

# City View

WINTER 2017

## Reaching Out to Cambridge Families

Cambridge is home to families from a variety of backgrounds.



While many families take advantage of the outstanding resources and services in Cambridge, others do not. Families who might benefit the most from these services are often the least likely to use them, sometimes because of language barriers, lack of familiarity with Cambridge, distrust of organizations, and difficulty navigating Cambridge services.

To help overcome these obstacles, the City has implemented three programs using effective and culturally inclusive engagement strategies. The Agenda for Children (AFC) Literacy Initiative, Center for Families (CFF), and the Community Engagement Team (CET) have been successful in connecting families to local resources by making

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## City Manager's Message

As a lifelong Cambridge resident, and after spending the last 34 years as part of the senior management team for the City, I am so honored to serve as your new City Manager.



Louis DePasquale, City Manager

The heart of our City's vibrancy is its racial, cultural, political, and socioeconomic diversity. The current national political climate has generated considerable concern and anxiety for residents, especially members of our immigrant community. We are a Sanctuary City and will continue to support and promote the safety, health and well-being of all our residents, regardless of immigration status. The City provides support and resources ranging from a Cambridge Immigrant Rights Commission to programming at the Cambridge Community Learning Center to a Community Engagement Team that works to connect hard-to-reach populations with City services. Cambridge remains committed to being a welcoming City for all.

Community input is a vital component of the decision making process in Cambridge and the City strives to engage and involve all stakeholders. In an effort to foster more collaboration and deepen the understanding of community issues, I am forming a City Manager's Advisory Committee that will meet as needed to discuss issues happening in the city, develop working relationships, work with organizations, bring

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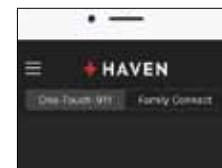
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## Manager's Message continued from cover

different opinions to the table, and work to resolve problems in advance. Committee members will represent the diversity of our community and a broad range of backgrounds.

I will continue to work with the City Council on priority initiatives, including the creation of more affordable housing, utilizing innovative technology to make the City more accessible, and further enhancing customer service and community engagement.

Through the Vision Zero initiative, the City will implement new strategies to maintain the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. In December, we lowered the speed limit to 25 miles per hour citywide, and introduced separated bike lanes. Another initiative we will continue to focus on is Envision Cambridge, our comprehensive plan to achieve a more livable, sustainable and equitable Cambridge.

Looking back to December, I, like so many of you, was very saddened by the devastating fire in the Wellington – Harrington neighborhood that destroyed many homes and affected 167 residents. Thankfully, there were no deaths or serious injuries. Approximately 25 fire departments and 150 firefighters either responded to the 10-alarm fire or covered Cambridge Fire Stations. Eighteen properties, including 75 units, were impacted. In the week immediately following the fire, Mayor Simmons

and I worked together to establish a Disaster Relief Resource Center at City Hall. The collaboration between elected officials, City staff, state agencies, and partner organizations made it easier for people to begin the recovery process. It was also amazing to see how our community rallied together to help. The Mayor's Fire Relief Fund raised over \$700,000 in less than three weeks, exceeding the initial goal of \$500,000. Within a few weeks of the fire, the majority of the 44 families impacted received keys to new, permanent housing in Cambridge. The City continued to work with the other households to find them permanent housing. City staff also worked with the families to provide social and emotional support, school support, and case management. I can't give enough thanks to Mayor Simmons, the City Council, City staff, our generous community, and many others who helped in so many critical ways.

My love and dedication for Cambridge has been an everyday part of my life. I am committed to ensuring that Cambridge is the best possible place for our residents to live, work, learn and play.

Warmest Regards



Louis DePasquale

## Reaching Out to Cambridge Families continued from cover

a conscious effort to hire, train, and provide leadership development to multicultural outreach workers. These workers visit families in the places they spend time—public housing, parks, schools, places of worship—and build trusting relationships with them. The programs have made a particular effort to reach out to immigrant families, American-born black families, families with low incomes, and fathers. There are currently 20-25 part-time CET outreach workers, AFC literacy ambassadors and CFF playgroup leaders, who speak 10-12 languages between them.

Here's what some clients had to say about their experience with the City:

*"We are new to Cambridge and it was great to learn all of the resources available to us."*

*"As any new mother, I wouldn't have known the different resources that are available because you're so overwhelmed with things when coming home with a new baby. So the fact that someone is ... pointing you in the right direction in terms of where you can get information .... Feels like you're not alone."*

Below is an overview of services the three programs provide to Cambridge families. These programs are part of the Department of Human Services. The Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative is based at Cambridge Public Health Department.

