



## MESSAGE FROM THE



## City Manager

I am pleased to report that since our last newsletter, we celebrated the grand opening of the new

Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell West Cambridge Youth & Community Center and the reopening of the renovated and expanded Main Library. A total of four municipal buildings have opened this calendar year, all of which utilize green building technologies. We have been fortunate in Cambridge to be able to maintain a high quality of municipal programs and services despite the increasingly challenging economic times. In addition, the Community Preservation Act has enabled us to generate a significant amount of money each year for affordable housing, historic preservation and open space. This biannual newsletter provides a brief update to residents, but I encourage you to visit our website, [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov), for more timely and comprehensive city information.

## West Cambridge Youth & Community Center Opens

*In September, City officials commemorated the opening of the Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell West Cambridge Youth and Community Center, named in honor of the former Cambridge Mayor and long-time youth advocate. The new "green" building, which began programming this summer, was designed by Cambridge Seven Associates (the firm that designed the Liberty Hotel, the Hall of Fame for the New England Patriots and Boston Children's Museum). This beautiful facility is one of five youth centers providing an array of social, recreational and educational activities to the Cambridge community. At a time when so many cities are eliminating programs, Cambridge is stepping up the programming and offering better options for after school, summer and weekend programs for this city's youth. (Photo: Arthur Kwesi).*



*Thousands of Cambridge residents enjoyed children's amusement rides and entertainment, arts and crafts, music and roving performers at the 14th Annual Danehy Park Family Day. (Photo by Linda Turner).*

# Project Updates



*Just A Start has completed 10 affordable condominiums on Main Street. The new energy efficient building will add activity to a prominent area on Main Street near Lafayette Square.*

## **Green Affordable Condos Completed in Area Four**

Thirty-four new affordable units for first-time homebuyers are nearing completion in Area Four. Just A Start has completed 10 affordable green condominium units on Main Street, and Cascap is completing 24 on Harvard Street. These buildings have been designed and built with sustainable materials including wood

from renewable sources, low-VOC paints, and siding made from recycled metal at Harvard Street. Units have been designed to have lower energy needs through a number of features including low-E windows, super insulation and air sealing to reduce heating and cooling needs, and energy-star fixtures and appliances. New owners in each building will also benefit from renewable energy features. Photovoltaic

systems will provide a significant portion of each owner's electricity needs at Main Street, and will power common areas, the garage and elevator at Harvard Street. These sustainable developments were created through the City's housing programs and made possible with Community Preservation Act funding.

Affordable condominiums created through the City's first-time homebuyer programs are available to low and moderate-income buyers. For information on the City's housing programs and available units, please contact the Housing Division of the Community

Development Department at (617) 349-4622 or visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/hsg](http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/hsg).



*Cascap is completing 24 affordable units on Harvard Street. A former print shop, the site has been transformed by a modern building constructed with sustainable materials and energy efficient features. New owners will benefit from the recently completed Greene • Rose Heritage Park.*

## **Supporting a More Sustainable Cambridge**

A Green Building/Zoning Task Force appointed by the City Manager in spring 2008 has been working with City staff to create new zoning approaches that encourage property owners and developers to be more energy efficient when building and renovating buildings. The group was also charged with identifying and addressing barriers to green building practices in the City's Zoning Ordinance. In September 2009, the City Council adopted one early Task Force recommendation to allow wind turbines, both building mounted and free standing, by special permit. Building-mounted wind turbines would be allowed as of right in limited districts (on university campuses and the Museum of Science), when utilized for educational and research purposes and when located at least 200 feet from residential abutters. Additional Task Force recommendations expected before the end of the year will address green roofs, minimum green building standards and protection of solar energy systems.

## **Community Preservation Act Generates Over \$92 Million for Affordable Housing, Historic Preservation, Open Space**

Since the adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2001, the City of Cambridge has been able to appropriate/reserve \$92.1 million in state and local funds for affordable housing projects, historic preservation and protection of open space.

The fiscal year 2010 CPA (state and local combined) appropriation totaled \$9.05 million. The CPA Committee makes annual recommendations on how these funds should be used, based upon public input gleaned through advertised public meetings and suggestions developed by City staff.

For an overview of projects to date, visit [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) and click on the City Manager's link from the top menu bar.

