

City View

SUMMER 2014



Seeing Cambridge in a New Light

The City of Cambridge will soon be implementing major improvements to the existing streetlighting system; every City-owned streetlight to be replaced with new LED lights by 2015.

Over the coming months, Cambridge residents will start to see the old "cobrahead" style streetlights systematically replaced with new LED lights. The most current, energy-efficient technology, combined with careful design and planning, is slated to reduce the City's annual streetlight energy usage. An energy-efficiency incentive program offered by NSTAR could contribute up to \$700,000 for the cost of the new lights.

Drawing from a pool of emerging and ongoing research into visibility, safety, and the effects of lighting on the environment, a system of street classifications was developed to determine appropriate light levels for various types of streets, from the smallest tree-lined residential street to the busiest urban intersection.

Using detailed information from the City's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database, as well as on-site evaluations, streets were evaluated for width, light pole spacing, and vehicular and pedestrian activity.

Each street throughout the entire City was examined in person by a member of the project team. After comprehensive analysis, the streets were assigned to a range of categories, addressing lighting requirements for both roadways and sidewalks, and limiting glare and light trespass. These standards are in accordance with the most stringent established guidelines (used by the Federal Highway Administration, MassDOT and the Illuminating

Continued on Page 3

City Manager Reflects on the Fiscal Year 2015 City Budget

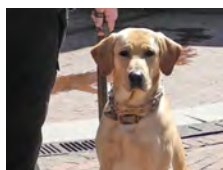


In April, I submitted my first budget to the City Council, taxpayers, and residents of Cambridge. It sets a bold agenda for the City and I believe that the initiatives and spending priorities reflect not only the goals of the City Council, but also those of the residents and taxpayers of Cambridge.

Having worked for the City for the past 43 years, I am wholeheartedly committed to ensuring that we embrace our employees. This year, I am creating new opportunities to build "bench-strength" across the City's organization, an investment that will not only support and prepare employees to grow professionally but will also develop the next wave of City leaders to address the needs of our community.

Because I believe strongly in fostering a collaborative workplace, Deputy City Manager Lisa Peterson and I have been visiting each City department to personally speak with employees about our expectations and our commitment to ensuring and creating a welcoming and respectful workplace for all. Lisa and I also believe that we can do more to ensure that our community is just as welcoming to all who come to Cambridge. Accordingly, I am expanding our City's pledge

Continued on Page 2



Four Legged Partners Join City Workforce
Page 2



Summer Fun For Everyone
Pages 4-5



Curbside Composting
Page 6



Cambridge Prepares for Climate Change
Page 7

City Manager Reflects “Continued”

to maintain a respectful community through the appointment of a Citizen Committee on Civic Unity that will serve in an advisory role to the City Manager.

My administration’s strong commitment to addressing sustainability and resiliency is evident throughout the FY15 Budget. In addition to the work of the Net Zero Task Force, the pilot curbside composting program, and the recently completed

photovoltaics, and convert the City’s streetlights to LED.

Our commitment to young people in the City also remains strong. We have formed the Early Education Task Force and created the Office for College Success. We have added summer camp scholarships for low-income children. The Cambridge Public Health Department has completed an extensive public process resulting in a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that will serve as a roadmap for addressing

the health needs of our residents.

I am particularly pleased that the Main Library will be extending its Sunday hours from September through the end of June, a change that will benefit Cambridge residents, both young and old.

Innovation will play a large role in the City’s operations in the upcoming year. Three examples of innovation are: developing a plan for including a Participatory Budget component in next year’s budget planning process; launching an open data initiative;

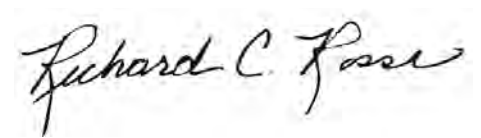
and significantly investing in our Information Technology Department and other IT innovations across City departments.

Our Capital investments in the City are equally robust, including the continuation of important long-term investments in projects like sewer and stormwater maintenance,

street and sidewalk maintenance, and the comprehensive facilities improvement plan. My office is also excited about short-term projects, including renovating the soccer fields at Danehy Park and installing new bike parking shelters throughout the City.

