Building a Better Community, Block by Block

Newsletter #22.8

November/December 2022

All CAN Board meetings are announced in advance and open to the public.

CAN's Annual Business Meeting will be held in January 2023. Date to be Announced

Everyone interested in CAN is invited to attend.

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CURRENT LINKS:

- JOIN CAN FOR FREE https://cambridgecan.org/join-can/
- CAN Meeting Minutes https://cambridgecan.org/category/meetings/
- CAN's City Council Meeting Notes https://cambridgecan.org/category/news/city-council-notes/
- CAN's 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





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Proposed Youth Curfew

-- Charles McFadden, President, CAN

At the last City Council Meeting, Ordinance 1207 was introduced to establish a curfew of 10 pm for weekdays and 11 pm for weekends for kids under age 15. The proposed ordinance also includes a provision for a \$100 or \$200 fine to parents for repeated offences. There were heated arguments during the public comment section of the Council meeting for and against the ordinance.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed ordinance for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposed curfew would add another responsibility to the Police Department which is currently understaffed by 10 to 15 officers. The police are already on extended duty hours due to this understaffing. The officers would have to pick up children who violate the curfew and take them home, which would take time away from other activities protecting the community.
- 2. There are many unanswered questions about how the curfew would be enforced, including the following:
 - a. How will the police determine the age of the child if the child does not cooperate?
 - b. If no parent is available, would police have to babysit them until a parent is located?
 - c. What if there are other unsupervised children at the home? Do the police take care of them as well?
 - d. What if the police enter the home and find drugs?
 - e. What happens if the police issue a ticket to the parents and the parents can't or won't pay the fine? Do they get arrested? Or fined more money? Or taken to court?
 - f. If parents are taken to court and the police have to testify, how will an already understaffed police department find the time to fulfill their other responsibilities?
 - g. The assumption of the proposal is that the home is a good safe harbor for the kids. What if that is not the case? Are the police trained sufficiently to identify and deal with that issue?
- 3. This proposed ordinance would undermine the implementation of Community policing, where police are supposed to become actively and positively involved the community in order to develop trust, especially with the kids.
- 4. The Council gave no statistical evidence or background data in favor of the proposed curfew, nor did it provide examples of other communities where curfews have been successful.

I realize that there are serious criminal issues in Cambridge, but I do not believe that significant numbers of murders, break-ins, and assaults are coming from the 15 and under crowd. I believe the problem of kids out at night without adult supervision is more a social issue rather than a police issue. So, let's hire some people with those skills and increase places for our youngsters to go after school and in the early evening.

To hear more on this issue, please come to Mayor Rideout's forum on November 28, 2022 at 6 pm in the Council Chamber at 305 Gay St.

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CAMBRIDGE CORNER

CAMBRIDGE REAL ESTATE TRENDS

-- by Fred & Martha Phillips-Patrick

National Real Estate Trends

The softening trend in the residential real estate market nationally has continued, but it has had a variable effect on the counties in our area. For example, Rocket Homes has compared the median selling price changes over the last year (October 2021 to October 2022) in the counties around Dorchester and reported the following:

Median Sold Price Compared with Nearby Counties

	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	%
Wicomico County	\$209.9K	\$246.3K	+17.3%
Sussex County	\$369.1K	\$429.8K	+16.5%
Caroline County	\$250.2K	\$290K	+15.9%
Dorchester County	\$239.9K	\$254.8K	+6.2%
Talbot County	\$433.9K	\$441.6K	+1.8%

In light of these trends, let's see how the Cambridge real estate market is doing in this environment.

Cambridge Market Update

According to Zillow, the typical value of homes in Cambridge at the end of October was \$199,570. This value is seasonally adjusted and only includes the middle price tier of homes. Cambridge home values have gone up 10.3% over the past year, up more than the Maryland State average of 7.8%.

Realtor.com now characterizes Cambridge as slightly a buyer's market, which means that the supply of homes slightly exceeds the demand of homes. On average, homes in Cambridge sell after 99 days on the market. The trend for median days on market in Cambridge has gone up since last month, and slightly up since last year. Homes in Cambridge sold for approximately the asking price on average in October.



