

**FREE**

# The Cambridge

2015-2016  
EDITION

# Life

Official Magazine  
of the City of Cambridge

## **BUILDING** AN AFFORDABLE FUTURE



### **Also in this issue:**

Senior Wellness

The Path to Net Zero

ADA's 25th Anniversary

Environmentally Friendly Schools

Compost Curbside Pickup

# MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The 2015-16 Edition of *The Cambridge Life* highlights numerous articles on the work the City does to help make Cambridge a great place for residents and visitors to live, work, play, and learn.

Our most recent Citizen Survey shows that the City enjoys an overall performance rating that is above the norm for most municipal governments—both regionally and nationally. While respondents indicated that the single most important issue facing the City of Cambridge today is affordable housing, our commitment to creating and preserving affordable housing in Cambridge is unwavering and we are very proud of the work that we have accomplished. You can learn more about our current and future efforts in this issue.

As our population ages, Cambridge's focus on senior wellness has increased as well. The Council on Aging works to promote and safeguard the health and independence of Cambridge seniors over the age of 60, and to provide meaningful social and recreational options that help enhance our senior's lives. We highlight an important and often overlooked topic - elder abuse - and the community based coalition that was recently formed by the City to address the growing problem, including the financial exploitation of seniors. You will find on the back cover, a brief overview of some of the latest phone scams targeting our community, many focusing on seniors.

Cambridge places a high priority on reducing our carbon footprint and addressing climate change. Four of our stories in *The Cambridge Life* feature the leadership role the City has been taking. You will learn about our path to a Net Zero Cambridge, the new curbside composting pilot program, and Cambridge Public Schools' recent national award as a Green Ribbon School. Also, thanks to an intensive and ongoing effort by our community, Cambridge is competing for the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize. As one of the many initiatives underway to assist us in winning the prize, the Cambridge Energy Alliance is working with Next Step Living to help single family homes and residential buildings with 2 to 4 units reduce their energy use. We are urging residents to help out by getting a free energy assessment to find and eliminate wasted energy at home.



**Richard C. Rossi**  
City Manager

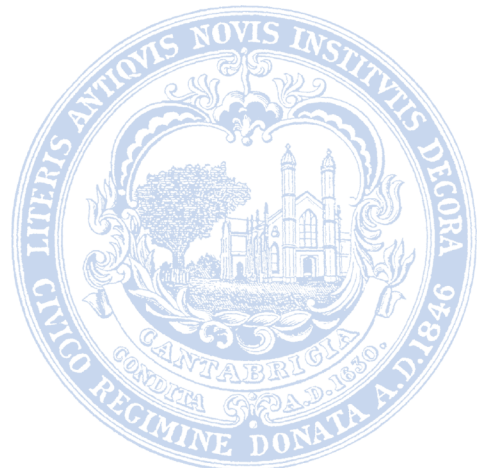
Finally, in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 2015, we have included a feature on the City's innovative approach in this important arena, including our efforts on street, sidewalk, and storefront accessibility as well as our Inclusion Initiative.

I hope you enjoy our latest edition of *The Cambridge Life* and urge you to visit our website, [cambridgema.gov](http://cambridgema.gov), for the latest City news and information about our services.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard C. Rossi". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Richard C. Rossi  
City Manager



# 2015 - 2016 EDITION

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**Cover:** Affordable rental and homeownership opportunities are made available through the Community Development Department's (CDD) Housing Division. Shown here, top left: Putnam Green (40 rental units, developed by HRI); top right: Lincoln Way Apartments (60 rental units, recently rebuilt by the Cambridge Housing Authority); bottom: Debbie Hill found out about the City's affordable rental opportunity through a flier given out at her granddaughter's school.

## Cambridge residents are competing for a \$5 million prize!



We have the chance to win **\$5,000,000** for OUR CITY!

Cambridge residents are competing with 50 cities nationwide for a \$5,000,000 prize. To win we need to reduce our energy use the most and we have less than two years to do it.

The **Georgetown University Energy Prize** tackles the huge challenge of wasted energy and Cambridge is **in it to WIN IT!** We need the best, most creative ideas to solve this problem and transform our community into the city of the future. \$5 million gets us a long way towards making better places to live and work, saving money, and improving our environment. But only one city will get the prize and in order to **WIN IT!** Cambridge needs everyone to get involved.

