

Building a Better Community, Block by Block

Newsletter #23.06 June 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 – Congratulations and Thanks!

-- Charles McFadden, President, CAN

I would like to congratulate Laurel Atkiss and Brian Roche on their wins in the special election for Wards 1 and 5. They campaigned hard and did a good job identifying the issues. I would also like to thank Cleveland Rippon and Robert Aaron for running in Ward 5 and for helping to bring out all aspects of the issues. Finally, a special thanks to Chad Malkus, Ward 5 Commissioner for the past 2 and half years, for all of his hard work and efforts on the Council.

This new Council faces a number of big problems —the replacement of the sewer system, shoreline restoration, Cambridge Harbor revitalization, and bringing the whole community together.

I hope, however, that the Council takes the time to fix the City Charter so that it is clearer how to proceed when there is a vacancy in a Council or Mayor's position. In the past 2 years, the City has undergone two special elections and one runoff election. That was bad enough, but there was also a lot of confusion and a significant delay in setting up these elections because the City Charter has conflicting rules regarding elections. So, let's take the time to fix the election process before we have to use it again.

-- Chuck McFadden, President, CAN

CAMBRIDGE CORNER

CAMBRIDGE REAL ESTATE TRENDS

-- Fred & Martha Phillips-Patrick

National Trends

According to Realtor.com: The May housing data show that the growth in the inventory of homes actively for sale has slowed and is declining in many metropolitan areas across the country as sellers continue to list fewer homes than last year and buyers compete over the remaining affordable homes for sale. While the median asking price for a home is growing seasonally, listing prices remained about the same as late last spring and this year's median list price may not reach the previous year's peak for the first time in our data. Additionally, the median listing on a price per square foot basis declined compared to the previous year for the first time in our data's history (since 2016). Nevertheless, as projected in our 2023 Housing Forecast, home buying costs haven't come down. The monthly mortgage payments required to purchase a typical home remain higher than last year due to elevated mortgage rates, now nearly 7.15% for a thirty-year fixed rate mortgage, that continue to provide headwinds to buyers despite stalling listing prices and declining sale prices.

Cambridge Market Update

Realtor.com characterized the City of Cambridge as a buyer's market in May 2023, which means that the supply of homes was greater than the demand for homes. In May, 2023, the median listing home price in



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Cambridge was \$270K, trending up 8% year-over-year, but down from April's \$292K. The median home sold price was \$298.8K in April; in May, the median home sold price was \$314K, reflecting a different mix of homes sold. In April, on average, homes in Cambridge, MD, sold after 51 days on the market. In May, they sold after 46 days on the market. The trend for median days on market in Cambridge has gone down since last month, and down from last year, a good sign.

Sales: Currently, according to Realtor.com, there are now 145 homes for sale (106 single family homes and 39 condos and townhomes) in the Cambridge area. There are also 3 multifamily units for sale, as well as 58 plots of land and farms. The properties' asking prices range from \$15,000 to \$2,000,000.

According to Realtor.com, 24 single family, townhouses, and condo sales were completed in May, ranging in value from \$49,000 to \$2,295,000. They are, with the most recent sales listed first:

201 Aurora St	\$234K	303 Terrapin Cir	\$347K	606 Water St Apt 1	\$160K
5312 Spring Dr	\$260K	5476 Ragged Point Rd	\$1,625K	5716 Ross Neck Rd	\$2,295K
307 Terrapin Cir	\$325K	119 Willis St	\$285K	313 Terrapin Cir	\$315K
1013 Hudson Rd	\$315K	1105 Holland Ave	\$130K	209-211 High St	\$760K
13 Algonquin Rd	\$345K	625 Washington St	\$49K	207 Oakley St	\$625K
2700 Willow Oak #206D	\$400K	2107 Church Creek Rd	\$665K	1676 Terrapin Cir	\$305K
908 Washington St	\$71K	423 High St	\$50K	411 Edlon Park Dr	\$215K
5839 Hudson Wharf Rd	\$390K	404 Bayly Ave	\$185K	312 Talbot Ave	\$257K

Other Developments

Research suggests that three major factors affect neighborhood house values: accessibility (location, location, location!), the level of crime (personal safety), and the quality of the educational system.

