

4word

Summer 2000

Number 4



news & views in area 4

Area 4 Residents Have Something to Smile About

Although new and expanded health care programs for Area 4 residents are now available in a brand new building at 119 Windsor Street, for a majority of neighborhood residents the new health center and its programs remain unnoticed, misunderstood, or underutilized.

In the fall of 1999, the Department of Community Affairs completed 188 random surveys with Area 4 residents about health-care access and knowledge of the Windsor Street Health Center. More than half of those surveyed were unaware of one or more key elements in the Cambridge Health Alliance program such as reduced and free care regulations, availability of services, and translation assistance.

The Cambridge Health Alliance, the public nonprofit organization responsible for the delivery of health services at the Cambridge City Hospital and the neighborhood health centers, spent \$2.69 million to purchase the Polaroid building at 119 Windsor Street and \$7.23 million for renovations. In order to introduce Area 4 residents to this new building, the Cambridge Health Alliance has recently hosted events such as the April Women's Health Day 2000 and the June Gospel and Health Festival.

One of the most exciting and innovative programs at the Windsor Street Health Center is the new seven-chair dental pro-

gram, which opened in the early spring of 1999. Area 4 residents have long advocated for a dental clinic and were instrumental in its development. Many residents remember the days some 20 years ago when there was a free dental clinic operating out of the basement of the old St. Mary's gym on the corner of Prospect and Harvard Streets. Area 4 residents by the dozens would line up for free care. This program ended when the City of Cambridge refused to buy the building from the Archdiocese and convert it into a Youth Center. The building was eventually converted into business condominiums.

Maryann Heuston, the new director of the Windsor Street Health Center, is streamlining the process for getting dental care, and has undertaken a new marketing initiative. "We are committed to unified, accessible health care for all," she says. Heuston has responded positively to the input of Area 4 residents calling for one-stop financial assistance screening for dental care. Dental patients are now evaluated for free and reduced care services at



Gerald Bergman

119 Windsor Street Health and Community Center

119 Windsor Street rather than being referred to the Cambridge Hospital.

A leader in the development of the dental program is Chester Douglass, D.M.D., Acting Chief of Dentistry and Oral Surgery at Cambridge Health Alliance. Dr. Douglass is one of several dentists dedicated to public health dentistry. Dr. Douglass explained, "Especially in the 25% of the population that is low income, and especially among those who do not speak English at home, dental disease in three, four, or five teeth is not uncommon. Fluoridation in Cambridge water is not an immunization against dental disease."

The Children's Dental Project, operating out of the Windsor Street Health Center, is a

continues on page 2

inside



From the Editor: pg 2

Work Force: pg 3

End Hunger by 2000—
A Dream Not Yet Realized: pg 4

A Hungry Child Cannot
Learn: pg 5

MCAS Test Draws Fire: pg 6

People Pride: pg 7

Playground Victory: pg 8

🕒 Your Calendar: pg 8

Translating the 4word: pg 8

From the Editor

We welcome Robin Harris as the new principal of the Fletcher/Maynard merged school, which will open in September. A resident of Cambridge, Robin Harris has served two terms on the Cambridge School Committee. She is a distinguished educator, a founder of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School, and most recently its assistant principal.

The struggle for equity in education occurs on many fronts. In this issue of the *4word* we hear about the growing

opposition to the MCAS and how a hungry child can't learn.

Area 4 residents have played important roles in bringing a much needed dental clinic, new school playground, and job training program to the neighborhood. In this issue of the *4word* you will also read about the continuing ten-year struggle for affordable, accessible, quality food.

This issue of the *4word* is about basic human rights.

Gerald Bergman, Editor



Gerald Bergman

Robin Harris at the June 5th meeting of the Merger Steering Committee

Something to Smile About

continued from page 1

three-faceted program that provides dental health education, screening, and referrals to Cambridge children in their schools. So far, according to Children's Dental Coordinator Joyce Lefevre, over 2,200 children were screened in grades K-4 between September 1997 and August 1999. Nearly 44% of the children screened and more than 50% of those needing treatment come from families where a language other than English is spoken at home.

