on the CDD website at www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/Housing.

Financial Assistance Programs and Special Mortgage Programs

The City also offers need-based financial assistance to eligible first-time homebuyers. Purchasers receiving financial assistance are required to comply with all terms and conditions of the assistance. Depending on the terms of assistance, this may include agreeing to a long-term deed restriction that limits the buyer's equity upon resale. Call the Homebuyer Coordinator at 617-349-4642 for more information.

Affordable Homeownership Units

Non-profit organizations and for-profit developers regularly create new affordable homeownership units in Cambridge. Affordable ownership units also become available when affordable units in existing developments are resold. These units are generally marketed by non-profit organizations or by the City and sold to income eligible households. For information on getting notified when these units are for sale, see the CDD website.

Russell Field Athletic Complex Shines

Last month, the City hosted a reopening celebration for the Russell Field Athletic Complex on Rindge Avenue. The new state-of-the-art recreation facility was dedicated to past, present and future Cambridge athletes. The Russell Field Renovation Project included environmental remediation, renovation of the football field with state-of-the-art artificial turf, renovation of the multi-use field and two little league fields, construction of a new tot lot, improvement of pathways, lighting and parking, and construction of a new field house, with locker rooms, training rooms and a concession area. A \$200,000 grant was awarded to the project by the NFL Grassroots Football Fields Program.

The City of Cambridge gratefully acknowledges the efforts and support of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Just-A-Start Corporation, the New England Patriots and the National Football League's Grassroots Football Fields Program in providing grant funding for the football field.

Deputy City Manager Richard C. Rossi, who oversees capital projects noted, "Cambridge's proud tradition of school and youth athletics truly merits a first class facility for its teams and the new Russell Field Athletic Complex realizes a long-standing goal to provide such a facility."

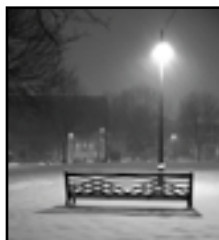
Russell Field is located in North Cambridge and is Cambridge's only football field, serving a population of over 100,000 people. It used by the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Malignon High School (a private Catholic high school located nearby), Cambridge Pop Warner Youth Football, and numerous other youth and adult athletic leagues.



City and school officials celebrate the official reopening of the Russell Field Athletic Complex.

Renew Resident Permits Now

The Traffic Parking & Transportation Department announces that 2006 Resident Parking Permits are now available. Although current permits do not expire until January 31, 2006, we encourage residents to renew early by mail to avoid delays. Applications are available online at: www.cambridgema.gov/traffic, though residents must renew by mail or in person in order to provide proof of residency. The department is open late on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., 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 2006 sticker features a photo of Dana Park, submitted by Mark Sullivan of Cambridge.



Cambridge Supports Katrina Relief

In the aftermath of the catastrophic devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, many of us felt a desperate need to help. Collaborating with FEMA, the City sent teams of fire, police and medical personnel to assist in recovery efforts. Locally, the Housing Authority and the Multi-Service Center assisted displaced families who were relocated here. The Hurricane Katrina Committee, working through the Mayor's Office and in conjunction with the Cambridge Public Health Department and the Cambridge Public Health Alliance, coordinated a citywide yard sale. The Cambridge Treasure Fest built tremendous goodwill in our community and enabled Cambridge residents to help out by hosting yard sales with proceeds benefiting Hurricane Relief. One particularly heartwarming effort was made by the men of the Carey Program, who raised \$200 for Hurricane Katrina Relief fund. The Carey Program is the City's transitional housing program for adult men who are homeless and in recovery. The men live temporarily at the Cambridge YMCA for a maximum of nine months while they work on re-learning to become self-sufficient again. Also in the works to provide more long-term support to this devastated region is the creation of an official Sister City relationship between Cambridge and one of the Gulf Coast cities. Pictured: Kalpana Gajjar and her family hosted a yard sale for Katrina relief.

