

THE CAMBRIDGE

WINTER/SPRING 2022 ISSUE 1, VOL. 5 A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

LIFE

THECAMBRIDLIFE.ORG



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Multi-Million Upgrade & Renovation of Cambridge's 8 Fire Stations

Participatory Budgeting Generates Community Engagement

City Scholarship Helps with Education Expenses

Reinventing Public Spaces

Multilingual Highlights Pg. 14-20



A Towering Achievement: Keeping Housing Affordable for 1,000 Residents

Battling the COVID-19 Pandemic. Still?

Are you tired of masking? Testing? Being away from friends and activities you enjoy?



Here is a reminder of the best ways to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- ▶ Get vaccinated and boosted.
- ▶ Wear a high-quality mask.
- ▶ Get tested if you have symptoms or are exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- ▶ Reconsider hosting or attending indoor social gatherings.
- ▶ Follow isolation and quarantine guidance.

After two years of the pandemic, you may have had your fill of public health guidance and restrictions. While many of us are experiencing pandemic fatigue, the Cambridge Public Health Department urges everyone to stay vigilant.

The number of residents with COVID-19 skyrocketed in January, and it may take some time before infection rates go down to a safer level. While many people do appear to be experiencing milder symptoms, we are still seeing many hospitalizations due to COVID-19, especially among unvaccinated people. By doing your part, you can:

- ✓ **Protect vulnerable residents.** Massachusetts has high vaccination rates, but there are still unvaccinated and unboosted residents in the community, including young children. Some people, such as those who are immunocompromised, can get very sick or die even if vaccinated.
- ✓ **Support the health care system.** Local hospitals will likely remain crowded and understaffed this winter due to COVID-19. This means that it may be challenging to find a hospital bed if you or a loved one needs to be hospitalized for any reason. The more COVID-19 illness that can be prevented, the safer it will be for anyone seeking hospital services.
- ✓ **Help avoid disruptions.** As long as the virus is spreading easily in the community, we can expect that a large number of people will be out sick from work at any given time. Fewer workers means ongoing disruptions in our daily lives, be it canceled flights or bus routes, shuttered day care facilities or schools, or fewer choices in supermarkets and other stores.

Thank you for continuing to do your part to help protect the Cambridge community!

City Manager's Message

On January 3, 2022, the city celebrated the swearing-in of the 2022-2023 Cambridge City Council during an outdoor ceremony held at Starlight Square in Central Square. The City Council's first official act was to elect a mayor for the upcoming term. I want to congratulate Mayor Siddiqui and welcome the new and returning members of the City Council.

I look forward to working with City Council to achieve its policy goals and ensuring the FY23 Budget reflects the City's priorities. Our exceptional fiscal planning, combined with the close collaboration with the Council, has allowed the City to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic while continuing to provide the wide range of programs, initiatives, and services our residents and local businesses expect from the City.

I want to thank the City staff who have worked tirelessly to respond to the surge of COVID-19 cases caused by the Omnicom variant heading into and following the New Year. The public health infrastructure we have put in place over the past

two years has proved invaluable. From free City run COVID-19 testing sites, vaccination and booster clinics, and robust public information and public health guidance efforts, we had the tools ready to help our community deal with the increase in cases and provide our residents with the resources they need to protect themselves.

We know that receiving a COVID-19 vaccination followed by a booster dose is the single best way to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic. I urge everyone who is eligible for a vaccine or booster shot to receive one. Our public health experts tell us that the current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19 infection, including with the Omicron variant.

As we enter the third year of COVID-19, we are all frustrated and weary. Activities that were thought to be reasonably safe for vaccinated people a few months ago now carry greater risk. Your decisions that may expose you to COVID-19 also affect your household, friends, family,



City Manager Louis A. DePasquale

coworkers, and community members (including unvaccinated children, individuals with weakened immune systems, and other vulnerable people). Yet, we know the steps we need to take as individuals and as a community. By receiving the recommended COVID-19 vaccines, wearing a mask when around others outside our household, staying home when feeling ill, maintaining good hand hygiene, and adhering to isolation and quarantine recommendations, we will make a huge impact on helping to bring the Pandemic to an end.

Louis DePasquale



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A tall, multi-story brick apartment building stands prominently in the background. In the foreground, there is a grassy area with a playground featuring blue and yellow equipment. The sky is overcast.

A TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT: KEEPING HOUSING AFFORDABLE FOR 1,000 RESIDENTS

“Cambridge is at the forefront of affordable housing initiatives. Affordable housing remains the City’s top priority, and we will continue making robust investments to support this important goal.”

