

## MESSAGE FROM THE



### City Manager

I am pleased to report that the City of Cambridge has gained local and national recognition in a variety of areas.

*Prevention* magazine named Cambridge the Best Walking City in America. *Popular Science* magazine ranked Cambridge the sixth greenest city in the U.S. For the ninth consecutive year, the City maintained its three Triple A ratings from the nation's three major credit rating agencies. This is the highest rating that can be awarded to a municipality. Cambridge also received the Mass. Municipal Association Innovation Award for its partnership to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions through the creation of the Cambridge Energy Alliance.

Additionally, Common Cause Massachusetts presented Cambridge with the 2008 E-Government Award in recognition of its commitment to open government by posting all key government records on its Web site. For the third consecutive year, Cambridge was named as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise - the Alliance for Youth. The Cambridge Prevention Coalition, a division of the Department of Human Services Programs, won a National Exemplary Award for its Innovative Substance Abuse Programs. The Community Development Department's Lead Safe Program was also awarded \$770,000 from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to continue its important program to remove lead paint from Cambridge residences.

I urge you to visit the City's Web site often, [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov), for current City news and sign up for the Cambridge E-Line newsletter.

Robert W. Healy

## Police Department Launches Cambridge Alert Network and Youth/Family Services Unit



The Cambridge Police Department recently launched The **Cambridge Alert Network**, a new interactive way to keep the community connected and informed through optional e-mail or text message public safety alerts. The new initiative will also enable the public to report suspicious activities easily through the Text-A-Tip program.

Interested persons can sign up for The **Cambridge Alert Network** via a dedicated Web page link on the Police Department Web site, [www.cambridgepolice.org](http://www.cambridgepolice.org). Subscribers can receive alerts via e-mail or as a text message to their cell phone. Options include citywide, neighborhood specific or business type alerts, as well as alerts from other cities. The "Text-A-Tip" program will enable the public to submit anonymous tips to the Police Department about suspicious activity via text mes-

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## SPOTLIGHT ON CAMBRIDGE

### Cambridge Named Best Walking City in America



Cambridge was recently awarded the **Best Walking City in America** by *Prevention* magazine with more residents walking to work (26%) and more parks per square mile than any other city in the country. *Prevention* magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association annually team up to measure the walkability of America's cities as interest in walking for fitness remains strong. Cambridge also has the second highest percentage of non-automobile commuters (56%, after New York City at 65%). In addition, bicycle commuting in the city has increased by 70% since 2002. While its size, density and compact land use give Cambridge a natural advantage, the rapid growth in bicycling and walking can also be traced to the City's long-standing focus on making it easier for people to walk, bike and take transit.

### Cambridge Named 6th Greenest City

The February issue of *Popular Science* magazine ranked Cambridge the **sixth greenest city in the U.S.** Rankings were based on raw data from U.S. Census Bureau and *National Geographic Society's Green Guide*, which collected survey data and government statistics for American Cities over 100,000 people in more than 30 categories, including air quality, electricity use and transportation habits.



**Cambridge Won America's Promise 100 Best Communities for Young People for Third Year in a Row.**

## City to Open Two New Parks

Comprehensive renovations to the **Father Callanan Playground at the John M. Tobin School** began in 2007 and will be completed this spring. The refurbished park features a new play structure for school age children and swings near the school building, a new separate and enclosed play area for children 5 years old and under on the nearby section of field, a new hard court play area featuring a full basketball court where the former playground was located along Concord Avenue, marked paved areas suitable for other hard surface play, and two half basketball courts. More information is available online at: [www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/parks/tobin](http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/parks/tobin)

This summer, **Costa Lopez Taylor Park in East Cambridge** will be renovated and expanded by incorporating a parcel of land donated to the city at the corner of Lopez Avenue and Charles Street. The new space was designed with input from area residents and the East Cambridge Planning Team. It will include a sitting area with tables, chairs, benches, plantings and other decorative features, as well as about 37 community gardening plots in above-ground planting beds. The plots will be assigned and managed through the Cambridge Conservation Commission's community gardening program. The design also integrates a sculpture by artist Roberley Bell. **For more information, visit [www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/parks/coslop](http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/parks/coslop).** ■



**CAMBRIDGE  
E-LINE**

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

CityView is published in the spring and fall by the City Manager's Office as a community update for residents.