### About The Programs

Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative is a free early literacy program for all families in Cambridge with children birth to 8 years. The AFC offers parent workshops, one-on-one literacy visits, playgroups, StoryWalks, programs specifically for dads and book giveaways.  
Info: [www.letstalkcambridge.org](http://www.letstalkcambridge.org).

Center for Families is a free family support program for all families living in Cambridge with children birth to 8 years. The CFF offers parent/child activities such as playgroups and family fun events,

parenting workshops, support groups, and programs and activities just for dads. Info: [www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/CFF](http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/CFF).

The Community Engagement Team is a multi-agency collaborative that reaches out to underserved Cambridge families and connects them to community events and resources, develops community leaders, and supports agencies in working with a diverse community.  
Info: [www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/CET](http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/CET).



Find It Cambridge is a new online resource that helps families and those who support them easily find the activities, services, and resources they need. Our city has an amazing array of opportunities, and Find It Cambridge will serve as that easy-to-use, one stop, multilingual website for those who live and work here. Find It Cambridge is a cooperative initiative between the City's Family Policy Council, Code for Boston, a volunteer civic innovation organization, and

Terravoz, a company that creates locally based technology solutions to promote open governance, social inclusion and community empowerment. Find It Cambridge was born out of collaborative discussions with diverse stakeholders, including Cambridge residents, City employees, Cambridge Public Schools, and community-based organizations. Find the great resources available today at [www.finditcambridge.org](http://www.finditcambridge.org).



# Taking Root in Cambridge – Affordable Homeownership

As housing costs continue to rise, the City is committed to finding ways to help Cambridge households pursue homeownership opportunities. Last fall, staff from the Community Development Department (CDD) Housing Division initiated a homebuyer selection process for two new affordable condominiums at the Rand at Porter in Porter Square. These units were made affordable through the City's Inclusionary Housing provisions, and were the first new affordable homeownership units to be completed in Cambridge in several years. After a series of discussions in 2016, changes to the Inclusionary Housing provisions are now being considered by the City, and if adopted would increase the number of affordable units built in new market-rate buildings.

Buyers for the Porter Square units (a two-bedroom and a one-bedroom unit) were selected through a lottery process and will soon have new homes with stable, affordable housing costs for years to come.

Most affordable ownership units in Cambridge become available through CDD's Homeownership Resale Pool, which matches eligible buyers to affordable homes being sold by current owners. These units are in all types of buildings, from East Cambridge condominiums to townhouses in North Cambridge, and include homes that were created with funding from the City's Affordable Housing Trusts as well as those created through Inclusionary Housing provisions.

Recent buyers include a family of five that was able to buy a condo in their East Cambridge neighborhood; a single mother and her disabled child who now own a home near school and work in Cambridgeport; and a young professional who was able to purchase a condo in Kendall Square which, on the market, would otherwise be well out of reach based on his income working in social services.

CDD accepts applications for the Homeownership Resale Pool on a rolling basis. Learn more at [www.cambridgema.gov/housing](http://www.cambridgema.gov/housing).

The City's free First-time Homebuyer Class, offered throughout the year, provides an overview of the home-buying process, including credit and budgeting, obtaining a mortgage, legal considerations, home inspections, and an introduction to Cambridge's affordable homeownership programs. For more information on additional housing programs and services offered by the City, visit [www.cambridgema.gov/housing](http://www.cambridgema.gov/housing).



## Renters Insurance Worth Nominal Cost

One of the most common mistakes tenants make is assuming their landlord's insurance will cover their belongings in the event of loss or damage. Renters insurance is an affordable and important way to protect yourself and your belongings in case the unexpected happens. The cost of replacing your wardrobe and basic items can add up quickly.

Renters insurance coverage goes beyond replacing just your personal property. If you are displaced by fire or flooding, it can reimburse additional living expenses, such as a hotel room. If a guest is injured in your apartment, it can help pay medical expenses up to the policy limit. If you are sued, the liability coverage can help pay some legal costs. Liability coverage also protects items you borrowed or rented, and items that are stolen from your car or hotel room.

When considering renters insurance, remember that some items may require extra coverage. Investigate replacement cost coverage at current retail prices and make sure that the liability limit is high enough to protect you and your assets.