To explore one issue, let's see where the data on crime place Cambridge. A recent report (May 26, 2023) by Michael Rivera in the *SouthWest Journal* reported that, based on the most recent FBI data available (2020), Cambridge was the third most dangerous city in Maryland, ranked by property crime rates, with only Ocean City and Elkton reporting higher property crime rates (on a per thousand population basis).

More recently, the Cambridge Police reported that through April, the crime statistics, comparing 2022 and 2023, were as follows:

January – April 2022	/ January – A	prii 2023	January – Apr	ii 2022 / Jar	nuary – April 2023
Part 1 Crimes					
Homicide	3	1	Calls for Servi	<u>ce</u>	
Rape	2	2		10,078	11,552
Robbery	5	4	<u>Arrests</u>		
Agg. Assault	27	31	Adults	195	71
Burglary	19	14	Juveniles	44	9
Theft	127	113			
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	27			



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The biggest changes in crime statistics appear to have been Motor Vehicle Thefts, up more than double, and the sharp decline in arrests. These data are somewhat discouraging.

Of more recent note, according to WBOC, the Cambridge Police say they have received several reports of people's checks being stolen out of the mail and cashed by unintended recipients. According to Police, most of the incidents have happened after checks were placed into United States Postal Service mailboxes in the city. Police say boxes on Locust Street at High Street, at Cambridge Marketplace and on Peachblossom Avenue near Washington Street have been targeted. Please be careful.

In our next report, we will look briefly at the educational system and how that has been preforming.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) REPORT

-- Sharon Smith

The April meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was delayed until Thursday, May 18, 2023, due to a lack of a quorum.

The 5-member Commission is currently comprised of only three Commissioners: Tim Crosby, Bronte Lake and Sharon Smith, with Ron Berman sitting in when needed until the Commission is fully appointed.

The Commissioners elected Sharon Smith as Chairperson. Another election will likely be held in August to allow the as-yet-to-be appointed Commissioners to have a vote. Officers serve a one-year term.

Six applications received administrative approvals for roof replacements, porch screens, fences and repairs. Four cases received a full review for porch railings, fences, windows and doors. Additionally, RAR received approval for the installation of four grain silos in their back parking lot.

The May meeting was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Three applications received administrative approval for re-bricking stairs, chimney repairs and shingle replacement. Eight cases received full reviews for front porch changes, windows, lighting, siding and fences. The Mill Street school received approval for rear entrance design, lighting, parking, ADA ramp, landscaping, front walkway, and repairs.

It was noted that the Inflation Reduction Act provides \$3200 tax credits for energy improvements to residences, including \$600 for Energy Star windows.

The June meeting will be held Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

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



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CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT – Happy Summer, Everyone!

-- Police Chief Justin R. Todd, NA

CPD Update

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. I would like to start by saying that on Friday, June 16th, we will graduate three officers from the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy. We are slowly adding to our manpower as we plan to put five in the next academy class beginning on July 5th. I want to give a large amount of credit to the officers and staff here at the Cambridge Police Department who have been working hard in the recruitment of good, qualified candidates that will fit in well with our Community Oriented Policing efforts and making themselves a positive impact for the City of Cambridge.

Crime

One of our crime issues in the last several months has been regarding vehicle thefts, particularly Hyundai vehicles. We have made several arrests regarding the vehicle thefts which were all juveniles. Please make sure you lock your vehicles and keep all valuables hidden.

Mail fraud is another issue we have been dealing with. We have had several reports in the city regarding the removal of checks from postal service mailboxes and then rewritten in a different amount and electronically cashed. We have been forwarding all reports and working with the Postal Inspector who have advised that they have had several reports throughout Maryland. These investigations are ongoing, and no arrests have been made yet.