– Cambridge City Manager, Louis A. DePasquale

Fresh Pond Apartments Represent a Microcosm of Cambridge's Diversity and Vibrancy



Steps from the Alewife station, three soaring brick towers punctuate the North Cambridge landscape. Walking the winding park paths nearby, you'll hear various languages against a backdrop of children playing. Fresh Pond Apartments represent a microcosm of Cambridge's diversity and vibrancy. It's fitting that these high rises, home to over 1,000 residents, would be the neighborhood's most notable landmark.

The apartment complex has provided affordable housing to residents in Cambridge since its construction in 1970. In October 2020, the City announced it had reached an agreement with the Schochet Companies to preserve affordability of all 504 units at Fresh Pond Apartments as part of longstanding efforts to ensure affordability for the next generation of families.

"I am so pleased that the 504 units at Fresh Pond will remain affordable for the next 50 years," said Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui. "Having lived there myself, I know how essential each one of those units are to the community."

Through FY21, the City has appropriated over \$246.5 million toward affordable housing initiatives. These funds have been used to preserve or create more than 3,721 affordable units to date.

Amid soaring housing costs throughout the region, helping residents stay in their communities has been a particular challenge for many cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Cambridge has remained steadfast in its efforts to keep affordable housing available to residents. Over the past three years, the City has more than doubled its financial commitment to the Affordable Housing Trust,

which stands at more than \$32 million for the current fiscal year. Through FY21, the City has appropriated over \$246.5 million toward affordable housing initiatives. These funds have been used to preserve or create more than 3,721 affordable units to date.

"Cambridge is at the forefront of affordable housing initiatives," said City Manager Louis A. DePasquale. "Affordable housing remains the City's top priority, and we will continue making robust investments to support this important goal."

The preservation of Fresh Pond is an important accomplishment in delivering on the City's commitment to affordable housing and caps a series of affordable housing achievements seen during the past two years. Below are a few other notable developments.

"Preserving affordable housing means keeping people in their homes and preserving the diversity and vitality of this city," said Assistant City Manager for Community Development, Iram Farooq. "This work is essential to maintaining a welcoming and inclusive community."

Finch Cambridge

This 98-unit building in Alewife is the largest new development of affordable housing in Cambridge in 40 years. Completed in 2020, this sustainable, resilient, and affordable building is now home to nearly 100 low-, moderate-, and middle-income households. Finch has also received Passive House

certification and meets the highest energy-efficiency and sustainability standards. Located across from the Fresh Pond Reservoir, Finch Cambridge promises to provide a holistic healthy living environment for its residents through a range of amenities that support mobility, community, and access to nature.

Frost Terrace

Residents recently moved into new homes at Frost Terrace in the heart of Porter Square, providing affordable homes to 40 households in a bustling, transit-oriented, and dynamic neighborhood. The sustainable building is LEED certified, complete with solar panels, stormwater management, and energy efficiency equipment. A historic preservation project in addition to an affordable housing project, this charming and restored building enhances the streetscape while providing affordable housing for years to come.

Squirrelwood

Last year, 23 new affordable units were completed in the Port neighborhood in an effort which also preserved affordability of 45 units at Linwood and 20 units at the nearby Squirrelwood Apartments. The combined 98-unit effort includes units for households with a broad range of incomes, including housing for extremely low-income households (under 30% Area Median Income [AMI]), low and moderate income households (30%-60% AMI), and moderate income households (60%-100% AMI).

For more information about affordable housing opportunities in Cambridge, visit cambridgema.gov/housing.

Participatory Budgeting Engages Residents in Community-Driven Capital Projects to Improve Cambridge

Since its introduction in Cambridge in 2014, Participatory Budgeting (PB) has served as a unique way of directly involving residents in the budgeting and city-building process, fostering civic engagement and community spirit, and helping ensure that the City's capital plan reflects the priorities of Cambridge residents and stakeholders.

“We had the second highest voter participation rate in Cambridge’s PB history. I am extremely proud that we continue to engage the public with the City’s budgeting process. Thanks to Participatory Budgeting, Cambridge residents become true stakeholders in deciding community-driven capital projects.”

— Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale

Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. In Cambridge, the process to submit project improvement ideas and later to vote on the projects added to a community ballot, is open to residents ages 12 and older, including all 6th graders, as well as non U.S. citizens and university students living in Cambridge.

During the first eight PB cycles, Cambridge residents voted to spend over \$6.3 million, funding projects like trees, technology for the Community Learning Center and Cambridge Public Library, upgrades to Cambridge Youth Centers, laundry access at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS), and critical resource kits for unhoused residents.