Area 4 residents continue to list language issues as a major barrier to receiving services. The head of the Windsor Street Dental Program, as well as many of the staff, speak fluent Spanish. Interpreter services are available, by appointment only, for individuals who speak other languages.

Half of the children screened needed no treatment, and over 1,100 children needed treatment for untreated cavities. Of these children, nearly 15% required urgent dental care. Unfortunately, the dental screening program is limited by personnel shortages, which prevent the screening of children in upper grades, many of whom are suffering from serious dental disease.

The Children's Dental Coordinator helps parents schedule urgent appointments for

children who have been identified in the school dental screenings, and these children are given priority for treatment in the dental program. Unfortunately, others often have long waits for care, especially because there are no weekend and evening dental program hours.

"We are committed to unified, accessible health care for all."

**—Maryann Heuston,
Director of the Windsor
Street Health Center**

Many people wrongly believe that Medicaid will take care of the needs of low-income children and their parents. Dr. Douglass identified serious shortcomings with the Medicaid dental program. In addition to the program paying only about 32 cents on the dollar for the costs of the care, Medicaid rules state that if you take one patient you must take all Medicaid referrals. Dentists in private practice will not assume the risk of being overwhelmed by Medicaid patients. Only two dentists in Cambridge take Medicaid patients.

Recently Health Law Advocates, a firm affiliated with the advocacy group Health Care

For All, filed a class-action suit on behalf of low-income families who are unable to find a dentist to treat them and their children under the state's Medicaid program. The complaint says that the state has violated basic requirements for providing Medicaid-covered services equitably and promptly.

According to Dr. Douglass, "Area 4 residents need and should advocate for evening and weekend hours for the dental clinic, with Area 4 residents receiving priority for that service. Low-income parents, working parents, and children should not have to wait weeks for an appointment because then we run the risk of losing that neighborhood resident from our services, and they desperately need the care. After all, it was the work of Area 4 residents that made this dental program a reality."

Primary Care Clinic hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays:
8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
Wednesdays: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Fridays: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Dental Clinic hours:

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

For more information about the Windsor Street Health Center you are urged to call the Center at 665-3600. You are encouraged to ask for the Director, Maryann Heuston, when you have problems or want to make suggestions for better care. The dental clinic can be reached by calling 665-3990.

Work Force

A Conversation with Reyita Ramos

The 119 Windsor Street Health and Community Center houses the Cambridge Housing Authority's Work Force Youth Development Program. Since it began in 1984, the Work Force Program has implemented a nationally recognized model that builds economic and educational opportunity for low-income youth and their families.

Job readiness training and experience is provided by the placement of participating youth in a wide array of subsidized "try-out and career internship" jobs throughout Cambridge. Academic support is provided through the design of individual learning plans in collaboration with the Cambridge schools, homework support centers, assistance with resume building, and a scholarship program. After-school enrichment classes and counseling support participants' individual needs in collaboration with participants' families.

The site at Windsor Street serves 38 youth (19 young men and 19 young women), out of a citywide program that serves about 120 youth between the ages of 13 and 19. Participants must live in public housing or receive Section 8 rental assistance. Eighty-five percent of high school seniors in the Work Force have gone to college over the past seven years.

In 1997 the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition granted \$17,000 to Work Force in order to expand its program in Area 4.

Reyita Ramos joined the program as a high school freshman, graduated the program, and has returned as both a teacher and a counselor. She now coordinates the Windsor Street Work Force site. "Choosing to join this program set me on a path towards feeling personally empowered. My commitment proved beneficial in many ways. I learned to value myself and to trust in a promising future, and I learned that hard work and an open mind would go far in helping me to achieve my goals. My biggest reward is to see these students find fulfillment in the same way I did," she said.

All students are required to take life skills classes, attend homework centers and college preparation activities, and take part in a wide array of subsidized "try-out" job experiences and internships. Youth are paid for attending classes and for their time on the job and earn up to \$8.00 an hour. In addition they receive a scholarship when they graduate from high school. When students ask "when does the program start and end?" they are told that it *never* ends. Participants can continue to receive help from Work Force even after they leave the program.