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Sales: Currently, according to Realtor.com, there are now 167 homes for sale (120 single family homes and 47 condos and townhomes) in the Cambridge area, down from 184 in September. There are also 3 multifamily units for sale, as well as 66 plots of land.

According to Realtor.com, 33 single family, townhouses, and condo sales were completed in October, ranging in value from \$50,000 to \$1,900,000, which included a 30.3-acre lot. Two other homes sold for more than \$1 million. The October sales are:

524 Marshy Cv	\$255K	101 Audubon Ct	\$279K	307 Wood Duck Dr	\$170K
5604 Casson Neck Rd	\$50K	2700 Willow Oak #304	E \$424K	1012 Race St	\$64K
111 Willis St	\$100K	2517 Southside Dr	\$400K	502 Seaway Ln Unit 25	5 \$297K
110 SE Holly Ter	\$230K	103 Night Heron Ct	\$313K	205 Johnson St	\$225K
1406 Glasgow St	\$155K	305 Wood Duck Dr	\$203K	5110 Stone Boundary	\$1900K
5554 Bonnie Brook Rd	\$300K	401 Wood Duck Dr	\$222K	5603 Condon Rd	\$1350K
704 Rigby Ave	\$176K	405 Leonards Ln	\$220K	1A Belvedere Ave	\$825K
104 Audubon Ct	\$312K	605 Wells St	\$75K	308 Maryland Ave	\$75K
110 Choptank Ave	\$110K	205 Willis St	\$225K	106 Audubon Ct	\$308K
5416 Moose Lodge Rd	\$230K	507 Hubert St	\$50K	512 Academy St	\$78K
5704 Ross Neck Rd	\$1202K	622 Douglas St	\$158K	211 E Appleby Ave	\$180K

Other Developments: Short-Term Rentals

In a November 9th CAN meeting, Judd Vickers summarized the City's new Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance #1204, which establishes regulations for Air-BnBs and similar rentals. See the October CAN Newsletter for more details.

Under the Ordinance, a STR means the rental of a dwelling space for more than 3 nights within a calendar year. An Owner-occupied (Type 1) STR license costs \$100 and is good for three years. A non-owner-occupied (Type 2) STR license costs \$200 and is also good for three years. Safety and parking requirements must be met, and applicable City taxes must be paid for each rental.

Interestingly, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has established rules under which the income from short-term rentals must be reported. This is TurboTax's take on those rules:

Tax laws are full of exceptions, but the **14-day rule** — sometimes called the "Masters exception" because of its popularity in Georgia during the annual Masters golf tournament — Is the most important for anyone considering renting out a vacation home. Under this rule, you don't pay tax on income you earn from the short-term rental, as long as you: Rent the property for no more than **14 days** during the year AND use the vacation house yourself 14 days or more during the year or at least 10% of the total days you rent it to others."

To summarize, the IRS sees 14 days of rentals as the threshold for reporting federal income, while Cambridge sees 3 days of rentals as their requirement for licensing.

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CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

-- by Police Chief Justin Todd, NA

It's great to be back writing to you again as I missed the last article. As we get into the holiday season, I wanted to pass a long just a few safety tips to help keep you and your family from being victims of crime.

- 1) When out shopping, please place all your personal items that you leave in your vehicle out of sight, including packages.
- 2) Park in well-lit areas and make sure all your doors and windows are completely secured.
- 3) When having packages delivered to your residence, make sure you know when you are expecting them to arrive and if possible, track them. If you cannot be home to receive the packages, have a reliable person, neighbor or family member pick them up for you.
- 4) If you see suspicious activity, call the 911 and do not take any chances

These are just a few of many tips but please pass along to your friends and family as crimes, especially thefts, tend to go up during the holiday season.

The second part of this article is to introduce you to another one of Cambridge Police Department's finest, Lieutenant Robert Ball.

Lt. Ball was born and raised in Easton, Maryland. As a child Lt. Ball dreamed of following in his father's footsteps in law enforcement. At the age of twenty (20) he was hired by the Easton PD. He spent time at the Easton PD and the Talbot County Sheriff's Office until finding his home at Cambridge P.D in 2006. Since then, Lt. Ball has worked Patrol, Community Policing (bike patrol), K9 officer, and on the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit. Throughout his career, he has received multiple awards which include Life Saving, Honorable Service, Exceptional Duty and Unit Citations. In 2009 Lt. Ball was named Street Level Criminal Interdiction Officer of the Year through the National Criminal Enforcement Association. In September of this year, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.



