



UPCOMING MEETING DATES *Contingent Upon COVID-19 Restrictions*

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Thursday, November 12, 2020-

*All Meetings will be held at 7:00 pm in the WHCP Meeting Room
516 Race Street, Cambridge, MD 21613*

All CAN Board meetings are open to the public. Everyone interested in CAN is invited to attend.

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CURRENT LINKS:

- CAN Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 - <https://cambridgecan.org/category/news/meetings/2020-meeting-minutes/>
- Commissioners' Corner –
 - Messages from City Council Commissioners
<https://cambridgecan.org/category/news/commissioner-posts/>

Note: CAN invites messages from all City Council Commissioners for its Newsletter and Website.

- CAN Planning & Zoning Notes – <https://cambridgecan.org/category/news/p-and-z/>
- CAN's Website – <https://cambridgecan.org>
- CAN on FaceBook – <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeAssociationofNeighborhoods/>
- Contact CAN – CambridgeCAN@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – HELPING THE COMMUNITY

These are tough times and the CAN Board is struggling to find ways to help the community. Our “normal” approach is to attend large meetings, have group meetings around activities like clean ups or helping neighbors in need and getting to together to plan activities such as CAN Jam. All of that has come to a halt. So what can we do?

Beth Kline, a Board member and co-owner of Blue Awning, has an article in the newsletter (page 5) requesting help for the **downtown stores by buying merchandise or gift certificates online**. It is especially important at this time to support our **downtown businesses** to help them be there after this is over. Along these lines, Theresa Knight McFadden, submitted an article on **Main St. Gallery** co-op’s first ever online exhibit featuring member artists (page 4). Remember **Main St Gallery** is a great place to get gifts for special people and to help with redecorating that house you are spending so much time in.

A different approach to helping is supporting the area’s food distribution efforts. Leslie Bishop’s **MidShore Meals ‘til Monday** (page 5) is still operating to provide food to school age children. The newsletter has a link from Linda Starling, who is asking for volunteers for packing food – and remember **Meals ‘til Monday** will always accept checks to help the effort. The **Salvation Army** is also looking for support to help provide food to our senior citizens. Members Fred and Marti Phillips-Patrick also have an article (page 3) on **rent and mortgage payments** for those whose income has been cut.

My special plea is to remember our neighbors, especially the ones that live alone. Isolation brings on depression which can make hard times worse. So reach out carefully by phone or check in on your neighbors (keeping social distance to stay safe) and remember that we are in this together.

Chuck McFadden, President

Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN), Ragtime31@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM DAVE CANNON, 4th WARD CITY COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

I’d like to remind our community that during this unprecedented and difficult time, it is very important to heed the warnings and suggestions of our state and local health leaders. Please stay home – Help your children understand why we all need to be vigilant, why they need to continue their schoolwork, and take some time to have some fun close to home while avoiding crowds.

Remember to check on your elderly neighbors – they may need your help. Share in family time through social media and trust in your God to see us through. It is difficult times like this that help us appreciate life. It will also help us understand what it means to persevere, overcome and have faith. This trying time will undoubtedly make us stronger and more unified as a community

I can be reached at dcannon@chooscambridge.com or by calling 443-477-4415

God Bless,

Dave Cannon, 4th Ward City Commissioner

CAMBRIDGE REAL ESTATE TRENDS – The COVID-19 Pandemic

by Fred & Marti Phillips-Patrick

The COVID 19 Pandemic has affected us all in one way or another, and your particular real estate situation may be one. The most important action a renter or a home owner with a mortgage in Cambridge who faces financial difficulties as a consequence of the pandemic can take is *communication*.

Renters who lost their job or are sick because of the virus should immediately contact their landlord and alert them — by calling and in writing — of their hardships, said David Dworkin, president of the National Housing Conference. Many landlords will be sympathetic and may be willing to offer help, Dworkin said. “That communication is incredibly important,” he said.

