

AccessLetter

**Cambridge Commission for
Persons with Disabilities**

Community Profile: Mike McKenzie

Cambridge Commission Looking for New Member

Cambridge resident Mike McKenzie is the first motorized wheelchair user to be inducted into the Cambridge Police Auxiliary, a volunteer service organization. This interview was conducted in June 2008.

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities is looking for someone to fill a vacancy on its citizen advisory board. This new member must be a current Cambridge resident and will be expected to attend regular monthly meetings.

AccessLetter: So, how long have you lived in Cambridge?

The Commission meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at 51 Inman Street. Members serve 3-year terms in a volunteer capacity and should be willing to work on various short or long-term projects.

Mike McKenzie: Since 1994 -- that would be 14 years.

We need a person who is interested in raising awareness about disability and access issues, eliminating discrimination, and promoting equal opportunity for people with all types of disabilities. We publish **AccessLetter** and have a website where you can learn more about us—please visit: www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm For more information, contact Michael Muehe or Carolyn Thompson at the Commission office, 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or cthompson@cambridgema.gov.

A: How long have you had a disability?

M: I've been disabled since birth, in part due to my father's service in Vietnam.

A: Did it have to do with Agent Orange?

M: Yes, partially. I was first misdiagnosed with a mental illness. Which, that has enough stigma, as we both know.

A: This was when you were a child?

M: Yes. So it was a very extensive disability-- it'd always shown signs of something, physically. Doctors back then did not understand what was wrong with me in childhood; we now understand that it is neuromuscular in nature.

A: Right.

M: [Then] in 1996, I had a classic "pick-up-a-box-too-heavy-pop-a-disk" injury. Nine months later, I

(More on Community Profile, page 2)

SAVE THE DATE!

Special screening of documentary film Labeled Disabled

for all who have or work with children

Tuesday, October 7th, 2008

12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cambridge City Hall Annex

344 Broadway - second floor

See Events Calendar, p. 7 for more details.

Community Profile (cont'd)

had to go in for neurosurgery, had part of a disk removed, and that left some scar tissue, building up over the years, which impinged on the nerve route -- it's classic stuff that's left over from neurosurgery -- and there was a serious auto accident, and that exacerbated and changed a lot of things.

A: How'd you get interested in police work?

M: It was first responder work, actually, disaster relief, disaster preparedness -- I think I would have to probably say, as much as my father deterred me, it was the mystery of watching soldiers as a kid.

A: So growing up, you had this dad who'd been in the military and --

M: [He] never talked about it, but I saw a uniform, his friend's uniform one day, and that was the clincher for me. I got curious.

A: So what did you do to pursue your curiosity?

M: It was shelved for a long time until I graduated high school, and that's when I was old enough to be able to do what I wanted on my own.

A: What'd you do once you graduated?

M: Once I graduated, I was pursuing a career in carpentry; actually became a carpenter with Local 33...and I enlisted in 1992 with the National Guard... I'm very much a patriot-- I went down to my recruiter in December, just about a couple of months after I'd gotten into the Carpenters' union, and I wanted to collaborate... my civilian career with my military career so I would be more employable, once I was done with my federal time. I was on the Delayed Entry Program, which means you can drill with your unit up to one year-- and you have to complete your training within that certain amount. But it should be noted that when then-President Bill Clinton took office, he was elected in 1992, he'd promised all the GLBT, the Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgendered folks, that there was going to be

equal opportunity in the military... the whole "don't ask/don't tell" ended up being worse, worse than before. So... this spans a lot into GLBT stuff, because I was non-disclosed, definitely trans-identified by then, but I had not disclosed anything to the government then, in fact, I think the worst thing I ever did to myself in my lifetime was when I didn't follow my gut.

A: So they were asking even though "don't ask/don't tell" was--

M: Yes, the policy was in effect... I had not said anything but my company's First Sergeant came to my house, and realized there were two, what he saw were two female-bodied people there. Well, somehow, mysteriously, a few months later, I was told to go home, when I reported for duty in April of '93. I was a bit naïve. And I wanted to stay naïve. I was the type that would never put my head in politics, never question anything, but for ten years I had the same dream, that I was back in uniform. Actually, it was exactly 10 years-- in August of 2002 I went up to Hanscom Air Force Base, to what was known as the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Massachusetts Wing Headquarters. CAP is chartered by Congress as the United States Air Force Auxiliary. I let them know right off the bat, to those



Michael McKenzie

who needed to know... I had to disclose the fact that I'm a transgendered-identified individual. It was better received 10 years later than it was 10 years prior.