Editor: Ini Tomeu, Public Information Officer, 617-349-4339.

CityView is printed on recycled paper. ♻️

For more information about recycling in Cambridge, please visit [www.cambridgema.gov/theworks](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks)



823 Main Street  
Just A Start Corporation

## Construction to Begin on Two Green Affordable Condominium Developments in Area Four

Construction will begin this spring on Just A Start's 10-unit condominium development on Main Street and Cascap's 24-unit condominium development on Harvard Street.

Both projects are smart-growth developments and will feature green building materials and sustainable features. Each will be among the first in the state to receive funding through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's new Green Affordable Housing Initiative. This funding will be used to install photovoltaic panels to significantly reduce utility costs for future homeowners and will help create a model of green building in Cambridge.

### 823 Main Street, Just A Start Corporation

For more than 10 years, the former Nightstage nightclub stood vacant on the corner of Main and Cherry Streets. Ten new condominium units will be constructed that will be affordable to first-time homebuyers. The project will include one, two and three-bedroom condos.

The project will create family housing close to transportation, jobs, schools and shops. The addition of these new homeownership units will add to the vibrant mix of residential, commercial and retail along Main Street and the surrounding neighborhood.

### 125 Harvard Street, Cascap



Located on the site of a former printing facility, Cascap's Harvard Street development will transform an unused industrial site into 24 new condominium units that will be affordable to first-time homebuyers.

The units will range in size from one to three bedrooms and will include energy efficient materials and fixtures.

This particular site is an ideal location for new housing, given its proximity to public transportation and the recently expanded Harvard Street park, which is only one block away. ■

## War Memorial to Re-Open Fall 2008

The War Memorial facility at 1640 Cambridge Street will re-open this fall after an extensive renovation. Cambridge Recreation will be offering new programs and activities for children and adults, including a week of classes and activities offered at no cost to introduce teachers, staff and coaches. The synchronized team will demonstrate and perform routines. Tennis, yoga, aqua aerobics and swim instruction will be offered, along with life conditioning, karate and more. Interested in becoming a skilled adult volleyball player so you can participate in leagues and pick-up programs? We can help! Looking for a place to hold a Birthday Party for your child? Check us out! More information will be available as the opening draws closer. The War Memorial brochure will be mailed out August 8 and will be on the Web site by August 13. We look forward to serving all of our past and current participants, as well as welcoming many new friends to our wonderful facility. **For more information, call 617-349-6237. Cambridge Recreation is a Division of the Department of Human Services.** ■

# BE CLEAN & GREEN

## during Spring Cleaning Projects



### When Cleaning Indoors:

- **Dispose of chemicals properly**
  - 2008 Household Hazardous Waste Collection: June 21 & Oct. 25, 9 am- 1 pm, 450 Concord Ave. Accepted materials: [www.cambridgema.gov/recycle](http://www.cambridgema.gov/recycle)
- **Dispose of compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) properly**
  - Replacing four standard bulbs with CFLs reduces your electric bill by more than \$100 over the life of the bulbs and prevents 5,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. CFLs contain mercury and must be properly disposed.

Local stores that accept CFLs for recycling: Dickson Brothers, Economy Hardware, Inman Square Hardware, Masse Hardware, Tags Ace Hardware and Whole Foods on River St. CFLs are also accepted at the Cambridge Recycling Drop-off Center, 147 Hampshire Street during open hours (Tues/Thurs 4-7:30 pm & Sat 9-4 pm) and at household hazardous waste collection days (see above).