We are already aware of several instances in which store shop renters in downtown Cambridge have had their April rental payments waived or delayed for the month because they have had to close their doors to new business because of COVID 19. Communication with the landlord was critically important in all those cases.

Some may face financial hardship in meeting their April or future mortgage payments, as companies continue to shutter their doors to guard against the spread of the coronavirus and lay off workers, such as the restaurants and other shops and companies that line downtown and Route 50, and throughout our area.

For borrowers with mortgages backed by *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac*, mortgage servicers have been ordered to offer forbearance programs allowing borrowers affected by the coronavirus to delay their mortgage payments. Some of the other mortgage lenders have followed suit. However, borrowers must apply for the mortgage relief through the mortgage servicer that collects their monthly payments, and it is that servicer who will decide how long the forbearance might last. Forbearance does not mean forgiveness, however, and how the missed payments will be paid over time are subject to negotiation. Be forewarned that mortgage servicers are currently overwhelmed with calls, but keep at it if you need that assistance. Again, communication is critical.

In the extreme case of eviction or foreclosure, The District Court of Maryland, as of March 25th, has initiated a temporary stay of execution on current and future evictions and foreclosures. Specifically, “residential eviction matters pending in the District Court of Maryland and all pending residential eviction orders shall be stayed effective immediately; and (c) New foreclosures of residential property, foreclosures of rights of redemption of a residential property after a tax sale, actions for possession (ejectments) of residential properties by ground lease holders, executions on residential real property under levy or subject to a lien, and all other actions for possession (residential evictions) shall be stayed upon filing.”

Similarly, utility cut-offs have recently been suspended. Once again, however, communication is critical. Contact the landlord, property owner, or utility and explain your situation before an eviction, foreclosure, or cut-off is deemed necessary. It can make a difference.

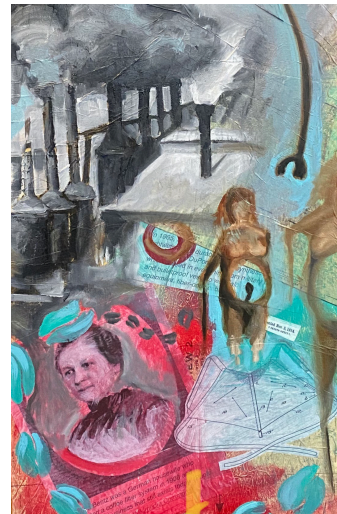
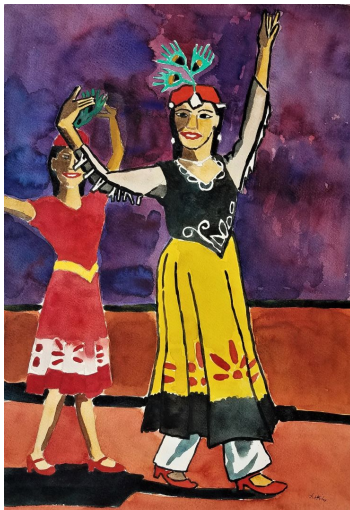
We all hope the situation in Cambridge improves quickly. Stay safe and maintain your six-foot personal distance. You may want to wear a face mask in situations in which you may come in close contact with others, such as a grocery store. Wash your hands frequently. We will all get through this together.

COMMUNITY NEWS – COOPERATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

WOMAN – MAIN STREET GALLERY’S MAY/JUNE ONLINE SHOW

Main Street Gallery, at 518 Poplar St. may be closed due to the coronavirus but the co-op artists are busy creating their first ever online exhibition. The title of the new show is **WOMAN** and it celebrates all women and their lives and accomplishments through one of a kind, original paintings, drawings, prints, collages, sculptures, textiles, ceramics and jewelry. 2020 is the year of the woman, which is also the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, and this all woman cooperative is on board with the celebration.

