

## MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager



I am pleased to announce that two City preschools, King Open and Martin Luther King Jr., recently earned accreditation under the new, more rigorous criteria established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children Academy – the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. These standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. Our remaining four preschools are currently completing accreditation.

The City of Cambridge recently received the 2007 National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Programs for its 21 Proof Server/Seller training program developed by the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, the Cambridge License Commission and the Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board. This award from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors recognizes local, creative and effective community programs to prevent substance abuse.

We recently commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the Cambridge Multi-Service Center (MSC), which brings together both City and community programs to assist families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of losing their housing.

With the latest appropriation for fiscal year 2008 of \$12.6 million, the City has appropriated/reserved a total of \$72.2 million in Community Preservation Act funds in the last seven years toward its three priority areas of affordable housing, historic preservation and open space. In October, the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association recognized the City's continued efforts in affordable housing by presenting Cambridge with a 2007 Municipal Leadership Award. Also in October, the City was named a 2007 Climate Champion by Clean Air-Cool Planet, the region's leading organization dedicated to finding and promoting solutions to global warming. Please take a moment to read through this newsletter to learn more about the City's recent initiatives and programs.

## Community Preservation Act Generates Over \$72 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 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 2008 of \$12.6 million, the City has appropriated/reserved a total of \$72.2 million in CPA funds, of which approximately \$30.9 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 actually 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. This volunteer group makes recommendations on how the CPA funds should be used annually. 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

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## "Mark of Quality" Bestowed on King Open and M. L. King Jr. Preschools

The King Open and the Martin Luther King Jr. Preschool Programs recently earned accreditation under the new, more rigorous criteria established in 2006 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children Academy (NAEYC) – the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. These new standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development.

"We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said Laura Stone, King Open Preschool Director. "NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible," added Michaelle Harris, M. L. King Jr.'s Director. Both Preschool Programs, which are among the six administered by the City's Department of Human Service Programs, were assessed on 10 Program Standard areas that ranged from curriculum and teaching to health and family partnerships. Thanks to the hard work of all staff, each preschool scored well above the passing score, attaining 100% in multiple areas. On top of curriculum and teaching excellence, the accreditation report noted that leadership and management at each site administered their programs "efficiently and effectively" all the while ensuring that staff, children and families were included.

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Rina and Mana Sugimoto are experimenting with the concept of reflection as they stack foam blocks on the mirror. They are pictured with Saida Delgado, one of the King Open Preschool teachers.

## Mark of Quality...

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To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, programs must go through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. Programs receive NAEYC Accreditation after an in-depth site visit by NAEYC Assessors. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years. DHSP's remaining four preschools and many of the Cambridge Public Schools' Kindergartens are currently completing this process and accreditation - "mark of quality" - is anticipated in the near future. In fact, some CPS Kindergartens have already completed accreditation.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Danehy Park Family Day



Thousands of Cambridge families enjoyed children's amusement rides, interactive kid's stage, arts and crafts, and free hot dogs and sodas at the 12th Annual Danehy Park Family Day presented by the City Manager's Office.

## CRLS Friends Seek Community Involvement

The Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS) are looking for new volunteers. FOCRLS was founded in December 2006 as a tax-deductible foundation, with the goal of involving parents, alumni, local businesses and other community members in strengthening CRLS in its historically diverse and excellent academic programs.

A strong high school is a core element of a strong community. Boston Magazine recently named CRLS "one of seven local public high schools that rival their local private and public competitors" despite the fact that CRLS charges no tuition. To volunteer, contact FOCRLS@gmail.com or 617-275-6338. Also visit their website: [www.cpsd.us/crls/about/FOCRLS.html](http://www.cpsd.us/crls/about/FOCRLS.html).