“This year’s strong turnout is a testament to the passion our residents have for their community. We had the second highest voter participation rate in Cambridge’s PB history. I am extremely proud that we continue to engage the public with the City’s budgeting process. Thanks to Participatory Budgeting, Cambridge residents become true stakeholders in deciding community-driven capital

projects. I am thrilled to be able to add an additional \$140,000 to this year’s cycle to fully fund electric vehicle charging stations as a seventh winning project,” stated Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale.

The latest PB cycle generated 1,070 ideas for consideration. Over 50 Volunteer Budget Delegates worked on five committees to research and evaluate those ideas and developed 20 final proposals for a community vote through the PB Ballot process. In December, 7,441 Cambridge residents voted on how to spend \$1 million of the City’s FY23 Capital Budget.

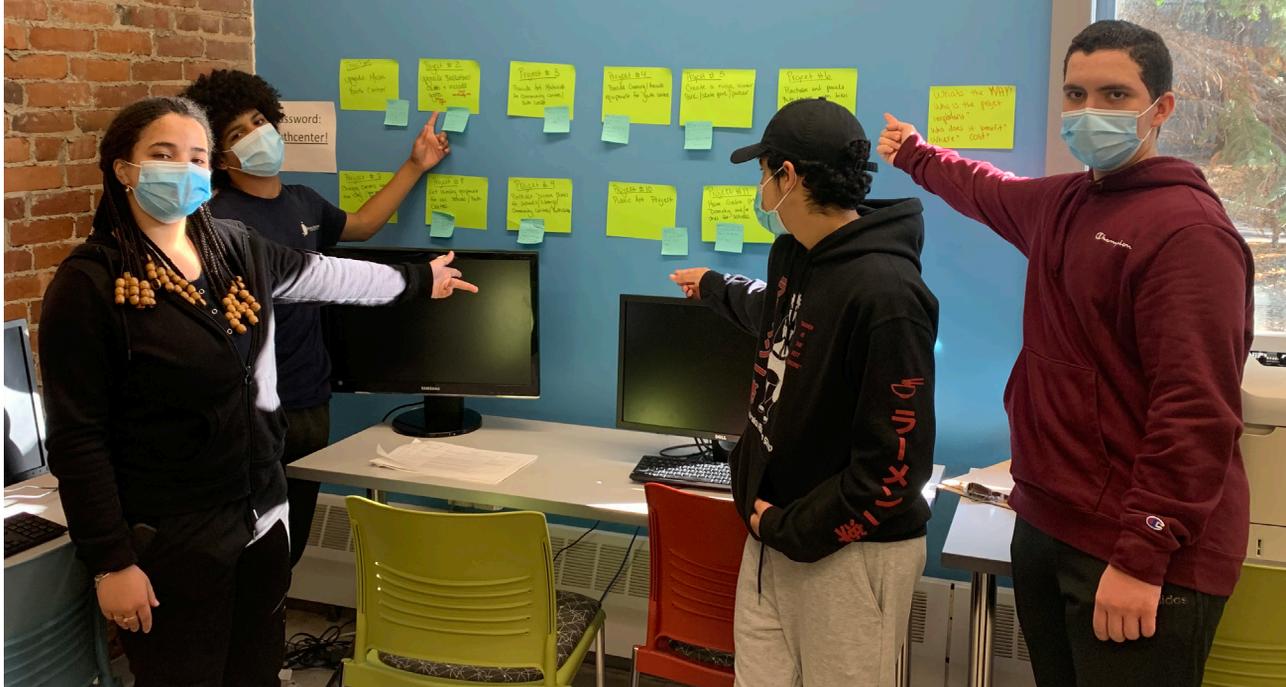


The following 7 projects won \$1,140,000 in FY23 Capital Funding:

- Home Essentials for Newly Housed Residents (\$60,000)
- Keep Cambridge Clean (\$80,000)
- STEAM Upgrades for Youth Centers (\$110,000)
- Public Bathroom (\$400,000)
- African American & Indigenous Peoples Historical Reckoning Project (\$180,000)
- Traffic Signals for Cyclists (\$60,000)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (\$250,000)

To learn more about PB winning projects, visit pb.cambridgema.gov. For more information, contact the City’s Budget Office at pb@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4270.





