

Building a Better Community, Block by Block

Newsletter #23.05 May 2023

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

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

-- Charles McFadden, President, CAN

As of this writing, the Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) will reach 500 members. This is an amazing accomplishment for a little organization that started in my front yard in Ward 1. Now, we have members from every ward and are growing stronger in the newer communities that are developing around the City. CAN's primary objective has remained the same – "trying to bring neighbors together" but our methods have changed. We started out trying to develop street "captains" to organize their neighbors for get-togethers. Since the Covid pandemic, we morphed into a reporting organization and promoter for major events and other non-profits in the City.

With that in mind, we need volunteers to cover different government and semi-government activities. At present, we cover meetings of the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Appeals, Board of Education, and Historic Preservation Commission on a regular basis, as well as issues related to the Municipal Marina. We need volunteers to cover the meetings of the County Council, Cambridge Waterfront Development Commission (CWDI) and the Shoreline Restoration Project. We would like to have an article about each of these for our monthly newsletter. We also publish short announcements about special events or meetings. Please consider using your "reporter" instincts to help us cover these important topics.

While CAN is primarily a City-based organization, we also welcome members from surrounding areas, and the County government decisions impact all of us. The CWDI is a multi-million-dollar project to develop a new economic engine for the City. It has recently raised eyebrows by entertaining a proposal to use a large portion (80,000 sq ft) of the waterfront for a new non-profit, non-tax paying YMCA that will have 50 to 100 cars taking up space with no dedicated parking on the site. The Shoreline Restoration project is a \$20 million effort to reshape the waterfront from Cambridge Creek to Great Marsh Park to help stop flooding and erosion. CAN needs an independent eye to track the County Council and these two major projects so that our members can stay informed on the major developments in the City.

Finally, CAN is looking for representatives from the new developments that are surrounding the City. These developments have different concerns than the more establish neighborhoods, and CAN would like to coordinate the needs of these communities so their voices can have a bigger impact on the City. Send a name and contact info to Chuck McFadden, Ragtime31@gmail.com, and we will try to organize this group.



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I would like to end this message with a special thanks to Dave Thatcher, Judd Vickers and Tom Puglisi who have worked especially hard for CAN on expanding membership. It is though their efforts that we have been able to expand though out the City and surrounding areas. So, thank you very much.

-- Chuck McFadden, President, CAN

YES, WE CAN!



CAMBRIDGE CORNER

CAMBRIDGE REAL ESTATE TRENDS

-- Fred & Martha Phillips-Patrick

National and Regional Residential Real Estate Developments

According to Freddie Mac, as of May 11, "This week's decrease continues a recent sideways trend in mortgage rates, which is a welcome departure from the record increases of last year. While inflation remains elevated, its rate of growth has moderated and is expected to decelerate over the remainder of 2023. This should bode well for the trajectory of mortgage rates over the long-term." These trends, coupled with tight labor markets, are creating increased optimism among prospective homebuyers.

As of May 6th, Bright MLS reported on real estate developments on the Eastern Shore. They found: "Dorchester (+10.6%) and Queen Anne's (+3.9%) counties had higher closed sales in April 2023 compared to last year. This contrasts with the Mid-Atlantic market overall and the other counties within the Maryland Eastern Shore region.

The market still remains constricted by fewer buyers able to purchase at 6%+ mortgage rates and limited inventory. Generally, prices are up year-over-year, though median prices fell in both Caroline (-8.7%) and Dorchester (-3.3%) counties. Both buyers and sellers have pulled back due to economic uncertainty. Prices fluctuate as the market rebalances. The mix of homes sold each month also impacts price movements.

The speed of transactions varies significantly withing Maryland Eastern Shore. On the low end, Queen Anne's County had a median of 5 days on market and in Cecil County, the median was 6

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days. Dorchester County's median time was over a month and a half, at 46 days in April 2023, a big surge from last year at this time but possibly a one-month anomaly." In Cambridge itself, median time to sell in April was 88 days on the market.

Cambridge Market Update

Realtor.com characterizes the City of Cambridge as a buyer's market in April 2023, which means that the supply of homes is greater than the demand for homes. In April 2023, the median listing home price in Cambridge was \$289K, trending up 17.5% year-over-year. The median home sold price was \$298.8K in March; in April, the median home sold price was \$245K, reflecting a different mix of homes sold. In March, homes in Cambridge sold after 92 days on the market. In April, on average, homes in Cambridge, MD sell after 88 days on the market. The trend for median days on market in Cambridge has gone down since last month, and slightly up since last year.