The Work Force is graduating 13 seniors this year, and all have been accepted into local colleges. Six of these students are Windsor Street participants and live in Area 4:

- Norlyne Mondesir: Boston College
- Emmanuel Mondesir: Atlantic Union University
- John Will St. Germain: Wentworth Institute
- Maria Mika A. Delius: Lesley College
- Francesse Merronis: Fisher College
- Phillip Thompson: Johnson & Wales University

"The Work Force staff provided many things such as college preparation, communication skills, and help with homework, but most importantly, they helped prepare me for the future. The staff sacrificed anything to help students succeed in school," said John Will St. Germain, a 2000 graduate.

Employer mentors play a critical role in helping Work Force students grow and develop both personally and professionally. Employer mentors get enthusiastic employees and, in turn, students gain a sense of competence and self-sufficiency by developing basic job skills. The following Area 4 businesses have given their dedicated involvement as work placement locations:

- Community Art Center
- Carberry's Bakery
- B-Side Lounge
- Draper Lab
- Margaret Fuller House
- 2nd Gear Bike Shop
- Windsor Street Health Center

These are just a few of the Cambridge



Reyita Ramos

Students from the Work Force Program greet visitors at a 119 Windsor Street Open House. From left: Pierre Ripert, Charmy Michel, Shauarsh Morrissey, Nahomie Val, Jaunase Jean

employers that have mentored Work Force participants in the past few years.

"The Work Force and its student workers have become an integral part of our bakeries. It is wonderful to contribute to the growth and development of young people and to see our younger full-time staff in mentoring roles," said Matthew Carberry, Carberry's Bakery and Coffee House, a participant for the past seven years.

For more information about the Work Force Program in Area 4 call Reyita Ramos at 499-7107.

about **4** word

The *4word* is funded by a UDAG grant from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition. We thank the Community Art Center for administering the grant. Suggestions about articles and interviews and contributions to People Pride and Your Calendar are invited.

Contact Gerald Bergman, *4word* editor, PO Box 390768 (02139), telephone: 354-2648, fax: 864-2519, email: gerrberg@aol.com.

End Hunger by 2000— A Dream Not Yet Realized

It is ironic that in Cambridge, where there's so much wealth, the working poor cannot make enough money to feed their families and pay the rent. People begin to line up as early as 6 a.m. for the 9 a.m. food pantry program. They stand in line for up to three hours for the limited amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables that are donated," said Howard McLendon, pastor of the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church, which houses one of the three food pantries in Area 4.

Stephanie Tull-Morris, a volunteer for seven years at the Margaret Fuller House says, "More and more people are coming. Especially elders and mothers with young children." Carolyn Dallas, Director of the Margaret Fuller House agreed. "I have seen an increase in working people coming to the food pantries. Because of low wages and the rents and food prices going up, people have to choose between paying the rent and eating. The food pantry acts as a rent and wage subsidy."

Doreen Hawkins a volunteer for 10 years at St. Paul's A.M.E. Church food pantry said: "More people have been coming in the past year as rents go up. People are lining up early to get fresh fruits and vegetables, which are in short supply. The closing of Central Square food stores has increased prices for everyone."

Ten years ago this month, advocates from Area 4 began their successful Cambridge referendum campaign for a Cambridge Food Policy that they hoped would guarantee accessible and affordable food to all residents of the city. Area 4 residents emerged as leaders of this campaign because Area 4 has a higher proportion of low-income people and young people than any other neighborhood in Cambridge. After months of campaigning, the referendum passed with over 17,000 votes—an overwhelming margin of victory in support of a plan to end hunger in Cambridge by the year 2000.

A Food Policy Committee was mandated by this historic 1991 non-binding Cambridge referendum victory "to develop

and implement a Cambridge Food Policy, which would recognize the right of every resident to accessible, safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable, and affordable food, without barriers and without stigma." This historic referendum, which received the support of 80% of Cambridge voters, demanded that "people's access to safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable and affordable food must be a priority in overall city development and policy."