### When Cleaning Outdoors:

- **Rain showers eventually flow into the Charles River and Alewife Brook**

Follow these tips to help protect our local waterways:

  - Only water goes down the drain! Don't wash anything (chemicals, sand, debris, leaves) into a storm drain.
  - Storm drains protect us from flooding - be sure to keep them clear.
  - Reduce runoff from yards: seed or mulch bare spots to keep topsoil from eroding and reduce the use of fertilizer (instead, compost your grass clippings or leave them on the lawn as fertilizer). If you must fertilize, test your soil first and use the minimum necessary.
  - Reduce hard surfaces in yard and plant trees, shrubs and groundcover to help rain water soak into the ground.
  - Use rain water in the garden, either by collecting in a rain barrel or by directing downspouts toward planted areas. Contact DPW about purchasing a rain barrel to capture runoff from your roof.
- **Guard against rodents by reducing yard waste and rubbish**
  - Clean up debris and yard waste. Yard waste is collected curbside on recycling day, either loose in barrels marked with red City stickers or in paper refuse bags. Yard waste in plastic bags is not accepted.
  - Clean rubbish storage areas regularly.
  - Store rubbish and yard waste in covered rodent resistant barrels.
- **New Leaf Blower Ordinance**
  - In response to the community's desire to balance the benefits and drawbacks of leaf blowers, the Cambridge City Council enacted an ordinance (Cambridge Municipal Code Section 8.16.081, effective Mar. 1, 2008) that governs the operation of this equipment. Ordinance highlights include:

### Equipment:

Leaf blowers must meet current EPA emissions standards and the sound they emit cannot exceed 65 decibels (per manufacturer's rating).

**Dates Permitted:** Mar. 15 – June 15 & Sept. 15 – Dec. 31

**Dates Prohibited:** Jan. 1 – Mar. 14 & June 16 – Sept. 14;

All Sundays and Legal holidays, except Columbus & Veterans' Days

**Hours of Use:** (during permitted dates) Mon – Fri: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Sat:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Columbus Day:** Noon – 5 p.m. **Veterans' Day:** 1 –5 p.m.

### Enforcement:

Reports of violations should be directed to the License Commission (during City office hours) at 617-349-6140, or to the Police Department (after hours) at 617-349-3300.

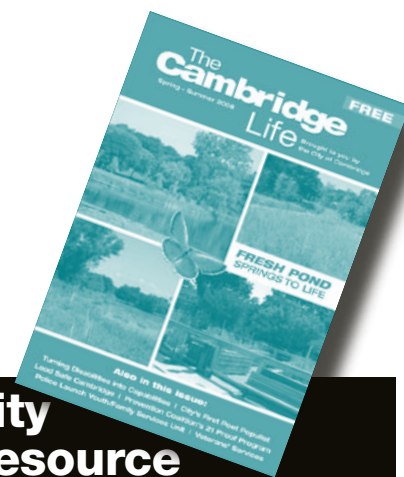
**Note:** Additional restrictions apply to commercial operators and large property owners. See [www.cambridgema.gov/leafblowers](http://www.cambridgema.gov/leafblowers).

**For more information about any of these topics, visit the Department of Public Works Web site at [www.cambridge.ma.gov/theworks](http://www.cambridge.ma.gov/theworks).**

## 2008 ELECTION SCHEDULE

STATE PRIMARY –  
TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

STATE/PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION –  
TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4, 2008



## City Resource Guide

The City of Cambridge recently published the spring-summer edition of *The Cambridge Life* Magazine and City Resource Guide. The free, biannual publication features new initiatives and programs, a helpful resources section, a newcomers' guide and a calendar of upcoming events. *The Cambridge Life* can be picked up at news boxes in the city's major squares, at Cambridge City Hall, Cambridge Public Library branches and can also be viewed online at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov). **To request copies, contact Ini Tomeu, Public Information Officer at 617-349-4339 or [itomeu@cambridgema.gov](mailto:itomeu@cambridgema.gov).** ■



# SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE...

## FRESH POND DAY MAY 10!!

Join us for the first-ever Fresh Pond Day, Saturday, May 10, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge (rain or shine). At press time, the event was still in the planning stages, so please refer to the City's Web site for the most updated information, [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) or call 617-349-4300. We hope you will join us in the City's largest open space area to celebrate all of the things that make Fresh Pond Reservation special. A series of events were in the works at press time, including walks for kids, a senior walk, nature and water facility tours, tree planting demonstration, bike rides, combining literacy and physical activity, dog licensing, ecology, energy conservation and recycling education, as well as other interactive events and information booths, etc. Parking will be limited. There will be free shuttle buses from City youth and senior centers, and the Alewife T-Stop. Healthy snacks will also be available. ■

## Family Fun Day June 7

The Center for Families' 5th annual Summer Family Fun Day will be held Saturday, June 7, from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Rindge Field (behind Peabody School, 70 Rindge Avenue), with lots of fun activities for toddlers and preschoolers as well as older kids. Free lunch will be served. A shuttle bus will make stops at the Rindge Avenue bus stop near Alewife T station, Jefferson Park Head Start, Walden Square and Rindge Field. For more information, call 617-349-6385 or visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/families.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/families.cfm). ■



## Secret Gardens of Cambridge June 22

The eighth open gardens day, sponsored by the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library, will be held Sunday, June 22, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This self-guided tour includes access to hidden private gardens, special green space and historic locations throughout the city. For more information, call 617-349-4029 or TTY 617-349-4421. ■



## City Dance Party June 27

Dance in the street in front of City Hall at this Friday night dance party for all ages!

Colorful lights after dark add to the magic of the evening!

## GO WILD, READ! for Kids



All kids, kindergartners through fourth graders, are invited to join GO WILD, READ! the 2008 summer reading program that starts June 23 at Cambridge Public Library. Sign up at your neighborhood library, get your Safari Reading Log and win prizes! Stalk the library shelves for a new favorite book! Solve the clues for the "Animal of the Week!" Don't miss the live animals that will be visiting libraries this summer...exotic cats, sled dogs, reptiles, a wolf, a petting zoo and Farmer Miner and his pig, Daisy! The Museum of Science will be back again as well as special story times and summer crafts! For more information, call 617-349-4409/TTY 617-349-4421. ■

## STUFF for Preteens & Teens

Join STUFF, the summer reading program designed for preteens and teens, starting June 23 at Cambridge Public Library. Sign up and start reading! Earn a raffle ticket for every three hours of reading. Prizes included a selection

of awesome gift certificates! Come to Game Night on July 17 with DDR, Guitar Hero and more. Check out our Web site for more information, [www.cambridgepubliclibrary.org](http://www.cambridgepubliclibrary.org) or call 617-349-4409/TTY 617-349-4421. ■



## Museum Passes for Library Cardholders

Free and discounted passes to museums and zoos are available with your Cambridge Public Library card. For more information, call 617-349-4044 ■

## Screen on the Green



Enjoy cool flicks under the stars on a new "movie theater size" screen. Wednesday evenings in July & August. Locations vary. Presented by the Dept of Human Services' Recreation & Youth divisions.

Recreation & Youth divisions.

For movies titles, call 617-349-6200 or visit [www. http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/](http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/)

July 16 @ Donnelly Field (Rain Site – Frisoli Youth Ctr.)

July 23 @ Hoyt Field (Rain Site – Moore Youth Ctr.)

July 30 @ Rindge Field (Rain Site – Gately Youth Ctr.)

Aug. 6 @ Sennott Park (Rain Site – Area IV Youth Ctr.)