Lt. Ball is married to Christina, his wife of sixteen (16) years, and has three (3) children. He is an avid hunter and fisherman. It is a pleasure having Lt. Ball apart of the Cambridge Police Department and the staff here as he serves as a true asset to the citizens of Cambridge.

I hope everyone has a very wonderful Thanksgiving and please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or concerns.



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CAMBRIDGE FUN FACTS & LORE - Did you know?

-- by Martha Phillips-Patrick

James Michener, author of *Chesapeake*, the most read novel ever written about the Chesapeake Bay, developed four fictional pieces of land on which to build the locations of his novel. Cambridge was the inspiration for one of them, the fictional town of Patamoke, located on a fictitious promontory on the Choptank River, opposite of Cambridge's actual location.

Michener's *Chesapeake* was published in 1978 after he spent three years doing research in the area for the novel during which time he lived in St. Michaels. The story deals with several family groups living in the Chesapeake area both in Virginia and Maryland over centuries of time. It starts in 1583 with American Indian tribes warring, moves with English settlers through the 17th century, slavery, pirate attacks, the American Revolution and the Civil War, Emancipation and assimilation, and finally to the Watergate scandal in the 1970s.

Source: Wikipedia

EASTERN SHORE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

-- by Susan Olsen

Save the date for the Fourth Annual Eastern Shore Environmental Legislative Summit

The Lower Eastern Shore Group of the Sierra Club will be presenting its fourth annual environmental legislative summit virtually on January 7th and 8th afternoons in 2023. Other environmental organizations sponsoring the summit include ShoreRivers and the Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition.

On Saturday, January 7th, Josh Tulkin, Director of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club will talk about the implementation of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. You may remember that this new law is the most ambitious GHG reduction program in the whole country. Now, we must learn how to put this plan into action.

After Josh gives an in-depth explanation of the CSNA, those legislators who are sponsoring climate bills this MGA session will present those bills. Environmental groups that support the legislation will also be able to help clarify the bills.

On Sunday afternoon, January 8th, we will be talking about other environmental legislation that is of interest to residents of the Eastern Shore as well as the rest of the state. These bills include topics such as stormwater infrastructure, recycling, composting, well water testing, offshore wind and energy storage, community solar, providing energy efficiency for low-income wage earners, and much more.

Speakers will include our Speaker Pro Tempore of the Maryland House of Delegates, Delegate Sheree Sample Hughes. Delegate Sample-Hughes is the only Eastern Shore legislator who voted for two major climate bills: The Clean Energy Jobs Act (a few years ago) and the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.



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Salisbury Mayor Jake Day will be closing on Sunday. He will be speaking about the environmental accomplishments of his administration. Salisbury is proof that environmental problems can be mitigated – even on the Eastern Shore!

Please save the dates for this interesting, informative environmental legislative summit – January 7th & 8th (Saturday and Sunday) afternoons (tentatively 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM.) Find out what you can do to mitigate climate change and preserve our beautiful Eastern Shore environment. We look forward to seeing you virtually in early January!

MAKE CAMBRIDGE RESILIENT - FLOOD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

-- by Larry White P.E. Project Manager

Our Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application for funding for the design and construction of our flood mitigation project along the Choptank River is still under review by MDEM/FEMA. In the interim, we issued a Request for Proposals for design and technical support services, contingent on a grant award, so we are prepared to move forward without delay, if and when funding becomes available.

The major activity over the last month and a half has been to respond to Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) comments and to make enhancement to our FEMA HMGP grant application for our "Make Cambridge Resilient Community Development Program" the part of our overall "Make Cambridge Resilient Flood Mitigation Plan" focused on "Risk Reduction Strategies for Tomorrow" (i.e., reducing flood risks due to the long-term impacts of sea level rise and major storms and their impacts on future development in the City).