Area 4 referendum campaign members recognized that the inequity between rich and poor in Cambridge was growing. The recollections of individual experiences revealed how often policy makers were blaming the victims of economic injustices. The first decision made by this group of advocates was to NOT blame the hungry. Advocates discovered that the "experts" and the politicians had a hard time accepting the fact that the major cause of hunger is the lack of accessible, nutritious, and affordable food. Echoing this reality, the journalist, Fran Lebowitz has said, "food is an important part of a balanced diet."

Ellen Parker, director of Project Bread said, "Nearly seventy-five percent of food pantries report an increased demand for emergency food. The primary reason people are hungry is that they do not have enough money to pay for even the most basic necessities, including food. Many of those that are hungry are working full time, but just not earning enough to make ends meet, and in addition, a record number of residents are without health insurance. Faced with shrinking wages and no medical benefits, many working families find themselves in a crisis."

This year, despite the fact that hunger is again on the increase and with few of the referendum goals met and little planning accomplished, the Cambridge City Council, abruptly and without a hearing, ended the City Council Food Policy Committee.

A Basic Human Right

The goals of the Cambridge Food Policy acknowledged that access to safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable, and affordable food without barriers and without stigma is a basic human right regardless of economic or social class, and part of a dignified human existence. The Cambridge Food



Gerald Bergman

6:30 a.m. - Residents lining up for emergency food

Policy was to go beyond the work of meals programs and food pantries, by addressing not only the symptoms but the causes for hunger and malnutrition. It was designed to provide the framework within which the city, its residents, and all groups in the city could take action.

As a result of much organizing, the City agreed to fund over \$80,000 on an annual basis to assist food pantries. In addition, thanks to the tireless work of then-mayor Alice Wolf (now State Representative), Cambridge officials agreed to offer free lunches during the summer at open program sites across the city. Even though these meals are entirely paid for by state and federal funds, the city until that time had failed to provide these desperately needed meals.

The School Department still has no plan for a universal breakfast program or a comprehensive multicultural food and nutrition education program in the schools. In order

continues on next page



City Foods in Central Square closed its doors without notice, leaving Marie with fewer choices for affordable food, but the liquor store stayed open.

to improve scores on the recent MCAS tests in May (see MCAS article p.6), the School Department offered everyone taking the test free milk, cereal, juice, and fruit. The School Department press release noted the fact that “research suggests that a free school breakfast will significantly affect performance on standardized tests.” In spite of being aware of the link between nutrition and educational performance, the School Department has yet to begin pilot universal breakfast programs in the schools ten years after they were called for by the 1991 Food Policy referendum. In addition, too little attention

is being given to the availability of nutritious food and snacks for pre-school, after-school, extended-day, and recreation programs sponsored by the city. Summer food programs continue to be underutilized due to poor food quality and lack of outreach.

Accessible, affordable grocery stores are desperately needed in parts of Cambridge including the Central Square area, Riverside, and North Cambridge. Small grocery stores in Area 4 that serve populations of Haitians, Jamaicans, Portuguese, Latinos, Indians, and Asians clearly show the multicultural diversity that makes up Area 4. The closing of large stores, such as Purity Supreme and City Foods in Central Square and Stop and Shop in Cambridgeport, increased prices and limited the choices of Area 4 residents. Harvest Market, the cooperative in Central Square continues to struggle to meet the diverse needs of Area 4 residents (the October *4Word* will have more about neighborhood grocery stores).

“There is a great need among the large low-income population in Area 4,” Rev. Howard McLendon said. “While the economy is considered good, it is only good for certain segments of the population, those that have the necessary skills to get the good jobs. There are too many jobs that pay too little to live on.” Rev. McLendon spoke about an elderly woman who has to live on Social Security and a small pension who just got a rent increase to over \$900 a month for a one-bedroom apartment. She has to choose to pay the rent or eat. “The working poor are having trouble paying higher rents and higher health care costs and neighborhood food stores are too expensive.”

Food Pantries in Area 4:

Margaret Fuller House
71 Cherry Street
Monday 7 p.m.–8:15 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 9 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
85 Bishop Allen Drive
Wednesday, noon–2 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–noon

Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church
146 Hampshire Street
Last Saturday of the month beginning at 9 a.m.