Sales: Currently, according to Realtor.com, there are now 144 homes for sale (111 single family homes and 33 condos and townhomes) in the Cambridge area. There are also 4 multifamily units for sale, as well as 57 plots of land. The properties' asking prices range from \$13,500 to \$2,900,000. According to Realtor.com, 37 single family, townhouses, and condo sales were completed in April, ranging in value from \$30,000 to \$605,000. They are:

1616 Osprey Cir	\$307K	1606 Osprey Cir	\$340K	307 Mill St	\$605K
404 N Seaway Ct	\$316K	1618 Osprey Cir	\$296K	5346 Bucktown Rd	\$175K
219 Willis St	\$290K	606 Locust St	\$355K	4 Oriole Dr	\$278K
802 Phillips St	\$48K	13 Jenkins Creek Rd	\$340K	1008 River Point Rd	\$290K
105 Mariners Way	\$250K	104 Mariners Way	\$279K	2515 Boeing Way	\$255K
409 Robbins Farm Rd	\$249K	302 Bayly Ave	\$175K	903 Springfield Ave	\$110K
606 Water St Apt 3	\$153K	1670 Terrapin Cir	\$349K	419 Leonards Ln	\$75K
313 Willis St	\$267K	807 Truman St	\$154K	611 Widgeon Way	\$41K
600 Widgeon Way	\$41K	300 West End Ave	\$298K	716 Douglas St	\$40K
604 Moores Ave	\$40K	2265 Jenkins Creek Rd	\$306K	721 Pine St	\$83K
619 High St	\$200K	5609 Riverton Rd	\$450K	413 Henry St	\$30K
1336 Stone Boundary	\$245K	12 Holly Ter	\$369K	400 Ruddy Duck Ct	\$242K
305 Terrapin Cir	\$318K				

Other Developments

As you might have heard, the future of the Dorchester County YMCA is up for discussion, as the Board of Directors is considering relocating the facility to the new Cambridge Harbor



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Development area. The proposal has met with mixed reactions from the community, with some calling for the existing facility to be upgraded, while others believe the move is necessary to accommodate the changing needs of the community.

At an April 20, 2023, CAN meeting, YMCA officials presented plans for a new 70,000 square foot facility at Cambridge Harbor, which would include a six-lane heated pool, an indoor walking track, double the gym space, and additional space for programs. The proposed facility would be located on the waterfront and is projected to serve 7,800 individuals, citing similarities to the new Kent County facility that has grown its membership to 6,200. The cost of the new facility is estimated to be between \$22-25 million.

No decision has been made at this point, but the proposal has generated a lot of discussion about the future of the YMCA, its suitability to be located in the new Cambridge Harbor, and what might happen to its current location. To be continued . . .

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE DEBATE - MAY 24

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a debate for candidates running in the June 6 special election for City Council seats in Wards 1 and 5.

The debate will be held on May 24, from 6-8 pm, at The Weinberg Intergenerational Center, which is located at 108 Chesapeake Street in Cambridge.

The candidates are:

Ward 1:

- · Laurel E. Atkiss
- · Chad Malkus

Ward 5

- · Robert G. Aaron
- Cleveland L. Rippons
- Brian R. Roche

The special election is being held on June 6, because council members Chad Malkus and Brian Roche moved out of their districts. According to City Manager Tom Carrol, the city rules require that if a council member moves out of their district, they have one year to return or resign. As it happens, Chad Malkus and Brian Roche moved into each other's districts and are now running for the other member's seat. Both have challengers.



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Debate topics will cover issues important to residents of the city, including budget priorities, law enforcement and crime, transparency of council deliberations and the relationship between the city and county councils.

After a welcome by the moderator, candidates will make opening statements and respond to questions posed by the moderator and members of the audience. Audience members will have an opportunity to offer written questions on index cards provided by the League.