## **Small Test Garden Yields Big Results**

This summer, the Community Development Department collaborated with the Department of Public Works to install a small container garden at the City Hall Annex.

The containers were planted with herbs and vegetables and cared for by building staff using water kept in a demonstration rain barrel. The workplace edible garden yielded pecks and bushels of herbs, over 18 eggplants and tomatoes, 12 heads of lettuce and 11 bushels of swiss chard.

Not only did the garden spark conversations about local food and cooking, but the 16.5 SF of planting area yielded over \$100 of produce!





## Park Project Updates



**Alexander W. Kemp Playground at Cambridge Common**  
City officials and residents recently gathered to officially dedicate the completion of the fully redesigned Alexander W. Kemp Playground in Cambridge Common. Since opening in August, the playground has been bustling with activity every day, virtually from dawn to dusk. The playground has a variety

of play features to stimulate challenging physical activity as well as creative, exploratory and social play for kids of all ages. It builds on the idea that playgrounds are places where children grow and learn about themselves and the world around them. Various new playground features also provide an environment where children can invent their own forms of play. Structures are made from natural, decay-resistant wood. Slides are embedded into hills. Turning a crank sends water cascading down a series of tables into the sand area. A “merry-go-round” at ground level provides wheelchair access.

The approach to designing this playground is a reflection of conversations occurring both nationally and locally about the importance of play, including those of the City’s Healthy Playgrounds Task Force.

Construction of the new playground was funded through the City’s capital budget, matched by a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, with additional funds provided by the Alexander W. Kemp Foundation in memory of Alexander Kemp (1990-1995) and by a portion of the “Accessible America” prize awarded to Cambridge by the National Organization on Disability. For more information, visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/commonplayground](http://www.cambridgema.gov/commonplayground).



### **Main Library Reopens after Major Renovation & Expansion Project**

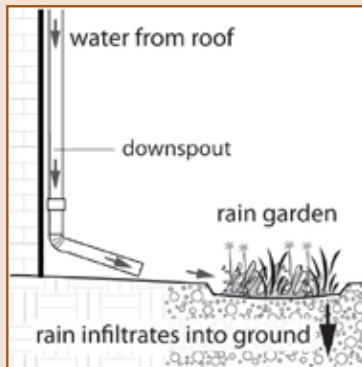
*Renovations to the historic Cambridge Public Library building, which included construction of a new wing, have been completed. The overriding goal of this project was to preserve the historical integrity of the building and surrounding grounds, while providing increased energy efficiency through use of green building design guidelines, and enhanced pedestrian and vehicular access. (Photo by Bob Coe).*

# You Can Help Prevent Localized Flooding and Improve Water Quality...

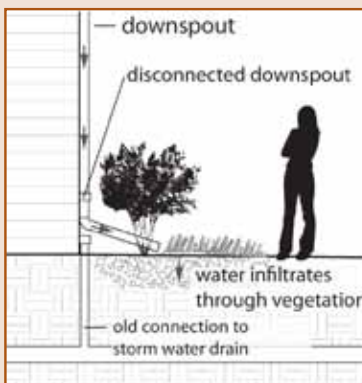
...By using Low Impact Development (LID) strategies at your home or business. LID reduces paved areas through landscaping to filter, infiltrate, store, and slow down runoff where it falls—rather than sending it right down a drain.

Many LID practices, such as the following, are affordable and easy to install.

**Rain garden** – a 6”-8” deep manmade depression that collects stormwater from downspouts, sidewalks, and driveways to water native plants tolerant of wet and dry conditions.



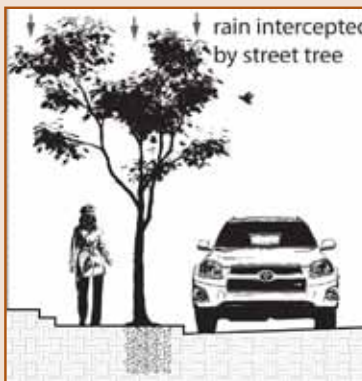
**Disconnected Downspout** - allows runoff from the roof to absorb into the ground, filter through vegetation, or drain into a rain barrel.



**Rain Barrel** - used to capture stormwater from a roof, reducing runoff and providing water for watering lawns and gardens.



**Trees** - Provide local cooling, wildlife habitat, air quality improvements, carbon dioxide removal, and stormwater absorption.