"PB is such a unique way to get community input - I think it's fantastic. I'm a bit of a PB evangelist - every time we're about to have another round, I contact my co-workers who live in Cambridge and send them a link for it. I also think it's wonderful that you allow kids as young as 12 to vote; my teenaged son thinks it's great and has voted in every round and even submitted a couple of ideas. What a great way to cultivate interest in voting and democracy. Thanks for trusting your citizens enough to do this project."
– PB Participant

Learn what some Cambridge residents had to say about Participatory Budgeting:

"It helps Cambridge to remain on the forefront of the movement for diverse, creative, compassionate and sustainable cities."
– PB Participant

"I think it's really cool that people who aren't born here and non-citizens can vote, and kids can vote too." – PB Voter

"As a permanent resident in the US who otherwise has no political say, I'm delighted to have been able to participate in this budgeting process." – PB Voter

"Participatory Budgeting is not only a great idea, it's the right way to approach community engagement."
– PB Survey Respondent



MAJOR RENOVATIONS TO CAMBRIDGE FIRE STATIONS WELL UNDERWAY

“ I am very pleased that the City is investing an estimated \$72 million for these important fire station renovations and toward improving the living areas for our first responders who take risks every single day to keep our community safe. ”

– Cambridge City Manager, Louis A. DePasquale

New Designs Improve Interior Layouts of Fire Houses



A multi-year, \$72 million renovation of Cambridge's 8 fire stations, many of which were built in the late 1800s, is well underway. In FY18, an initial appropriation of \$2 million provided funds for immediate repairs to multiple fire stations to improve working and living conditions.



The renovations include locating living areas further away from other areas of fire houses. This reduces prolonged exposure to pollutants from fires that can stick to firefighter gear and equipment.

“The men and women of the Cambridge Fire Department are grateful for the investment and commitment of the City Manager and his staff along with the City Council to make these significant upgrades,” said Fire Chief Gerard E. Mahoney.

“I am very pleased that the City is investing an estimated \$72 million for these important fire station renovations and toward improving the living areas for our first responders who take risks every single day to keep our community safe,” said Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale.

Building upgrades and/or renovations completed to date or in the works include:

East Cambridge, Station 3 (175 Cambridge Street).

Upgrades totalling \$1.7 million were made to the electrical and HVAC systems, second floor lighting, and ceiling. In 2022, the original sanitary sewer pipe in the building will be replaced and a new backup generator will be designed and installed.

Taylor Square, Station 8 (113 Garden Street).

A \$7.2 million renovation included extensive building and energy saving upgrades, with geothermal HVAC system, LED lighting, a new roof and solar panels. The building was deep cleaned and painted and the kitchen was refurbished. Lightning protection and an emergency generator were also installed.

River Street, Station 6 (176 River Street).

A \$5.4 million renovation,

scheduled for completion in March 2022, includes upgraded geothermal HVAC system, a new sprinkler system, new kitchen appliances, cabinets and countertops, IT improvements, new lighting, fitness area, and more. The first floor includes a

personnel and equipment decontamination area and a separate bunker gear extractor (for washing pollutants from smoke). The living area on the second floor includes 6 new bedrooms, 3 restrooms, and a washer and dryer.

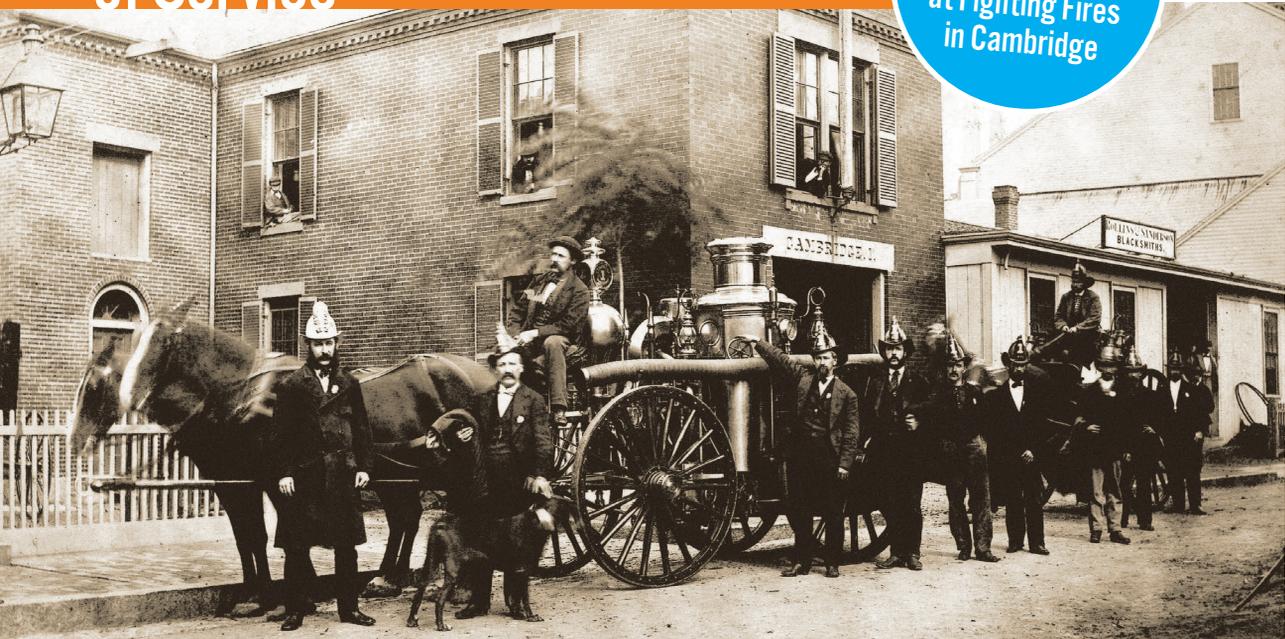
Lexington Ave., Station 9 (167 Lexington Avenue).