To get started, follow the steps to the right and visit [cambridgeenergyalliance.org/WINIT](http://cambridgeenergyalliance.org/WINIT). Keep your eyes out for more contests, free giveaways, and fun events to help Cambridge save energy and **WIN IT!**

How YOU can help Cambridge win:



### Take action:

Get a **no-cost energy assessment** to find and eliminate wasted energy in your house. Or **DIY energy upgrades** like LED lightbulbs and smart power strips for a more comfortable home and lower bills. [tinyurl.com/cambenergy](http://tinyurl.com/cambenergy)



### Share your ideas:

Have you invented an awesome energy saving technology? Can you convince more people in Cambridge to save energy? How would you spend \$5 million to make Cambridge a better place? Submit and discuss your ideas on the **WINIT Ideas Forum** or email us at [WINIT@cambridgema.gov](mailto:WINIT@cambridgema.gov)



### Tell your friends:

We can only **WIN IT!** if everyone in our city reduces energy use. So tell your family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors to get involved. Follow on Twitter [#WINITCambridge](https://twitter.com/cambenergy) and [facebook.com/cambridgeenergyalliance](https://facebook.com/cambridgeenergyalliance)





# KEEPING CAMBRIDGE AFFORDABLE

Cambridge has long stood out as an example of what a city can do when it is committed to housing. Affordable housing has been a priority in Cambridge since the end of rent control in the 1990s and has consistently ranked among the top areas of concern in the City's biannual Citizen Survey. This commitment to affordable housing has paid off in the numbers of people housed, affordable units created and preserved, and funds leveraged by the City's investment.

## OUR APPROACH

In the last 5 years, Cambridge has invested more than \$50 million in affordable housing efforts, leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars of other public and private investments, and resulting in the creation and preservation of more than 1,370 homes for low, moderate, and middle-income families.

Cambridge's high housing costs necessitate creative use of resources to achieve affordability goals. The City's most significant funding for affordable housing comes from allocating City funds to the Affordable Housing Trust. The adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2001 enabled the City to greatly expand this commitment, and has provided \$115 million in CPA funds for the Trust. See more at [Cambridgema.gov/DiscoverCPA](http://Cambridgema.gov/DiscoverCPA).

## WHAT IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING?

Housing is considered "affordable" when a tenant or homeowner pays



Lincoln Way Apartments (60 rental units, recently rebuilt by CHA)



no more than 30% of their gross household income for housing costs. Affordable housing in Cambridge serves low, moderate, and middle-income households, with most programs targeting those who earn less than 80% of Area Median Income. In Cambridge, there are over 7,600 affordable units, including both rental and homeownership housing. These units are located throughout the city and include public housing owned and operated by the Cambridge Housing Authority, inclusionary housing located in market-rate developments, and city-subsidized affordable housing.

Affordable rental and homeownership opportunities are made available through the Community Development Department's (CDD) Housing Division, which accepts applications on a rolling basis. Preference is given to residents and, for family-sized units, to applicants with children. When available, buyers for new homeownership units are selected by lottery.

A large number of affordable rental units will soon be available through CDD in new

# FOR ALL



*“I never dreamed we could afford to live in such a beautiful place. With the money we are saving because of the City’s Affordable Rental Program, we are able to save more for our daughter’s education. We are so very lucky.”*

VELI ALBANO

*“I found out about the City’s affordable rental opportunity through a flier given out at my granddaughter’s school. I live in a newer apartment community with state-of-the-art amenities, nearby shops, and public transportation two blocks away. I feel so blessed to be able to live here.”*

DEBBIE HILL

needs of low, very low, and moderate-income families, seniors, homeless, and special-needs populations. CDD is working with affordable housing providers and other public agencies to find new opportunities while also reexamining how the private sector can help address affordable housing goals. To learn more visit [Cambridgema.gov/HousingCambridge](http://Cambridgema.gov/HousingCambridge). ■

buildings that are nearing completion, as well as some units for middle-income households. For application information, as well as ways to access other housing opportunities, see more at [Cambridgema.gov/HousingInfo](http://Cambridgema.gov/HousingInfo).

## IN THE END, IT IS ABOUT PEOPLE

Cambridge’s success in creating and offering affordable housing has helped thousands of families remain in our community, including more than 420 individuals and families in just the past 5 years.

Over the coming year, the City will continue offering affordable housing, information sessions, homebuyer classes, and assistance to residents while also financing the creation of new affordable housing, preservation of existing affordable housing, and exploring new ways to address housing needs. As costs continue to rise, there is an emerging need for housing that is affordable to middle-income households as well as the continuing



Inman Square Apartments (116 affordable rental units, preserved and renovated by HRI)





# COMMITMENT TO SENIOR WELLNESS

**T**he City’s Council on Aging (COA) works to promote and safeguard the health and independence of Cambridge seniors over the age of 60. They arrange many services and provide a number of meaningful social and recreational options that help enhance our senior’s lives. Most importantly, the COA can act as a useful information and referral resource for seniors.

## ENGAGING SENIORS

“Here at the COA, we are committed to creating an environment that fosters the health and active participation of older people,” said Susan Pacheco, Executive Director. “We also recognize the importance of such things as sharing a meal and continuously encourage social connection in an effort to decrease isolation among seniors.

## KEEPING ACTIVE

Studies have shown that exercise and physical activity can help manage and even prevent diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Activity engagement means healthy and productive aging, which is especially important today as seniors are living longer and healthier lives.



Elders Dance Ensemble in action.

## AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL

The two Cambridge senior centers (located at 806 Mass Ave and 2050 Mass Ave) provide a variety of services and classes, including a senior food pantry, counseling and support groups, vision and blood pressure screenings, breakfast and lunch service, men’s group, computer classes, as well as other educational and recreational programs. Their fitness classes include Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Better Balance and Strength Building. As a result, seniors felt stronger and more energetic.

Cambridge Citywide Senior Center is encouraging its seniors to “live healthy” through a new program that introduces them to gardening, offers nutrition lectures and cooking classes that encourage healthy eating. Both the Citywide and North Cambridge Senior Centers provide daily meals to elders.

Members of the Senior Center also enjoy entertainment. Recently, the Elders Ensemble, made up of eight, post professional local dancers ages 60-92, performed at the Citywide Senior Center. Performances included original dance/theatre pieces that tell the bittersweet stories of their lives as dancers, daughters, mothers and friends through movement, theatre and text. The performance is engaging as afterward they host a discussion to hopefully gain insight through audience perspective. The audience is encouraged to express their opinions, talk about their individual experiences, and voice any questions or issues that may arise.



# ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION

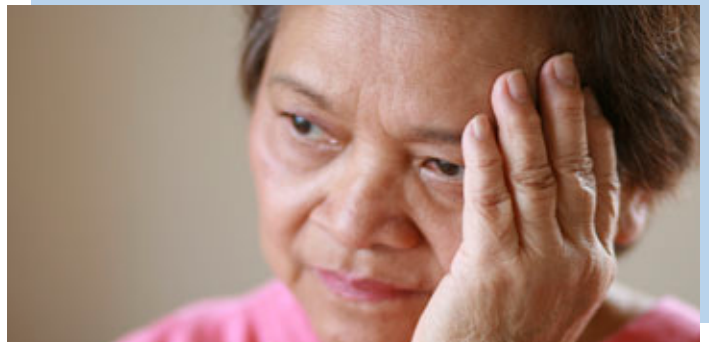
Elder abuse is a prevalent and growing problem across the Commonwealth. The Council on Aging (COA) recently collaborated with The Elder Abuse Prevention Project of Greater Boston Legal Services to develop a community-wide model to prevent and respond to elder abuse. This effort led to the formation of The Cambridge Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition, a community based team of organizations and individuals committed to providing public education, outreach, and resources to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, fraud, and financial exploitation of all seniors in Cambridge.

## ELDER ABUSE - THE FACTS

Elder abuse in Massachusetts is defined as physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse, caretaker abuse and neglect, financial exploitation and self-neglect of an individual 60 years of age or older.

The National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that over five million older Americans are victims of some form of abuse every year. That number is only expected to grow over the coming years as our elderly population continues to grow in size and to grow older.

Elder abuse affects both men and women of all socioeconomic backgrounds, and it is often perpetrated by adult children or other trusted family members.



The Elder Abuse Coalition aims to help prevent elder abuse through education and outreach. ©iStock.com/azndc

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence service providers are also beginning to have an increase in individuals reporting intimate partner violence at a later age in life. It is important to acknowledge that domestic violence does not end at age 60. The cycle of violence continues and an elder victim is at greater risk due to cognitive decline and physical frailty.

## RESOURCES

The focus of the coalition is to create a community-wide response to issues of elder abuse in a preventive manner. We are hoping to increase public awareness of this issue. The more education and outreach provided, the better chance we can keep an elder from becoming a victim.

The Coalition plans to host a number of educational forums for seniors on current topics of interest. Its first event in June was a forum on how to avoid financial scams and maintaining one's personal well-being. See the back cover of this magazine for useful tips on phone scams.

For more information, contact Susan Pacheco at [617-349-6220](tel:617-349-6220) or [spacheco@cambridgema.gov](mailto:spacheco@cambridgema.gov). ■

**Top photos, left to right:** Exercise is key (©iStock.com/kupicoo); lunch service at the Cambridge Senior Center; caretaker neglect and financial exploitation of an individual 60 years of age or older constitutes elder abuse (©iStock.com/imageegami); domestic violence does not end at age 60 (©iStock.com/vm).



# city marks 25<sup>th</sup>



On July 26, 2015, our nation will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the most sweeping disability rights legislation ever passed in the United States.

Since the enactment of the ADA, people with disabilities have made great strides in obtaining better access to areas such as employment, transportation, public accommodations, and state and local government services.

Like all other cities and towns in the United States, the City of Cambridge is subject to the accessibility and integration requirements under title II of the ADA. Here are just a few examples of how the City of Cambridge has worked to implement the promise of the ADA over these past decades.

## STREET AND SIDEWALK ACCESSIBILITY

As part of our Title II implementation efforts, the Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW), working in conjunction with the Commission for Persons with Disabilities and other City departments, developed a five-year action plan for streets and sidewalks. This plan detailed how the City would be improving sidewalk and crosswalk accessibility so that pedestrians with disabilities would have equal access to cultural attractions, shopping areas, commercial districts and

**Giulia Restaurant, 1682 Mass. Ave.,** replaced existing uneven threshold transition with a simple metal threshold and automatic door opener.



other places. DPW updates this five-year action plan annually, with input from other stakeholders to ensure that existing priorities are met. The City also has a miscellaneous sidewalk program, so that smaller jobs, such as single corner curb ramps, can be fixed without undue delay. Learn more at [Cambridgema.gov/ActionPlan2015](http://Cambridgema.gov/ActionPlan2015).