## Best Retail Practices Helps Businesses Succeed and Grow

The Best Retail Practices Program is designed to provide advice from retail specialists to small, independent retailers and restaurant owners about interior store design, marketing and external communications. The program consists of a 3-hour workshop covering topics such as store layout, merchandising, lighting and customer service. The workshop is followed by the opportunity for qualifying businesses to receive individual in-store advice and improvement recommendations from the retail specialists. The City then provides matching grants of up to \$5,000 for the retailer to make the recommended improvements. Many participating businesses report double-digit increases in revenues after implementing the recommended improvements. Curious George, a popular Harvard Square children's toy and bookstore, received a grant for new carpeting to update its appearance and reported a 19% increase in sales in a one-year period. Daly's Curtain Store in East Cambridge, a long established neighborhood home goods store, installed a new heating and air conditioning system with the help of a Best Retail Practices grant and experienced a 10% post grant increase in sales.

Verna's, a popular North Cambridge neighborhood coffee shop and bakery known regionally for its delicious donuts, recently renovated its interior space with help from a Best Retail Practices grant. Improvements include fresh paint, a new ceiling and floor and a new freezer. New owners, Richard Brunet and Ken Swift, say their customers love Verna's new look and are happy the shop kept its neighborhood flavor. **For more information, visit the Economic Development website at: [www.cambridgema.gov/~cdd/ed](http://www.cambridgema.gov/~cdd/ed) or call 617-347-4618.**

## Raising Awareness about Domestic Violence



More than 80 people gathered on the steps of City Hall in October for a Candlelight Vigil in honor of the 30 women, men and children who had died so far this year\* in Massachusetts due to domestic violence. The vigil, which was organized by the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women, the Cambridge Public Health Department, and the Domestic Violence Unit of the Cambridge Police Department, was part of a series of events to highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For more information about domestic violence programs and initiatives in Cambridge, please call Alexandra Detjens at the Cambridge Public Health Department, 617-665-3816. \*As of September 1, 2007

## Show Your Green: Walk/Ride to Work on Last Friday of Every Month

The City of Cambridge and the Green Streets Initiative urge you to get involved in conserving our environment! Green Streets is a Cambridge-based grass roots organization started in 2006 whose Walk/Ride Days have been sweeping the town. The idea is simple: On the last Friday of every month, willing participants all over the city choose to give up their cars for an alternative mode of transportation: walking, biking, riding public transportation (unicycles and rollerblades are also acceptable).

This throng of Walk/Riders stands out from the rest by wearing something green. This "green status" makes them eligible to visit participating businesses who offer fabulous incentives. Discounts, freebies, raffles, free passes, are a few examples of what a green sporting Walk/Rider might discover on his or her journey.

The idea is to create a city-wide party that individual citizens, businesses and retailers alike create by going green. The City of Cambridge will be kicking off Walk/Ride celebrations in the coming months, so stay tuned for more information and in the mean time, mark the last Friday of every month on your calendars as Walk/Ride Days.

Visit the Green Streets Website for more information about how to get involved, win prizes, and go green: [www.gogreenstreets.org](http://www.gogreenstreets.org).

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# Innovative Substance Abuse Program Wins National Award

The City of Cambridge has received the 2007 National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Programs for its 21 Proof Server/Seller training program developed by the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, the Cambridge License Commission and the Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board. This award from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors recognizes local, creative and effective programs working with the community to prevent substance abuse.

21 Proof is a locally developed, innovative Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) training program for employees of bars, restaurants and package stores in the City of Cambridge. 21 Proof continues to meet its goal to reduce underage access to alcohol through commercial sources. Between 1998 and 2002, community surveys showed a 47% decrease in Cambridge Public School students in the 11th and 12th grades reporting the ability to obtain alcohol from commercial sources, including bars or liquor stores. 21 Proof includes sections on understanding both Cambridge City ordinances and Massachusetts state laws, skill-building for refusing service and statistics on underage drinking and access to alcohol in Cambridge.

"21 Proof is the culmination of many years of collaborative work between the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, the Cambridge License Commission and the Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board," said Gisela Rots, Director of the Cambridge Prevention Coalition. "I am proud and honored that this unique program is now recognized nationwide."

Richard Scali, Chairman of the Cambridge License Commission noted, "It is important that Cambridge licensees and now other cities and towns can partake in this special training to learn all they can about local and state laws and regulations for responsible service of alcohol. It does show we can all work together."