The \$4.3 million renovation, scheduled for completion in February 2022, include upgraded HVAC system, a new sprinkler system, new kitchen appliances, cabinets and countertops, IT improvements, new lighting, fitness area, and more. The first floor includes a personnel and equipment decontamination area and bunker gear extractor. The separate living area includes 4 new bedrooms, 2 restrooms, and a washer and dryer.

An estimated \$50 million renovation of Fire Headquarters is expected to begin later this year. Design work on improvements to Lafayette Square fire station has begun and a feasibility study is underway for Inman Square Fire Station. Design work for Porter Square Fire Station is slated for 2023.

“The men and women of the Cambridge Fire Department are grateful for the investment and commitment of the City Manager and his staff along with the City Council to make these significant upgrades,” said Fire Chief Gerard E. Mahoney. “We are committed to providing our fire personnel with a safe and secure environment in which to work coupled with excellent equipment and training.”

Cambridge Fire Department: A History of 190 Years of Service



In 1634, William Wood described Cambridge as “one of the neatest and best compacted Townes in New England, having many faire structures, with many handsome contrived streets” (New Englands Prospect). All of the “faire structures”—houses, outbuildings, and the meetinghouse—were constructed of wood, and many were initially thatched with salt marsh hay. In March 1631, Thomas Dudley decreed that “no man ... shall build his chimney with wood, nor cover his roof with thatch.”

In 1834, the town built a handsome brick firehouse known as Cambridge 1; (note the name carved into the granite lintel over the main door in photo above). The building was enlarged in 1864 when the company acquired a new steam pump engine (also shown in the photo). The men, except for the driver, wear tall fire helmets. The frock-coated gentleman in front of the horses may be the company foreman, George O. Rollins.

Photo 1864. Courtesy The Bostonian Society.

The “Cambridge 1” lintel lives on. In 1922, it was incorporated into the façade of a garage that replaced the station, then stuccoed over in 1947 when the building became a restaurant. The lintel was uncovered in 2001 and may still be seen today at 27 Church Street.

Later, the town required that chimneys be swept monthly and every household have a ladder to reach the top of the house. Fighting fires began as a community effort, with neighbor helping neighbor; private fire societies were formed later. Not until 1832 did the Massachusetts legislature establish the Cambridge Fire Department. The first company, mainly volunteers, managed six hand-operated engines and one ladder truck.



On April 15, 1861, when President Lincoln called for volunteers after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, Cambridge was ready: James Richardson, a lawyer in Central Square, had organized a company of local men back in January. Richardson was known as a “fire buff,” and many of his volunteers were firefighters stationed at the Engine No. 2 firehouse.

Built in 1852, it was the largest of the city’s three fire stations and is now the oldest intact firehouse in Cambridge. When a new fire station was built in Lafayette Square in 1894, the old building passed through a series of owners until purchased by the Christian Mission Holiness Church in 1916.



CHC. Courtesy Christian Mission Holiness Church.



In 1875, Cambridge’s municipal facilities were consolidated at the new City Building on Eliot Square with ample space for a courtroom, police station, firehouse, schoolrooms, and 28 jail cells. It was demolished in 1935 after the Cambridge Fire Department moved to its present headquarters on Broadway.

CHC. Courtesy Capt. Steve Persson, CFD.

The City building accommodated two fire companies: Engine No. 1 with its gleaming steam pump and 3-horse team, and Hose No. 1, pulled by two white horses. Fourteen men made up the companies.

Frederick Hastings Rindge, a son of Cambridge and its greatest benefactor, founded the Cambridge Manual Training School, designed its building, and devised the curriculum, which trained young men to take up useful work such as carpentry, mechanics, and firefighting. Incised over the entrance were lines composed by Rindge:

Work is one of our greatest blessings. Everyone should have an honest occupation.