Directions to The Weinberg Intergenerational Center: From Route 50, take Rte. 16 west towards Taylor's Island. Past South Dorchester High School, turn right on Chesapeake Street (across from Egypt Rd.). Mid-block, turn right into The Intergenerational Center.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) REPORT

-- Sharon Smith

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) of Cambridge did not hold the April meeting due to lacking a quorum. The HPC is supposed to have five regular commissioners and one alternate. However, the city has failed to replace commissioners in a timely manner, leaving only a total of four members. A make-up meeting was planned, but was derailed by the abrupt resignation of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, leaving only two members. The reasons given by the departing officers are as follows —

The City has repeatedly neglected to follow up on numerous HPC violations as we have requested multiple times over many months. Many times, violations have been dealt with by placating parties who refuse to comply with the Commission's rulings. In the meetings, we have been yelled at, cursed at, and treated as though we have no idea what the guidelines direct. I myself have been questioned repeatedly. I have continued to work on fair and impartial implementation of the HPC guidelines. However, the City has repeatedly failed to do its part to support and enforce HPC determinations. . . . Moreover, the City's continuing pattern of selective enforcement of code violations throughout the City is both unfair and unacceptable.

At the May 7th City Council meeting the city appointed to the HPC Tim Crosby, a local architect with extensive knowledge of Cambridge's built environment. Ron Berman, a local historian and former member of the commission, has graciously agreed to serve temporarily until more commissioners are appointed.



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The April cases will be heard on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6pm. The May cases will be scheduled for late May.

Note that any exterior modifications to structures in the West End Historic District require prior approval from the HPC. Applications and design guidelines are available on the City of Cambridge HPC website at https://www.choosecambridge.com/206/Historic-Preservation-Commission or from the Department of Planning and Zoning. HPC meetings will be held on the third Wednesday or Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber at 305 Gay Street. Meetings are open to the public and available on Town Hall Streams at https://townhallstreams.com/towns/cambridgemd.

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

-- Chief Justin R. Todd, NA

Hello everyone,

It's great to get back to having a chance to write an article again. I have kept missing the deadlines lately, but thanks to seeing Mr. McFadden the other evening, I was able to make sure I did not miss this opportunity. Since it has been a bit since I last wrote, I wanted to share with you a little about how Cambridge PD is doing as an agency and some of our upcoming events.

As you probably are aware Cambridge PD has gone through some significant changes as far as leadership within the last nine months in addition to becoming more community oriented. Since taking over as the Acting Chief in August and being named permanent in January one of my big challenges has been recruitment and retention. At our lowest, back in September, we had a total of 31 officers. As of now we currently have 33 sworn officers and thanks to our City I was able to hire one civilian, who serves as a liaison between the citizens and the Police Department. We were able to have one already certified officer return to us last month. We are looking at hiring another already certified officer by the end of the month and it is promising that we will be able to hire five recruits for the Police Academy in July. That would bring our total up to thirty-nine plus the civilian position. If we can get to December and have that total compared to where we were a year ago, I will be very grateful.

I do want to touch on crime in the city. One of our major issues happening throughout the city right now is the number of weapons, specifically, handguns we are getting off the streets. We as an agency are continuing to be proactive in engaging the criminal activity and holding dangerous offenders that are walking our city streets accountable. The new ShotSpotter technology that we have invested in has been very beneficial to us and has allowed us to not



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only pinpoint where the shots are coming from but has also led us to obtain search warrants, recover handguns, and in my opinion deter criminal activity.

I will finish by saying that as the weather warms, we will look forward to seeing everyone out and about this summer. The Gun Violence Reduction Work Group will be teaming up with citizens on June 3rd beginning at 9:00 am for a Community Clean-up. We will meet at the sub-station on Pine Street, where I will give a briefing on the gun crimes and then we will spread out and clean-up neighborhoods. Please feel free to join us. Also, we are excited to announce our first ever "Dads on the Dock" that will be held on June 11th• We will bring children out to fish with their dads or person of choice along with the Police and teach them the art of fishing and how fun it can be.

I hope you enjoyed the read, and I want to end by thanking each and every one of you for the continued support of the Cambridge Police Department. If any of you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

COMMUNITY NEWS – COOPERATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MAIN STREET GALLERY – Spring Show 2023

-- Theresa Knight McFadden

Main Street Gallery is excited to present "SPRING SHOW 2023 –including New Artists, New Media". The gallery has recently welcomed four new members who bring with them a wealth of talent, experience and exciting new work in a variety of media. They will be showing alongside the gallery's other 9 members.