The Cambridge Police Department has seized a total of twenty-seven guns so far throughout the 2023 calendar year, which is up from a total of twenty-four-gun seizures in 2022.

At this time in 2022 we had a total of three homicides within the city limits of Cambridge and three non-fatal shootings. As of this date for 2023, we have experienced one homicide and one non-fatal shooting. I believe progress is being made but we must continue to work to disrupt and dismantle the criminal element and proactively engage the individuals that are committing violent crimes within our city. We are thankful for the partnership from County, State and Federal agencies.

Positive Notes

The last couple weeks with the school year ending we have had the opportunity to interact with many children and enjoy some of the end of the year festivities. I also have had the pleasure of being part of the Portia Johnson-Ennels Youth Internship Program application and interview process and was a part of the Gun Violence Reduction Group Community Cleanup day where I had the opportunity to meet and interact with several Maces Lane Middle School children who spent the morning cleaning up the neighborhoods.

I know you will hear me talk plenty about juvenile crime and see statistics of what juvenile crime we are experiencing in the city, but I wanted to take a moment and write of just how many children we have in the



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community that are accomplishing so many great things, doing the right things, and are working hard to be successful. I think we also need to recognize that as well and it should be celebrated.

I hope you enjoyed the read and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns at <u>itodd@cambridgepd.org</u>.

CAMBRIDGE FUN FACTS AND LORE - Growth and Development in Cambridge after the Civil War -- Martha Phillips-Patrick

Military supplies during and after the Civil War were shipped from Cambridge. After the end of the War, a railroad and telegraph lines were established in addition to improved steamboat service with Baltimore.

The Cambridge and Seaford Railroad (originally called the Dorchester and Delaware Railroad) was completed in 1869. Its original terminal was to be on the Choptank River on land between Mill Street and Choptank Avenue, instead of on present day Maryland Avenue.

The line for the first telegraph paralleled the railroad and came to Cambridge in 1868. These developments naturally led to a long period of growth and prosperity for the City. The population of Cambridge had grown from 1,200 in 1860 to 7,500 by the turn of the century.

From: Christopher Weeks, ed., Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank Elias Jones, New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland

COMMUNITY NEWS – COOPERATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MAIN STREET GALLERY – Celebrating 12 Years – Summer Show "Creating Texture with Photo Encaustics" – Theresa Knight McFadden

Main Street Gallery in Cambridge, MD has lots to be excited about. The city's only member owned and operated Coop is turning 12 this summer and will celebrate with a champagne party on Second Saturday, August 12 from 5-8 pm. This is a free event, and all are welcome to join us and meet our artists. The gallery will also be celebrating its guest artist for the July/August exhibition, Karen Jury, a resident of Chester, MD, whose show, "Creating Texture with Photo Encaustic" will be on the walls for the celebration.

If you are wondering what photo encaustic is, Karen says, "It all starts with a camera and a photograph and ends with wax and heat." To make a photo encaustic image an artist prints a photo onto paper and adheres the paper to a substrate. Then comes the wax and heat part as the artist paints the photo with a heated wax mixture called encaustic. The many and varied results of this process can be seen in Karen's arresting images of nature. "My love of flowers, landscapes and textures is evident is my work" she says.

Karen didn't start her career as a photo encaustic artist, however. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University she worked as an art director for a number of companies and



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colleges until she decided to take time off to raise her family. It was then that she rediscovered photography. Initially she photographed families, their pets and their significant events. Later she had the opportunity to photograph performances during Songwriter Festivals in Miami and Key West. "I enjoyed the creative aspect of portrait photography" she says "....and the creative aspect of shooting talented musicians".

Still, the artist wanted to figure out something more creative to do with her photography. It was a friend, who after listening to Karen speak about her past and her love of textures, suggested she try Photo Encaustics. "Eureka....!", Karen said. "I fell in love. I took courses online, a lot of trial and error, no injuries, and years later I am happy to share my encaustics."

In addition to Main Street Gallery, Karen's work can be seen at The Artist's Gallery in Ellicott City. She has also shown her work at Kent Island Federation of Arts and the Maryland Federation of Art in Annapolis.