## INCLUSION INITIATIVE

In recognition of the fact that some Cambridge children and youth with disabilities were not always getting equal opportunity to access the City's many afterschool programs, in 2004 the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) launched an ambitious initiative to achieve inclusion.

Some of the essential elements of the inclusion initiative are: evaluating individuals with disabilities to determine whether they

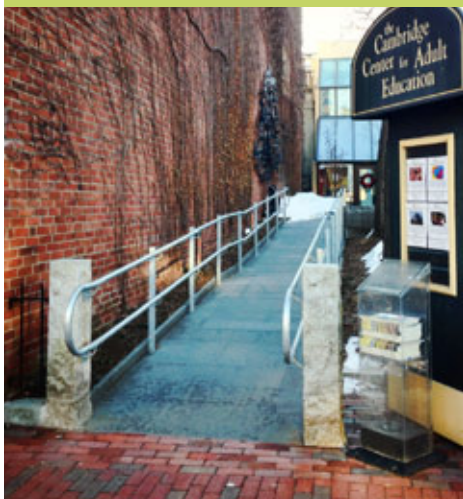
**Darwin's, LTD, 313 Mass. Ave.,** replaced inaccessible storefront that included a 4 inch step with a new recessed entrance, smooth ramp, and automatic door opener.





# ADA's anniversary

**Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St.,** replaced uneven brick pavers and a steep ramp with granite paving tiles and a slope that meets ADA requirements along with compliant handrails.



Department (CDD) helps businesses become compliant with Title III of the ADA, which focuses on access to public accommodations. CDD's Storefront Improvement Program provides matching grants to businesses wanting to improve the appearance of their storefront and enhance Cambridge's commercial districts.

Since the initiation of this grant, over 100 storefront businesses have been made more accessible to customers with disabilities. In 2013, the program was further enhanced, to allow for 90% reimbursement for accessibility improvements, up to \$20,000. This financial support has made it easier for Cambridge businesses to include accessibility into their construction projects, opening themselves up to a variety of potential new customers and employees.

In 2014, Cambridge provided an exciting new resource targeting retailers, restaurateurs, and service providers looking to remove architectural barriers in the interior of their business, making them more accessible to customers with sensory and/or physical disabilities.

The Retail Interior Accessibility Program provides financial assistance to Cambridge businesses interested in improving accessibility in conformance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) standards, such as path of travel inside the business, counter or dining access, and accessible bathrooms. This new program will further assist our ground floor businesses in making certain their facilities meet the needs of all customers.

The program provides a 90% matching grant up to \$10,000 for ADA improvements to the interiors of businesses. Retail Interior Accessibility Program Improvements can include, but are not limited to: Braille menus; Counter hearing loops; Accessible bathrooms;

Improvement of aisles in stores; Accessible dining tables; Interior store ramps; and Accessible shelving and counters.

For more information, visit [Cambridgema.gov/AccessImprovements](http://Cambridgema.gov/AccessImprovements). ■

need additional support services or other accommodations in order to be successful in afterschool activities; providing ongoing training to staff to ensure they have the skills needed to successfully integrate children and youth with disabilities; and establishing policies and procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to afterschool programs. Learn more at [Cambridgema.gov/Inclusion2015](http://Cambridgema.gov/Inclusion2015).

## **STOREFRONT AND INTERIOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS**

The City's Community Development





THE PATH TO A

# NET ZERO CAMBRIDGE



1

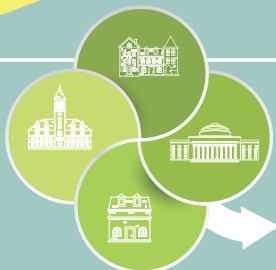
## THE CLIMATE IMPERATIVE

Climate change poses a growing set of risks and challenges to cities.

Combating climate change needs to **start locally**

Buildings generate over 80% of Cambridge's total greenhouse gas emissions.

80%



That is why it is Cambridge's aim to achieve

## NET ZERO EMISSIONS

from buildings.

Residents, universities, businesses and the City are collaborating to address the immediacy of the climate imperative.

2

## WHAT IS NET ZERO?

A community of buildings for which, annually, all greenhouse gas emissions produced through building operations are offset by carbon-free energy production.

THE TARGET:  
Net zero annual emissions from buildings citywide.

