

City View

WINTER 2019-20



New Valente Branch Library Opens

Cambridge Public Library celebrated the opening of the Valente Branch Library at its new location at 826 Cambridge Street.

The new branch features extended hours on Monday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. This summer, the Valente Branch will open on Sundays, from 1-5 p.m., as part of a pilot program.

The Valente Branch is part of the King Open/Cambridge Street Upper Schools and Community Complex. The 10,000 square foot branch, which is twice the size of its predecessor, includes free wifi, a collection of over 28,000 items, and a multipurpose community room that will enable Valente to offer more programming, including author talks, public lectures, and children's story times. The community room will also be available for use by community organizations and nonprofits. Continuing the curved gesture of the terracotta-clad school building, Valente Branch serves as a transparent and welcoming beacon that activates a new civic plaza along Cambridge Street. Its soaring interior volume is infused with daylight from three sides to provide a balanced, glare free environment and a place people want to be.

One of the more beloved areas of the original Valente Branch built in 1961 was the Reading Garden, a space for individuals and families to reflect and play. Located next to the Childrens' Area, the reimagined Reading Garden maintains

its prominence at the new Valente Branch and is a refreshing outdoor space that complements the immersive and exciting experience of the library. The popular Alley Cats by Judy Kensley McKie have been restored in the new Reading Garden.

"We are thrilled that the new Valente Branch has opened and we thank the City of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for this tremendous investment in our community," said Dr. Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries. "Cantabrigians are proud of the space, size, accessibility, and welcoming nature of our public libraries, and this new space is another example of the City's commitment to enhancing the experience of Cambridge residents when visiting our libraries."

The Valente Branch Library was designed by William Rawn Associates, the architectural firm responsible for the signature glass wing addition to the Main Library. As with the rest of the school and community complex adjacent to the branch, Valente is designed to be a Net Zero building, producing as much renewable energy as it consumes.

Funding for Valente Branch Library was provided by the City of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

City Manager's Message



As City Manager, I will always look for ways to improve our operations, customer service, and outreach, and seek to build upon the many initiatives underway in the City. Over the past few years, we have made substantial progress in using data to be more transparent, efficient, and innovative, and 2019 has been a very busy year. I believe a strength of this City is the way in which departments, leadership, and staff work collaboratively with our elected officials. Our team works diligently to accomplish the policies established by the City Council and provide the day-to-day services that are important to our community. I appreciate the work that every employee does and the dedication that they show to the people of Cambridge.

In November, we welcomed six new Police Cadets to the first Cambridge Police Cadet class in more than 30 years. The Cadet Program provides another pathway within the civil service system for Cambridge residents to become Cambridge Police officers. This program is for residents between the ages of 18-23 years, offers on-the-job and classroom training, and provides a salary, benefits, and vacation time. Creating pathways for Cambridge residents to become Cambridge Police officers has been a priority of mine and the City Council. The next recruitment period for the Cadet Program begins in early 2020.

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Also, this fall, we opened the new \$159 million net zero-ready King Open/Cambridge Street Upper Schools and Community Complex, which includes an expanded Valente Branch Library. I am proud that this library branch includes a new community room, is open six days a week year-round, and will have Sunday hours during the summer months. The community complex also features a new Gold Star pool, which will be open for the 2020 summer season.

Currently underway is the planning for the design and construction of our third new school complex, the Tobin Montessori School, Vassal Lane Upper School. The City is actively evaluating various options for the site, and we are seeking and reviewing feedback collected through community meetings. I encourage you to learn more about this project and sign up to receive regular updates at cambridgema.gov/tobinschool. Once completed, the City will have invested approximately \$500 million in three new school buildings since 2013.

Finally, I am proud that the FY20 Budget contains the most significant increase in the City's history of non-CPA resources to the Affordable Housing Trust, a total of \$20.3 million of direct financial support. I am confident that the City will be able to increase the direct support to the Affordable Housing Trust in FY21 to \$27 million, double the amount provided in FY19.

It is a great honor for me to be able to lead this City that I love. The City Council has been a true partner with the administration. Their leadership on policy issues and their dedication to the residents of Cambridge ensures City Government is responsive to the needs of the community. Because of the fiscal policies the City Council adopts and the hard work of our staff, we have been able to provide increased support for important City priorities such as schools, housing, public safety, sustainability, infrastructure, and other City programs and capital improvements. I hope that you will take the time to read about the remarkable work that is being done by the City. As always, you are welcome to send me your feedback or ideas by calling my office at 617-349-4300 or emailing me at citymanager@cambridgema.gov.