Since its inception, 21 Proof has trained thousands in the city, improved both server understanding of their responsibility and their skills, and reduced the number of minors who are accessing alcohol commercially. This year, four programs received the Exemplary Award nationwide. 21 Proof was made possible by grants from the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the MA Department of Public Health and the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. For more information on the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, contact Gisela Rots at 617-349-6283 or grots@cambridgema.gov. For more information on the Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board, visit [www.clab.org](http://www.clab.org).



*21 Proof Collaborators (Back row, l to r): Paul Lee, President, Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board & Owner of Hong Kong Restaurant; Frank Connolly, 21 Proof Trainer; Gisela Rots, Director, Cambridge Prevention Coalition, Department of Human Service Programs.*

*(Front row l to r): Stephanie Ackert, Director Planning & Development, Department of Human Service Programs; Richard Scali, Chairman, Cambridge License Commission; and Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services.*

## Scouting Way



## Affordable Housing Enhances the Urban Environment

Through partnerships with non-profit housing developers, the City has completed several new affordable housing developments which, in addition to creating needed affordable housing, have also created thoughtfully designed new buildings which benefit the surrounding neighborhood. By redeveloping underutilized and vacant lots, emphasizing quality design and materials, and renovating blighted buildings, the City has ensured that new housing benefits the entire community.

Trolley Square, developed by Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., includes affordable mixed-income rental and homeownership housing, community and retail space, and a new City park. Completed earlier this year, Trolley Square has transformed a vacant lot unused for many years, and has had a dramatic impact on this section of Mass. Ave. The distinctive brick façade now defines Trolley Square, and the

vibrant colors enliven this section of the Avenue, while new buildings shield the still active trolley yard from Mass. Ave. The new City park now offers peaceful sitting areas which enhance the adjacent Linear Park. When complete, the retail space, which will house a café and restaurant, will bring even more activity to the park. Trolley Square is also a green building that was recognized by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for excellence in affordable green housing in its national "Show You're Green" program, and was first runner-up in the national competition for the Home Depot Foundation's Awards for Excellence for Affordable Housing Built Responsibly.

Just A Start's Scouting Way Apartments helped launch a renewed focus on Prospect Street and reexamination of this important transportation corridor running between Neighborhood IV and Mid-Cambridge. When acquired by Just A Start, the property consisted of a dilapidated 4-unit building and large paved parking lot that spanned the site. Through work with the Housing Division and Historical Commission, Just A Start restored the existing building to the historic asset it is now, while designing new townhouses that complement and respond to the design of the older adjacent buildings. Like Trolley Square, Scouting Way incorporates many sustainable and green features, and was also recognized by the AIA. The completion of Scouting Way prompted the Community Development Department to undertake a study of ways to improve Prospect Street which, in turn, led to the City Council's adoption of the Prospect Street Overlay District to help improve new development along Prospect Street. Most recently, the City planted more than 50 new street trees to further enhance the neighborhood.

The City is continuing its work with non-profit partners on new projects which will similarly enhance other neighborhoods. Construction is nearly complete at Columbia Corner near the intersection of Columbia Street and Broadway, and plans are moving forward for the redevelopment of both the former Nightstage building on Main Street and a former print shop on Harvard Street.

## Protecting Our Watersheds

All land on earth is in a watershed. The boundary of a watershed is not tied to any political boundaries, but to the topography of the land. A watershed is a complex conveyance system and an area of land where all the water including rain, snowmelt and groundwater flows to a common watercourse or body of water. All the land that drains to a particular water body is its watershed.

### CAMBRIDGE WATERSHEDS

In Cambridge, water drains to two different watersheds: the Mystic River (Little River/Alewife Brook) and the Charles River. A smaller, but vital sub watershed in Cambridge is the area that surrounds Fresh Pond. Fresh Pond is a sub watershed within the Mystic River Watershed that has been isolated from the urban drainage area to protect our drinking water.

### WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM

In any watershed, the way land is used upstream has a direct effect on water quality downstream. Most of us live downstream from someone else. Activities, such as changes to your yard, cutting down trees, clearing vegetation, fertilizing your garden, maintaining your car, and walking your pet can impact the quality of water that flows downstream.

### Did you know?

- Stormwater pollution is the #1 source of water pollution in the US;
- Stormwater contains dirt, motor oil from roads and driveway, pet feces, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, de-icing agents, soaps and litter;
- One quart of oil can cause a two-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain;
- Tree leaves and roots help store and slow down stormwater runoff;
- Cigarettes are the most littered item in America.



### For more information, contact:

**Cambridge Department of Public Works**, 617-349-4800 [www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/stormwater/index.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/stormwater/index.html)

**Cambridge Water Department**, 617-349-4770 [www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/watershed.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CWD/watershed.cfm)

**Charles River Watershed Association**, 781-788-0057 [www.crwa.org/index.html](http://www.crwa.org/index.html)

**Mystic River Watershed Association**, 781-316-3438 [www.mysticriver.org/](http://www.mysticriver.org/)

**Remember: Only rain down the storm drain!**  
Report any illegal dumping into catch basins or dirty looking discharges from outfalls to the DPW by calling 617-349-4800.

## Community Preservation Act ► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

affordable housing, historic preservation and open space. Below is an overview of projects to date.

### Affordable Housing Projects

The \$47.7 million in CPA funds raised between FY02-07 for affordable housing initiatives has already been leveraged to support the creation or preservation of approximately 508 units of affordable housing 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 with over \$116 million from other funding sources. For FY08, \$10,080,000 has been allocated to affordable housing initiatives from CPA funds. Some examples of current and planned projects include:

- Construction of 9 affordable homeownership units completed in Porter Sq.;
- Renovation of 6 affordable rental units on Howard Street;
- Construction of 13 affordable homeownership units near completion on Columbia St.;
- Construction of 14 affordable rental units under way on Concord Avenue;
- Acquisition of 16 affordable rental units on Harvey Street;
- Development of 10 affordable homeownership units to begin on Main St.;
- Acquisition of 36 affordable units through the City's First-time Homebuyer programs.

### 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 \$6 million in CPA funds was allocated between FY02-07. Historic Preservation projects funded by FY08 CPA funds totaling \$1,260,000 include:

- Continued Funding of Historic Preservation Grants Program;
- Engine 5 (Inman Square) Roof and Window Renovations;
- Engine 6 (River St.) Masonry and Paint;
- Fort Washington historic earthworks and landscape restoration;
- Restoration of Golf Course clubhouse roof and masonry;
- Restoration of Archival document collections;
- Old Burying Ground tomb improvements; and
- Improvements to Cambridge Cemetery granite steps and curbs

### Open Space Projects

It is important to note that in the area of open space preservation, the CPA legislation currently restricts communities from spending CPA open space 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.

In FY08, upon the recommendation of the Open Space Working Group, \$1,260,000 was appropriated to continue the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan implementation (\$575,000), including Black's Nook area improvements and restoration of Stream C associated with Little Fresh Pond. In addition, \$685,000 was added to the reserve fund for future open space acquisition and restoration.

## 2008 Resident Permits Now Available



*The 2008 resident permit is a photo of Harvard University's Memorial Hall taken by Peter Payack, a long-time Cambridge resident.*

The Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department announces that 2008 Resident Parking Permits are now available. Although current permits do not expire until January 31, 2008, residents are encouraged to renew early by mail to avoid delays. Although residents must renew by mail or in person in order to provide proof of residency, applications are available online at: [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic).

The Traffic 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.



Northeast Sector Butterfly Meadow in bloom.

## New and Improved Open Spaces

Through the use of both Community Preservation Act Open Space funds and the City's Capital Budget Fund, a number of new or improved parks are soon to open, nearing completion or in the midst of a public design process.