Major storms associated with climate change have led to an increasing number of flooding events in urban areas such as the City of Cambridge due to the insufficient capacity of conventional grey stormwater management infrastructure primarily oriented towards the control of water quantities. Also, intense urbanization over the past few decades has significantly increased the proportion of impermeable surface that has resulted in increased amounts of surface water runoff and decreased amount of rainwater infiltrated into the soil. This has also resulted in a deterioration of water quality. We need to proactively identify and reduce these long-term risks so our City will be resilient, and be recognized as one of the best and safest places to be on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

We believe the best way to meet this challenge is to (1) create an organization within city government to be responsible for creating and managing a city-wide long term flood risk reduction program, and (2) leverage the Public Outreach efforts and Steering Committee technical support developed under the City's FEMA Advance Assistance Planning effort, to provide for public input and technical support to this program.

Community Development Program Overview

Our "Make Cambridge Resilient Community Development Program" will be managed by a newly established Flood Mitigation Program Management Organization (PMO) within City Government. This



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establishes accountability within the city's management organization empowered to implement this effort. We propose to hire a project manager/environmental professional to lead this effort and bring on-board a public outreach and technical support contractor all of which would be funded under the grant. Our Program Manager would be a full-time direct city hire. We envision five key initiatives under our proposed Community Development Program to reduce our long-term flood risk. They include:

1. Flood Protection and Stormwater Management Infrastructure

A key priority will be to ensure all of our flood protection infrastructure is maintained properly and that there is adequate funding to support it. Our hybrid "Make Cambridge Resilient Flood Mitigation Project" is complex combining both engineering and nature-based features and spanning both public and private property that will require the development and implementation of an operations and maintenance plan that defines roles and responsibilities and provides funding to support it.

The City of Cambridge will continue to experience sea level rise and larger storms in the future that may exceed the capacity of our aging stormwater management system. Currently the City relies on the local budget to pay for stormwater management and or upgrades or other flood related problems, competing with other needs for limited resources.

Stormwater management infrastructure requires long term maintenance and upgrades to maintain its ability to capture heavy rainfall, manage runoff, and control the inflow of tidal waters. In addition, the City plans to implement more nature-based stormwater management and shoreline protection measures that complement our engineered systems, that will require development and maintenance, and must be part of the overall plan to make the City resilient. Finally, more nature-based stormwater management infrastructure is needed to store, convey and treat stormwater before it is released to the Choptank River and Cambridge Creek to address the reality that we are experiencing increasing stormwater runoff due to severe storms.

Ensuring an adequate funding stream for our stormwater management, flood risk reduction measures, and our shoreline protection system for the City can be accomplished through a minimal utility fee or a special taxing district. The City will consider adopting a stormwater and shoreline resilience infrastructure tax and a long-term capital improvement plan addressing both current and futures infrastructure needs.

2. Integrating Flood Mitigation into City Planning

The City will institutionalize flood risk reduction in its project planning process including updating the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Working Waterfront Plan, and establishing Design Standards and Ordinance to "Make Cambridge Resilient" to sea level rise and major storms going forward.



Action may include:

- Designating coastal high hazard areas as an Overlay Zone with supplemental use restrictions
- Requiring use of permeable surfaces in new parking areas

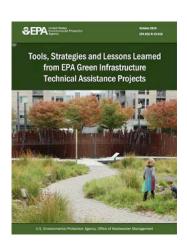
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- Enhancing land-use policies to prepare for the impacts of climate change
- Implementing nature-based flood mitigation measures to be integrated into all project planning and design efforts going forward
- Developing land acquisition, relocation assistance, or buyout programs for high-risk properties
- Requiring consideration of climate change and future sea level rise in the siting and design of public facilities and infrastructure
- Develop policies that promote use of green infrastructure or living shorelines
- Requiring living shoreline restoration techniques be considered for all areas where there is significant damage due to floods and major storms.

We will utilize forward planning in considering projections of sea level rise and flood risk in planning all future public infrastructure projects and residential development to reduce and avoid risk and to guide implementation of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Working Waterfront Plan. The City will take advantage of all these activities in reducing our flood risk by participating in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), a voluntary incentive program that recognized and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed minimum NFIP requirements. Dorchester County is already a member and has advanced standing to a Class 6 rating which qualified for an average of 20 percent cost savings in annual flood insurance premiums. It is our intention that the Mayor will appoint our new Environmental Professional Program Manager to be our CRS Coordinator for this project.