While overall economic conditions have improved, there are ongoing uncertainties forcing us to be cautious in the next fiscal year; however, the long-term outlook for Cambridge continues to be very strong as long as we continue to manage our resources wisely. And we do; we have continued our AAA bond rating. The City Council and City Administration understand that choices made today will impact future spending decisions. Our effective short and long-term financial, economic, and programmatic planning strategies help ensure that Cambridge continues to provide the level of services that residents desire while maintaining the modest tax implications that taxpayers have come to expect.

To learn more about City departments, their accomplishments and goals for the upcoming year, I encourage you to review the FY15 Budget at www.cambridgema.gov/fy15budget.



Constructed Alewife Wetland, work will begin on the Sustainability Community Master Plan. Construction will continue on the M.L. King School, our first Net Zero school, scheduled to open in September 2015. The City is also continuing efforts to reduce energy consumption in our buildings, install

Four Legged Partners Join City Workforce

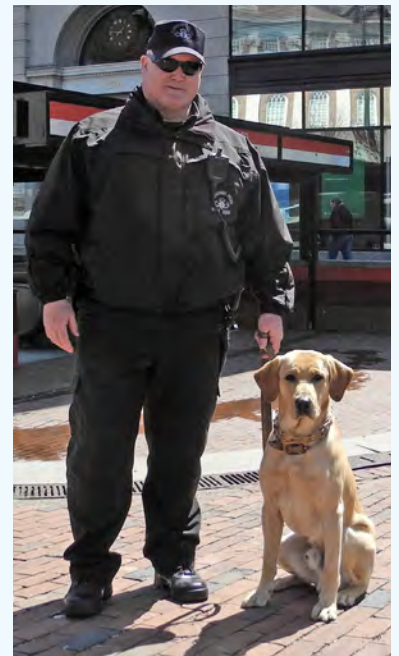
When Kevin reports for work during morning roll calls at the Cambridge Police Department, he is ready for a busy day of training, regular patrol duties, and engaging with the public.

As one of the first of five Labrador Retrievers that will work in the newly created fulltime Explosive Ordnance Unit (EOD) at the Cambridge Police Department, Kevin has undergone intensive training to qualify as a bomb-sniffing dog. Prior to joining the unit, each dog and their handler completed ten weeks of intensive training, including explosion odor detection and searching buildings, vehicles, mass transit, and outdoor areas. The dogs will receive a minimum of 16 hours of in-service training each month and they will be recertified annually.

The creation of the EOD is part of the City’s ongoing efforts to enhance the safety of our City and surrounding communities. The Cambridge EOD is one of only four certified teams in the Commonwealth, joining the Boston Police Department, Massachusetts State Police, and the

MBTA Transit Police. In addition to supplementing overall police presence in the City, the Unit will provide various types of regional support, including bomb sweeps of special events like the Boston Marathon, large City events, dignitary protection details, and calls involving possible explosive devices and suspicious packages.

“Cambridge is fortunate to be able to add a full-time Explosives Ordnance Unit to its arsenal of crime prevention and public safety tools,” says Police Commissioner Robert Haas. “Most often, the bomb technicians and their dogs will be spending time in high traffic areas, like Central and Harvard Squares. These dogs are an asset to the community and the public is encouraged to say hello as long as the dogs are not engaged on a call.”