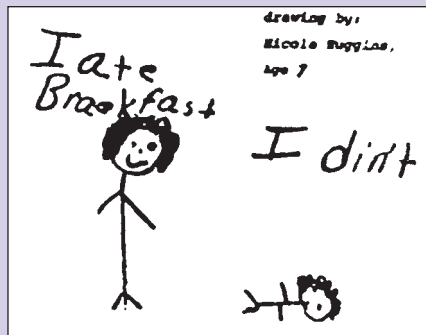
A Hungry Child Cannot Learn

Hunger and nutrition are closely linked to a child's ability to learn. A child who starts or ends the school day hungry or without adequate nutritional food is not getting an equal opportunity at education.

You Can't Teach a Hungry Child

According to studies released by Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, undernutrition impacts the behavior of children and their school performance. These studies have documented the significant relationship between eating a nutritious breakfast and the ability to perform in school. Hunger leads to nervousness, irritability, disinterest in the learning situation, and the inability to concentrate. Hunger disrupts the learning process for everyone.

Participation in a school breakfast program is associated with significant improvement in standardized achievement test scores. Yet,



according to the most recent comprehensive Cambridge School Department data, only 13% of elementary school students eat a school breakfast on any given day.

Full and equal access, without stigma, to the highest quality school-based and community-based nutrition programs for our children is an essential element in providing an equal education for all children.



Speaking out for a Cambridge Food Policy as called for in the successful 1991 referendum to end hunger in Cambridge by the year 2000.

MCAS Test Draws Fire from Local Parents and Students

by Jackie Dee King

The struggle for quality, equitable public education takes many forms. Parents and educators at the Maynard and Fletcher Schools here in Area 4 have been fighting to get a fair deal under the schools' merger process.

A related fight has been underway in Cambridge and across the state this spring, as parents, teachers, and students work to suspend the use of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) as a high school graduation requirement and replace it with fair, authentic ways to measure student and school progress.

Hundreds of students, including about 150 in Cambridge, boycotted the MCAS in April and May. Hundreds of parents and students rallied on the Boston Common May 15 to protest the exam. They delivered petitions bearing almost 7,000 signatures to the Governor's office, information packets to every legislator, and vowed to return next year with enough petitions to wrap



Cambridge parents and students join with protestors from across the state at a rally on Boston Common on May 15.

around the State House.

Why Are So Many People So Upset?

The MCAS is given to students in 4th, 8th, and 10th grades in English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Next year's 10th graders will have to pass the English and math portions of the test by the year 2003 in order to graduate from high school.

The nine-member, nonelected state Board of Education claims that the MCAS is the only way to hold students and school systems "accountable." Since the passage of the 1993 Education Reform Act, about \$2 billion in additional funding has been made available to schools. The Board of Ed. says the only way to ensure the money is being spent responsibly is to give students one big standardized test.

If they fail—as 58% of them did in Cambridge in 1999—many students will be placed in low-tracked remediation courses, summer schools, and weekend test preparation centers. Many will have to keep taking the test over and over if they want a shot at graduating from high school.

When a similar test was imposed on students in Texas, the dropout rate soared. Over the past three years, an estimated 100,000 Black and Hispanic students have not graduated because of the test, according to one study.

Who's Being Held Accountable?

The accountability argument does not impress Larry Ward, who lives on Broadway near Prospect Street and is the father of three daughters in the Cambridge public schools. "You tell me how it's holding the school system accountable, if they end up pushing a whole section of the population out of school, especially low-income and



Students were asked to draw a picture of themselves taking the MCAS

minority children," he said. "If you want to talk about accountability, let's start at the top, with state and local officials responsible for education, not with those who are most vulnerable on the bottom."

Many of the students who boycotted the MCAS were led to that action by the test's discriminatory impact upon students of color, according to Area 4 resident Hannah Jukovsky, one of the 10th-grade leaders of the boycott at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. "We were outraged when we

continues on next page

MCAS: "At best, it is silly. At worst, it is racist."

So wrote columnist Derrick Z. Jackson in the *Boston Globe* on June 7, 2000. He said, "The 10th-grade MCAS history test should call into question the political intentions of the entire test.