You can view the virtual exhibition on the gallery’s Facebook page, on its website at www.mainstgallery.org/ or on Instagram at [mainstreetgallerycambridgemd](https://www.instagram.com/mainstreetgallerycambridgemd). Linda Starling, a member of the Main Street Board of Directors, says, “We have missed seeing all our wonderful visitors in the gallery and at our receptions. When all this is over we look forward to seeing everyone and having everyone see our artwork in person again!” **WOMAN** will open online on Friday, May 1 and run through Sunday, June 28. If you find a piece you are interested in, please email the gallery at info@mainstgallery.org or call at 410-330-4659.



DOWNTOWN BUSINESS UPDATE

by Beth Kline – *The Blue Awning*

Owners and representatives of downtown businesses have been meeting weekly through Zoom with Katie Clendaniel to discuss a variety of topics such as opportunities for financial support through SBA; transitioning to an e-commerce platform in an effort to maintain some level of sales while their businesses are closed; brainstorming ideas to stay engaged with their customers and the community; and, providing emotional support for each other. Everyone is committed to reopening their businesses when this crisis has passed and welcoming Cambridge and visitors back downtown.

In the meantime, every little bit helps...here are some ways you can support Cambridge businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Downtown Cambridge is selling online gift certificates for participating downtown small businesses directly from their website: www.downtowncambridge.org. 100% of the value of the gift certificates goes to the respective merchant.
- Post a review or comment on social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, Yelp, etc.) in support of specific businesses
- Order curbside lunch or dinner pickup from a Cambridge restaurant
- Contact Simmons Center Market for grocery orders via curbside pickup or free delivery
- Pull out your sidewalk chalk to decorate your home or business sidewalk. Take a photo and post on Instagram or Facebook: #docochalk and #cambridgechalkart

MIDSHORE MEALS TIL MONDAY

MidShore Meals 'til Monday sends food home over the weekends all year round for nearly 250 food-insecure children in Dorchester County. During these summer months, they provide food to children attending summer school at all elementary schools, the Maces Lane STEM program, the Empowerment Center (Flagg Camp), the Judy Center, and New Beginnings, as well as children whose parents are counseled at Clearview Professional Center. During a “normal” month *MidShore Meals 'til Monday* provides food assistance for about 500 students. **During the COVID-19 crisis, they are packing and distributing about 1200 bags of food each week.**

You have been invited by Linda Starling to sign up for "**MidShore Meals 'til Monday - THURSDAY APRIL 16 DISTRIBUTION**" – Please call Linda Starling at 301-802-1587 for distribution details and questions.

[CLICK BELOW TO VIEW THE ONLINE SIGN UP SHEET](#)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D44AEAD2BA6F85-mtmthursday/84067340>

For more information about **MidShore Meals 'til Monday**, please call Leslie Bishop, Director, at 703-371-5191, or visit their Facebook page or website at www.midshoremealstilmonday.org/. **To show your support by buying a shirt**, call 443 225-6789. Thank you for helping them help our kids.



To All Our Wonderful Meals 'til Monday Volunteers: From Leslie Bishop, Director (703-371-5191)

We want to tell you all, again, how much we deeply appreciate your time and courage to volunteer during this difficult time. We admire your willingness to help feed our students and their families in Dorchester County. A few reminders:

- We are practicing correct Social Distancing! Please remain 6 ft away from the school personnel and their meal distribution. Please in no way interfere or have contact with the bags of food the school personnel are responsible for distributing.
- While masks (at this point in time) are optional, wearing gloves is mandatory. If you want to participate in our *Meals 'til Monday* bag distribution you must wear gloves.
- Limited contact with children and family members receiving bags of food is advised. If possible, for people in cars ask them to open their trunks to put the bags in without them getting out. If they need to get out to open the trunk, please move away as they do so and then put the bag in. Another method for either walkers or drivers is to put a few bags on top of the *Meals 'til Monday* bins and ask the people to select a bag themselves. Please DO NOT put the bags on the ground or allow anyone to rummage through the *Meals 'til Monday* bins to select a bag!
- We are doing a vital service for our community. We need to set a good example of modeling correct COVID conduct. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to this cause