8  
TOTAL EMISSIONS



HOUSES

CITY HALL

OFFICES + LABS

UNIVERSITIES

3

## HOW TO ADDRESS CARBON REDUCTION

There are **3** ways to reduce emissions from buildings:

EFFICIENT DESIGN & RETROFITS



IMPROVED OPERATIONS



RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY

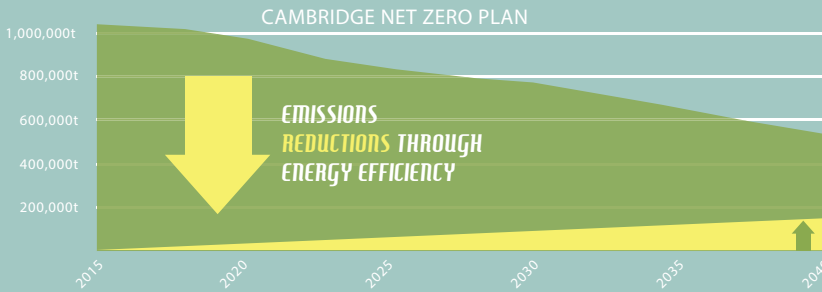


Cambridge has committed to a range of high priority initiatives to address Climate Change, and has recently completed a public process to set the city on the trajectory to achieve “Net Zero” greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, which account for 80% of total emissions generated locally. The process, summarized below, engaged a broad spectrum of community stakeholders and subject matter experts to define a shared vision, achievable short and long-term goals, and a realistic implementation strategy that can be evaluated and adjusted over time. Learn more at: [Cambridgema.gov/Netzeroinfo](http://Cambridgema.gov/Netzeroinfo)

4

THE 25-YEAR NET ZERO STRATEGY

The net zero action plan aims to cut energy demand significantly, and replace fossil fuels with renewable energy.



Achieve **70%** reductions

INCREASED RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY

5

ACTION PLAN

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EXISTING BUILDINGS:

Reduce energy use in buildings through retrofits and improved operations.



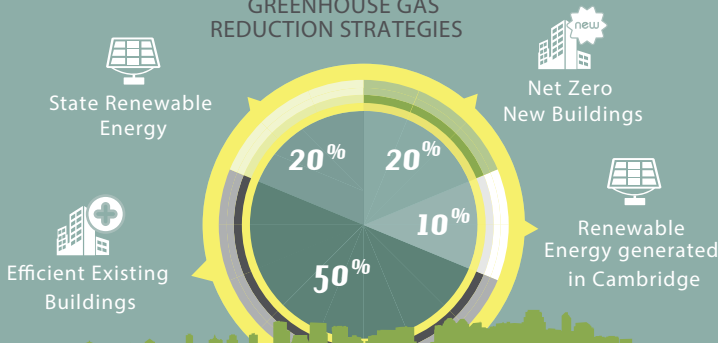
**NET ZERO NEW CONSTRUCTION:**  
Require low carbon new construction.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY:**  
Replace fossil fuels with low carbon energy.

**LOCAL CARBON FUND:**  
Option to invest in a net zero community.

**ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING:**  
Industry training and community involvement.

GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION STRATEGIES



ACHIEVING A NET ZERO CAMBRIDGE WILL REQUIRE COMMITMENT, INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION.



CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WINS

GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



On Earth Day 2015, Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) was honored with a “Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Award” from the U.S. Department of Education and White House Council on Environmental Quality. CPS was one of 14 school districts nationwide to receive this special recognition—a reflection of the city’s longstanding sustainability efforts. Since the creation of an Office of Sustainability in 2011, CPS has made significant strides in this arena.

**HEALTHY FOOD**

Thousands of healthy, nutritious meals are served daily at CPS. The Food and Nutrition Services Department uses fresh, organic, and locally-sourced produce and ingredients whenever possible. Meals are served on plates and trays that can be recycled and/or composted, and menus often incorporate produce straight from the school garden. In this way, students experience the farm-to-table-to-compost cycle first-hand.



**COMPOSTING FOOD WASTE**

Full scale commercial composting is in place at almost every school via a program called “Food to Flowers” which is managed in partnership with the Department of Public Works (DPW). The schools have kept several hundred tons of food waste from reaching the incinerator or landfill through this innovative composting program.

**GREEN PRACTICES**

CitySprouts gardens are a source of great pride among students at CPS. These gardens are an environmental classroom for curriculum areas that include math, science, art, and social studies. CPS also partners with Green Streets Initiative and the Community Development and Public Health departments to promote the health and environmental benefits of walking and biking to school. All CPS students learn to ride a bike in elementary school, and bike safety classes are included in physical education at Grade 6-8 Upper Schools.



**ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Energy conservation reduces CPS’s carbon footprint, provides opportunities for environmental education, and saves funds that can support education. CPS building projects prioritize environmental stewardship, including the recent high school renovation, which earned a LEED Silver designation. Construction of the new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Putnam Avenue Upper School campus aims to achieve a Net Zero designation, and a roof replacement at Kennedy-Longfellow School will include installation of solar panels.

**SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS**

CPS introduced environmentally-friendly cleaning methods and supplies. Pest control, water filtration, and office supplies have been upgraded to include non-toxic, recycled, recyclable or compostable materials whenever possible.