A: Right.

M: Again, it's the auxiliary, so it's a little bit more lenient...again, it's by jurisdiction. Massachusetts is a bit more progressive, but other states would absolutely not go for it. So, then I served from 2002 to 2006.

A: In the Civil Air Patrol?

M: Yes. Two years of which I was active in training and search and rescue operations and disaster relief preparedness... my training cycle was that meetings were every Monday. So I'd bring my big wheelchair-- at that time I had just been in an accident-- and so I was

looking for something to do, still along the lines of public service, while recouping from the injuries [I] sustained.

A: You were trained in disaster relief?

M: I was trained in communications, which was my primary specialty. I received a Technician Level rating - I was on the ground, operating radios, and at mission base. I'd be doing a search and rescue exercises where sometimes I would be up in the aircraft. I was also training to become a mission scanner in which I'd take aerial photography, from an airplane, send it down to designated Federal and State agencies. The Air Force Auxiliary does 95% of the inland search and rescue operations.

A: Wow.

M: Another of the things CAP did was the Colombia shuttle disaster; we had units out in Texas and other surrounding states--

A: Looking for pieces of the space shuttle--

M: --combing through the wreckage of the shuttle. CAP has done a lot of high-profile work, such as assisting in Air patrol in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. The history of CAP goes all the way back to World War II. The training I received there was very comprehensive, I was going for multiple things at once. I had received five service medals; when I was finished I was a Lieutenant.

In the meantime, I was looking for where [else] I could serve-- I'd served nationally, I'd served at the state level, so I says, let me look around locally. Because my situation is not such that I could serve federal again, at least at this time, so I figured, well, let me see what's in my own hometown..., so I typed into Google, "Cambridge Police Auxiliary," and sure enough, there was an actual police auxiliary here in Cambridge, I never knew about it... So, I figure I'm going to go in and try it. I wanted this really bad. So for me it wasn't really that I had nothing to lose, I had everything to lose. So, I went to the meeting, I got in, I really felt like an outcast, Because I had this power-chair. I found out later, I am in fact the first person to successfully get in. I don't really know what I'm doing there, so I got up to where we have our meetings. I was surprised by how warmly I was received. I went in, sat down, left my chair outside, in the hallway, sat down like everybody else, took notes, took classes every two weeks, and I

was sworn in on August 8th, 2007. Received my uniform, issued like everybody else, I was accepted, and I do everything everybody else does.

A: So, how do you keep on going the way you do?

M: I pace myself... it's really an art of adaptation-- you've gotta rest beforehand, you've gotta rest afterwards. With me, I know my limits. And sometimes there are days where I get frustrated by the limitations and how long recovery time takes ...but you can stay at home, or you can try to do something... You have to find a balance between disability and productivity. The key is to find your passion in life; my passion is public service, making a difference in people's lives and the protection of all human rights. For me personally, it is a driving force I am very energetic by nature, even in spite of challenges that I face. Giving up is not in my vocabulary.

Cambridge Disabilities Commission

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

We are looking for projects that:

- promote inclusion,
- help eliminate discrimination, or
- teach universal design



The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is offering small grants up to \$5,000 each to support projects that promote inclusion and integration of people with disabilities, advance universal design, and help eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities. Virtually any proposal will be considered if it promotes the full participation of people with disabilities and benefits the community of Cambridge at large.

For more information contact the Commission at **617-349-4692 voice, 617-492-0235 TTY** or ccthompson@cambridgema.gov

National & State Elections

November 4, 2008

Don't forget to VOTE

You have a voice in your country's future. The next President of the United States will have a strong influence on the legislation and funding of programs that greatly affect the lives of people with disabilities in this country. Learn how each candidate stands on disability issues; make your vote count. Register to vote by Oct. 15th if you have not already done so. Get an absentee ballot if you will be away on Election Day. Here are resources for more information.