## Fuel Assistance Program

The City of Cambridge manages a federally funded, fuel assistance program serving the cities of Cambridge & Somerville. This program can help pay winter heating bills incurred between November 1 and April 30, and get you a discount rate on utility bills. Eligibility and benefits depend on household size and type, and gross annual income. For a household of 4, annual income must be at or below \$56,011. A single household might qualify with an income of \$29,126 or less. Benefit levels have not yet been released for this year but last year the range was \$510 - \$1,495, primarily in the form of vendor payments.

Beside fuel assistance and utility discounts, eligible households can be provided with a free energy audit and may qualify for free weatherization work done by licensed and insured contractors. Weatherization provides cost-effective, energy-efficient modifications to homes occupied by low-income residents. These programs can:

- Provide insulation, weather stripping, air sealing and more.
- Provide an energy audit, reviewing your appliances, water usage and electric costs and replace inefficient refrigerators and freezers.
- Provide burner repair/replacement for inoperable or inefficient furnaces.

The majority of these programs are at no cost to you or your landlord. Call (617) 349-6252 for more information.



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

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.

CityView is printed on recycled paper.

To learn more about LID, contact Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) at (617) 349.4800 or visit us online at [www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/stormwater/index.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/stormwater/index.html).





Instructor Raul Gonzalez shares a drawing with the class. (Photo Courtesy of MMVAC).

### Preview New Maud Morgan Visual Art Center at CAC Gallery

Get a “hands-on” preview of the new Maud Morgan Visual Art Center, which broke ground in September at 20 Sacramento St. in the Agassiz Baldwin Community. Along with studio classes for children and adults, the exhibition, *Breaking Ground: The Past, Present and Future of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center*, illustrates the history of the Center’s development. On display through December 18 are architectural plans, designs for functional artwork by eight Cambridge artists and work by the late Maud Morgan herself, a widely loved and respected leader in the Cambridge arts scene. *Breaking Ground* celebrates a vision for a citywide visual art center serving all generations in Cambridge and highlights the vital role it will play in the development of a vibrant arts district in Porter Square that includes the relocated Arts Institute of Boston at Lesley University. The CAC Gallery is located in the City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd Fl. For more information, call the Cambridge Arts Council at (617) 349-4380 or [www.cambridgeartscouncil.org](http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org).

### Cambridge Open Studios 2010

Calling artists, performers, and artisans of all media, living, working, and/or collaborating in Cambridge to participate in the second annual, citywide Cambridge Open Studios which will take place over three weekends in the spring. [www.cambridgeartscouncil.org](http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org)



### Taste of Cambridge

The wildly popular Taste of Cambridge event raised \$20,000 that was donated to two local charities — Culture for Kids-Club Passim and Youth on Fire-Cambridge Cares About Aids.

### What types of businesses would you like to see in Central Square?

This is one of the questions being asked by members of the City’s Community Development Department and community volunteers who have conducted customer intercept surveys within the Square. Answers to such questions will help the Economic Development Division and the Central Square community in a number of ways including, determining how to best meet the needs of those who shop in the Square, recruiting the right retail mix and providing an active environment for area residents, workers and students. Current business owners will use this information to understand their customer base and provide goods and services they request.

### Police Youth Academy

This summer, the Cambridge Police Department launched its first six-week, 100-hour instructional Cambridge Youth Police Academy. The program provides hands-on experience of the various duties associated with the law enforcement profession and of the characteristics required of a law enforcement officer, such as leadership, teamwork, physical fitness/healthy nutrition, good decision making and integrity. In collaboration with the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program, 17 Cambridge residents, ages 14-18, participated.

For more information on the 2010 Youth Police Academy, or other department programs, contact the Community Relations Unit at (617) 349-3236 or visit [www.cambridgepolice.org](http://www.cambridgepolice.org).

### 2010 Resident Permits Available

The Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department announces that 2010 Resident Parking Permits are now available. Although current permits do not expire until January 31, 2010, residents are encouraged to renew early by mail to avoid delays. Residents must renew by mail or in person to provide proof of residency, unless they have lived in the city for three years or greater and qualify for “online renewal.” For more information, call (617) 349-4700 or visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic).