3. Implementing A Green Infrastructure Plan

Another key initiative of our Community Development Program will be to develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Plan. This will include the implementation of a range of nature-based flood mitigation features to reduce the amount of surface water runoff and contaminants it may carry into our waterways. Although we have developed, as part of our Make Cambridge Resilient Project, the capacity to capture and store stormwater that may accumulate as a result of a 100-year rain event, we are primarily relying on enhancements to our engineered storm water management system to handle the water flow and storage. Much more needs to be done to develop and implement nature-based flood mitigation measures city wide, to improve on this plan in mitigating the impacts of an expected increasing amount of stormwater that we will experience as a result of projected sea level rise and major storms in the future.



Nature-based solutions can contribute to stormwater management both by reducing the volume and flow rate of stormwater runoff and removing contaminants from stormwater. Nature-based solutions such as urban parks and open spaces, wetlands, bioswales, rain gardens and detention and retention ponds promote water storage and infiltration, reducing stormwater runoff and they are attractive in combination with grey infrastructure, not only for stormwater management but also for their integration within the wider Green Infrastructure network. Green Infrastructure plays an important role in stormwater management in rainwater detention, flood mitigation, reduction in sewer overflow events and the reduction in management costs for the system.



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Our City-Wide Green Infrastructure Plan will be based on available open space, the slope of the land, soil hydraulic conductivity and presence of or ability to create pervious surfaces to reduce, control and treat surface water runoff before it is discharged to the Choptank River or Cambridge Creek. This will be a GIS based plan that will be managed and maintained by the city with the support of the project team. We will analyze the existing grey infrastructure storm water system and surface water drainage network to define where and how we could implement specific nature-based interventions that could be implemented to slow and retain surface water flow and facilitate its infiltration into the ground. This will include development of a methodology and modeling of the network to identify areas where there is potential to install Green Infrastructure which will reduce both the flow and the volume of runoff. The end result will be the development of Green Infrastructure Compatibility Maps as a tool for land-use planning.





In capturing and analyzing data in the development of our Green Infrastructure Plan we will identify specific nature-based solutions that may be implemented based on site conditions and future development plans including infrastructure and property improvement planning efforts. This plan will be updated periodically and will be maintained online for the city, businesses and residents for their planning purposes. The anticipated results of our Green Infrastructure Plan will include implementation of a wide range of nature-based solutions city-wide such as stormwater parks, bioswales, rain gardens, permeable pavement, green streets, and detention and retention ponds to promote water storage and infiltration, and to reduce and remove contaminants from stormwater runoff.

4. Reducing Flood Risks to Businesses and Residents

The project team will use the results of the planning process including the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan to provide support to businesses and residents in the planning and implementation of specific engineered and nature-based flood mitigation projects on their properties including support in obtaining grant funding.

A key element of our Community Development Program is to work with businesses and residents in providing technical support to them in developing concepts and plans to reduce their personal risk and potential grant funding to support it. Our program management team will support businesses and residents using the results of our flood mitigation and green infrastructure planning to support them. We had our kick-off Risk Reduction Workshop for the public with key members of our Steering Committee providing presentations and information on risk reduction techniques to residents on March 22, 2022.



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A key part of the audience for this effort includes property owners and businesses within the flood risk area of the Choptank River and Cambridge Creek. We have identified those property owners at risk, are reaching out to them and will continue to support them under this proposed new Community Development Program. Our broader audience includes all residents, especially those residents most at risk to losses due to flooding along the Choptank River and Cambridge Creek that may result from a major storm that exceeds the design of our flood mitigation project.

In the implementation of our green infrastructure plan and flood mitigation measures for businesses and residents, funding under our Community Development Program will be used to develop project designs in sufficient detail to support grant applications for property acquisition and implementation of the design. Other grants may include, for example, MD DNR's Program Open Space program that provides funding for the acquisition of property, and MD DNR's TRUST Grant that provides funding for project implementation.

5. Development of Flood Mitigation Workforce

Our fifth key initiative is for the city to develop the workforce to support this program to reduce reliance on the need for contractor support over the long term. We will develop a strategy and plan to develop our long-term workforce. Our approach would include, for example, the following:



Develop Conceptual Plan for Resource Support. The city will develop a long-term staffing plan based on program requirements, and experience obtained during program implementation. For example, while managing the design and construction of our hybrid flood mitigation project and developing our operations and maintenance plan, we will identify the skills and resources that will be needed to maintain our flood mitigation infrastructure.