American Association of People with Disabilities
Compare the candidates' positions on disability issues at www.aapd.com/News/election/peac2008.php

Commonwealth of Mass. Election Division

Find out about voter registration, how to get an absentee ballot, where to vote, and information on the State Primary on Sept. 16, 2008.

www.sec.state.ma.us/ELE/

One Ashburton Place, Room 1705

Boston, MA 02108

617-727-2828 or 800-462-8683

Cambridge Election Commission

www.cambridgema.gov/election/

51 Inman Street, 1st floor

Cambridge, MA 02139

617-349-4361

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Disability Community

Injured Worker Support Meetings – (previously listed as RSI – repetitive strain injury) has a new format that replaces the former drop-in group held the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings will now scheduled by appointment, often on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:15 - 6:45 pm but other times can be arranged. Please call RSI Action at 617-247-6827 to set up a meeting. The meetings/appointments usually take place at 650 Beacon Street, Kenmore Square, Boston, 4th Floor Conference Room, steps from the Kenmore Square MBTA, but other locations are possible. RSI Action volunteers will answer questions and provide resources and support, including the opportunity to view it's provider evaluation book. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 617-247-6827, or go to www.rsiaction.org.

Sept. 2 & 4 **MDDA (Manic Depression & Depressive Association) Support Group** at Mass. General Hospital meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. on the 4th floor in the Yawkey Building. Follow the signs. Meetings are free and open to public. For more information call 617-855-2795.

Sept. 3 **Weekly support group for adults with LD/ADHD** (learning disabilities & attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) meets in Cambridge near Harvard Square, 6-7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Currently there are a few openings in this group; if you are interested, contact Angelica Sawyer at 617- 661-3117.

Sept. 3 **Manic Depression & Depressive Association (MDDA) Bipolar Support Group** meets every Wednesday evening, 7 - 9 p.m. at McLean Hospital in Belmont (Demarneffe Building, 1st floor lobby). Includes a lecture; 7 - 8 p.m., on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Call 617-855-3665 for more information.

- Sept. 4 - 25 **Accessible Kayaking at Hopkinton State Park on Thursdays**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – is sponsored by Outdoor Recreation of Hopkinton and the Universal Access Program of the state Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). \$5 fee/person covers adaptive equipment, instruction and assistance. Pre-register by calling Outdoor Recreation of Hopkinton at 508-435-3965 or contact Gigi Ranno at <gigi.renno@state.ma.us>. Limited scholarships are available.
- Sept. 6 **Introductory “Feeling for Form” guided tour for blind and low vision art lovers** – 10:30 am at Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston. (Tour will be repeated on October 4) This program provides access for visitors of all ages who are blind or have low vision through tactile exploration of selected sculpture and furniture, and through verbal description, tactile diagrams, and objects for artworks that cannot be touched. Tours are FREE, but pre-registration is required. To register contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or e-mail <access@mfa.org>. The MFA can be reached via the MBTA Green Line to MFA stop, or Orange Line to Ruggles Station and walk to Museum Road. Parking is available for a fee.
- Sept. 9 **Boston Voice Users is a group for people who use speech recognition or dictation software.** They meet 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at MIT in Building 2, Rm.135. To find out more about meetings and discussions go to <www.bostonvoiceusers.org>.
- Sept. 11 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) monthly meeting** – 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment.
- Sept. 12-13 **Second Annual Christian Sign Language Interpreter Retreat**, “Taking care of ourselves Spiritually” will focus on creating Sabbath moments amidst the joys and stresses of everyday life. The retreat will be at Oceanwood Retreat Center near Old Orchard Beach in Maine from 7 pm Friday to 5:30 pm Saturday. Registration is \$120/person; space is limited. Contact Anne freeman, Director of TABCOM Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries (617) 325-3809 or <Anne.Freeman3@verizon.net> for more information and to register.
- Sept. 16 **Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) monthly meeting** on 3rd Tuesday of month, 1 – 3 pm at the State House, Room A-1, in Boston.
- Sept. 16 **Basic Rights** – Workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child’s eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child. Workshop materials are also available in Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. Presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN), this workshop will be offered at the South Medford Fire Station, Zero Medford Street, 7 - 9 p.m. Register by contacting FCSN at 617-236-7210 or 800-331-0688 or online at <register@fscn.org>.
- Sept. 18 **Autism Support Group** – meets 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Central Square Branch of Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl Street in Cambridge. For more information contact Lorraine Iacopucci at <liacopucci@nsarc.org> or 978-624-2304.
- Sept. 21 **Ropes Course: Challenge Yourself to Reach New Heights**-- ropes courses are designed to provide experiences for groups and individuals that promote problem solving, teamwork and leadership skills. Trained facilitators will guide the group through activities involving high and low ropes elements. Each person will determine his or her own challenge for the day. Program Location: Boxford or Westwood, Massachusetts; cost is \$75 per person. *Wheelchair accessibility based on individual needs.* Sponsored by Outdoor Explorations (OE) whose innovative and cooperative approach breaks down the