Aug. 13 @ Danehy Park (Rain Site TBA)

Aug. 20 @ Glacken Field (Rain Site – Haggerty School) ■

## Walk/Ride Days

Join commuters in Cambridge and participate in monthly Walk/Ride Days on the last Friday of every month. Do something that's positive for the environment and good for your health! Travel by foot, bike, carpool, bus or train. Walk/Ride Days are supported by the Green Streets Initiative—a grassroots organization advocating the use of alternative modes of urban transportation. Participants are eligible for promotional items and prizes from sponsoring businesses. Visit: [www.gogreenstreets.org](http://www.gogreenstreets.org). ■

Upcoming Walk/Ride Day dates are:

May 30 Sept 26

June 27 Oct 31

July 25 Nov 28

Aug 29

# SAVE THE DATE...



**May is GoGreen Month** 617-349-4604  
www.cambridgema.gov/gogreen  
Community Bike Ride (May 17), commuter appreciation days, transportation fairs and GoGreen Business awards for outstanding environmental efforts.

**15th Annual Dance Month**  
617-547-9363 www.dancecomplex.org  
Month-long celebration of dance. Kick-off party: May 3, 8 p.m. @ DanceComplex, 536 Mass. Ave.

**Water Week**  
**May 4 – 10 (Fresh Pond Day May 10)**  
Cambridge Water Department, 250 Fresh Pond Pkwy  
Open house, tours, events for kids and families. www.cambridgema.gov/CWD

**Memorial Day Parade & Observance**  
**May 28**  
Veterans' Services Department 617-349-4764. www.cambridgema.gov/vet  
Parade at 9:30 a.m. from Cambridge Common to Cambridge Cemetery. Observance at 11 a.m.

**Taste of Cambridge June 19**  
www.tasteofcambridge.com  
Rain date June 26  
This food tasting extravaganza in Technology Square features samples of food and drink from restaurants throughout the city. Tickets are \$40 at the door.

**Hoops 'N' Health June 21**  
Cambridge Health Alliance  
617-876-0713  
Annual basketball and flag football tournament and health fair features DJ, live entertainment, free food, prizes, and children's games. Free and open to the public. Hoyt Field, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Summer Reading Kick-Off Party with Curious Creatures June 26**  
Cambridge Public Library  
617-349-4019  
Curious Creature traveling animal show will bring live animals to the library! A fun-filled kick-off party for all ages beginning at 3:30 p.m.

**Dance Party June 27**  
Dance in the street in front of City Hall at this lively Friday night party for the entire Cambridge community. 617-349-4301. www.cambridgema.com

**National Night Out Against Crime**  
**Aug. 5**  
617-349-4293 www.ncctf.nhfind.com  
"A Going Away Party to Crime and Drugs!" from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Rindge

Field, 70 Rindge Ave. Free amusements, community cookout, wildlife demonstrations, raffle, info on crime and drug prevention.

**Cambridge Discovery Days**  
**August 9 – 16**  
www.cambridgema.gov/historic/walks.html  
617-349-4683  
Explore historic and architectural Cambridge in all its diversity on informative walks and at events throughout Cambridge.

**Summer Reading Party with Jim St. Clair Aug. 21**  
Cambridge Public Library  
617-349-4019  
Enjoy a round of songs and stories with Jim St. Clair! All ages. 3:30 p.m. at the O'Connell Branch.

**Cambridge Carnival Aug. 24**  
Cambridge Carnival International, Inc.  
www.cambridgecarnival.com  
A colorful and festive celebration in Kendall Square featuring dazzling handmade costumes, music, parades, dancing, food, and craft exhibits.

**Danehy Park Family Day Sept. 20**  
www.cambridgema.gov



Arts Council's Summer in the City performance by Mystic Paper Beasts

photo: Kate Peck

**Contribute to a Community Poem**  
As part of the new Poet Populist program, the Cambridge Arts Council wants your participation in capturing the creativity, community spirit and joy in our city. We are looking for uplifting themes of city life, peace, love, community spirit, the past, present and future of Cambridge. All citizens, school groups, neighborhood centers, senior centers, and youth groups are encouraged to submit two couplets (a pair of rhymed lines). The City's first Poet Populist, Peter Payack, who was elected to his post in November, will arrange the couplets in a "City Poem" to be presented at the end of the year as a gift to the people of Cambridge from the people of Cambridge. Submissions will be accepted through November 14 (though the sooner the better). Please send to poet-populist@cambridgema.gov.