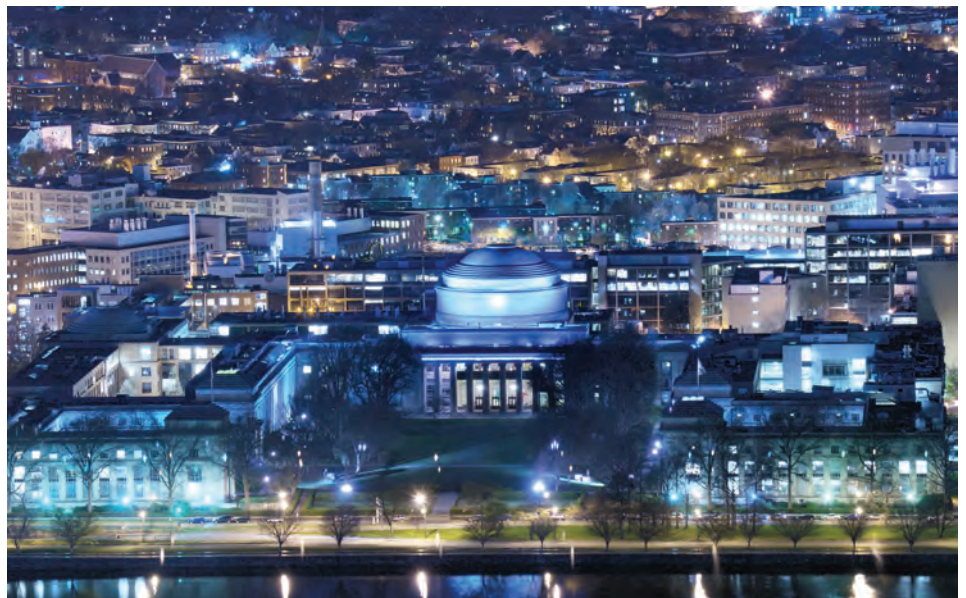




Cambridge In A New Light “Continued”

Engineering Society) while still aligning with the unique characteristics of Cambridge and its diverse neighborhoods.

The new LED streetlights will provide more consistent and appropriate illumination throughout the City. Improved color and uniformity, reduced glare, and greatly improved color rendition will increase visibility, security, and safety on our streets and sidewalks. Unwanted “spill light” into homes and onto properties will be reduced by specialized optical assemblies. A state-of-the-art wireless control and monitoring system will allow fine-tuning of light output, enhanced energy conservation, energy usage tracking capabilities, and remote maintenance. This project will improve sustainability, comfort, safety, and the enduring beauty of Cambridge.



A “Complete Streets” Approach to Planning

Let’s face it, there is a lot of road construction in Cambridge. From the sewer separations in West Cambridge and on Western Avenue to street improvements on Main Street, the City is investing in our infrastructure’s future.



Even though it can be inconvenient to get around Cambridge today, the investment we are making will serve the next generations of Cantabrigians. Most roadway and sidewalk projects undertaken by the City are in conjunction with other infrastructural work to save money and lessen construction disturbance to the community.

What many people do not realize as they drive, bike, or walk around Cambridge is that the

livability. Cambridge leads the nation in both walkability and in the percentage of residents who commute without driving. Bicycling is now viewed as a mainstream mode of transportation and its growth has been explosive. Cambridge has also incorporated electric vehicle charging, public bike share, bus shelters, street furniture, and a variety of additional bicycle facilities into its overall transportation network.

City approaches all street projects from a Complete Streets perspective—a commitment to design and operate a street network that enables safe access and movement for all users, regardless of age or ability.

The Complete Streets approach includes designing for bikes and pedestrians; supporting public transit and traffic-calming measures.

Complete Streets design translates into urban

The Five-Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan helps identify streets and sidewalks anticipated to be reconstructed annually.

In evaluating projects, staff considers street size, location and nearby land uses, crash history, and traffic volume. The five-year plan is the basis for capital funding decisions and determines the timeline for public process.

Public input is essential to the design of successful transportation projects. Based on feedback from the community, staff develops and presents multiple project design concepts and continues to work collaboratively to refine and modify alternatives. The final concept then moves forward into design and construction phases.

Upon the completion of most major projects, the City initiates a follow-up study to evaluate function, changes in behavior, and whether the end result meets the goals initially established.

As the City looks to the future, citizens can expect to see an increased focus on “Safe Routes to Schools,” master planning for bicycle facilities, and implementation of the City’s Transit Strategic Planning recommendations relating to roadway design.



Summer

Cambridge River Festival in Central Square

Saturday June 7, 12-6pm, Free
Mass Ave. from Sidney to Prospect St.
New location this year, with live music stages,
visual arts, theatrical and dance performances,
family entertainment, art-making, crafts, and
international food! Presented by Cambridge Arts
Council. www.cambridgeartscouncil.org

Summer Library Programs

Check your nearest branch library for dates and
times of free special events and programs for all
ages! Ph. 617-349-4409
or visit www.cambridgema.gov/cpl



Museum Passes for Library Cardholders

Enjoy free or discounted passes to museums and
zoos with your Cambridge Public Library card.
Ph. 617-349-4409. www.cambridgema.gov/cpl

Sunday Parkland Games

The Charles River Conservancy, in partnership
with the MA Department of Conservation and
Recreation offer free Sunday games in the late
afternoon from June through September on the
banks of the Charles River along Memorial Drive
by the Weeks Footbridge in Cambridge.
www.thecharles.org