barriers to adventure for everyone, including people with disabilities. For more information or to register, contact OE at 781-395-4999 or <info@outdoorex.org>. (Program will be repeated Oct. 19)

Sept. 24 **Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA** meets 1 to 3 p.m. at State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, 2nd floor Conference Room #2. Call 617-973-7507 voice, or 617-973-7089 TTY for more information or request Interpreters. Security measures require proper ID for access to meetings.

Sept. 24 – Oct. 29 **Healthy Living with Chronic Conditions** – a six week program for adults of all ages who live with chronic conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, and Parkinson's. Instructors explore techniques to deal with frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation; teach exercises for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility and endurance; explain appropriate use of medications; and, offer effective communication techniques to use with health professionals, family, and friends. The group will meet on Wednesdays, 1:30-4 pm, at Youville House, 1573 Cambridge Street in Cambridge. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required; there is free parking in the Youville lot. To register or request accommodations, call Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (617) 628-2601 ext. 3151.

Sept. 25 **CommonHealth Program celebrates 20th Anniversary at State House** – Join friends and colleagues in the Nurses Hall 11:30 am – 1 pm; light refreshments will be served. CommonHealth is the oldest Medicaid buy-in program in the country that has made it possible for adults with disabilities to go to work without fear of losing health benefits and has provided medical coverage to children with disabilities. Sponsored by Employment NOW and Boston Center for Independent Living.

Sept. 27 **Accessible Recreation Fair at Artisan Park in Brighton**, 10 am - 3 pm. Come out for a fun-filled Saturday (rain or shine) and sample a variety of adaptive recreation equipment including cycles and all-terrain wheelchairs. Find out about accessible recreation programs offered by multiple organizations in the Boston area and beyond for individuals with disabilities, their families and friends. Enjoy demonstrations, face painting, interpretive programs, and music! This free event is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Universal Access Program. Artisan Park is off of Soldiers Field Road on the Brighton-Allston side of the Charles River near the Harvard Athletic Fields. Contact Gigi Ranno at 617- 626-1294 or <gigi.ranno@state.ma.us> to RSVP for use of equipment or to request an ASL interpreter.

October 3-4 **Asperger Syndrome Connections** – annual conference of the Asperger's Association of New England (AANE) will feature several keynote speakers: Psychiatrist, Daniel Rosenn reflect on how diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome (AS) affects not only the individual wider community; John Elder Robison who has Asperger's and his brother, Augusten Burroughs; and two filmmakers who both have brothers with AS. There will be a large choice of workshops morning and afternoon of both days; CE credits are available. The conference is in Marlborough at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center. Registration is \$125 - \$235 depending on membership in AANE and one or two day attendance. For more information call Dania Jekel at 617-393-3824 or go to <www.aane.org>. **Deadline is Sept. 19.**

October 3 **Climb and Dine** – Take a step up; learn to climb, or improve your basic skills, in a fun indoor rock climbing gym. You'll choose your own challenges as skilled leaders help you gain rock climbing experience. Afterwards, enjoy a pizza party at the gym as everyone recounts their climbing adventure! Located at MetroRock Climbing Center, Everett, Mass. Cost: \$45 per person. Event is sponsored by Outdoor Explorations (OE) whose innovative and cooperative approach breaks down the barriers to adventure for everyone, including people with disabilities. For more information or to register, contact OE at 781-395-4999 or <info@outdoorex.org>.