“Our success in creating an environmentally-friendly school district is the result of a wonderful, longstanding partnership between multiple City departments,” said Sustainability Manager Kristen von Hoffman Middleton. “We look forward to building upon this foundation by further reducing our impact on the planet for generations to come.”

For more information about CPS’s commitment to sustainability, and about the Green Ribbon Schools program, visit [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us).

# CURBSIDE PICKUP COMPOST PILOT PROGRAM YIELDING GOOD RESULTS

In 2014, Cambridge launched a curbside compost pickup program in a small section of North Cambridge that will continue through October 2015. Since the kickoff, over 600 participating households have collected 170,000 pounds of food scraps. Instead of being landfilled or sent to an incinerator, this material was made into rich compost by Rocky Hill Farm in Saugus, MA. The two most compelling reasons why residents were eager to participate in the pilot program stemmed from their desire to reduce their waste, which has been reduced by 84%, but also to make a significant impact in reducing their carbon footprint. Through these efforts, trash collection in this specific area has been reduced by an amazing 35%.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Residents living in single family homes and residential buildings (12 units or less) with city trash service on select streets in North Cambridge (see eligible streets in sidebar below), can participate in this program. If you are eligible and would like to participate in the program, please complete our online Curbside Compost Sign-up Form, at [cambridgema.gov/CompostPilot](http://cambridgema.gov/CompostPilot).

## FALL COMPOST SERVICE EXPANSION

In the fall of 2015, the compost pickup program will expand to include single family homes and all residential buildings (12 units or less) with city trash service on the Monday collection route. The City

expects to expand compost collection citywide in subsequent years. Cambridge residents that are not participating in the program are welcome to bring their food scraps to one of the drop off compost sites at [cambridgema.gov/CompostSites](http://cambridgema.gov/CompostSites) or consider composting at home, [cambridgema.gov/compostinghome](http://cambridgema.gov/compostinghome) with a backyard or indoor bin.

## STREETS ELIGIBLE FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP

Alberta Terrace	Hollis Street	Rindge Avenue (#12-315 only)
Buena Vista Park	Jackson Place	Rindgefield Street
Cambridge Terrace	Kimball Lane	Sargent Street
Cedar Street	Middlesex Street	Sherman Street (#153-201 only)
Clay Street	Montgomery Street	Therault Court
Clifton Street	Mt. Pleasant Street	Upland Road (#51-195 only)
Cogswell Avenue	Norris Street	Van Norden Street
Dudley Street	Notre Dame Avenue	Vincent Street
Fairfield Street	Pemberton Street	Walden Street (#5-149 only)
Frances Place	Pemberton Terrace	Warwick Park
George Street	Raymond Street	Westley Avenue
Harrington Road	Reed Terrace	Whittier Street
Harvey Street	Rice Street	Yerxa Road
Haskell Street	Richdale Avenue	

## WHY IS COMPOSTING A GOOD THING?

- It's nature's way of recycling food scraps and compost makes wonderful soil to grow healthy food.
- It's good for the environment and reducing waste feels good. Love food, hate waste!
- It helps protect the climate by reducing potent greenhouse gas emissions at landfills.
- Curbside compost collection will help the City control trash costs and meet its goals to reduce trash 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.
- Farming and gardening with compost requires less water and helps to avoid the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

# RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

**About Cambridge** Cambridge, Massachusetts has a population of 105,162 (2010 US Census) located in a 6.5 square mile area. The city has a strong mix of cultural, demographic and social diversity, and is home to world-renowned educational institutions, Harvard University and MIT, as well as numerous high tech and bio tech companies. Cambridge is an international community with 28% of residents being foreign born.