Students at the school trained on professional equipment. Firefighting apparatus included hose carriages drawn by student crews, ladders, and axes. In the foreground of adjacent photo, crew members attach hoses to a hydrant; closer to the building, a crew wrestles with water-swollen hoses that young men haul to the roof on ladders.



Photo ca. 1889. CHC. Rindge Family Collection.

Mechanized equipment was not introduced in Cambridge until the early 20th century. Before then, departments relied—literally—on horsepower.

Photo ca. 1904. Dennis Sullivan, of Engine Company No. 7 on Main Street, is shown exercising firehouse horses, Charlie and Johnnie. CHC. Courtesy Mrs. H. Laurence.

City Scholarship Helps Residents Offset Increasing Educational Expenses



The City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund was established in 1993 to provide financial assistance to Cambridge residents who wish to pursue post-secondary education. In 2021, the City of Cambridge awarded 80 scholarships of \$3,000 each for a total of \$240,000. Since the program's inception in 1993, the City has awarded 1,188 scholarships totaling \$2.9 million.

John Kosko, a Cambridge resident who has spent 35 years in education, has been a member of the Scholarship Selection Committee from the very beginning and worked with other volunteers and City leaders on the establishment of the City of Cambridge Scholarship Program, helping develop initial protocols and guidelines for a citizen driven and funded program. Kosko added

that the program has been tweaked slightly over the years as needed to make improvements.

“Working on the Scholarship program was a team driven activity between the Finance Department and six volunteers who each brought their own perspectives to the process,” said Kosko. “City Manager Louis DePasquale, who was head of Finance at the time, was very involved in improving the Scholarship Program and growing it in a way that is representative of what Cambridge as a community tries to do -- to assist people in need and be inclusive in supporting members of our diverse community.”

Kosko explained that the Committee's Scholarship application review process is very thorough and anonymous, in that they do not know the applicant's name. Each application is evaluated and ranked based on academic achievement,

“We are extremely grateful to our very generous corporate donors, business owners, and Cambridge residents who have helped us grow this fund over the years, as well as to the Scholarship Selection Committee members who give their time and carefully review about 90 applications each. Their generosity enables the City to support so many Cambridge residents facing the increasing financial challenges for post-secondary education.”

—Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale

Make a Contribution

Checks made payable to the City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund may be mailed to:

Cambridge Scholarship Fund, City of Cambridge, P.O. Box 2005, Cambridge, MA 02139 or can be dropped off in person at City Hall, in the Finance Department Cashier's window during regular business hours.

Contributions can also be made online at Cambridgema.gov/cityscholarship.



City Scholarship Information

“This successful program which benefits our community so greatly is dependent upon voluntary donations. If you have not donated in the past, we encourage you to consider making a donation this year. These scholarships are very important to our students.”

—David Kale, Assistant City Manager for Finance,
City of Cambridge

APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP ONLINE

Interested residents may review eligibility requirements and apply for the 2022 City Scholarship online at Cambridgema.gov/city scholarship.



The application deadline is March 7, 2022

- Hard copies of the application are also available through Cambridge Public Schools and at Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue.
- Questions and requests for applications via mail can be directed to the Finance Department at 617-349-4220 or Scholarships@cambridgema.gov.

community involvement or extracurricular activities, financial need, and special circumstances.

“We do consider all applicants, including those who may not have as much academic achievement, applicants who did not get the scholarship initially and are now attending a post-secondary institution, and adult learners seeking to pursue post-secondary education,” said Kosko.

Farheen Abhura, a 2016 Scholarship Recipient shares her thoughts on the program:

“Applying for the City of Cambridge Scholarship in 2016 was very important for me. Being a part of the first generation in my family to go to college came with a lot of pressure. I had younger

siblings for whom my parents also had to save money for. I started working at age 14 with the sole purpose of not being dependent on my parents, so that they would not have to worry more than they should. When the opportunity to apply for the City’s Scholarship came up, I did not hesitate. I needed the financial support for college and also felt that my grades and services spoke for themselves. When I was awarded the scholarship, I was ecstatic. It helped to take a part of the load off that I had on myself as well as for my parents.

Throughout my undergraduate years, the City of Cambridge Scholarship helped me by being there when I needed the financial assistance. I had the choice of using it at any time in my four

years, so I had saved it for when I would be in dire need of it. That time came in my Junior year. My tuition started increasing due to the courses I had to take for my Accounting major. I contacted the City and within days, part of my tuition had been paid, taking a big load off of me. I could then focus on my goal of obtaining amazing grades without having to worry about the financial aspect of it. A year and a half after graduating, I made the first big move in my career by coming to work for the City of Cambridge. I will always be grateful to the City for this scholarship.”