CYP Middle School Activities Club

The citywide club is a great place for young people
in grades 6-8 to develop socially in a structured
way through weekend field trips and outings.
www.cambridgema.gov/dhsp/msac

Dance for World Community

Saturday, June 14, 12-10pm, Harvard Sq.
Free indoor/outdoor events.
www.danceforeworldcommunity.org

Dragon Boat Festival

Saturday and Sunday, June 14-15, Charles River,
10am-6pm Boat races, music, dance, and Asian
foods. www.bostondragonboat.org



Hoops 'N' Health

Saturday June 14, 10am-6pm
Basketball/flag football tournament.
Health Fair (12-5pm), Hoyt Field.
Free food, music, prizes, and children's games.
www.cambridgepublichealth.org

Shakespeare In The Park

June 19-21 and 26-29
Free live performances of *A Midsummer Night's
Dream*. www.fiascoproductionsltd.com

Make Music Central Square

Saturday, June 21, 1-7pm
Free music in the streets of Central Square.
www.centralsquarecambridge.com

Make Music Harvard Square

Saturday, June 21, 12-10pm
Free music in Harvard Square.
www.harvardsquare.com

City Dance Party

Friday, June 27, 7-11pm
Dance in the street in front of City Hall at this
lively event for the entire Cambridge community.
Ph. 617-349-4301. www.cambridgema.gov



JULY

Screen on the Green

Wednesdays, July 9-August 13, 7pm
Enjoy a movie theater-sized screen, jugglers,
clowns, music, and magicians. Ph. 617-349-6200
or www.cambridgema.gov/dhsp

Summer in the City

July-August (dates and times vary)
Cambridge Arts Council produces an array of
multicultural and interactive performances
throughout the City's parks and public spaces
featuring dance, music, storytellers, theater, and
puppetry for children ages 4-11. Free.
www.cambridgeartscouncil.org



Fun For Everyone



Open Archives Tours

July 14-17

A rare chance to go behind the scenes at archives and repositories in Cambridge.

www.cambridgearchives.org

Taste of Cambridge

Tuesday, July 15, 5:30-8:30pm

Along Sidney St., Central Square.

Annual food extravaganza. Rain Date July 17.

Info. & Tickets: www.tasteofcambridge.com.



AUGUST

Inman Funch

Thursday, August 7&14

Free lunchtime music and wellness activities at Vellucci Plaza, Inman Square.

www.inmansquare.com

Shakespeare In The Park

Fri-Sun, August 8-10

Free performances at Sennott Park.

www.theatretruck.com

Inman Square Movie Night & Neighborhood Social

Thursday, August 21 www.inmansquare.com

SEPTEMBER

Cambridge Carnival

Sunday, September 7, 12-7pm, Kendall Square

A festive celebration rooted in African traditions and featuring a dazzling costume parade, music, dancing, and food. www.cambridgecarnival.org

PARK (ing) Day

Friday, September 19

Annual event encouraging citizens to transform metered parking spots into temporary public parks.



Fall Bike Ride

Sunday, September 28

Discover new places on themed bike tours.

www.cambridgebikes.org



Danehy Park Family Day

Saturday, September 20, 11am-4pm

Amusement rides, roving performers, and a children's stage. Free hot dogs, chips, and sodas.

Ph. 617-349-4301 www.cambridgema.gov

Cambridge Discovery Day

Saturday, September 20

Explore Cambridge during free tours and events presented by experienced guides.

www.cambridgearchives.org.





HEALTH BEAT

Safely Dispose of Unused Medications, Needles and Syringes

Unwanted medicines left in the home can endanger children, seniors and pets. Residents can dispose of medications, needles, and syringes in a safe, environmentally-friendly manner by:

- Depositing medications, needles and syringes in drop boxes at Cambridge Police Dept. lobby, 125 Sixth St. or at Windsor Street Health Center, 119 Windsor St.
- Requesting a free, postage-paid mailer from Cambridge Prevention Coalition (617-665-3872) for disposal.



For information: contact Cambridge Public Health Dept. at 617-665-3800 or visit www.cambridgepublichealth.org.

Curbside Composting Program, First of its Kind in New England

Cambridge recently launched a yearlong pilot curbside compost pickup program for 500-800 households in North Cambridge. Participating residents received a free outdoor green curbside bin, an indoor kitchen container, and a supply of compostable bags.