Warmest Regards,



Louis DePasquale

Building Retrofit Program and Home and Business Energy Initiatives

The City recently partnered with Eversource to launch the Cambridge Building Energy Retrofit Program, which connects owners and operators of large buildings to a dedicated energy consultant that provides tailored energy efficiency services and technical support.

The program is an important step in furthering our Net Zero Action Plan, **CambridgeMA.gov/netzero**, which provides a roadmap for decreasing the city's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Buildings are responsible for 80% of the city's total emissions. Therefore, energy efficient buildings that run on renewable energy are central to the City's emission reduction strategy.

In 2014, Cambridge adopted the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) to collect energy-related data from large buildings. This energy data informs the initiatives under the City's Net Zero Action Plan and other energy programs, and helps track progress toward our climate goals over time. The 2015, 2016, and 2017 BEUDO data for individual properties is available on the Cambridge Open Data Portal, **CambridgeMA.gov/OpenData**.



The Cambridge Energy Alliance, part of the City's Community Development Department, also offers energy programs to help renters, home and condo owners, landlords and property managers, and small businesses become more energy efficient and use renewable energy. These programs include:

The Renter Energy Savings Program, a partnership of the City and nonprofit All In Energy, connects renters in 1-4 unit buildings with no-cost home energy assessments and no-cost upgrades. All In Energy also helps landlords and homeowners of 1-4 unit buildings make energy efficiency upgrades.

The Multi-Family Energy Program connects buildings that are 5 or more units

with no-cost energy assessments and free solar assessments. The program includes a free Retrofit Advisor who helps participants identify qualified contractors, gather contractor quotes, and compare energy upgrade options.

The Cambridge Heating and Cooling Marketplace, a partnership of the City and EnergySage, helps homeowners and landlords install air-source heat pumps and solar hot water. Advisors help participants review technology options and installation quotes.

Sunny Cambridge makes it easy for residents to determine their building's solar potential and request, receive, and compare solar quotes online.

Small Business Energy Solutions offers small businesses no-cost energy assessments from Mass Save partner AECOM with 70% off energy improvements including lighting, refrigeration, HVAC, and more.

Through these energy initiatives, the City takes a multi-faceted approach to achieving our climate mitigation goals. Whether someone is a renter, homeowner, landlord, property manager, or business owner in Cambridge, the City can help them make energy upgrades, cut their carbon footprint, and save money.

Learn more: **Cambridgeenergyalliance.org**.

Cambridge Sets Affordable Housing Agenda for FY20 and Beyond



With new resources in place to help the City address its top priority of affordable housing, and the challenges of creating and preserving housing affordability and community equity in a tight real estate market, two community partners have pledged their support to further these efforts.

Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have both announced strategic and complementary commitments to advance the work of the City, the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, and local affordable housing providers.

In August, Harvard announced the recommitment of \$20 million to an initiative that was originally launched in 2000 (formerly known as 20/20/2000), aimed at increasing the amount of affordable housing in Cambridge and the greater Boston area. Up to \$6 million from this program will come to Cambridge through the Harvard Local Housing Collaborative, the University's partnership with the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust, and other nonprofit community development lenders. The funds are provided in the form of low-interest, flexible loans, made available at the early stages of development (for land acquisition or costly predevelopment work) when it can be a critical element to demonstrate project feasibility and attract necessary financing from other sources. Early access to capital makes it possible for affordable housing developers to be competitive in the market at a time when it has never been tougher.

With its recommitment, Harvard anticipates that funding through the Collaborative will continue for the next two decades, noting that the original initiative helped support the preservation and creation of more than 1,600 affordable units in Cambridge.

In addition, MIT has announced its donation to the City of a key property at the gateway to Central Square, for the purpose of creating more affordable housing for families in Cambridge. The three-story, six-unit apartment building at 822 Main Street anchors the southeast end of the Square near Jill Brown-Rhone Park. The area surrounding the property has been developing rapidly, with new residential units, restaurants and commercial space, and a new boutique hotel soon to open across the street.

MIT's building has been vacant for some years as development alternatives were being considered, but the City's determination to move the needle on affordable housing and economic opportunity motivated the decision to donate, which was announced at an October open house for MIT's new "Job Connector" program, a community benefit incorporated into the zoning agreement for the 14-acre Volpe site redevelopment in Kendall Square. The Job Connector was established to get more Cambridge residents into higher-paying jobs in the tech sectors.