City Scholarship Donations Increase 9%

Last year, we saw a significant increase (34%) in number of donors who support the City Scholarship Program. This year, we are happy to report a 9% increase in donations received. Thanks to the generosity of 1,520 Cambridge residents and businesses, this past spring the City awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each to 27 recipients.

This year, the City presented a special appreciation plaque to Richard Tabors, (of Tabors Caramanis, now part of CRA International) for his company's contribution of \$15,000 annually for the past five years.

"As a small Cambridge economics and engineering consulting firm, we understand the value of continued education," Tabors said in a letter to the City. "It is our hope that this donation will assist graduating students and those already in college to focus more on their education rather than on financing their education."

The City Scholarship Program, now in its 13th year, 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 beginning in December. The scholarship is a one-time award in an effort to give more eligible applicants a helping hand.

For more information about the Scholarship or to make a donation, go to www.cambridgema.gov and click on the Finance Department web page. Please direct questions to the Finance Department at 617-349-4220 or via e-mail: treasurer@cambridgema.gov.



CAMBRIDGE E-LINE

Cambridge E-Line – Your New Connection to City Information

Earlier this year, the City launched a web-based subscription service called Cambridge E-Line, which includes a weekly snapshot of City News & Information, a calendar link, optional alerts, such as snow emergency or street cleaning reminders, and optional City publications.

To subscribe, visit the City's Web site at www.cambridgema.gov and click on the Cambridge E-Line logo.

Congrats to Cambridge E-Line!

Cambridge E-Line received an honorable mention in the 2005 Digital Government Achievement Awards in the Government to Citizen category!

The Cambridge Life Magazine Fall 2005-Winter 2006 Edition Now Available

The City of Cambridge recently published the fall 2005-winter 2006 edition of *The Cambridge Life*. The biannual community magazine includes feature stories about City departments, programs and services and a helpful City resources section, plus a special section for newcomers. This

latest edition highlights Cambridge affordable housing initiatives, employment assistance, City preschools, recycling and the environment, and healthy living. *The Cambridge Life* can be viewed online at www.cambridgema.gov. Hard copies can be picked up at news boxes in the City's major squares, at Cambridge City Hall and at library branches. Or to request a copy, contact Ini Tomeu, Public Information Officer at itomeu@cambridgema.gov or at 617-349-4339. Visit the City of Cambridge Web Site at www.cambridgema.gov

The City of Cambridge takes pride in utilizing its Web site as a key information source for residents and those who work or do business here. We update the site daily and are continuously working on improvements, including adding a variety of online transaction capabilities that make it easier to interact with the City for those who prefer this option.

Visit our site sometime at www.cambridgema.gov and see for yourself!



Rodent Control Efforts

Rodents are an unavoidable part of life in any city. But the City of Cambridge is committed to confronting this problem in a variety of ways - by addressing rodent problems on public property, working to control rodents during construction projects, enforcing sanitary codes and ordinances, and educating the public. By working together with local businesses and property owners, we can strive to make Cambridge as free from rodents as possible.

Since a rodent control program can only be effective if everyone takes responsibility for keeping their properties as rodent-proof as possible, we offer the following tips:

10 Tips on Rodent Control

- Store garbage in metal or heavy plastic containers with tight lids.
- Place trash outside shortly before pickup; don't leave plastic garbage bags outside overnight.
- Remove weeds and debris near buildings and in yards; don't give rats a place to hide.
- Store opened food in metal or glass containers with tight lids.
- Don't leave extra pet food out; store it in a secure container.
- Sweep up food remains, litter, and trash, inside and outside your home.
- Inspect your basement and house for cracks and holes; seal them with mortar.
- Make sure you have screens on windows; inspect windows and screens for holes.
- Keep outside doors closed; use metal trim to prevent rodents from gnawing and entering underneath.
- Don't provide hiding places for rodents; store materials such as lumber and boxes on a rack with a clean, open area underneath. Get rid of unused material.