Establish and Implement Educational and Training Program. The UMCES is expert in the design of nature-based flood mitigation measures. They are in the business of teaching and training and have offered their support in the development of our workforce. The City is also partnering with specialist in workforce development in the industry (such as Chris Wheedleton of Partnership for Learning and Lead support to DOCO Workforce Development, who has developed a training and recruitment programs for students).

Work with Steering Committee. Steering committee members, particularly those working in the environment industry have good knowledge of the state-of-the-art in flood mitigation and the resources available that support the industry, including training programs and candidates that could be hired by the city to fill specific positions. Committee member Matt Pluta of Shore Rivers has a training program in place.

Develop Network of Available Contractors in the Region - One of the best sources of support is through the project team network of organizations and contractors working in the industry. Examples include the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other non-profits as well and contractors working on our Make Cambridge Resilient Project and others in the mid-Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay region.

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COMMUNITY NEWS – COOPERATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

CAMBRIDGE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (CEC)

The Board of Directors of the Cambridge Empowerment Center (The Pine Street Committee, Inc.), a nonprofit 501c organization, is excited to announce that they are refocusing and expanding their efforts to help struggling families and children in Cambridge.

We are updating our facility and revamping our organization and programs to become a Maryland State licensed childcare facility to enhance our impact on the community. A grand reopening is scheduled for end of the year to launch their new campaign called IMPACT 2023.

Our Children's programs will be titled "Pine Street Enrichment Program" and will emphasize learning in a fun way. Reading and math will be our focus for many children who were left behind academically in the pandemic. We are working and collaborating with many other organizations in Dorchester County, including the Grade Level Reading Coalition to make sure our children are reading on level by third grade.

In addition to our children's programs, our vision is to turn the CEC into a thriving hub of activity for all ages, 7 days a week. We are currently looking for staff to fill all positions. If you are interested in getting more information about these opportunities, please send an email to info@cambempowermentcenter.org.

Donations are critical to our 2023 success and are appreciated. You can donate at our website – <u>cambridgeempowermentcenter.org</u>, or send a check to The Pine Street Committee, PO Box 494, Cambridge, Md. 21613. We are thankful to the City and County for their support.

MIDSHORE MEALS TIL MONDAY

MidShore Meals 'til Monday is working to end childhood hunger on Maryland's Eastern Shore by providing weekend food for food-insecure children in Dorchester County. Meals 'til Monday sends home healthy, nutritious food for children at the end of each school week and during the summer months for breakfast, lunch and snacks to bridge the hunger gap for children without access to adequate food. Meals 'til Monday programs currently provide food for more than 500 elementary, middle and high school students.

Meals 'til Monday needs your support to keep providing essential nourishment to our children. Donations are fully tax deductible and can be made at https://www.mscf.org/donate-online/. 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/

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CAN MISSION, MEMBERSHIP, and COMMITTEES

The Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) fosters neighborhood cohesion and community involvement to enhance the quality of community life for all residents of Cambridge through community events, social activities, and neighborly assistance; and protect and enhance 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 all Cambridge neighborhoods who are interested in organizing and working together, building a diverse membership reflecting the diversity of Cambridge residents. Membership is FREE – information is available on the CAN website at https://cambridgecan.org/join-can/

CAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Elections for the following CAN Board of Director positions will be held at the 2023 Annual Business Meeting: Vice President, Secretary, and 3 Members. Current incumbents are eligible for re-election. Nominations must be forwarded to President Chuck McFadden at Ragtime31@gmail.com by December 15, 2022.

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.

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@qmail.com* to volunteer.

CAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – WRITERS NEEDED

CAN'S Communications Committee needs writers, including volunteers to take unofficial notes at public meetings. *Please contact Tom Puglisi at tom.puglisi@comcast.net to volunteer.*

POWER WASHER AVAILABLE

CAN has an electric power washer available to members. Contact Chuck McFadden at <u>Ragtime31@gmail.com</u> if you would like to borrow it.