**Cambridge River Festival June 14**  
On Saturday, June 14, from Noon to 6 p.m., the 29th Cambridge River Festival will make its annual splash along the Charles River and Memorial Drive, between Western Ave. & JFK St. Celebrate the arts with music, dance, poetry, visual art, hands-on art activities, international foods, and handmade arts & crafts for sale. Kick off the summer with this FREE celebration of the arts, which attracts over 100,000 people annually. Sponsored by the Cambridge Arts Council. Volunteers are needed!! E-mail CRFVolunteers@cambridgema.gov or call 617-349-4380.

**Summer in the City July-August**  
Summer in the City includes an array of FREE, multicultural and interactive performances and activities throughout Cambridge parks this July and August. Designed for children ages 4-11, performances are approximately 45 minutes long and will feature dance, music, storytelling, theater, film and puppetry.

**Anxiety of Beauty – Revisiting the Fountain of Youth**  
Artist Mela Lyman has transformed the CAC Gallery into an open studio to paint a re-imagining of her large-scale mural for Paine Park (St. Mary Road, a few blocks from the Gallery). All are welcome to view the work in progress in the Gallery. The new mural will be installed at Paine Park this summer.

**Artist Reception:** Monday, May 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**For more information contact the Cambridge Arts Council at 617-349-4380 or www.cambridgeartscouncil.org. ■**



## Prince Hall Memorial Project

Cambridge is honored to serve as the location for a new Memorial monument recognizing the achievements of the first civil rights leader in America, Prince Hall, who also had a rich history of contributions to the City of Cambridge. This monument will serve as a testament to all Black patriots of the revolutionary period that helped lay the foundation for this nation.

The proposal for a monument on the Cambridge Common was presented by then City Councillor E. Denise Simmons (currently serving as Mayor of Cambridge) on September 12, 2005 (Prince Hall's birthday). The nine members of the Cambridge City Council agreed unanimously. A Prince Hall Memorial Committee was recently established to review Artist proposals for the project and select a suitable site on or around the Cambridge Common.

Prince Hall is best known as the founder of the first Black Masonic Lodge in the U.S. in 1776. He also organized the first school for Black children in 1797, led the fight for adult literacy and personally assisted in the education of many adults. Prince Hall fought for the abolition of slavery and was heavily involved in the rights of slaves and ex-slaves in the Cambridge/Boston area. He had a Methodist mission in Cambridge and was well acquainted with the Black people (almost all slaves and servants) who resided in our city. Today, there are some 300,000 masons who follow the good work of their founder, Prince Hall. There are 47 Grand Lodges and thousands of Lodges that answer to the name Prince Hall, including Mt. Moriah Lodge #9 of Cambridge. For more information, call 617-349-4321. ■

## Energy Smackdown™ Community Reality Contest

By the time you receive this newsletter, the City of Cambridge would have kicked off its participation in **The Energy Smackdown™**, an innovative community outreach program to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. The program challenges and supports participating individuals, households and organizations to reduce their own energy consumption as well as the energy consumption of others in their community. In doing so, participants engage the public on the critical issue of climate change and what citizens can do to reduce carbon emissions. The Brainshift Foundation, in cooperation with National Grid, the Kendall Foundation, NSTAR, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, the Massachusetts Climate Action Network and the Cities of Arlington, Cambridge and Medford has recruited 10 households to compete in a 12-month community-based reality contest to see which community can make the biggest energy reduction. Two households from each town will be filmed for the Energy Smackdown™ television series. Local plans were not finalized at press time. For more information, visit [www.energysmackdown.com](http://www.energysmackdown.com). ■