Anytime you see a rat, e-mail us at rodents@cambridgema.gov, or call the Rodent Hotline at 617-349-4899. Even if we can't catch that specific animal, it is good for us to be able to track sightings throughout the city in order to look for above-average levels of rats in specific locations. Be sure to give detailed information about what you saw: the address (or nearest possible address), exact location (front yard, alley, drain, etc.), and time of day. This will enable us to conduct the most effective investigation possible.

For an inspection of your property in order to receive advice on how to control a rodent problem, please contact us and we would be happy to arrange a visit.



For more information, visit: www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks



Cambridge Arts Council news:

CAC Gallery

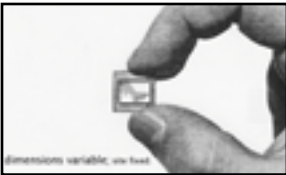
The CAC Gallery presents "dimensions variable; site fixed" organized by Mary Sherman and featuring an exhibition of work by local and international artists who were asked to disregard cost, technological inadequacy and bureaucracy and dream up new public artworks for the City of Cambridge. Varying in size, dimension and scope, all artists are asked to keep one constant in mind - Cambridge. See

this exhibition at the CAC Gallery through Dec. 28. The Gallery is open 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. on M/W/Th, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Tues. and 8:30 a.m.-Noon on Friday.

Public Art Program - Work in Progress

The Cambridge Arts Council's Public Art Program recently dedicated or currently has under construction many exciting new public artworks that speak volumes about the history and current uses of locations throughout Cambridge. Project locations include: Porter Square, Taylor Square, Harvard Square, Russell Field, Donnelly Field, Danehy Park, Cambridge Public Library - Main & Valente branches, and Vellucci Plaza. Visit these locations to experience the artwork first hand and to gain a better understanding of how this work enhances our city.

For more information, call 617-349-4380 or visit www.cambridgeartscouncil.org



Keep Bills Down as Energy Prices Go Up

Heating oil, natural gas, and electricity will all be more expensive this winter, and it already costs more to fill up at the gas station. Learn how to cut costs by reducing your energy use. Taking a few easy steps can make a real difference.

Every old-style incandescent bulb you don't change is wasting your money. Replacing just four standard bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs reduces your electric bill by well over \$100 over the life of the bulbs. CFL bulbs that produce a warm, soft light and fit most fixtures are now available. Buy them at Cambridge hardware stores or through www.nstaronline.com.

Install a programmable thermostat that adjusts temperature while you are out or asleep. Stop paying for heat that you don't need.

Button up your home by caulking and weather-stripping windows and doors. If you own your home, make sure the walls and attic are well insulated, and get your heating system tuned up annually so it operates as efficiently as possible.

Replace old appliances; new appliances are much more energy efficient.

Short car trips are the most fuel inefficient. Cambridge is walkable and bikable, and we also have great public transportation options. Walking and biking also enable you to stay healthier by getting more exercise, reducing stress, and taking the time to enjoy our fine city.

When you do drive, make sure your tires are properly inflated. Tires that are under-inflated by only 4 pounds reduce gas mileage by up to 10%.

When you're stopped at the curb, remember that idling is illegal and expensive. Idling engines are especially inefficient, which is why they create so much pollution. When you turn off the motor you are saving money and helping everyone who breathes the air.

And, of course, make sure your next car is as energy efficient as possible.

In the end, it is not just about saving money, though you will. It is also about using our natural resources more wisely, so that we have cleaner air and soil and our children and grandchildren inherit a planet that can still support abundant life.

The City of Cambridge is working on several fronts to meet this challenge, by making City operations more energy efficient and by encouraging our businesses, institutions, and residents to act as well. For more information, see www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD.

Remember to Pay your Tax Bills

The City's FY06 real and personal property tax bills were mailed on October 17. The first half installment were due on November 16. For information and/or questions about billing or payments, contact the Finance Department at 617.349.4220 or at treasurer@cambridgema.gov.