Public/Private Partnerships

Both Harvard's and MIT's continued partnership with the City and contributions toward affordable housing goals exemplify how private organizations can have a meaningful impact on the lives of those who live and work within the broader community. Housing affordability promotes stability for residents and allows for building the social, economic, and cultural bonds which strengthen our community.

The City allocation of over \$20 million through the FY20 budget toward affordable housing, combined with an additional array of interdepartmental efforts to address housing-related issues, reflects Cambridge's determination to remain a diverse and welcoming community. Progressive policy-making has also helped to ensure that growth in the commercial sector is mitigated by contributions toward attainment of that overarching goal. From July through October 2019, contributions to the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust from developers of commercial property exceeded \$9 million.

Construction Underway or Nearing Completion

Work at the new 98-unit Finch Cambridge apartment building at 671 Concord Avenue (near Fresh Pond Reservation) is nearing completion, and the development began accepting applications for rental units, which will be filled through a lottery process. The largest new construction of affordable housing in Cambridge in 40 years, Finch was designed to meet the highest energy-efficiency and sustainability standards. Apartments in this building will be permanently affordable to low, moderate, and middle-income households, and include one, two, and three-bedroom units, with five fully-accessible ADA apartments and two sensory-accessible apartments.

Other key projects across the City have advanced, with construction underway at Frost Terrace (40 new units of affordable rental housing in Porter Square), Squirrelwood (23 new affordable rental units and preservation/recapitalization of 65 existing units in the Port), and the 61-unit George Close Building renovation. Also, work to preserve affordability at the 504-unit Fresh Pond Apartments continues; this is the last of 10 large properties identified in 2010 as being at significant risk.

All this adds up to a substantial win for Cambridge. With an ambitious affordable housing agenda for FY20 and beyond, the City and its partners in all sectors of the community are focused on the big picture, working together to sustain a healthy community that offers access to opportunity across the board.

Learn more: [CambridgeMA.gov/housing](https://www.cambridgema.gov/housing).

Winter Storm Tips and Reminders

As we prepare for the winter season, we wanted to provide some helpful reminders and ways for residents to stay informed during a snow storm. Our goals are to chemically treat all major streets within three hours of when snow begins, to keep them plowed during all stages of a storm, and to clear all streets and the sidewalks bordering City property once a storm has ended. We have also been evaluating our processes to remove snow as efficiently and effectively as possible and are investing in new equipment and techniques to make the City's sidewalks and streets safe and passable for all users throughout the season.

New Snow Removal Techniques

Last year, the City piloted a new snow removal technique using a saltwater solution called brine which was sprayed on streets in advance of a predicted storm. Since it proved effective in preventing snow and ice from bonding with street surfaces and resulted in easier and more efficient removal of snow, the program is expanding. Public Works is constructing its own brine farm with new tanks and a brine making machine to treat all main streets and some additional side streets. Applying brine to the pavement before snow or ice has formed can be 10 times more effective than placing salt crystals on top of snow and ice after the precipitation has bonded to the pavement. This results in easier snow removal with an overall reduction in the amount of salt used.



Photos: Kyle Klein



**Clear Sidewalks
to Bare Pavement
at Least
3 Feet Wide**



**Clear Catch Basins
& Help Clear
Fire Hydrants**

What You Can Do

Register for City Alerts: CambridgeMA.gov/Subscribe

Help us, help your neighbors, and help the entire community by keeping sidewalks, fire hydrants, and catch basins clear of ice and snow. As a reminder, per City Ordinance:

- * Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property or business within 12 hours after it stops falling in the daytime, and before 1 p.m. when it has fallen overnight. Cleared paths on sidewalks must be 3-4 feet wide, to allow wheelchairs and strollers to pass through. Corner properties must also clear sidewalks on all sides and clear ramps at crosswalks.
- * Remove or melt all ice within 6 hours from the time it forms. Shovel early and often and remove as much snow and ice as you can before using a deicing agent. Use a deicer product like sodium acetate, potassium acetate, or calcium magnesium acetate instead of salt since excess salt can be harmful to plants, wildlife, and can run off into local waterways. For wet snow or sleet and freezing rain, apply deicer product before it starts to snow to prevent snow and ice from bonding with pavement.
- * If you are away, it is still your responsibility to ensure someone clears sidewalks and ramps next to your property. The fine for failing to comply with the City's sidewalk clearance ordinance is \$50 per day.