"Composting is a great way to reduce waste, protect the climate, build healthy soil, and control the City's trash costs," says Deputy City Manager and former Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson.

"This exciting initiative is another tool to help Cambridge become more green and sustainable."



Cambridge Farmers Markets



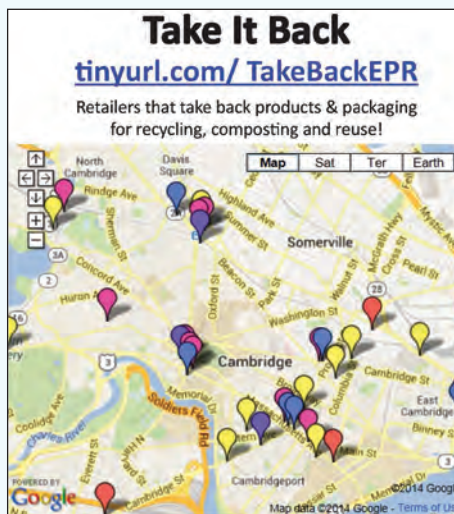
Farmers markets operate most days of the week in Cambridge. The City supports local markets to ensure that residents have year-round access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food. The markets in Central Square and at Harvard University accept the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits. SNAP participants can use \$10 in benefits to buy \$20 worth food. www.cambridgema.gov/farmersmarkets



Off-Leash Parks

Two fenced-in off leash dog areas are located at Danehy Park in North Cambridge and Pacific St. Park in Cambridgeport. Shared use off-leash areas include Fresh Pond Reservation in West Cambridge and Fort Washington Park in Cambridgeport. Shared Use Limited Hours parks (6-9am) include Corocoran Field, Gold Star Mother's, Gore Street and Raymond Parks. www.cambridgema.gov/offleash

New Google Maps Make Reducing Waste Easier



Cambridge Recycling has created two new Google maps to make reducing waste even easier!

Find 30+ retailers that take back products and packaging for recycling, composting, and reuse.

Find 20+ clothing drop boxes, 12+ consignment/thrift stores, 10+ second-hand furniture/household goods stores.

www.cambridgema.gov/Takeitbackmap
www.cambridgema.gov/Donateyourstuffmap

Best City for New Grads and Best Walking City

Livability.com named Cambridge the Best City for New College Grads, 2014, as it offers great job opportunities, a high concentration of young professionals, and many cultural amenities.

A December 2013 article in *Governing Magazine* stated that densely populated neighborhoods, commercial district city squares, and multiple public transit lines all span the City of Cambridge, creating an ideal environment for walking. The most recent Census counts estimate nearly one quarter of Cambridge residents walk to work, far more than any other larger U.S. city.



Photo: Mark Hornbuckle

Cambridge Preps for Climate Change

The first step to make Cambridge more prepared and resilient to climate change is to understand how we are vulnerable. The City's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment currently underway will provide the foundation for a climate change preparedness plan.

The Assessment includes: modeling of coastal storm surges to understand potential for surges to bypass dams; modeling of inland storms to assess capacity of stormwater systems to cope with intense rainfall; and mapping of heat vulnerability. Information on vulnerable populations, buildings, and infrastructure is being collected to create a baseline for analysis. The City will then rate the sensitivity of critical assets and populations and their capacity to recover from impacts. Ultimately, the assessment will identify areas and issues to prioritize in the climate change preparedness plan.

An important goal of the vulnerability assessment is to bring the community and key stakeholders along as the City develops a detailed understanding of Cambridge's vulnerabilities to climate change. Public workshops, an online survey, and other modes of outreach have been implemented to solicit community input. The City is also engaging the universities, major property owners, utilities, and others through a Technical Advisory Committee and is working with agencies at the state and regional level.

Cambridge has joined others around the country that are committed to creating more resilient communities in response to our nation's growing extreme weather and energy challenges. As an Inaugural Signatory of the Resilient Communities for America campaign, Cambridge has acknowledged that local

governments are on the front lines of responding to disruptions fueled by a changing climate and shifts in average climate.

Cambridge has committed to various initiatives to become more resilient to climate change:

- The Climate Protection Action Committee proposed 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction goals to the City Manager for City Council adoption in spring 2014.
- A task force of residents, businesses, and property owners is working with City staff to examine strategies and develop recommendations to help Cambridge become a "net zero emissions community."
- The City secured grant funding to support the development of a Kendall Square EcoDistrict.