## Will My Analog TV Still Work in 2009

On February 17, 2009, television stations across the nation will cease broadcasting via analog signals and only use digital signals. If you have an older television without a digital tuner built in and receive your broadcast signal "over the air" and not from a Cable TV or satellite provider, your screen will go blank on that day. The Cambridge Consumers' Council is working to educate consumers about their options to ensure no one is misled into buying a new TV or level of cable service they don't need. The Federal Government has authorized a program that will allow households to receive up to two coupons, each worth \$40 that can be presented to various retail stores selling electronics in exchange for a special converter box that can easily be connected to your analog television to enable it to receive a digital signal. Depending on their preferences, consumers may have to supplement the \$40 coupon, though it is quite possible one or more brands of converter boxes will sell for around that price, plus applicable sales tax! Wait until late summer to request coupons when more converter box choices will be in local stores. Call 1-888-DTV-2009 or go to [www.DTV2009.org](http://www.DTV2009.org). For more information, call the Cambridge Consumers' Council at 617-349-6150. ■

## Police Department Launches Cambridge Alert Network and Youth/Family Services Unit

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saging. While this is not a replacement for dialing 911 in an emergency, this technology will allow interested persons to communicate potentially helpful information. Users must send the text message to CRIMES (274637). The text message must start with "Tip650" followed by the message. Tip650 is a specific code that has been assigned to Cambridge. When police receive the message, they can respond via text message to the tipster, who will have a randomly assigned ID number. The Cambridge Police Department will not maintain information about the identity of the individual reporting the information.

## New Family Unit Takes Hands-On Approach

In response to increasing community concerns over youth violence in recent years, the Cambridge Police Department has created a new Youth and Family Services Unit that is expected to go above and beyond the role of the traditional Juvenile Unit.

"This is part of a department-wide effort to begin shifting our focus from crime to people," explained Commissioner Robert C. Haas. "We want to go above and beyond just solving crimes. We especially want to intervene early when feasible and interact more with youth and families to help resolve potential problems and get them back to a place of well being."

Lieutenant Leonard DiPietro, who will lead the new unit, further pointed out how vulnerable youth can be and hopes that this more direct approach from the Police Department will make a greater difference and provide a positive reinforcement for troubled teens. The unit will have 5 School Resource Officers who will be getting more involved with kids after school and at the City's teen centers. Cambridge Police are working with several community partners, including the Department of Human Service Programs, Cambridge Prevention Coalition, Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Health Alliance, Clerk of the Courts Office, District Attorney's Office and the Salvation Army, to offer alcohol and substance abuse counseling, mental health support and various other specialty services. ■



## Fire Hydrant Testing through June 27

May Cause Water Discoloration/Clothing Stains

Cambridge Water and Fire departments will be conducting **annual fire hydrant maintenance and testing** weekdays between 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. through June 29. This process may cause discoloration of water from faucets and toilets for several hours after testing. Discolored water does not usually present a health hazard, though concerned residents should avoid drinking it. Check your water before doing laundry as the discolored water may stain clothes. The Water Department can provide a wash additive to remove stains. See schedule below for general testing dates and/or call the Fire Department at 617-349-4971 between 8-8:45 a.m. for daily test locations. **For questions on water quality, call Ed Dowling, Cambridge Water Department at 617-349-4780. ■**

### May 5-16

Cambridgeport Engine 2  
North Cambridge Engine 8

### May 19-30

Riverside/river St. Engine 6  
Porter Square Engine 4

### June 2-13

East Cambridge Engine 3  
Harvard Square Engine 1

### June 16-27

Inman Square Engine 5  
Fresh Pond Pkwy Engine 9



## Façade Improvement Program Lends a Helping Hand

The **City's Façade Improvement Program** provides matching grants of up to \$35,000 for the funding of well-designed improvements that coordinate all the important features of a storefront into a more attractive image. This may include the restoration of architectural details and installation of energy efficient storefront systems, accessible entrances, well-proportioned signage, energy efficient lighting and attractive awnings. Since its inception, the program has provided design services to over 125 business and property owners and helped finance 73 façade or signage and lighting improvement projects throughout the city.