Some residents may be eligible for the residential exemption or statutory exemptions, such as an elderly or veteran exemption. To learn more about the exemption process, contact the Assessing Department at 617.349.4343 or assessors@cambridgema.gov or visit their Web page at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/Assessor/index.html>. Exemption applications are due January 17, 2006. Please note that you need only apply for the residential exemption once. After you have applied and been granted the residential exemption, the City will automatically apply it to your real estate bill in subsequent years.

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

Expect to receive your FY 2006 Motor Excise Tax Bill in February 2006. Bills are mailed to the address that the Registry of Motor Vehicles has on file as of January 1, 2006. It is your responsibility to make sure that the Registry has an accurate and up to date record of your address. According to Massachusetts General Laws, all Massachusetts residents who own and register a motor vehicle must pay a motor vehicle excise tax annually. The city or town where the vehicle is principally garaged levies the tax, and the revenues become part of the local community treasury. An excise at the rate of \$25 per one thousand dollars of valuation is levied on each motor vehicle. Payment of the motor vehicle excise is due 30 days from the date the excise bill is issued.

Daily Crime Bulletin Awarded Best Analytical Report for 2005



The Cambridge Police Department's Daily Crime Bulletin received the International Association of Crime Analysts (I.A.C.A) Award for "Best Analytical Report" for 2005. I.A.C.A is comprised of over 1,500 crime analysts from 35 countries worldwide. This is the third international award captured by our Crime Analysis Unit. Congratulations to Sergeant Rick Riley, Officer Dan Wagner, Rich Sevieri, Heather Gunderson, Steve Maywalt and Northeastern Interns Brian Sullivan, Steve Stites, Pat Leighton & Hiedi Baez!



If It Rips, Recycle It

A recent study found that Cambridge residents throw out up to 1500 tons of paper annually. Remember, "if it rips, recycle it" as long as it is free from food waste and plastic wrapping. Place all paper waste together in a paper bag, no plastic bags. Remember these recycling tips:

- Paperboard is Accepted – Ex: cereal boxes, milk & juice cartons with the plastic spout.
- Glossy Paper and Junk Mail Are Accepted - Remove plastic wrapping, recycle phonebooks.
- Plastic Windows on Tissue Boxes/Envelopes are Ok - No need to remove staples, paper clips, or spiral bindings.
- Cardboard Boxes have a Weak Point – Check inside corners for a one-inch seam; that is the "weak point," so just rip the box apart at that seam.

World War II Oral History Project

The Cambridge Historical Commission is conducting a citywide oral history project on World War II and the Home Front. If you would like to be interviewed or can recommend someone to be interviewed, call Sarah Boyer 617-349-6171. For questions regarding your service records, please contact Bob Stevens at Cambridge Veterans' Services at 617 349-4761.



Inclusive Programs Serving Children And Youth

The City's Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) has, for many years, served children with special needs in its various out of school time programs, as well as through the operation of a special needs recreation program. This year, DHSP launched an Inclusion Initiative to enhance the capacity of all of its out of school time programs to serve children with disabilities in inclusive environments and to increase the number of families that choose DHSP programs for their children with disabilities.

"This new initiative is laying the groundwork for welcoming all children, with their individual strengths, needs, differences and similarities, to engage in summer and afterschool programs, wherever they and their families wish to participate," explained Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services. "We want and need our programs to provide developmentally appropriate opportunities for the full engagement of each child, including those with disabilities."

Planned by a committee of employees from many divisions of DHSP, the heart of the initiative is training and coaching of staff in the Department's programs that serve children and youth. A consultant associated with the Massachusetts Federation for Children with Special Needs facilitated the planning process, which also involved families and representatives of Cambridge Public Schools. The planning process was

assisted by the adoption of a citywide policy on Inclusion by the Kids' Council, Cambridge City Council and School Committee.