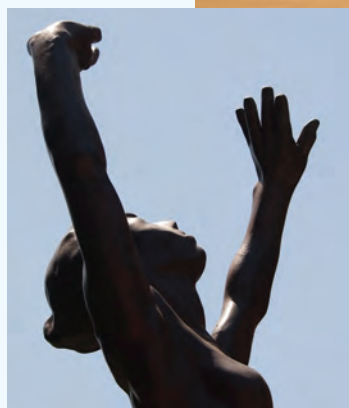
- In 2013, the City signed the Compact for a Sustainable Community in partnership with Harvard University, MIT, and key business stakeholders. This compact, which continues to expand, creates a framework for collaboration on climate change mitigation and resiliency planning.
- Through the CitySmart and Cambridge Energy Alliance programs, Cambridge is engaging closely with residents and businesses to educate and push for action towards sustainable modes of transportation, residential and business energy efficiency measures, and use of renewable energy in local buildings.

More Info: www.cambridgema.gov/climate



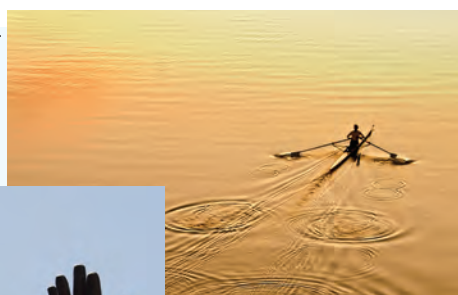
Resident Permit Photo Contest

The Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation is accepting digital photos of City buildings and historic Cambridge landmarks for the 2015 Resident Parking Permit Photo Contest. The winning photo will be displayed on the 2015 residential parking sticker. Many submissions are also displayed on the City's website. Photos may be emailed (in jpeg format) to: rppcontest@cambridgema.gov. The submission deadline is Friday, Aug. 29, 2014.



John Alda

Bimal Nepal



Molly Akin



Mike Payack



A publication of the Office of the City Manager, City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4300 • www.cambridgema.gov

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

City Manager Richard C. Rossi

Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson

2014-15 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.

ECRWSS

**Resident Postal Customer
Cambridge, MA**

How Would You Use City Data?

Have you been hearing about hack-a-thons or Code for America in the news lately? Chances are that you have since “data” is currently at the forefront of opening government to its citizens. While Cambridge has been publishing Geographic Information System (GIS) data for years, we are embarking on a new venture to make more City data available to the public.

The new Open Data Initiative is demonstrating firsthand Cambridge’s commitment to using technology to increase accessibility to and transparency of information owned by the City. Providing City-owned information through the Open Data Portal (www.cambridgema.gov/opendata) is one means through which the City can foster engagement and collaboration with its citizenry.

“Making government data available in easy to find and usable formats can create meaningful opportunities for the public to help solve complex challenges,” says Lee Gianetti, Director of Communication and Community Relations for the City. “However, the City is carefully balancing the goals of this Open Data Initiative with its obligation to protect private and confidential information, to ensure public safety and security, and to conduct City operations in an efficient and effective manner.” The goals of this new Initiative are: providing greater access to City data; creating greater transparency in government; improving the delivery of City services; and realizing social and commercial value (think Apps!).

You don’t need a Ph.D from MIT to take advantage of the City’s new Open Data Initiative. Visit www.cambridgema.gov/opendata to unlock your potential as a civic scientist.

cambridge  **open data**

Your Seat at the Table

The City of Cambridge encourages and promotes involvement by residents in the decision-making process through participation in a variety of boards and commissions. Volunteering to serve on a board or commission can be a rewarding experience and an excellent way to contribute to the quality of life of the community in which you live or work. To learn more, visit:
www.cambridgema.gov/boards.

Household Hazardous Waste Days **Toxic.Free.Home.** 

Saturday, June 7, 9am-1pm, Parking Lot, Volpe Transp. Bldg., 55 Broadway, East Cambridge.

Saturday, Aug. 23, 9am-1pm, Danehy Park lot, Field & Fern Streets.

www.cambridgema.gov/theworks



Looking to keep informed on the latest City news?

Follow City social media pages: www.cambridgema.gov/socialmedia