Photo (opposite page): 2019 City Scholarship recipients and City officials.



“With the Public Space Lab, we’re seeking new ways to enliven public spaces. It’s about finding quick and easy ways to add some joy and playfulness to our underutilized spaces in a way that fosters creativity, collaboration, and community building.”

— Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale



Thinking Outside the Sandbox: Public Space Lab



Cambridge is a hub of experimentation and innovation, and those traits don't just live in Kendall Square. The City's Community Development Department (CDD) is bringing creativity, exploration, and collaboration to our shared spaces with the Cambridge Public Space Lab.

The Public Space Lab demonstrates how our city can be a testing ground for community building by making modest adjustments to small spaces in our commercial districts and squares to make a big impact. Over the past year, City staff have been experimenting with ideas for easy-to-implement interventions that create social spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Public Patios

If you've been to Inman Square lately, you might have noticed a colorful addition to Cambridge Street. Last summer, the City worked with the East Cambridge Business Association and neighboring businesses to create two public patios. What started as a few tables and chairs inside a wall of jersey barriers flourished into a pair of lively community spaces with flower boxes, public art, and little free craft supply libraries.

While many visitors choose to catch up with neighbors over a cup of coffee or sandwich from a nearby eatery, the welcoming seating area is open to everyone, no purchase necessary! The public patios have been met with high praise from the community and surrounding businesses, and the City is scoping out new locations and planning for a few more to pop up in spring 2022.

"The addition of the public patio in front of the shop has been the highlight of our year. Every day we see neighbors making use of the space. The little free craft supply libraries have been a great hit, and we love that we're supporting creative exploration that is accessible to everyone." said Shelley Barandes, owner of Albertine Press.

Palmer Street

This Harvard Square alleyway got a makeover last year thanks to the Public Space Lab. With the addition of colorful tables and chairs, a public piano, and magnetic poetry boards, visitors can now take a playful pause on Palmer Street.

Play Streets

Why should cars have all the fun? Play Streets is a program to transform residential streets into spaces for play and learning. Last fall, the residents of Hamilton Street hosted a Play Street for a few hours so kids (and a few grownups) could run through a mini obstacle course from our play kit. For more information on hosting a Play Street, contact publicspacelab@cambridgema.gov.

CloudHouse

The City introduced this temporary shade pavilion to provide shade and seating in Greene-Rose Heritage Park in the Port neighborhood. CloudHouse has flexible seating and offers an inviting space to socialize and rest, especially on very hot days.

To learn more about this initiative and suggest ideas, visit Cambridgema.gov/PublicSpaceLab.

COMMUNITY PLANNING 101: WE NEED YOU!

CDD's Community Planning Division works to plan, design, and program people-centered spaces to enhance public health, promote inclusivity, and ensure sustainability through meaningful engagement with the community. We are committed to meaningful and representative engagement that inspires and empowers community members to help shape Cambridge's future.

Our Parks, Our Plan: Open Space Planning

Whether you live, work, study, or play in Cambridge, we want to hear how you use City parks and open spaces. Learn more and give us your feedback at Cambridgema.gov/OpenSpacePlan.

The City is working to build a vision for the future of Cambridge Street, from Inman Square to Lechmere station. The planning study is ongoing. For more information, visit Cambridgema.gov/CambridgeStreet.

**CAMBRIDGE
PUBLIC
SPACE
LAB**

Highlights in this Issue of The Cambridge Life

Cambridge Committed to Creating and Preserving Affordable Housing for Residents

- Affordable housing for our residents is the City's top priority.
- The City helped save 569 units of affordable housing, including Fresh Pond Apartments.
- Over 160 new affordable housing units were built in Cambridge since 2020.

Participatory Budgeting Asks Residents to Share Ideas and Vote on Projects to Improve Cambridge

- Participatory Budgeting lets residents decide how to spend money on projects important to them.
- City residents have voted on \$6.3 million in projects to improve our community.
- Residents ages 12 or older, including non-U.S. residents, can participate in the annual Participatory Budgeting process.

City Scholarship Helps Residents with Increasing Educational Expenses

- The City Scholarship program provides financial help to students and adults seeking education beyond high school.
- Since 1993, the City has awarded \$2.9 million in scholarships to 1,188 residents.
- You can apply for the Scholarship online at www.Cambridgema.gov/cityscholarship. The deadline is March 7, 2022.