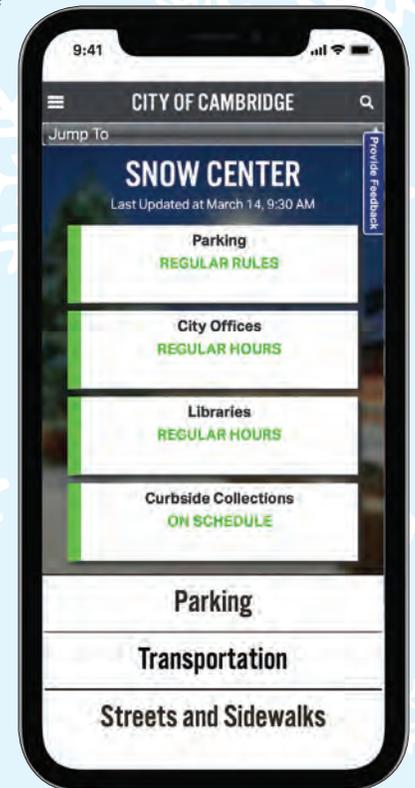
Storm Updates and Parking Information

Visit Cambridge Snow Center, CambridgeMA.gov/Snow

The City of Cambridge Snow Center, CambridgeMA.gov/snow, includes information and updates about snow emergency parking restrictions, alternative off-street parking, closures, and services. Even if no snow emergency has been declared, please remember these general on-street parking guidelines:

- * Park at least 20 feet from street corners so plows can push snow away from crosswalks. Parking away from the corner improves visibility and safety year-round.
- * It is illegal to use space savers to hold a cleared parking space; objects left in on-street parking spaces may be removed.

- * Think safety: clear out fire hydrants and street drains while digging out your car.
- * When digging out your car, think about how you pile snow: don't create new problems in the street or on the sidewalk.
- * Please don't take it personally if plows push snow back into your driveway or parked car. This may be unavoidable as we work to keep streets passable during all stages of a storm.



Report Issues Through COMMONWEALTH CONNECT



See sidewalks, bike lanes, streets, or bus stops that need clearing?

Reporting an issue takes only a minute and helps make our streets and sidewalks safer.

Download the free app for iPhone or Android, or visit:



**CambridgeMA.GOV/CommonwealthConnect
to report online.**

Register for Snow Alerts

Register to receive Snow Emergency Parking Ban alerts via phone, text, or email through CodeRED at CambridgeMA.gov/Subscribe, or follow us on Twitter at [@CambMA](https://twitter.com/CambMA) and Facebook at [CambridgeMA.Gov](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeMA.Gov). The City is using the hash tag [#CambMASnow](https://twitter.com/CambMASnow) on Twitter to help the public follow the conversation.

Snow Exemption Program and Shoveling Assistance

Low income residents who are elderly or have a disability may qualify for the City's Snow Exemption Program. For more information, call the Cambridge Council on Aging, 617-349-6220 (voice) or 617-349-6050 (TTY). If you do not qualify, the Council on Aging can provide a limited list of professional snow removal companies and students who will shovel for a fee to be negotiated.

STEAM for All at Cambridge Public Library

In September 2019, the Cambridge STEAM Initiative attained an important milestone with the opening of the STEAM Learning Lab at Cambridge Public Library (CPL). STEAM education targets the STEM fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – but adds an Arts dimension, to engage more individuals, and to recognize the creative and artistic habits of mind in STEM professions. Cambridge STEAM Initiative, a partnership between the Department of Human Service



Programs, Cambridge Public Library, and Cambridge Public Schools, is committed to creating, enhancing, and expanding equitable access to quality STEAM learning experiences from birth to adulthood.

The Learning Lab is a flexible learning space with a classroom-scale web-conferencing system, flexible furniture, and laptop charging carts to support a wide range of activities and events. Multiple video cameras and ceiling microphones allow instructors and peer classrooms around the globe to virtually lead or participate in courses. The space is optimized for classes of 20-25, with a maximum capacity of 50.

The Hive Creativity Zone

The Hive, a new creativity zone scheduled to open in February 2020 at the Main Library, will provide free, hands-on STEAM learning opportunities for patrons, resources for personal projects, and serve as a hub for skill sharing and creative collaboration. The Hive will be composed of a

digital fabrication lab (Fab Lab) or makerspace, multimedia recording studios, and an extended reality lab.