- ▶ **22-CityView (Municipal Channel)** For calendar information, community programs and City Council meetings, Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Bike Share Program** Numerous Hubway bike share stations in Cambridge connect to neighboring cities of Boston, Somerville and Brookline. [cambridgema.gov/hubway](http://cambridgema.gov/hubway)
- ▶ **Cambridge Public Schools** [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)
- ▶ **Human Services** For Adult Education and Employment Programs; Youth and Family Services; Recreation and Seniors. [cambridgema.gov/DHSP](http://cambridgema.gov/DHSP)
- ▶ **Libraries** Call 617-349-4040 [cambridgepubliclibrary.org](http://cambridgepubliclibrary.org)
- ▶ **Moving Van Permits** 617-349-4721 [cambridgema.gov/movingvan](http://cambridgema.gov/movingvan)
- ▶ **myCambridge Address Search Tool** Type in your address to find information on your building, property, neighborhood and City services all in one place! [cambridgema.gov/myCambridge](http://cambridgema.gov/myCambridge)
- ▶ **Off Leash Dog Parks** [cambridgema.gov/offleash](http://cambridgema.gov/offleash)
- ▶ **Open Space & Parks** Cambridge has over 80 parks, playgrounds and water play areas, and two large open space areas, the Alewife Constructed Wetland and Fresh Pond Reservation. [cambridgema.gov/parks](http://cambridgema.gov/parks)
- ▶ **Pay City Bills Online** Pay parking tickets, motor vehicle excise, property tax and water bills online. [cambridgema.gov/payonline](http://cambridgema.gov/payonline)
- ▶ **Pet Registration** Dogs must be registered with the Cambridge Animal Commission. Ph. 617-349-4376.
- ▶ **Property Tax** Bills are issued twice annually. Contact the Finance Dept. Ph. 617-349-4220.
- ▶ **Public Transportation** Cambridge is served by numerous buses and two subway lines of The MBTA, also known as the T. Red Line stops include Kendall, Central, Harvard and Porter Squares. The Green Line stop is Lechmere. Porter Square is also a Commuter Rail Stop. Download real-time smartphone apps, such as Catch the Bus and Catch the T.
- ▶ **Recycling/Trash Pick-up** Cambridge has a mandatory recycling Ordinance. [cambridgema.gov/recycling](http://cambridgema.gov/recycling)
- ▶ **Resident/Visitor Parking Permits** Permits are required for on-street parking in residential neighborhoods. [cambridgema.gov/rpp](http://cambridgema.gov/rpp)
- ▶ **Snow Emergency Parking Bans** If the City declares a snow emergency, parking is prohibited on signed streets. Sign up for Cambridge Alert Network at [cambridgema.gov](http://cambridgema.gov) to receive City notifications. [cambridgema.gov/snow](http://cambridgema.gov/snow)
- ▶ **Snow Clearing Ordinance** Property owners are required to remove snow/ice from sidewalks and curb ramps next to their home or business. [cambridgema.gov/snow](http://cambridgema.gov/snow)
- ▶ **Street Cleaning** Streets are cleaned once a month from Apr. through Dec. During designated street cleaning days, cars must be moved or they will be ticketed and towed. [cambridgema.gov/streetcleaning](http://cambridgema.gov/streetcleaning)
- ▶ **Voter Registration** You must be registered to vote in Cambridge in order to vote here. Contact Cambridge Election Commission at 617-349-4361 or visit [cambridgema.gov/election](http://cambridgema.gov/election).
- ▶ **Water** Cambridge operates its own water utility. Bills are issued quarterly. Call 617-349-4770 or visit [cambridgema.gov/Water](http://cambridgema.gov/Water)

## Sign up for City Notifications through Cambridge Alert Network [cambridgema.gov/alertnetwork](http://cambridgema.gov/alertnetwork)

- **CodeRed** alerts residents via phone, text, e-mail about Snow and other City emergencies, evacuations, major water outages, etc.
- **Citizen Observer** is used by police to send neighborhood crime alerts via emails and text.



- **Cambridge E-LINE** is used to send email and text reminders about Street Cleaning & Trash/Recycling pickup and certain City news.

## Let us Know through Cambridge iReport



Cambridge iReport is your online connection for reporting and tracking common City services. Use iReport to report a pothole, park maintenance request, rodent sighting, icy sidewalk, defective streetlight, graffiti, and a variety of other items. Add Cambridge iReport to your mobile device. Visit the iTunes App Store or Google Play or [cambridgema.gov/iReport](http://cambridgema.gov/iReport)



► **Important Numbers**

Emergency 911  
Police (non-emergency) 617-349-3300  
Fire (non-emergency) 617-349-4900  
Public Health Dept. 617-665-3800  
Public Schools 617-349-6400  
Public Works 617-349-4800  
Water Department 617-349-4770

► **Cambridge City Hall**

795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139\*  
617-349-4000 TTY 617-349-4242  
cambridgema.gov  
facebook.com/CambridgeMA.gov

\*Address for all departments in City Hall  
Hours: Mon., 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tues.- Thurs.,  
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

► **City Manager's Office**


617-349-4300  
cambridgema.gov/cmanager  
Richard C. Rossi, City Manager  
Lisa C. Peterson, Deputy City Mgr.  
The City Manager is appointed by the City  
Council as the City's Chief Executive Officer.  
E-mail: citymanager@cambridgema.gov

► **City Council Office**

617-349-4280  
cambridgema.gov/ccouncil  
The City Council is Cambridge's elected  
legislature and meets on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.  
at Cambridge City Hall. View meetings live  
on Channel 22-CityView or via webcast at  
cambridgema.gov.