October 4 **"Feeling for Form" tour of MFA for blind/low vision art lovers.** See Sept. 6 for details.

- October 6 **Senior Benefits Expo at Boston City Hall** from 9 am to 12 noon – Get free information on housing, transportation, nutrition & food stamps, health & fitness, personal safety, stroke & heart disease symptoms, and programs for people with disabilities. Meet elected officials, representatives from state agencies and nonprofits. For accommodations, contact Linn Morrill by Sept. 22 at 617-624-5965 voice, 617-624-5992 TTY or <linn.morrill.state.ma.us>.
- October 7 **“LABELED DISABLED” documentary film Cambridge screening – 12:30 to 2:30 pm** – at the City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd floor conference room. This 2008 documentary by first-grade teacher, Maggie Doben, addresses the need for disability awareness curriculum that challenges biases about disability and demonstrates that these stereotypes are rarely accurate. Watch what actually happens in the classroom when young children discuss and challenge prejudice. All parents, grandparents, teachers, childcare and community school staff and anyone who works with children is especially encouraged to attend. Ms. Doben will be available after the 48 minute film to respond to questions. The film has Closed Captions; ASL interpreters have been requested; for other accommodations, submit your request by Sept.23 to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, 617-349-4692 or <cthompson@CambridgeMA.gov>. More information about the film is available at <www.labeleddisabledfilm.com>. This showing is sponsored by the Cambridge Employee Committee on Diversity and the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Refreshments will be served.
- October 10 **Understanding Developmental Disabilities and End-of-Life Issues** – an all day conference for people with developmental disabilities (DD), their families and professionals in Wilmington, Delaware. This is a comprehensive educational conference that will address a broad spectrum of issues around dying, death and bereavement care for individuals with DD, their caregivers and advocates. [Ed: This is a rare opportunity so we are including it even though it is outside the Boston metropolitan/eastern Mass. area.] CE credits are available. Registration fee ranges from \$25 - \$75. For more information call 302-645-1490 or go to <www.aim2register.com/DDEOL>.
- October 11-13 **Backpacking in New Hampshire’s White Mountains** – In a friendly group environment we’ll venture further into the mountains and forests, attempting a summit hike of a White Mountain peak! Over the course of the weekend, we’ll use basic camping fundamentals while gaining new skills such as map reading and navigation, wilderness safety, and proper backpacking. Previous hiking experience is required and participants must attend pre-trip hike on Sept. 27. Cost: \$200 per person includes Pre-trip Hike and 3-Day Backpacking Trip. Sponsored by Outdoor Explorations (OE) whose innovative and cooperative approach to adventure helps make the outdoors a welcoming place for people with disabilities. For more information or to register, contact OE at 781-395-4999 or <info@outdoorex.org>
- October 14 **Boston Voice Users** meets 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at MIT. See Sept. 9 listing for details.
- October 15 **ASL interpreted lecture at Museum of Fine Arts by British sculptor** – Rachel Whiteread, a guest of the Ruth & Carl J. Shapiro Celebrity Lecture Series, will discuss her life and work at 6:30 pm. For registration contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or e-mail <access@mfa.org>. The MFA can be reached via the MBTA Green Line #39, or E Line to Museum of Fine Arts stop, or the Orange Line to Ruggles Station and walk to Museum Road. Parking is available for a fee.
- October 16 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) monthly meeting** – 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment. (This month’s meeting was moved from second to third Thursday because of religious holiday.)
- October 16 **Autism Support Group in Cambridge** – meets 3rd Thursday of month. See Sept. 18 for details.
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- October 18 **Hiking: Get a New View on Life!** –Learn all about the sights, sounds, and scents of nature while exploring one of New England’s beautiful trails. Build communication and social skill, play games during breaks, and just plain have fun. Location: Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, Cost: \$25 per person. *Wheelchair accessibility based on individual needs; call for more information.* Sponsored by Outdoor Explorations (OE) whose innovative and cooperative approach to adventure helps make the outdoors a welcoming place for people with disabilities. For more information or to register, contact OE at 781-395-4999 or <info@outdoorex.org>.
- October 19 **Ropes Course sponsored by Outdoor Explorations** (for details, see listing for Sept. 21)
- October 21 **Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) monthly meeting** 1-3 p.m. at the State House, Room A-1
- October 21 **An IEP for My Child** – Every child with a disability who receives special education services must have an Individual Education Program (IEP). This workshop takes parents step-by-step through the development of the IEP including how to articulate a Vision for their child, use the results of evaluations to write measurable goals and how to assess their child’s progress. Workshop materials are available in Spanish. Presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN), the workshop will be offered at the South Medford Fire Station, Zero Medford Street, 7 - 9 p.m. at Register by contacting FCSN at 617-236-7210 or 800-331-0688 or online at <register@fcsn.org>.
- October 22 **Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA** meets 1 to 3 p.m. See Sept. 24 listing for details.
- October 22 **Basic Rights** – workshop for parents will be held at the Concord Public School Administration Building, 7-9 pm. See the Sept. 16 listing for other details.
- November 4 ELECTION DAY (National & State)** – See article on page 4 for Voter Information.
- November 4 **Joining Voices Conference for families of children/youth with special healthcare needs.** Families can network and learn strategies to advocate for needed medical services and supports for their children and become more effective partners in the decision-making process with health care providers and policymakers. Sponsored by the Family-to-Family Health Information Center, a project of Mass. Family Voices at the Federation for Children with Special Needs. The conference will be in Westborough, MA. For more information call 617-236-7210 or go to <www.fcsn.org>.
- November 4 & 6 **MDDA (Manic Depression & Depressive Association) Support Group** at Mass. General Hospital meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. on the 4th floor in the Yawkey Building. Follow the signs. Meetings are free and open to public. For more information call 617-855-2795.
- November 5 **Manic Depression & Depressive Association (MDDA) Bipolar Support Group** meets every Wednesday evening, 7 to 9 p.m. at McLean Hospital in Belmont (See Sept. 3 for details.)
- November 13 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) monthly meeting** – 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment.
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Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