In a very general example, a typical renters insurance policy could cost \$125 annually and provide coverage of \$20,000 personal property, \$300,000 liability, and \$1,000 medical. Discuss the type of coverage you would need with an insurance agent and get more than one quote for comparison. In a stressful situation, knowing you have coverage can make all the difference.

## Municipal Minibonds Available

For the first time, Cambridge will offer residents the opportunity to directly invest in our community's infrastructure by buying minibonds. The City is working with Neighborly Securities to offer \$2 million in minibonds from our next bond sale in February 2017 to residents, with a minimum purchase of \$1,000 and maximum of \$20,000. Visit: [Minibonds.cambridgema.gov](http://Minibonds.cambridgema.gov).

Minibonds will only be offered through Neighborly Securities, member FINRA, SIPC & registered with MSRB, pursuant to a preliminary and final official statement to be made available during offering period. This information does not constitute an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to sell any securities. You are responsible for making your own independent investigation and appraising risks, benefits and suitability of securities to be offered. Neither the City of Cambridge nor Neighborly Securities is making recommendations or giving investment advice.

# Winter 2017 Tips and Reminders

Register for City Alerts: [CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork](http://CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork)



After the grueling winter of 2015, Mother Nature went easy on us last year. What does 2017 have in store? We don't yet know, but the Department of Public Works (DPW) is prepared to work with residents and business to make the City's roadways and sidewalks as safe and passable as possible.

## City of Cambridge Snow Center

[www.CambridgeMA.gov/snow](http://www.CambridgeMA.gov/snow)

**CAMBRIDGE  
SNOW  
Center**

### Find Quick Info in One Location:

- Parking Ban Status
- Report Icy/Snowy Streets
- Report Icy/Snowy Sidewalks, Bike Lanes
- City Closures
- School Closures
- Sign Up for City Alerts
- Trash/Recycling
- Storm Updates

Follow us on Twitter at @CambMA and at hash tag #CambMASnow and on Facebook at CambridgeMA.Gov.

### What Will We Do?

As always, DPW will work around the clock to keep the City's roadways, sidewalks, and bike lanes as safe and passable as possible, as soon as possible. We acquired several new pieces of equipment to help with snow operations. Our goals are to chemically treat all major arteries within three hours of when snow begins, to keep main arteries plowed during all stages of a storm, and to clear all streets and the sidewalks bordering City property once a storm has stopped.

### What Can You Do?

Help us, help your neighbors, and help the entire community by keeping sidewalks, fire hydrants, and catch basins snow and ice free. 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 during the night. Remove or melt all ice within 6 hours of the time it forms. Paths on shoveled sidewalks must be wide enough for wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers (at least 3 feet, preferably 4 feet wide). Corner properties must also clear sidewalks on all sides and clear ramps at crosswalks. Even if you aren't around, it is 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 ordinances is \$50/day for each day of non-compliance.





### **What's the Deal with Parking During Storms?**

Check the City of Cambridge website, [www.CambridgeMA.gov/Snow](http://www.CambridgeMA.gov/Snow) for information and updates about snow emergency parking restrictions and alternative off-street parking. Even if no snow emergency has been declared, remember these general on-street parking guidelines:

- Always park at least 20 feet from the street corner so plows can push snow away from crosswalk. 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 will be removed.
- Think safety: dig 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 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 storms.



### **What Does the City Offer for a Snow Exemption Program/Shoveling Assistance?**

If you are a homeowner on a low income and/or you are elderly or have a disability, you may qualify for the City's Snow Exemption Program, in which case the City will shovel your sidewalk. To find out whether you are eligible, please 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 you with a limited list of professional snow removal companies and students who will shovel for a fee to be negotiated.

## **Conservation Tips to Practice During Statewide Drought**

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook predicts that the statewide drought will continue through March. Cambridge Water Department (CWD) is working to ensure an adequate supply of water is available to meet the needs of our residents, businesses, and universities. In October, the City began purchasing water from Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) system to supplement water from Cambridge's reservoirs. The initial amount of MWRA water was 90%, at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million per month. Some rain toward the end of the year enabled the City to produce its own water for the last three weeks of December. CWD is monitoring precipitation and adjusting operational plans to minimize MWRA water usage, continue plant operations, and maintain a "healthy" reservoir system. Despite these efforts, there will be future financial impacts to the City, the water rate and the Water Department budget. The City has been conserving water by reducing irrigation at Fresh Pond and at playing fields and parks. CWD has also expanded water conservation efforts with top users, including universities. Below are important conservation tips for residents:

- Turning tap off while brushing your teeth or shaving saves 1-2 gallons per minute.
- Limiting time in the shower saves 2-4 gallons per minute.