In June and August of this year, DHSP offered newly developed Inclusion training to over 100 of its staff, including those in the Community Schools, in Childcare and Family Support Division programs, in Recreation and in the Youth Centers. The Department's recently hired Inclusion Specialist began working with staff and families to ensure that programs have the necessary skills and resources to make them safe and welcoming for all children. The Inclusion Specialist will provide staff with such supports as on-site coaching and help in developing or appropriately adapting activities to include children with special needs.

Over the summer and fall, DHSP also modified its staff to child ratios as appropriate and rearranged program space to better meet children's needs. The Department currently serves children in wheelchairs, children with disabilities on the autism spectrum, children with developmental delays, children who are nonverbal, and children with emotional/social/behavioral difficulties. Children have been engaged together in numerous classes and programs including hip-hop classes, homework activities and a non-competitive sports field day.



Clearing Snow is a Team Effort

Each year, we remind residents and property owners about their responsibilities related to snow emergency parking bans and the Snow Removal Ordinance. Following a major snowstorm, we can clear the streets more quickly and do our job better if you do your part as well.

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 we plow snow back into your driveway, but 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.

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 and on City TV-8.

Parking is prohibited on streets signed "No Parking during Snow Emergency." Illegally parked vehicles will be tagged and towed starting with the 5 key streets of Mass. Ave, Concord Ave., Cambridge St, Broadway and Mt. Auburn. Check signs carefully. Some parking facilities will provide free parking for a limited time during a declared snow emergency. Call 617-349-4700 or go to www.cambridgema.gov/traffic for more information.

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:* low-income elderly/disabled persons: 617-349-6220



Health Beat: Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Public health plays an important role in emergency preparedness. After Hurricane Katrina, public health workers helped protect evacuees and relief workers from disease outbreaks and other hazards due to contaminated food and water, chemical releases, insect-borne diseases, and unmet medical needs.

In Cambridge, the Public Health Department and other first responders lead the City's disaster preparedness efforts. The department is focused on health emergencies that could potentially harm many citizens, such as a flu pandemic, contaminated drinking water, foodborne disease outbreaks, and terrorism.

What Is the Health Department Doing?

Recognizing that Cambridge is not immune to global disease threats or terrorism, the department began to ramp up its emergency preparedness efforts in 2001. Last year, the department was awarded a federal grant to establish an Advanced Practice Center for Emergency Preparedness, one of eight national

training sites. The Center's 10 staff members are involved in:

- Developing plans for receiving a sudden influx of patients at local hospitals during a disaster and for the rapid delivery of medicine and vaccines to the community.
- Tracking communicable disease outbreaks in Cambridge.
- Strengthening collaboration among hospitals, public health, fire and police to ensure coordinated response during a major disaster.
- Managing and facilitating the work of Massachusetts Public Health Emergency Preparedness Region 4B, which includes Cambridge and 26 other communities.
- Organizing and evaluating disaster drills.

What Can Residents Do?

Residents can do many things to prepare for a potential disaster:

- Create a family disaster plan. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org.
- Create a disaster supply kit containing water,

food, first aid items, a battery-operated radio, cash, personal documents, and other supplies.

- Learn about your child's school disaster plan.
- Learn first aid and CPR from the American Red Cross.

For more information, contact the Cambridge Public Health Department at 617-665-3800 or visit www.cambridgepublichealth.org.

Emergency Numbers:

Police, Fire, EMS

9-1-1 – emergency
617-349-4900 – fire dept
617-349-3300 – police

The Cambridge Hospital

617-665-2002 – emergency Info
617-665-2300 – operator

Poison Control

1-800-222-1222

Sign up for the Cambridge E-Line at www.cambridgema.gov!



City Council:
 Mayor Michael A. Sullivan
 Vice Mayor Marjorie C. Decker
 Councillor Henrietta Davis
 Councillor Anthony D. Galluccio
 Councillor David P. Maher
 Councillor Brian Murphy
 Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves
 Councillor E. Denise Simmons
 Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

City Manager Robert W. Healy
Deputy City Manager Richard C. Rossi

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