The Commission was established in 1979 to act as a clearinghouse on disability and access issues throughout the City of Cambridge. We strive to raise awareness of disability matters, to eliminate discrimination, and to promote equal opportunity for people with all types of disabilities – physical, mental and sensory. The Commission provides information, referral, guidance, and technical assistance to individuals and their families, employers, public agencies, businesses and private non-profit organizations.

The goal of our 11-member citizen advisory board, comprised primarily of individuals with disabilities, is to maximize access to all aspects of Cambridge community life. Our regularly scheduled Commission meetings, which always include an opportunity for public comment, are held at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Access Notice: The City of Cambridge and Commission for Persons with Disabilities do not discriminate on the basis of disability. This newsletter is available in e-mail, large print and other alternative formats upon request. To add your name to our mailing list, to inquire about alternative formats, or for information about other auxiliary aids and services or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, contact CCPD.

Cambridge City Council

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 Brian Murphy, *Vice-Mayor*
 Henrietta Davis
 Marjorie C. Decker
 Craig A. Kelley
 David P. Maher
 Kenneth E. Reeves
 Sam Seidel
 Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

City Administration

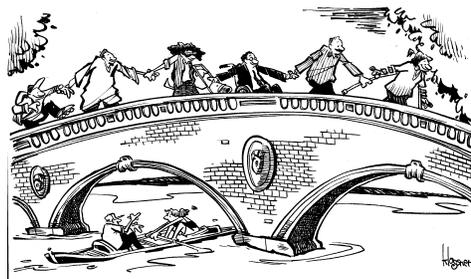
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 Richard C. Rossi, *Deputy City Manager*
 Ellen Semonoff, *Assistant City Manager, Human Service Programs*

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Michael Muehe, *Executive Director*
 Carolyn Thompson, *Disability Project Coordinator*

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 Dave Wood



AccessLetter is produced by the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities,
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51 Inman Street, second floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139

We welcome your articles, comments, criticisms, and suggestions. Write us!

Read past issues on our website: www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm

If you would rather receive your copy of **AccessLetter** electronically, please provide us with your name and e-mail address. To request that your name be removed from our mailing list, contact us at 617-349-4692 Voice, 617-492-0235 TTY, 617-349-4766 Fax, or cthompson@cambridgema.gov

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street, second floor

Cambridge, MA 02139