- Filling a bathtub only halfway saves 5 gallons and hot water costs.
- Installing aerators on taps will help save water.
- Flushing toilets accounts for about one-third of the water used daily. Replacing an old toilet with a new low-consumption toilet could reduce water consumption by 25%.
- Running toilets are the leading cause of wasted water. Call 617-349-4737 or request a Leak Detection Kit via e-mail at: [highreads@cambridgema.gov](mailto:highreads@cambridgema.gov).
- Outdoor leaks can waste significant amounts of water. Check for leaking hoses and dripping spigots.



To learn more, visit [www.cambridgema.gov/water](http://www.cambridgema.gov/water).

# Vision Zero Plan Nearing Completion



Cambridge is a vibrant, lively city; residents, businesses, and visitors alike enjoy the walkability, convenience, and healthy lifestyle available here. Whether walking, cycling, taking transit, or driving, our residents and visitors need safe streets. The City is working hard to ensure that users of all ages have the safe, convenient mobility they deserve.

Last year, the Cambridge City Council adopted Vision Zero, a commitment to eliminate all traffic related fatalities and serious injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. Since adoption, the City has been working on an action plan that will outline the steps we need to take to get to zero, together. In early 2017, the City expects to share its draft Action Plan for public comment on the Vision Zero website, [www.cambridgema.gov/visionzero](http://www.cambridgema.gov/visionzero).

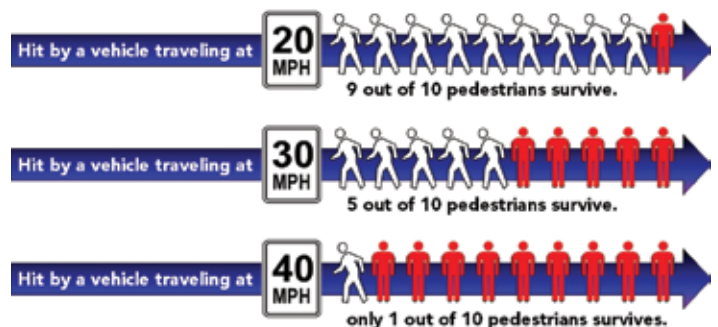
The City is also creating a Vision Zero Advisory Committee to help guide progress and ensure our work reflects the values of the Cambridge community. The Committee will be made up of representatives of local advocacy groups, the City's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Committees, the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, local universities, and business groups, residents, and City staff.

A key component of our safety efforts was the lowering of the default speed limit from 30 miles per hour (MPH) to 25 MPH within Cambridge. Speed is one of the most important factors in traffic safety; crashes that occur at lower speeds cause less injury. In fact, a pedestrian hit by a car traveling 40 MPH has a 1 in 10 chance of surviving a crash, while a pedestrian hit by a car traveling 20 MPH has a 9 in 10 chance of surviving. These numbers are staggering and persuasive—lower speed limits are the first step towards zero traffic deaths and serious injuries. By lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH, Cambridge joins many of its neighbors, including Somerville, Arlington, and Boston, to make the entire region safer for everyone.

Work is also already underway to make significant safety improvements at key locations around the city. We have begun the redesign of Inman Square, which will improve the operation and safety of the intersection for all road users. In Porter Square, improvements to the signal timing and design of the intersection of Massachusetts Ave. and Somerville Ave. will result in shorter wait times for everyone, simpler vehicular movements, and fewer conflicts for pedestrians and cyclists. The City's traffic calming program also continues to work on safety improvements in neighborhoods all over Cambridge.

During the past year, we have received significant feedback indicating a strong desire for increased separation between cyclists and drivers as a means to improve bicycle safety and comfort. In the coming months, we will implement several demonstration projects to test separated street level facilities using pavement markings and vertical delineators to provide physical separation.

Living or working in Cambridge provides endless opportunities to get out and enjoy our city—and we must make sure that every resident, visitor and worker can do so safely. Learn more at [www.cambridgema.gov/visionzero](http://www.cambridgema.gov/visionzero).



Courtesy PEDS [www.peds.org](http://www.peds.org), © 2008 PEDS

## Do You Have What it Takes to be a Cambridge Police Officer?

### Register for the 2017 Police Officer Written Exam

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is holding the Open Competitive Examination for Police Officers on Mar. 25, 2017. The application deadline is Feb. 21, 2017. (A \$50 additional processing fee applies after this date). Applications will not be accepted after Mar. 1, 2017.