**William G. Maher Park and Ecological Restoration of Northeast Sector of Fresh Pond Reservation:** Construction is nearly complete on the renovation of the Northeast Sector of Fresh Pond Reservation, including William G Maher Park. The project includes a youth soccer field, expanded community garden, constructed wetlands, natural habitat areas and passive recreation pathways. The Northeast Sector Project, now open to the public, is a landscape restoration project that encompasses a 30-acre area of Fresh Pond Reservation, including Lusitania Meadow and the environs of Neville Place. All of the Northeast Sector will be more accessible for visitors, with new pathways meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act standards for pathways.

**Little Fresh Pond Shoreline Restoration:** This project, which encompasses the restoration of the shoreline and creation of both new wetlands and water access, is nearly complete. Visitors will enjoy the return of native plants and animals to this unique habitat within the city.

**Trolley Square Park:** Work was completed this fall on a new 3,600 square foot public park adjacent to the existing Linear Park and the new Trolley Square housing, retail and community space. Elements include extensive new trees and plantings, a rose garden, benches and tables, and lighting. The connection between the new project and Linear Park was greatly improved with a landscaped pedestrian link.

**New Park at 238 Broadway:** Construction of this new park in the Area IV neighborhood is nearing completion, with completion anticipated in fall 2007. The design for the park includes closure of a portion of Clark Street, an expanded lawn, a new tot lot with water play features, resurfacing of existing tennis courts, improvements to the community garden and the addition of new plantings and furnishings.

**Former Mahoney's Site on Memorial Drive:** Halvorsen Design was selected as Landscape Architect to design the new 34,000 square foot City park to be built at this site along the Charles River, once Harvard has completed construction of its underground garage. Harvard's general contractor, Bond Brothers, is well under way in its construction of the underground garage, the top of which will provide the platform for the City's new park. A public design process for the park began this fall. It is anticipated that park construction will begin in fall 2008.

**Tobin Playground:** Construction is under way on the upgrades to the Father Callanan Playground at the Tobin School. The tot play area has been relocated and expanded. Other improvements include new play equipment, new surfacing, fencing, benches, pathway lighting and a renovated basketball court.

## Teens Sought for Public Art Youth Council (PAYC)

What do Cambridge teens love most about PAYC? Here were some comments:

*"Working with others who are passionate about art."*

*"Freedom to decide as a group what we (as teens) wanted to do."*

*"More confident about leadership and my work ethic."*

*"It made me more aware of the hard work that goes into public art."*

Cambridge's Public Art Youth Council, known to many as PAYC, brings the voice of youth to the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) by designing artistic projects and programs for teen audiences. PAYC is a collective of up to 13 local high school students hired by CAC to represent each Cambridge neighborhood as ambassadors for public art. Guided by Public Art Program staff, council members create activities and events that invite their peers to explore the City's collection of over 165 public artworks found in parks, pools, libraries, schools, bus stops and many other spaces that youth regard as their stomping grounds.



Public Art Youth Council members.

Youth Council members are taking risks and acting as leaders within their community. Meeting twice monthly at the Cambridge Arts Council, PAYC members gain experience as a team working with a public process and diverse public audiences. They learn ways to look at public art and understand artistic concepts, which reveal the rich history of their community. In 2007, PAYC projects included creating an interactive temporary public art display at last summer's Cambridge River Festival and a "Chalk Day" event at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in which they invited fellow students to illustrate ideas and questions about public art with sidewalk chalk outside the entrance to the school. The Youth Council also led public art investigations with other local youth groups, and designed their own exhibition for CAC Gallery.

For teens curious about art in public spaces and interested in participating in the Public Art Youth Council, the Cambridge Arts Council is currently seeking applications from local high school students to be a part of the spring and summer sessions. The deadline for the spring session (February through June) is January 9, 2008. The summer session (July through August) application deadline is May 12, 2008. For more information and an application form on the Public Art Youth Council, please visit [www.cambridgeartscouncil.org/public\\_education\\_PAYC.html](http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org/public_education_PAYC.html), or call the Cambridge Arts Council at 617-349-4380. Youth council members receive a stipend for participation in the program.