Sheryl Southwick is a well- known, award winning artist and arts educator from Easton. Sheryl makes collages, paintings and prints and says, "Color and texture have been the main focus of my work since I began painting". She says that a year spent in Paris and the French artist Pierre Bonnard were great influences on her art.

Cambridge woodworker Bill Pavan is showing his graceful wooden bowls, vases and pepper mills which are often accented with metal and inlays of natural materials such as oyster shells. His work, he says, "specializes in accentuating the natural beauty of wood, metal and other renewable resources". Besides his art, Bill has a career as a geneticist at NIH.

Rick Klepfer, who lives and maintains his studio in Cambridge, is showing a suite of black and white pen and ink drawings of Dorchester County scenes and flora and fauna from the Blackwater wildlife refuge. Rick has



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divided his working life among his art, architecture and writing and has contributed articles and illustrations to many national publications.

And finally, David Stevens returns to the gallery after a long absence. David, who has spent his career devoted to his art, was one of the original members of the coop and at that time showed his photos of maritime scenes. The multi-talented artist will now be showing his abstract, wall hung wooden sculptures, some of which incorporate stained glass.

"Spring Show 2023" opens on Wednesday May 3 and runs through Sunday July 2. Come meet the artists at two receptions on second Saturdays, May 13 and June 10 from 5-8 pm. All are invited and light refreshments will be served.

Main Street Gallery is located at 518 Poplar St. in Cambridge's lively arts and entertainment district. The gallery is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11-5 and Saturdays from 11-7. For more information call the gallery at 410-330-4659 or visit their website at https://mainstreetgallery.net

Images below are, in order, by Sheryl Southwick, Rick Klepfer, David Stevens and Bill Pavan.









FIRECRACKER KID'S TRIATHLON - JULY 4TH

The local Cambridge, MD triathlon group, Cambridge Multi-Sport, (CMS) announces the return of their annual "Firecracker Kid's Triathlon" on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at the Robbins Family YMCA at 201 Talbot Avenue in Cambridge, MD.

Rebranded in memory of local Ironman, MD organizer and director Gerry Boyle, this year marks the 11th anniversary of the triathlon. The event begins at 8:00 am as children from ages 6 to 15 will swim, bike, and run various distances based on their age group.

The swim will be completed inside the Robbins YMCA facility and the bike and run will take place in the residential neighborhood around the YMCA with guidance and direction from the Cambridge Police Department and the membership of CMS.

The cost for this USAT (USA Triathlon) sanctioned event is \$30/child with an additional mandatory \$10 fee for USAT's one-day membership.

All money raised during this event will go to CMS's High School Scholarship fund that awards 4 college scholarships yearly for students from North Dorchester and Cambridge South-Dorchester High Schools that have shown academic success and competed in Cross Country, Swimming or Track and Field during their high school years.



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For more information or to register your child for the "Gerry Boyle Firecracker Kids Triathlon" on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 in Cambridge, MD, please visit their Facebook page ("Gerry Boyle Firecracker Kids") or click to: www.trisignup.com/FirecrackerKidsTri.



Annual Gerry Boyle



Firecracker Kids Triathlon



Ages 6 – 15 as of 12/31/23







Where: Robbins Family YMCA 201 Talbot Avenue Cambridge, MD

Must sign up in advance at www.trisignup.com/FirecrackerKidsTri





Registration ends July 3, 2023



Scan For Registration & Event Details

Age Group (as of 12/31)	Swim Distance	Bike Distance	Run Distance	
6 - 7 year old	25 yard	.75 mile		
8 - 9 year old	50 yard	.75 mile	.6 mile	
10 - 11 year old	100 yard	2.0 mile	1.0 mile	
12 - 13year old	150 yard	2.0 mile	1.0 mile	
14 - 15 year old	200 yard	2.0 mile	1.0 mile	





SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



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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 the Director, at 703-371-5191, or visit their Facebook page or website at www.midshoremealstilmonday.org/



CAMBRIDGE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (CEC) - PINE STREET SUMMER LEARNING ENRICHMENT

The Cambridge Empowerment Center is a nonprofit, multi-use community center in the heart of the Pine Street Historic District in Cambridge, Maryland. The Center is governed by a board of directors, known as The Pine Street Committee, Inc. who oversee the programs and the use of the building.