### Check Out the Community Learning Center

The Community Learning Center (CLC) located at 19 Brookline Street in Cambridge serves over 1,000 people annually. Cambridge residents who are over age 16 and no longer attending high school can come to classes at the CLC. All classes are free, small and informal, and held throughout the year, in the morning, afternoon and evening. A counselor meets with each student to decide which classes are best. Students progress at their own pace. The Community Learning Center gives adults a chance to:

- Learn English as a Second Language (ESOL)
- Improve their basic reading, writing, or math skills
- Get their high school diploma through the Adult Diploma Program
- Prepare for GED examinations
- Prepare for the U.S. Citizenship Test
- Learn how to use a computer

For more information, contact the CLC at (617) 349-6363.



CLC Instructor Patricia Drake (center) received Mass. Coalition for Adult Education’s Outstanding Teacher Award.

## Cut It Out Cambridge

In September, the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women and the Cambridge Public Health Department launched Cut It Out Cambridge (CIOC), an innovative domestic violence awareness program designed for salon professionals. CIOC trains stylists to recognize signs of abuse in their clients as well as how to safely refer them to local resources. The free, one hour training is held at the salon and includes resource materials, plus expert consultation on individual cases.

Research shows that most victims of domestic violence never call the police or go to a shelter. However, they do talk about the abuse with someone they trust. Salon professionals are skilled and experienced listeners. If you are a salon owner and would like to participate in Cut it Out Cambridge, or if you would like to recommend your salon to be a participant, call (617) 665-3816.



(Photo by Phyllis Bretholtz)

## Domestic Violence Vigil

A candlelight vigil was held on the steps of Cambridge City Hall in October in observance of national Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The vigil commemorated the 21 Massachusetts women, men and children who lost their lives this year to domestic violence. Local groups provided resources and information on how to recognize and talk about domestic violence. This year's theme focused on domestic violence survivors in the workforce. "Domestic violence doesn't stay at home. It is with victims when they go to work, to the store, everywhere," said Alexandra Detjens, the violence prevention coordinator for Cambridge.



Cambridge Fire Lieutenant Patrick Haggerty and Fire Chief Gerald Reardon accept the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

## CFD Wins National Award

The Cambridge Fire Department was one of only 15 recipients nationally to receive the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for outstanding support of employees serving in the National Guard or Military Reserve units. Over 3,200 employers across the United States were nominated. The award was presented in September during a formal ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in

Washington, D.C. Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, was the keynote speaker. Earlier in the day, Cambridge Fire Chief Gerald Reardon and the other 14 winners were hosted by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at the Pentagon. The following day, President Obama hosted the winners at The White House.

The department was nominated by Fire Lieutenant Patrick Haggerty, a 16-year veteran of the department who also holds the rank of Master Sergeant in the Massachusetts Air National Guard 104th Fighter Wing based at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, MA. Haggerty has served for 19 years in the Guard.

A part of the citation recognizing Cambridge reads: "The Cambridge Fire Department has consistently provided differential pay and benefits to mobilized employees with no timeframe limitation." The department was also recognized for its "Red Shirt Friday" program where personnel wear Red Shirts to show support for our nation's troops.



## Volunteers Help Keep Cambridge Clean and Green

The Department of Public Works extends its thanks to the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce for their help with local beautification projects, and also to all the volunteers across the city who make it possible to keep public parks and plazas watered, weeded and in good health. For more information, contact Ellen Coppinger, DPW Administrator for Public Private Partnerships, at (617) 349-6949 or [ecoppinger@cambridgema.gov](mailto:ecoppinger@cambridgema.gov).



# Let's All Dig in and Dig Out

## Ice and Snow-Free Sidewalks are Everyone's Responsibility

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

### Snow Emergency Parking Bans

During substantial winter storms, the City may declare a Snow Emergency and a Parking Ban will go into effect at a specific time. **During a Snow Emergency, parking is prohibited on streets signed No Parking during Snow Emergency and vehicles will be towed.** A list and map of these particular streets is available at [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic). The website also offers information on parking garages that provide free parking during a declared snow emergency.

When a snow emergency is declared, information is available via phone at (617) 349-4700, and is posted online as soon as possible at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) and on City TV-8. Visit Cambridge E-Line at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) to sign up to receive Snow Emergency alerts via a text message to your cell phone or to your E-mail. For school closings, call (617) 349-6513.

