

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2008 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



Dear friends:

Welcome to the first issue of my monthly newsletter. With this newsletter, I hope to better connect with people throughout the city, and to update you on the work my staff does on your behalf each month. So much of the work we do often goes on behind the scenes, and I hope to rectify that in the months ahead. I continue to advocate for peoples' active involvement — remember, this is YOUR government!

There has been a flurry of activity in City Hall, and I would like to share with you some of the things that have been keeping me and my staff busy in recent weeks. Here's a snapshot of what we have been doing.

SEPT. 3: I attended the Area 4 Emergency Meeting, in which the neighbors, my fellow elected officials, and police representatives discussed ways to reduce the gun violence in the area. Commissioner Haas stated that the Cambridge Police are increasing their presence in the area, and he suggested that residents program their cell phones to speed dial the Cambridge Police at (617) 349-3300 rather than 911 for an emergency. (Land phone users should continue to dial 911) We are continuing to work with the police to improve public safety and awareness.

SEPT. 11: My staff and I were honored to host the Annual Police Auxiliary Dinner Reception at the Hotel Marlow. The Auxiliary Police is an all-volunteer force, comprised of people who take time out of their busy lives to give back to their community. The Auxiliary Police often police our parks and streets, direct traffic, and help with crowd control during public events and emergencies, allowing the Cambridge Police Department to devote their resources to crime solving and prevention. Every year, the Mayor's Office and the Cambridge Police Department show their appreciation for these fine men and women by hosting a dinner, and this year's dinner was a great success!

SEPT. 10: The City Manager and I convened the first Green Jobs Task Force meeting, in an effort to define, expand, and promote a new wave of environmentally-friendly jobs and businesses. This task force will examine job training,



Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons
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economic development, and policy development that relates to this burgeoning field. Special attention is being paid to develop outreach to traditionally underemployed parts of the community in an attempt to ensure that ALL members of the community have paths to good paying, family-supporting careers. The task force shall meet once each month. For more information, contact Estella Johnson in the Community Development Office at (617) 349-4600.

SEPT. 22: I hosted a reception in the Mayor's Parlor for the fine people at Transition House. Transition House has been a pillar in our community for over three decades, offering battered women not only a place to stay in times of crisis, but emotional support and the guidance they need to get their lives onto a better track. They have been at the forefront of antiviolence work in Cambridge since 1975. We hosted the event to recognize all their fantastic work, and to celebrate Transition House's move to larger headquarters at 1035 Cambridge St. The organization will now offer new services such as economic literacy, budgeting workshops, ESL classes, legal advocacy, and self defense classes. Transition House is terribly important to the community and it will continue to be an innovative force in creating solutions to social problems that effect us ALL.

SEPT. 13: Ground was broken for the Prince Hall Memorial on the Cambridge Common. This memorial will recognize Prince Hall as a notable figure of the Revolutionary War Era. Prince Hall was responsible for the first school for Africans, petitioned the great and general court for the right of Africans to fight in the Revolutionary War, and advocated for freedom for all men.

SEPT. 30: I spoke during the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon about the challenges and opportunities facing the local business community. Topics discussed included outreach and job training for younger workers, dealing with increased operating costs, creating environmentally-friendly jobs, and weathering the national economic tumult.

OCT. 2: My educational advisors, Lenora Jennings and Bridget Rodriguez, and I have been visiting the schools and laying the groundwork for the launch of The Mayor's Girls Leadership Group. This monthly course is designed to give local teenage girls an encouraging path to success. This group will give the girls practical tips and advice from strong women in an effort to give teen girls the leadership skills. The girls will also be given information on how to work hard *now* to determine possible future career paths.

Elsewhere on the education front, the School Committee and I continue to search for a replacement for outgoing Superintendent of Schools, Thomas Fowler-Finn. Dr. Fowler-Finn shall be stepping down in February, and we are currently undertaking a thorough search for suitable candidates. I feel the hiring of a new Superintendent is a great opportunity to inject some fresh energy and ideas into the schools. Dr. Fowler-Finn is to be commended for much of what he has done, and I am certain that the next Superintendent shall make his or her own mark. I am greatly looking forward to a new era for the Cambridge Public Schools, and I shall update the City as this search progresses.

Mayor Simmons can be reached at (617) 349-4321, or at dsimmons@cambridgema.gov. For more information, visit www.cambridgema.gov. Mayor Simmons has walk-in office hours every Friday from 8:30 am—9:30 am.