Donations are critical to our 2023 success and are appreciated. You can donate at our website – cambridgeempowermentcenter.org, or send a check to The Pine Street Committee, PO Box 494, Cambridge, Md. 21613







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PINE STREET FAMILY FUN EVENT – MAY 20



The Cambridge Empowerment Center and the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center are teaming up to sponsor a free, family fun event on Pine Street. **On May 20th, at 11:30**, "Music on Pine" will start off with a kid's activity at the Empowerment Center (615B Pine Street) with "Lunch and Books". Kids and their families will be served a free lunch with reading and craft activities. At 1:00, Walter Jones will delight all with a musical story. At 2:00 the event will continue on Pine Street with a DJ, line dancing, and performances by our own students from local schools. There will be vendors and a Tricky Tray fundraiser for both organizations. Please come out and support your community!

Vendors are needed (both food and sales) and should call Joyce Green to reserve a place/table (443-477-2572)

WHCP's 2023 FUNDRAISER -- Three Music Events, An Eclectic Mix Just Like WHCP!

Josh Christina. May 25 at the 447 Venue (40/ticket). "...an infectious blend of piano driven high-octane boogie-woogie and pop 'n' roll." Think of a mix between Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, and Elton John and you've got Josh Christina. If you're a fan of piano driven rock 'n' roll, Josh will restore your confidence in the ability of young musicians to carry on the great tradition of the rock pioneers. He writes his own music, refurbishes the classics, and plays a mean piano. He's also known for creating legendary live performances with his band. Don't miss your chance to see this rock 'n' roll revivalist in his element—performing for music lovers of all ages.

Kentavius Jones and Friends Unplugged. August 3 at the 447 Venue (\$40/ticket). Kentavius Jones is part of a new generation of music artists with new energy and purpose on the Eastern Shore. A regional favorite, Kentavius grew up listening to Stevie Wonder, Miles Davis, Eric Clapton, and Jimi Hendrix on his father's turntable. A gifted vocalist and guitarist, Kentavius nods to those influences while fashioning a unique



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brand of soulful rock. KJ killed it last year as one of WHCP's event series performers, so by popular demand he is back! And he is bringing some of his musician friends as well. Do not miss this opportunity to celebrate WHCP's expansion this summer into the greater Mid-Shore!

Dave Chappell Band featuring Tommy Lepson. Sept 2 dinner and a show at the Dorchester American Legion (\$55/ticket includes dinner). Dave Chappell is one of is one of the most sought after and respected musicians on the East Coast. He has performed with legends Jerry Lee Lewis, Sam Moore, Percy Sledge and Johnny Johnson. For this show he's bringing Tommy Lepson, a nationally-recognized Hammond organist, singer and winner of eleven WAMMIE awards. His gritty and flexible R&B voice conjures images of James Brown one moment and Sam Cooke the next. He's appeared with the Kinks, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, NRBQ and Chuck Berry and recorded with Nils Lofgren and many more. It's a special dinner and a show Labor Day weekend in Cambridge MD.

Or buy all three before May 25 for \$115! - Go to WHCP.org/events for more information and tickets!





WHCP-FM COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD – MAY 20TH

All are welcome to the Community Radio Advisory Board (CRAB) for WHCP-FM which will meet at 10 am on Saturday, May 20th. Learn all about the soon to be bigger WHCP-FM as we move to 91.7 FM — and the many ways the community can engage in this long-sought after major upgrade (jumping from 90 watts on 101.5 to 14,000 watts on 91.7!). CRAB chair Dave Harp will be joined by other members of the Board and station management.

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Targeting rising 7th, 8th & 9th graders An exciting program will be offered to middle school students this summer.

Animation
App Development
Aviation
Chess
Cyber Security
Drones
Media Arts
Presentation/Video Design
Robotics

The program runs from July 10 - August 3, 2023
Two Sessions Offered: Mon - Thurs from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Session I

7/10-7/13

7/17 - 7/20

Session II

7/24 - 7/27

7/31 - 8/3

SCEP will engage students in hands-on activities that lead to career paths in: cybersecurity, media arts, video production, computer science, and engineering.

Location

Dorchester Career and Tech Center 2465 MD-16 Cambridge, MD

Register online @ www.pfccoalition.org/SCEP.asp

For more information call: 301-772-1552



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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 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.