LOCAL CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

The best resource we have found for up-to-date, local information about the Coronavirus is the Maryland Department of Health Coronavirus website at <http://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>. The site includes a dashboard with the most current statistical data from every Maryland County, as well as information on symptoms, resources, and frequently asked question. In case you haven't heard by now, all Marylanders are advised to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, as follows:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cover your mouth and nose while sneezing or coughing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid contact with sick people
- If you are sick, stay home and call your health care provider

All Marylanders are also advised to practice social distancing. Social distancing is a way to keep people from interacting closely or frequently enough to spread an infectious disease. Social distancing can take many forms, depending on your lifestyle and your family and work situation, and can include the following habits and steps:

- Avoid handshaking, hugging and other intimate types of greeting
- Avoid non-essential travel (your health care provider may have specific guidance for your situation)
- Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces
- Work from home if possible for your work situation
- Avoid unnecessary errands — consider ways to have essential items, like food and other household supplies, brought to your house through online delivery services or through family or social networks

MESSAGE FROM HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - Storm Damage in the Historic District

Due to the heavy rain and high winds which are pummeling Cambridge, many of the properties in the Historic District will sustain damage to houses, fences and out buildings. The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) wants to make sure that those of you who sustain damage in the Historic District should **do what is required to protect your property from additional water or structural damage without worrying about permits.**

Repairs of less than 25 percent of a feature (such as a fence, windows in a house or a roof) do not require HPC approval or a building permit. If you have sustained more significant storm related damage, the HPC working with the Cambridge Department of Public Works can issue emergency Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) approvals almost immediately upon receiving an email and photos documenting the damage. Building permits, if required will then be processed by DPW. Send the email to the HPC liaison Herve Hamon at hhamon@chooscambridge.com. Mr. Hamon will send any appropriate HPC or city forms back and distribute the emergency requests to the Chair and Vice Chair of the HPC for approval.

If there are issues with obtaining permissions or additional concerns, please contact The Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) at CambridgeCan@yahoo.com. They will forward the comments directly to the HPC Chair or Vice Chair.

Hopefully the emergency approvals will not have to be issued, but in case of damage we want you to know that there is a **streamlined process available.**

Note: Due to the Coronavirus, HPC held its March 19 meeting via conference call and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The meeting can also be viewed on <http://townhallstreams.com/>.

SHORERIVERS UPDATE- LETTER FROM THE RIVERKEEPER

One of the best signs of resilience is the ability to adapt during uncertain times. At ShoreRivers, our staff has been working hard every day to make sure that clean rivers remain a priority while finding new ways to meet our mission of protecting and restoring our rivers. I ask that you please stay connected with our Facebook pages @ChoptankRiverkeeper and @ShoreRivers, and our <http://shorerivers.org/> for updated information and the necessary adjustments we've made to best serve our communities during the pandemic.

With best wishes, *Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper*

EPA Signals Open License to Pollute - We Need Your Help! In a memo to all government and private sector partners, EPA announced that because of COVID-19 certain facilities are allowed to determine for themselves whether or not they are able to meet legal requirements on reporting water pollution. If businesses are still allowed to operate, they should be required to meet all requirements, including environmental protection standards. When the government decides to take a back seat to protecting our rivers, it's our job as Riverkeepers to step up and hold polluters accountable. Thankfully, Maryland has committed to enforcing environmental regulations despite the EPA's signal. And although the State's limited resources are preventing them from performing routine inspections, they are upholding a commitment to prioritize investigating the violation reports they receive. I'm asking for your help – if you see or suspect an environmental violation, report it to me at mpluta@shorerivers.org so I can make sure the appropriate agency receives the information.