Major Renovations to Cambridge's Historic Fire Stations Underway

- The renovated fire stations will help keep firefighters safe.
- The Cambridge Fire Department has excellent equipment and training to keep the City safe.
- The City is spending millions of dollars to renovate its 8 fire stations.
- Most of our fire stations were built in the 1800s when firefighters used horse-powered equipment.

City Converts Small Spaces in Commercial Areas for Community Use

- Cambridge has over 80 parks, playgrounds, and open spaces.
- The City wants everyone to enjoy our open spaces.
- We want you to help us plan how to use future parks and open spaces. To learn about ways to participate, visit www.Cambridgema.gov/OpenSpacePlan.

Combatting Rats as a Community

- Separating food from the trash and placing it in compost bins the City provides helps combat problems with rodents.
- Food scraps make up 40% of household trash.
- Make sure that trash barrels are covered at all times.
- The City offers free inspections and pest control to residential properties with 1 to 4 units. Learn more at www.Cambridgema.gov/Rodents.

Protect Yourself & Your Community

- Get your COVID-19 vaccine and booster shot.
- Wear your mask as much as possible.
- Think about your risk before attending social gatherings.
- Stay home if you are feeling ill.
- Get tested.

Learn more at: www.cambridgema.gov/TCLSpanish

The City's website, www.Cambridgema.gov can be translated in multiple languages.

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Learn more at: www.cambridgema.gov/TCLPortuguese

The City's website, www.Cambridgema.gov can be translated in multiple languages.

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Learn more at: www.cambridgema.gov/TCLHaitianCreole

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Learn more at: www.cambridgema.gov/TCLBangla

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Combatting Rats as a Community



We've heard from residents that they're experiencing an increase in rodent activity, and the City has responded by redoubling our efforts to combat rats in every neighborhood and provide as much assistance as we can to help.

Rodents are a community problem that require a community solution, and the City of Cambridge is committed to confronting this problem in a variety of ways - by addressing rodent issues 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, property owners, and tenants, we can make Cambridge as free from rodents as possible.

What Residents Can Do

To control rats, you have to remove everything they need to survive: food, water, shelter and ways to get around.

- Rats only need one ounce of food per day.
- The most important thing you can do to prevent rats on your property is to control their access to food.
- Bring trash and compost barrels to the curb as close to pick-up time as possible (7 a.m.).
- Compost as much food as possible to keep all food scraps and organics waste in tight-locking compost bin.
- Recycle as much as possible to reduce trash.
- Make sure you have enough trash barrels with tight lids to hold trash between pickups. If you have tenants, insist that they use the trash barrels.
- Use hard plastic or metal trash barrels with tight fitting lids.
- Don't put food out for cats, pigeons, or squirrels.
- Put bird food in feeders only, and don't overfeed. Consider not feeding birds until rodent problem subsides.

- When out in the city on the street or in a park, always put your litter in a barrel and do not feed birds or other wildlife to help deter rodents.
- Report rodent sightings using the City's free Commonwealth Connect app for iPhone/Android or by emailing rodents@cambridgema.gov.

What the City Will Do

The City's Inspectional Services and Public Works departments work closely together to respond to rodent issues and complaints.

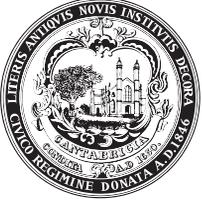
- Use ordinances to regulate dumpsters and to tighten curbside pickup rules.
- Issue fines directly to curbside trash violators.
- Respond to resident complaints received quickly to investigate.
- Use strategies to identify problem areas like area sweeps to tag at-risk conditions, mapping of complaints, and enhanced staff training on rodent behavior and control.
- Install new public trash receptacles that keep rats out and more frequent trash collection in high-impact areas.

- Provide baiting/trapping on private property for residential properties with 4 or fewer units as part of the City's new Private Property Rodent Control Program that offers 60 days of free rodent control at no cost to residents. Learn more and apply at www.cambridgema.gov/rodents

As part of Cambridge's broader rodent control efforts, the City will be rolling out a standardized trash cart for curbside collection in spring 2022. The Department of Public Works will be delivering free new trash carts to all buildings that receive curbside collection services from the City.

To help control rats, these new carts will reduce trash spilling onto streets/sidewalks and serve as a replacement for many barrels across the city that show signs of rodent activity that provide as easy points of entry for rodents.

Learn more about the City's efforts, what you can do, and report issues at www.cambridgema.gov/rodents.



A publication of the Office of the City Manager
City of Cambridge
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Cambridge City Council:

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Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon
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Councillor Marc C. McGovern
Councillor Patricia M. Nolan
Councillor E. Denise Simmons
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Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan

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صفحة ١٨
قراءة المعلومات باللغة
العربية