One such business that took advantage of the program was the Clear Conscience Café at 581 Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square. Conceptual designs provided by the program's consultant, Elizabeth Palmer Architecture, illustrated how the storefront could look with a new storefront system, awning, light fixtures and three-dimensional signage. Palmer was hired by the new café owners, Daniel Goldstein and Jack Kutner, to combine the exterior design with their interior plans, creating a beautiful and inviting space where organic, fair trade coffee and goods are served in a sustainable built environment. General contractor Marc Truant & Associates of Cambridge brought the concept to fruition. **For more information, visit the Cambridge Community Development Department's Web site at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/> or contact Chris Basler, CDD Economic Development Division, 617-349-4601 or [cbasler@cambridgema.gov](mailto:cbasler@cambridgema.gov). ■**

## Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will host a **FREE program on Emergency Preparedness** Friday, June 13, from 1:30 – 4 p.m., at the Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Ave. in Central Square. This public forum will provide a dialogue between the disability community and emergency responders to ensure that the needs of people with all kinds of disabilities are met in emergency situations. Information about emergency response resources and procedures in Cambridge will be provided. Individuals with disabilities will learn how to prepare for emergency situations and will also receive a great Emergency Go Pack

with essential items like food rations and a flashlight.

Throughout the year, the Commission works to promote equal opportunity and eliminate discrimination against individuals with all types of disabilities – physical, mental and sensory. The staff answers questions, provides information, referrals and technical assistance to individuals and their families, businesses and various other community organizations.

**For more information, visit [www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm) or call 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY). ■**

### RESIDENT PERMIT PHOTO CONTEST

The Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation is again accepting digital photographs of City buildings and historic Cambridge landmarks for the 2008 Residential Parking Permit Photo Contest. The City of Cambridge reserves the right to use submitted photos on the City's Web site, the Traffic Department Web page and in various City and third party publications, with proper credit applied. The 2008 winning photo was of Memorial Hall by Peter Payack. **Photographs can be e-mailed in jpeg format to: [rppcontest@cambridgema.gov](mailto:rppcontest@cambridgema.gov) until July 31, 2008. ■**



## Men's Health Initiative Launches in Cambridge



The Public Health Department is helping launch two programs this spring to encourage men of color to eat healthfully and be more physically active.

Men who sign up for the Fit for Life program will receive a free three-month gym membership to the Cambridge Family YMCA and individual coaching from a peer mentor. Men who team up with a friend can join a 10-week fitness league in which participants commit to being physically active twice a week with a partner. If you are a male resident over 18 and would like to learn more about these programs, call Albert Pless at Cambridge Public Health Dept., 617-665-3830. This initiative is sponsored by the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Cambridge Family YMCA and Cambridge Health Alliance, and is funded through state and federal grants. ■



## Healthy Children Task Force Wins National Award

At a March ceremony, Mayor E. Denise Simmons honored the Healthy Children Task Force for winning an Innovation in Prevention Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The national award recognizes the group's success in promoting nutrition, physical activity and healthy weight among Cambridge public school children. Since 2004, an increasing proportion of Cambridge students are in the "healthy weight" category and passing standard fitness tests. The task force is a local coalition of public health professionals, educators, researchers, civic leaders and parents. ■

## Volunteers Needed for Medical Reserve Corps

The Public Health Department is seeking volunteers for a regional Medical Reserve Corps that would help out during major emergencies and assist with routine public health activities. Nurses, doctors, pharmacists, public health workers, allied health professionals, social workers and interpreters are currently being recruited. People without medical training are also needed for a variety of tasks. Volunteers receive free training on topics such as first aid, CPR and preparing your family for emergencies. The regional Medical Reserve Corps serves Cambridge and 26 other Boston-area communities. For more information, contact Alison Minkoff at 617-665-3702 or [region4bmcrc@challiance.org](mailto:region4bmcrc@challiance.org).

**For more information, contact the Cambridge Public Health Department at 617-665-3800 or visit [www.cambridgepublichealth.org](http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org). ■**

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