A Virtual "State of the Choptank River" Report - April is when ShoreRivers usually releases the State of the Choptank River report based on last year's water quality data. While we're still working out the details and logistics, this year we are planning to go virtual with our State of the Choptank River presentation! Stay tuned to the ShoreRivers website and the Choptank Riverkeeper Facebook page for updated information. All ShoreRivers members will receive a copy of our 2019 Report Card in the mail by the end of the month.

Water Quality Monitoring Season Delayed - Due to the Governor's Stay at Home order we must postpone the start of our water quality monitoring program which would have kicked off this month. Twenty Creekwatcher volunteers and I collect water quality data at over 50 sites on the Choptank River and its tributaries each month. These data are used to inform the annual report card as well as ShoreRivers' restoration, advocacy, and outreach efforts. If you're a Creekwatcher, we will share updated information with you about the start of the season as it becomes available. For everyone else, I hope to see you out on the river before too long!

Increasing the Rate of Water Quality Practices on Farm Land - Through our partnership with *Envision the Choptank*, we continue to increase the rate of Best Management Practice implementation in the Choptank River Watershed. Be on the lookout later in April for details about a flexible grass buffer program offering funds for 10 ft or wider buffers with no maintenance restrictions. We'll also be funding and offering to install tree or forest buffers along perennial streams in agricultural fields or on residential properties. Funds are also available for wetland restoration and to offset landowner costs of state or federal cost-share programs. For more information, contact our Landowner Assistance Coordinator, Whitley Gray at wgray@shorerivers.org.

Legislative Session Halts Abruptly - For the first time since the Civil War, the Maryland General Assembly adjourned before the 90-day session was complete. The truncated session did not provide favorable results for most of our priorities, but the session wasn't a total loss for the environment. Strong legislation to protect oysters was passed with an effort to develop a sustainable oyster management plan using a scientific and consensus-based approach modeled after the Choptank River Oyster Futures project.

Environmental Education Opportunity for Teachers - ShoreRivers is excited to announce a new environmental education opportunity to public and private school teachers on the Eastern Shore. ShoreRivers' Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) Academy is a year-long program for teachers to incorporate Chesapeake Bay-related issue investigations into their curriculum. Public and private school teachers of any discipline, grades 3rd - 12th, are encouraged to apply by May 1. See the ShoreRivers website for details.

CAN's MISSION & MEMBERSHIP

The Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) fosters neighborhood cohesion and community involvement to (a) enhance the quality of community life for all residents of Cambridge through community events, social activities, and neighborly assistance; and (b) protect and enhance the value of properties in Cambridge by improving building and zoning codes, supporting adherence to those codes, and engaging constructively with City Government, including the Historic Preservation Commission.

CAN welcomes members from **any and all Cambridge neighborhoods** who are interested in organizing and working together, building a diverse membership reflecting the diversity of Cambridge residents. Membership information is available on the CAN website at <https://cambridgecan.org/join-can/>.

CAN HOUSING QUALITY COMMITTEE – PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES

The Housing Quality Committee monitors issues affecting the quality of housing and the maintenance of property values in the City, including code enforcement. Committee members attend Planning Commission meetings to monitor zoning-related issues and report the information to the Board and Membership. *Please contact* Chuck McFadden at Ragtime31@gmail.com to volunteer.

POWER WASHER AVAILABLE

CAN has an electric power washer available to members. Contact Chuck McFadden at Ragtime31@gmail.com if you would like to borrow it for a project.

CAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – SOCIAL EVENTS & 'NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS'

"Neighborhoods" are organized by small groups willing to work together to address neighborhood issues through small social events and "neighbor-helping-neighbor" activities. The **Social Events Subcommittee** organizes community-wide events. *Contact* Chuck McFadden at Ragtime31@gmail.com to volunteer.

CAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – WRITERS NEEDED

CAN'S Communications Committee desperately needs **writers** and **photographers** to develop articles about CAN and its activities, get them published in local newspapers, and have them promoted by local media *Please contact Tom Puglisi at tom.puglisi@comcast.net to volunteer.*