► **Mayor's Office**

617-349-4321  
cambridgema.gov/mayor  
The Mayor chairs City Council and School  
Committee meetings and serves as the City's  
political leader. E-mail: mayor@cambridgema.gov

 CambridgeMA.gov

 @CambMA

► **City Departments**

22-CityView (Municipal Channel) 617-349-4296  
Affirmative Action 617-349-4331  
Animal Commission 617-349-4376  
Arts Council 617-349-4380  
Assessing 617-349-4343  
Auditing 617-349-4240  
Budget 617-349-4270  
City Clerk 617-349-4260  
City Council Office 617-349-4280  
City Manager's Office 617-349-4300  
Community Development 617-349-4600  
Commission for Persons w/ Disabilities 617-349-4692  
TTT 617-492-0235  
Conservation Commission 617-349-4680  
Construction Information 617-349-4825  
Consumers' Council 617-349-6150  
Election Commission 617-349-4361  
Electrical 617-349-4925  
Emergency Communications 617-349-6911  
Finance 617-349-4220  
Fire (non-emergency) 617-349-4900  
Historical Commission 617-349-4683  
Human Rights Commission 617-349-4396  
Human Services 617-349-6200  
Information Technology 617-349-4140  
Inspectional Services 617-349-6100  
Law 617-349-4121  
Library 617-349-4040  
License Commission 617-349-6140  
Mayor's Office 617-349-4321  
Peace Commission 617-349-4694  
Personnel 617-349-4332  
Police (non-emergency) 617-349-3300  
Police Review & Advisory Board 617-349-6155  
Public Works 617-349-4800  
Purchasing 617-349-4310  
School Closings/Information Line 617-349-6513  
Snow Emergency Parking Bans 617-349-4700  
Traffic, Parking and Transportation 617-349-4700  
Veterans' Services 617-349-4761  
Water 617-349-4770  
Weights & Measures 617-349-6133  
Women's Commission 617-349-4697

► **Other Helpful Numbers**

Cambridge District Court (Medford) 781-306-2710  
Cambridge Housing Authority 617-864-3020  
Mass. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation 617-626-1250  
Middlesex Probate Court 617-768-5800  
Middlesex South Registry of Deeds 617-679-6300  
Middlesex Superior Court (Woburn) 781-939-2700



**Issues and Concerns**

- Consumer disputes 617-349-6150
- Graffiti hotline 617-349-6955
- Noise complaints (construction-related) 617-349-6100
- Noise complaints (both repetitive and immediate) 617-349-3300
- Parking ticket issues 617-349-4700
- Potholes / sidewalks / street repairs 617-349-4854
- Public Works (24 hr. emergency service) 617-349-4800
- Public Works (svc. requests) theworks@cambridgema.gov
- Recycling/Yard Waste recycle@cambridgema.gov
- Rodent control 617-349-4899 or rodents@cambridgema.gov
- Snow Info. 617-349-4903 or visit cambridma.gov/snow
- Street light repair 617-349-4925
- Water Dept. 24-hr emergency service 617-349-4770



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139  
www.cambridgema.gov | 617-349-4300 | 617-349-4242 TTY

City Manager **Richard C. Rossi**

Deputy City Manager **Lisa C. Peterson**

### City Council

Mayor **David P. Maher**

Vice Mayor **Dennis A. Benzan**

Councillor **Dennis J. Carlone**

Councillor **Leland Cheung**

Councillor **Craig A. Kelley**

Councillor **Nadeem A. Mazen**

Councillor **Marc C. McGovern**

Councillor **E. Denise Simmons**

Councillor **Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.**

# CAMBRIDGE POLICE WARNS OF PHONE SCAMS

## LOTTERY SCAMS

One of the largest scams targeting seniors are calls/emails claiming they have won a lottery, in UK or Africa. To collect, they must pay taxes and fees via money transfer, bank transfer or pre-paid card such as Green Dot.

## FAMILY MEMBER IN AN ACCIDENT

The caller claims that a relative has been in an accident and may be further harmed if you do not wire money or purchase a pre-paid money card.

## UTILITY COMPANY FEES

Business customers may receive a phone call from a utility company stating they owe money and if they don't immediately pay it via a pre-paid card, their service will be shut off.

## IMMIGRATION/ ARREST WARRANT

The caller may say they are a federal agent or police department and inform you of an immigration violation or arrest warrant, and request you purchase pre-paid money cards or wire funds to clear it up.

## TAX MONEY OWED TO THE IRS

Another large scam is a caller saying they are from the IRS, claiming you owe money in back taxes and will be arrested if you do not pay these fees by wiring money or using a pre-paid money card. The IRS does not contact individuals via telephone for owed taxes.

## MICROSOFT COMPUTER ISSUE

A caller saying they are from Microsoft claims there is an issue with your computer and you must visit a particular website to resolve it. By visiting this site, the user runs the risk of downloading malware or viruses to their computer, which would allow a criminal to access information on the computer.



## MYSTERIOUS TEXT MESSAGE FROM A BANK

You could receive a text stating that verification is needed on your bank or credit card account. Calling the phone number in the text and providing information could result in unauthorized debits to your account.

If you receive a text from a financial institution, contact your bank at their customer service number.

These are a few examples of current phone scams nationally. Once you provide a scammer with a pre-paid card number, the chance of recovering that money is very slim. If you have doubts about a call, contact a company at their main number, not the one provided. If you receive any calls mentioned above hang up and contact Cambridge Police at 617-349-3300.

If you have any questions about scams, contact Detective Brian O'Connor, Criminal Investigations Section - Financial & Computer Crimes, Cambridge Police Department at 617-349-9307 or boconnor@cambridgepolice.org.