The makerspace will be stocked with digital and traditional fabrication tools, including laser cutters, 3D printers, digital sewing and embroidery machines, and other cutting-edge tools for the use of patrons. MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms began an outreach project in 2001 to develop widespread access to modern means for invention via Fab Labs. Although the collaborative network now boasts over 1,200 creative spaces worldwide, The Hive will be the first Fab Lab in its home City of Cambridge that is free and open to the public.

The Hive's two multimedia recording studios will support audio recording for 1-2 people such as for podcasts, audiobook recording, and interviews, and a larger studio with attached control room for larger groups. These educational spaces provide rich opportunities to merge arts and technology.

The Hive also includes an Extended Reality Lab (XR Lab) for experiencing and experimenting with virtual, augmented, and mixed reality. A variety of high-powered XR headsets and 3D recording devices will be available, as well as a large screen for mirroring what participants are seeing to instructors and observers. Patrons and students will be exposed to these emerging technologies and learn how to actively create content for them.

The Tech Bar

The Tech Bar being built at the Main Library will be half device checkout station and half technology advice center. Patrons will walk up to an attractive service bar, staffed by friendly and knowledgeable library staff, where they can check out laptops, tablets, mobile hotspots, and other devices, and get help with technology-related questions. Digital screens will display available items. The Tech Bar will be optimized for a comfortable portable computing experience, with relaxed furniture and a new "work bar" seating section. Patrons can take Tech Bar devices anywhere in the library (and some even beyond).

The Library's commitment to the Cambridge STEAM Initiative extends beyond the construction of new spaces at Main; it also includes efforts to enhance STEAM offerings across all branch libraries through programming, in-house resources, and circulating materials. STEAM kits for a range of ages can be checked out at all locations. Learn more: CambridgeMA.gov/CPLSteam.



New Renewal Period for Resident Parking Permits

The renewal season for Resident/Visitor Parking Permits has changed and will now run from January 2 - March 31, 2020. Current Resident and Visitor Permits are valid through March 31, 2020. The 2020 Resident/Visitor Permit renewal season will begin on January 2, 2020. On December 15, residents can begin completing the online application. No permits will be issued or mailed before January 2. Online applications take 3-5 weeks to process. The featured photo on 2020 Permit is Little Fresh Pond by Judy Silvan. Learn more: CambridgeMa.gov/RPP.



Cambridge Announces 20 MPH Speed Limit on Most City-Owned Streets

The City of Cambridge will reduce the speed limit on most City-owned streets to 20 mph in mid-November.

The new speed limits will apply on smaller, primarily local-access streets. Larger, arterial roads will still have a speed limit of 25 mph, unless otherwise posted. By driving at or below 20 mph, people can help reduce the likelihood of a crash. Lowering speed limits is a key part of the city's Vision Zero strategy to eliminate all crashes that result in serious or fatal injuries. If a crash does happen, it is much less likely to cause serious injury or fatality. When in doubt, go 20 mph.

Data show that reducing speeds has a big impact on the outcome of crashes. A study from the

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety showed that people walking are almost half as likely to be killed or seriously injured if struck by a car traveling 25 mph as compared to a car traveling 30 mph.

"We've heard concerns about speeding from people throughout the Cambridge community," said Joseph Barr, Director of the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department. "Reducing the speed limit is an important step towards addressing those concerns. This change will also inform the way that we design our streets and help support our ongoing traffic calming efforts."

During implementation, approximately 660 "Safety Zone" signs will be installed. A contractor, managed by City staff, will complete the

majority of the work. Installations will begin in mid-November and proceed for approximately three months. Work will start in East Cambridge and proceed across the city to the west.

A map of streets with 20 mph speed limits and approximate sign locations is available at cambridgema.gov/20mph. The map will be updated on an ongoing basis as new signs are installed.

Reducing the speed limit on most City-owned streets to 20 mph follows the reduction of the default speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph in December of 2016. It also builds off work in early 2018 to decrease speed limits to 20 mph in the city's five squares. Both this and the previous speed limit changes were made possible by the State's 2016 Municipal Modernization Act. Chapter 90, Section 18B of the Massachusetts General Laws allows the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department Director to establish 20 mph safety zones in the interest of public safety.

Learn more about Vision Zero, [CambridgeMA.gov/ Visionzero](http://CambridgeMA.gov/Visionzero).

Recycling Contamination Rates Continue to Decrease

Cambridge residents are Recycling Right! For the third straight quarter, the City saw a reduction in the recycling contamination rate.