### Plowing Operations

The Department of Public Works will clear streets as soon as possible after a snow storm, starting with major arteries. Please don't take it personally if we plow snow back into your driveway, but as we work to make streets passable, it is often unavoidable. Your patience and participation help the City return streets and sidewalks to safe, passable conditions as quickly as possible

### Keep Sidewalks Clear

City Ordinance requires property owners to remove snow from sidewalks next to their property or business within 12 hours of daytime snowfall and before 1 p.m. when it has fallen overnight. They must also remove or melt all ice within 6 hours of the time it forms. **There is a \$50 fine for each day of non-compliance.** If you are away, it is still your responsibility to ensure that someone clears sidewalks next to your property.

#### Remember to:

- ❄️ Shovel your sidewalk on all sides of your property, down to bare pavement
- ❄️ Make path at least 3 feet wide
- ❄️ Clear ramps at corners and crosswalks
- ❄️ Chop or melt all ice
- ❄️ Keep street drains clear of snow
- ❄️ Consider helping neighbors who may have difficulty clearing their walk.



### Snow Exemption Program

**Disabled or elderly persons who qualify as low-income residents may be eligible for the City's Snow Exemption Program (in which case the City will shovel your sidewalk).** Call the Cambridge Council on Aging, (617) 349-6220 (voice) or (617) 349-6050 (TTY) to learn more.

**For more information,** visit the Department of Public Works (DPW) website: [www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/services/snow.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/services/snow.html).

**A feature on this site allows you to report unsafe sidewalks.**



### Census 2010 – Making Sure Everyone in Cambridge is Counted

The Cambridge Complete Count Committee, which includes representatives from local government, religious and educational institutions, neighborhood groups, area businesses and non-profit organizations, is conducting a grassroots neighborhood effort to spread the word about the importance of the 2010 Census. They are hoping to motivate every resident in Cambridge to complete and return their Census questionnaire. The U.S. Constitution mandates this national headcount every 10 years. This count includes every resident — citizens and noncitizens. The Complete Count Committee is seeking community support in relaying key messages about the 2010 Census to hard to reach populations and to non English speaking groups. Important points to convey are that the Census is coming in March 2010; the questionnaire is easy and should be completed and returned in April 2010; personal data is completely confidential and will not be shared

with any other government agencies; an accurate count is important and will benefit community programs and services. It is important to note that the federal Census 2010 should not be confused with the annual Census the City of Cambridge conducts every year in January. Ensuring an accurate count is in our hands.



Cambridge Complete Count Committee for Census 2010.



# Health Beat

flu virus. Protect yourself and the broader community by getting a seasonal flu vaccine this winter. In addition, pregnant women, children, caregivers of infants, and health care workers are especially encouraged to get the separate 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine. Residents can also slow the spread of the flu by washing their hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick. For a list of Massachusetts flu clinics and other information, go to [www.cambridgepublichealth.org](http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org).



A Cambridge boy received nasal spray flu vaccine during the Health Department's "family friendly" flu clinic at the Tobin School in October. About 1,350 people got vaccinated, making this the largest flu clinic ever held in Cambridge.

### Fight the Flu!

Two different flu viruses will be circulating in Massachusetts this winter—seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 ("swine") flu. Very young children, pregnant women, and people with chronic diseases can experience life-threatening illness from either

### Special State Election - Senator in Congress for Massachusetts:

Special State Primary – Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009  
Deadline to Register to Vote – Nov. 18 by 8 p.m.

Special State Election – Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010  
Deadline to Register to Vote – Dec. 30 by 8 p.m.



The City's Dance Party attracted a record crowd of close to 2,000 this year. (Photo by Maryellen Carvello).

*\* This issue of CityView includes the names of the current 2009 City Council and does not reflect results from the Nov. 3, 2009 Municipal Election.*

**ECRWSS**  
**Resident Postal Customer**  
**Cambridge, MA**

- Councillor Larry Ward
- Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
- Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves
- Councillor David P. Maher
- Councillor Craig A. Kelley
- Councillor Marjorie C. Decker
- Councillor Henrietta Davis
- Vice Mayor Sam Seidel
- Mayor E. Denise Simmons

#### City Council\*

Deputy City Manager **Richard C. Rossi**

City Manager **Robert W. Healy**

617-349-4300 • [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov)

795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge, MA 02139

City of Cambridge

a publication of the Office of the City Manager

# CityView



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 54162