**Sponsorship Opportunities** Not a teen, but still want to be involved? CAC is looking for sponsors to subsidize PAYC members' t-shirts and art supplies. In-kind donations are welcome. Please contact Cambridge Arts Council at 617-349-4380 to show your support! Cambridge's Public Art Youth Council is a program of the Cambridge Arts Council and a collaboration with Cambridge youth. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Cambridge Arts Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Capital Projects Update

Four significant public construction projects are under way throughout the city. Although the construction process can be challenging for neighbors, every effort is being made to mitigate impacts while keeping projects moving forward on schedule.

### **Main Library Renovation and Expansion Project:**

Construction is well under way on this full renovation of the historic main library building and the 65,000 square foot addition. This project will provide increased energy efficiency as well as lighting, heating and air handling enhancements to the user environment, through use of green building design principles. Estimated completion date: summer 2009.

### **Robert W. Healy Public Safety Facility:**

Construction build-out of this state-of-the-art public safety facility, which will include both the Police and Emergency Communications Departments, is proceeding steadily at 125 Sixth Street. As with all City construction projects, the City is incorporating green building technologies into the design. Estimated completion date: fall 2008.

### **West Cambridge Youth and Community Center/VFW:**

Construction of the new youth and community center/VFW facility at 688 Huron Avenue is under way on the first phase of this multi-use facility, which includes the new VFW facility and the gym. Upon completion of the first phase, the VFW will move into its new location and construction will begin on the second phase. Estimated completion date: fall 2008.

### **War Memorial Renovation:**

Executed a construction contract with W.T. Rich Construction to renovate this late 1950's era building, to improve and update building systems, provide universal accessibility and to revamp the layout of the locker rooms, restrooms, classrooms and administrative offices. The interior demolition phase of construction is well along. Estimated completion date: fall 2008.

## Support from Residents and Businesses is Key After a Snowfall

With winter just around the corner, we wanted to provide Cambridge residents and businesses with a few important reminders. Following a major snowstorm, 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.

- Cambridge property owners are required by law to remove snow from all sidewalks next to their home or business within 12 hours after snow stops falling in the daytime and before 1 p.m. when snow has fallen overnight. Remove or melt all ice within 6 hours of time the ice forms.

- **Attention: Corner property owners!** Don't forget to shovel the side-street sidewalk and to clear ramps at crosswalks. Make path wide enough for someone using a wheelchair, walker or stroller (3-4 feet).

The fine for failing to comply with the City's sidewalk clearance ordinances is \$35 per day. Even if you are away, it is your responsibility to ensure someone clears sidewalks next to your property.

During substantial storms, the City may declare a Snow Emergency. Information is placed as soon as feasible on a recorded message at 617-349-4700 (answered live during weekdays), posted online at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) and on CityTV-8. Sign up for Cambridge E-Line to get an E-mail notice when the City declares a snow emergency. Visit [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov).

When a Snow emergency is declared, parking is prohibited on streets signed "No Parking during Snow Emergency." Check signs carefully. A list and a map of these particular streets can be viewed at [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic). Some parking garages will provide free parking for a limited time during a declared snow emergency. Call 617-349-4700 or visit [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic). For more information about the City's snow removal operations and policies, call 617-349-4800 or visit [www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/snow.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/snow.html).

### **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 or [snow@cambridgema.gov](mailto:snow@cambridgema.gov)
- Public Works Dept: 617-349-4800
- Snow Exemption: low-income elderly/disabled persons: 617-349-6220

## Multi-Service Center Celebrates 20 Years

The City recently commemorated the 20th Anniversary of its Multi-Service Center (MSC) with an evening event at the Citywide Senior Center. Located in Central Square, the MSC brings together both City and community programs to assist families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of losing their housing. Speakers included City Manager Robert W. Healy, Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, former Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold, and Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and founder of the Multi-Service Center. Most of the speakers shared their recollection of the collaborative effort that led to the formation of the MSC. Mangano also spoke about efforts to end homelessness around the country. Present and former MSC staff were honored for their commitment and compassion in the face of difficult issues. Center Director Len Thomas commended his staff and invited two former clients to share their personal stories and relay how the MSC changed their lives for the better.