"Creating Texture with Photo Encaustic" will open on Thursday, July 6 and run through Sunday, August 27. The public is invited to two artist receptions which will take place on Second Saturdays, July 8 and August 12 from 5-8 pm. The receptions are free and light refreshments will be served. Karen will give a brief artist talk on the July 8 opening at 7 pm and the August reception will also be the champagne celebration of the gallery's 12th Anniversary. Gallery hours are Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11-5. Online shopping is always available on the gallery's website at mainstgallery.net.

Main Street Gallery is located at 518 Poplar St. in Cambridge. The gallery is currently reviewing work from prospective members and guest artists. Please contact the gallery through its website or by phoning 410-330-4659 if you are interested in being a part of this vibrant artist community.











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WHCP-FM 91.7 - Coming July 15!

WHCP recently won a rare new broadcast license from the FCC to expand from a low-power (LP) station (101.5 FM) reaching 10 miles around Cambridge to a much more powerful station (91.7 FM) reaching all of Dorchester, most of Talbot and other counties on the Mid-Shore, a service area with more than 70,000 people.

Lots of behind-the-scenes activities are underway preparing for the new WHCP FM 91.7. Transmitter and antennas are on site and the technical teams will be busy getting the systems up and running over the coming weeks ahead. At right is the tower climber commencing final inspection before the climbers build and hoist the antennas next week.

WHCP-FM will be the best of WHCP-LP and much more, providing information and inspiration that helps Maryland's Mid-Shore flourish. We will do this by being obsessively local while including adding **NPR** programs *Morning Edition and All Things Considered*.



Second CRAB Meeting this Saturday at 10 am

We welcome and need your ideas for how to make the most positive "first impression" as we sign on to a massively expanded audience on July 15. The Easton meeting of the WHCP-FM Community Radio Advisory Board (CRAB) will meet this Saturday at 10 am in the conference room at the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) building) as 114 S. Washington Street in Easton. As with all CRAB meetings, this is an open meeting; feel free to share the invitation. Things are progressing quickly for the July 15th Launch Party (that's Plein Air weekend).

2023 WHCP Fundraisers

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 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



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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.

CWDI – Online Street Naming Survey

-- Contact: Matt Leonard at matt.leonard@cwdimd.org; (434) 579-0374

Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) has launched an online survey asking the community for input on naming a new street being added to Cambridge Harbor. The survey can be accessed through the Cambridge Harbor website at www.cambridgeharbor.org. The website can also be reached using the QR code to the right. The survey will be open through June 30, 2023.

Four themes have been identified for potential street names: 1) Rose Hill. The Cambridge Harbor site sits directly adjacent to what remains of the historic Rose Hill Community. 2) Roses. Many of the adjacent street names are also names of rose varieties, i.e., Aurora and Radiance. 3) Light / Sources of Light. At Cambridge Harbor, light plays on the water and the land in various ways – sunrises and sunsets bathe it in crimson and gold, moonlight shimmers silver on the water, lighthouses spin their strobes, and boats' lights dot the darkness. 4) Maritime Heritage. This last theme opens naming to the wider Maritime history and heritage of Cambridge and Dorchester County, which are deeply engrained community characteristics. In fact, Cambridge Harbor's tagline is "Lured By The Water, Kept By Our Heritage."

Based on the survey results, CWDI will identify three possible final names for the new street. Following that, an in-person community event will be held at Cambridge Harbor that will allow the community to help select the final name. CWDI will inform the public once the date is selected for this in-person event.

FIRECRACKER KID'S TRIATHLON – JULY 4TH

The local Cambridge, MD triathlon group, Cambridge Multi-Sport, (CMS) has announced 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



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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.

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









Age Group (as of 12/31)	Swim Distance	Bike Distance	Run Distance
6 - 7 year old	25 yard	.75 mile	.6 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





CMS Frain Hard Race Hard Play Hard

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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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 *Raqtime31@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.

YES WE C.A.N