For more information, visit: [www.mass.gov/civilservice](http://www.mass.gov/civilservice) or call 617-878-9895. The City will be holding an Open House information session in late January/early February. Learn more at [www.cambridgepolice.org](http://www.cambridgepolice.org).





# Participatory Budgeting Community Vote Results

As part of the City's third Participatory Budgeting process, over 4,700 Cambridge residents age 12 and older voted in December on how to spend \$700,000 on capital projects to improve the community — a 13% increase from last year.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process through which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.

The following won funding:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Solar Power Shines! (\$260,000)                             | 5. Hydration Stations in Four Locations (\$37,000) |
| 2. Safer Crosswalks for Busy Roads (\$104,000)                 | 6. Upgrade the Moore Youth Center (\$80,000)       |
| 3. 10 Solar-Powered Real-Time Bus Tracker Displays (\$150,000) | 7. Cambridge Street Art Trail (\$25,000)           |
| 4. Kinetic Energy Tiles (\$50,000)                             |  |

Many thanks to all of the volunteers and participants who helped make the City's third PB cycle a success! Learn more at [www.pb.cambridgema.gov](http://www.pb.cambridgema.gov).



## CPD Rolls Out Trauma Training & Critical Incident Stress Management Team



More than 40 police officers have graduated from the department's inaugural Trauma Informed Training, which consisted of multiple days of instruction, role-playing, small group discussions, meditation and more.

The training was facilitated by a team of subject matter experts from all over the country, who walked officers through the short-term and long-term effects of trauma, how to best manage it, as well as trauma associated with sexual assaults, domestic violence, and the removal of a caregiver.

Additionally, the Cambridge Police has founded and will facilitate a Regional Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team. This team also includes members of the Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Chelsea, Everett, Somerville and Watertown Police Departments.

Members of the CISM Team will serve as regional peer support officers to assist participating communities in responding to major critical events and to those officers who have been affected by these incidents.

Trained and certified officers will be activated, as needed, by participating agencies to voluntarily attend group crisis interventions, including demobilizations, defusing and debriefings. They will also be available as ongoing peer support resources for affected officers within the participating region.

Both of these initiatives will help build a broader foundation that the

Cambridge Police Department will use going forward, roll out to all of its officers and help evolve the culture into one that is even more compassionate and resilient.

Having as many resources and support services in place is not only going to lead to a healthier officer, but a healthier police department and community.



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*City Manager Louis A. DePasquale*

*Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson*

**2016-17 City Council:**

*Mayor E. Denise Simmons*

*Vice Mayor Marc C. McGovern*

*Councillor Dennis J. Carlone*

*Councillor Leland Cheung*

*Councillor Jan Devereux*

*Councillor Craig A. Kelley*

*Councillor David P. Maher*

*Councillor Nadeem A. Mazen*

*Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.*

**ECRWSS**

**Resident Postal Customer  
Cambridge, MA**

## Sign Up for Free Emergency Communications App



Cambridge was the first city in Massachusetts and one of the first in the country to collaborate with RapidSOS and their smartphone mobile app, Haven, to route emergency calls directly into the Cambridge Emergency Communications Center (ECC) rather than being first routed to Mass. State Police. Instead of delivering basic cell tower information like a wireless 911 call, Haven sends more precise and comprehensive information to 911.

Through a special agreement the City has coordinated with RapidSOS, Cambridge residents can get a free 10-year subscription. To register, visit [www.rapidsos.com/cambridgema](http://www.rapidsos.com/cambridgema), then visit the App Store or Google Play to download the RapidSOS Haven app to your smartphone.

With one touch, Haven places a 911 call and transmits vital information to the dispatcher, including the type of emergency, GPS location, relevant medical and demographic information. The app also makes it possible to send text messages to 911 and communicate when it's difficult or dangerous to speak. After a 911 alert is triggered, the app can notify emergency contacts. The Family Connect feature allows users to share their location with loved ones, see family members' real-time locations, and easily ask family and friends for help.

## 2016 Resident Parking Permits Expire Jan. 31

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to renew your 2016 Resident Parking Permit, which expires on Jan. 31, 2017. Learn more at [www.cambridgema.gov/rpp](http://www.cambridgema.gov/rpp). The winning entry from the 2017 Resident Permit Photo Contest was submitted by Chris D'Amore. For more information, call 617-349-4700 or visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic).