Cambridge City Manager Robert W. Healy (left) with Philip Mangano and Jill Herold.



New Cambridge Police Supervisors sworn in by Commissioner Robert C. Haas (Left to Right): Lt. Lenny DiPietro, Sgt. Sean Peterson, Commissioner Robert C. Haas, Sgt. Stephen Sennott and Sgt. John Lopes.

## CPD PROMOTION CEREMONY

The Cambridge Police Department recently promoted four employees to a higher rank. The following officer was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant: Sergeant Leonard J. DiPietro. The following officers were promoted to the rank of Sergeant: Officer Sean C. Peterson, John M. Lopes and Stephen G. Sennott. We congratulate these officers and wish them well in their new roles.



Auxiliary Police Recognition Dinner (pictured left to right): Herbert Lee, CPD Sgt. Joseph Keough, Commissioner Robert C. Haas, Aux. Captain Robert Bodreau and Aux. Superintendent Jack Graham.

## A SALUTE TO CAMBRIDGE AUXILIARY POLICE

Each year, the Mayor's Office recognizes the unselfish commitment of those men and women who proudly serve as the Cambridge Auxiliary Police. Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves hosted a dinner at the Charles Hotel for the 31 citizens who respond to more than 100 large-scale planned events and emergency situations to support and augment the members of the Cambridge Police Dept. The countless number of hours generously given by these residents of the city is invaluable in terms of promoting and contributing to its overall public safety and public order. In recognition of the contribution these individuals make every year, the Mayor was joined by members of the Cambridge Police command staff in showing the City's and the Police Department's sincere appreciation.



Senior members of the Cambridge Auxiliary Police at the 2007 Mayors Recognition Dinner (Left to right): Commissioner Robert C. Haas, Aux. Deputy Supt. Vernon Holford, Aux. Deputy Supt. Howard Stone, Aux. Deputy Supt. Henry Lauziere and Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves

Herbert Lee was honored as the Auxiliary Officer of the Year and Auxiliary Captain John Boudreau was honored as the Auxiliary Commanding Officer of the Year. Among those who were also recognized were Staff Deputy Superintendents Vernon Holford (56 years of service), Henry Lauziere (57 years of service) and Howard Stone (66 years of service) as active members of the Cambridge Auxiliary Police. All three of these men embody the spirit and commitment of community service.

**GPS UNITS: A HOT ITEM FOR THIEVES** The City is experiencing a large number of larcenies from motor vehicles. The hottest trend in Cambridge this year was the theft of Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation systems. The number of GPS systems stolen during the first two quarters of the year more than tripled from 2006 to 2007. One of the main concerns is that drivers are leaving their GPS systems unattended in plain view on car dashboards, making them easy targets for thieves.

**PREVENTING GPS LARCENIES** Larcenies from motor vehicles are crimes of opportunity that can hopefully be prevented by following a few tips:

- Park your car in a driveway or lot rather than on the street if possible.
- Place valuables out of sight when you leave your car.
- Remove detachable GPS systems, plus clip or suction cup that holds GPS
- Lock all doors and close all windows when leaving the vehicle.

## Workshops to Help Cambridge Businesses Get Started and Grow

The Economic Development Division of the Community Development Department offers a series of workshops to assist small Cambridge businesses. Workshops are sponsored by the City and delivered by the Center for Women and Enterprise (CWE). **"Exploring Entrepreneurship,"** an information session offered two times a year, provides an overview of the full range of workshops offered to both potential entrepreneurs and to existing businesses. The next round of classes will begin in January 2008.

Potential business owners can participate in workshops designed to explore the feasibility of their business ideas and learn about resources and steps needed to start a business, including business plan development and financing. Existing small businesses can take workshops to improve the viability of their businesses including sessions offered on e-marketing, record keeping, pricing and holiday marketing strategies. One-on-one counseling is also available where a business owner can meet with an industry expert in fields related to individual business needs.