Contamination exists when residents put items in the curbside recycling bin that do not belong there. Things like textiles, electronics, and wire hangers all count as contamination during regular recycling audits from the City's recycling contractor, Casella. Higher contamination rates mean higher costs for the City.

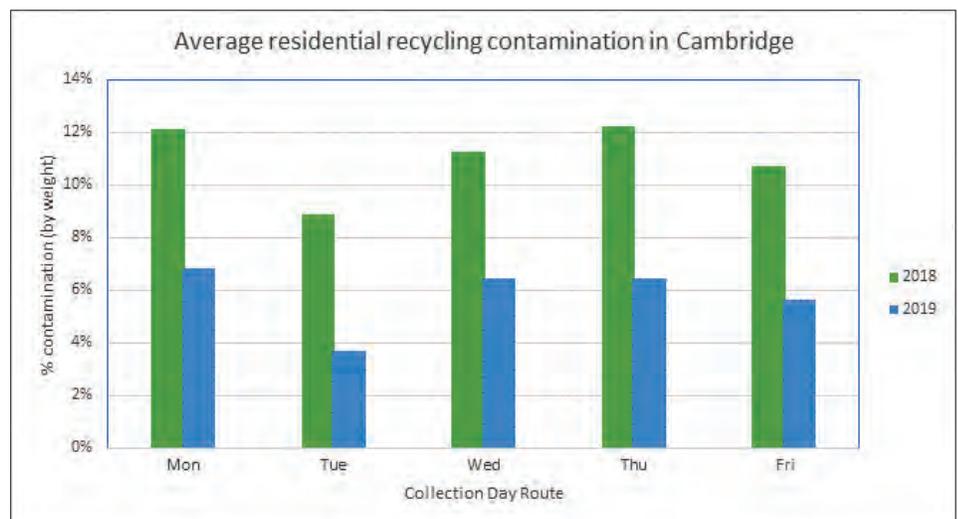
In June 2018, when the average contamination rate was 11%, the City launched the Recycle Right campaign. Since then, we've tagged thousands of curbside recycling carts with "Oops" tags to educate residents about what should and should not go into the single-stream recycling. We've mailed thousands of postcards and advertised on bus shelters and Blue Bikes stations. We've also talked to thousands of neighbors door-to-door and at community events across the City.

We're thrilled to announce that the average contamination rate for the first three quarters of 2019 is 5.9%! The Thursday route has shown the biggest improvement in the City, reducing its average contamination rate from 12% to 6%.

Thanks to the diligence of Cambridge residents, our recycling program is becoming more resilient to the global market changes cities around the country are facing, ensuring that the Cambridge can continue to develop programs that divert waste from landfills.

For more information visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle.

Photo: Kyle Klein





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City Manager Louis A. DePasquale
Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson

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- Vice Mayor Jan Devereux
- Councillor Dennis J. Carlone
- Councillor Craig A. Kelley
- Councillor Alanna M. Mallon
- Councillor Sumbul Siddiqui
- Councillor E. Denise Simmons
- Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
- Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan

**ECRWSS
Resident Postal Customer
Cambridge, MA**

Annual City Census vs. US Census 2020 Why You Need to Complete Both

The City of Cambridge is required by state law to conduct an Annual City Census of all residents age 3 and older. This form is mailed to Cambridge households at the end of January/beginning of February and is due back in 10 days. The information helps maintain the City's active voter list and provides a count of residents. If you are not a registered voter in Cambridge, it is the only way the Election Commission can verify residency. Responses are also compiled for the annual Street List Book containing names and addresses of every resident age 17 and older.

Required by the US Constitution every 10 years, the US Census is a count of the entire country to determine the number of seats each state has in the US House of Representatives for the next decade, and the number of Electoral College votes each state receives. For Cambridge, it is estimated that over \$2,000 in federal funding per resident, per year is allocated based on US Census data. Most residents will receive a postcard in March 2020 inviting them to participate in the US Census online, via phone, or by a paper form. All responses to the US Census are kept confidential.

The Annual City Census and the US Census are important for different reasons, and we're asking you to make sure you are counted in both in 2020. Learn more about the Annual City Census at cambridgema.gov/census or the US Census at cambridgema.gov/2020census.

<i>City Census</i>	<i>US Census</i>
Happens every year	Happens every 10 years
Required by State Law	Required by US Constitution
Information is public	Information is confidential
Determines active voter list	Determines # of seats in US House of Rep.
Verifies Residency	Secures Federal Funding

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