For individuals who want get their finances in order, whether they own a business or not, a popular workshop called **"Making Your Money Work"** is offered covering such topics as developing a savings plan, budgeting, credit repair and debt management. Individuals completing this program have learned how to review and correct errors on their credit report, establish a savings plans to pay for education, purchase a home or start a business.

A new series of workshops will be starting up at the beginning of 2008. Registration is required and most workshops are free to those who qualify. For the most current information concerning workshop dates and registration instructions, visit the Economic Development website at [www.cambridgema.gov/~cdd/ed](http://www.cambridgema.gov/~cdd/ed) or call 617-349-4637.

### Winter/Spring 2008 Business Development Workshops

(Call for dates)

**Exploring Entrepreneurship**  
- Information session

**Financing For Your Business**  
- Information session

**Power Up** - Comprehensive 13-week workshop for emerging entrepreneurs

**Record Keeping for Small Businesses**

**Pricing Strategies**

**E-Marketing**

**Free Flu Shots!**

The Cambridge Public Health Department will be offering free flu shots to people (age 9 or older) from Nov. 1–Dec. 20 at Cambridge senior centers, schools, and other sites. For a schedule, call 617-665-3855 or visit [www.cambridgepublichealth.org](http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org).

**Lead Danger: Toys & Children’s Jewelry**

Dangerous amounts of lead have been found in millions of toys and pieces of children’s jewelry this year. Children under 6 who swallow or repeatedly put lead-tainted items in their mouths can suffer from lead poisoning. Some tips: Check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) (or call 1-800-638-2772) to see if you have any recalled items. Have your child tested for lead. For more info, call the department’s Lead-Safe Kids program, 617-665-3831.

**Students Give Thumbs Up to Healthy Meals**

Lunch-goers at the Graham & Parks School gave a big “thumbs up” this fall to a new tomato, basil, and mozzarella salad. “We always ask students for their approval before we add something new to the menu,” said nutritionist Dawn Olcott. Since 2005, she and her colleagues at the School Health Program have worked closely with the Cambridge Public Schools, local farmers, and a chef to introduce healthy menu items. “When food is fresh and appealing – like vegetables from local farms – kids eat it up,” she said.

**Children’s Dental Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary**

Every year, the Children’s Dental Program offers oral health education and screenings to preschoolers and thousands of students (grades K–4) in the city’s schools. The program was launched in 1997 after data revealed that a quarter of elementary school children needed dental treatment. Since 2000, the proportion of school kids with serious tooth decay has dropped from 11% to 3%. That’s something to smile about!

For more information, contact the Cambridge Public Health Department at 617-665-3800 or visit [www.cambridgepublichealth.org](http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org).



**MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOTE:**

This issue of CityView was already in production prior to the November 6, 2007 Municipal Election, so those results are not included.

**FY08 Tax Bill Payments Due**

**Attention Cambridge Property Owners.** Please note that FY08 first half property tax bill payments are due this month. Please remember to include the fiscal year and parcel id with your payment to ensure proper credit, especially if using your bank’s online payment service. Some residents may be eligible for the residential exemption or statutory exemptions, such as elderly or veteran exemptions. You are eligible for residential exemptions if you owned and occupied your property as your principal residence as of January 1, 2007. If you do not see this exemption on your bill, an application form must be filled out within 90 days of the 1st half bill date. This form can be obtained from the Assessing Department by calling 617-349-4343 or online, [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov), then go to Online Services, City Permits and Applications.



Sign up for Cambridge E-Line at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov)

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Resident Customer  
Cambridge, MA**

- City Council:
- Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves
- Vice Mayor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
- Councillor Henrietta Davis
- Councillor Marjorie C. Decker
- Councillor Anthony D. Galluccio
- Councillor Craig A. Kelley
- Councillor David P. Maher
- Councillor Brian Murphy
- Councillor E. Denise Simmons
- City Manager Robert W. Healy
- Deputy City Manager Richard C. Rossi

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