"The test, which focuses on 'world' history, had 57 items . . . about 40 referred to Europe . . . Five are questions about capitalism. Only 12 are about the rest of the world . . . About all students got for Africa was a bare outline of the continent and asked to point out the desert—where there are no people to have a history . . .

"Telling African-American and Latino students their history is worth nothing is having a crushing effect. The failure rate for African-American and Latino [students] on last year's history test was 77 percent and 85 percent, respectively . . ."

MCAS Test, continued

saw that 80% of African Americans and 83% of Latinos statewide failed the 10th grade math test," she said. "We students get it: some kids are just considered disposable."

Drill-And-Kill Won't Work

Parents and students in both suburban and urban areas have also been disturbed by the deadening impact the MCAS has on curriculum. In-depth, exploratory courses are being replaced with broad survey courses, a mile wide and an inch deep, which require students to memorize large amounts of material they will soon forget. Electives are being eliminated at some schools.

"A meaningful, rich curriculum is just as important for inner-city kids who may be struggling academically as it is for suburban kids," Ward said. "A diet of drill-and-kill exercises will eventually drive kids out of school. We need courses that engage the students, keep them in school, and turn them into life-long learners who can succeed in the world."

The state has announced plans to spread the test to more grades and to require passing scores in more subjects in exchange for a diploma. The MCAS takes about 18 hours in the upper grades; it is far longer than the Mass. Bar Exam, the Medical Boards, or the Graduate Record Exams. The MCAS is not a basic skills test; it is pitched at a much more difficult level. Many educators believe the test is deeply flawed: full of ambiguously worded and tricky questions, culturally biased, and arbitrarily graded.

The MCAS represents an especially unfair barrier for special education students, vocational ed. students, and students with limited English proficiency, all of whom have to take the same test as other students. "Many vocational students are having to put aside their valuable, complex courses in rebuilding engines or designing computer programs so they can drill for the kinds of questions asked on the MCAS," Hannah Jukovsky said.

Ward concluded, "If I had to ask one question, I'd say this: How can you deny

a student a diploma based on the results of one paper-and-pencil test, especially one with as many problems as this?"

Boycotts Are Tip of Iceberg

The boycotts were only the most dramatic form of the growing opposition to the test. Since last spring, anti-MCAS parents groups have sprung up in many Greater Boston communities, including Cambridge and Boston, and in cities and towns throughout Massachusetts. Most of the groups are part of the statewide Coalition for Authentic Reform in Education, or CARE.

To contact MassParents, the Cambridge chapter of CARE, call 441-0863, visit www.massparents.org, or subscribe to the listserv by sending a blank email message to: massparents-subscribe@igc.topica.com

Jackie Dee King, an Area 4 resident, is the mother of two sons at the Graham and Parks School. She and Larry Ward have been active in the Cambridge MassParents group and have recently taken positions as organizers for the Coalition for Authentic Reform in Education.

People Pride

What better place for the City's arborist to live than on Elm Street in Area 4.

Larry Acosta is seen at many Area 4 events, working with adults and children to learn about trees. "Unfortunately, there are no elm trees left on Elm Street," he said, looking at the mural on the side of the Fletcher School on Elm Street, which has as one of its centerpieces a giant elm tree. The last elm tree on Elm Street died last year. Some beautiful trees can be seen on Harvard Street where wider sidewalks allow for more tree growth and at the Squirrel Brand property on Broadway where people are committed to saving the giant elm.

Larry Acosta moved to Area 4 nearly four years ago from Southern California. Acosta said the attitude in Cambridge is different than Southern California when it comes to trees. "People here have a longer view, a more historic view of trees. It often

centers on the intangible, rather than being tied to the monetary value a tree would have for development purposes and land value. In Cambridge, trees are part of the old landscape, and people see trees more grounded in nature and as a reflection of the human spirit and human soul than part of land development. The West Coast has a more artificial view of trees. Here there is a deeper appreciation of horticulture, arboretums, and botanical gardens."

According to Acosta, many absentee landlords and renters do not know how to participate in tree planting programs, and, because of economic hardships, many low-income residents see a tree program as an expensive and time consuming project. Issues related to cultural differences, language, and rental housing also make participation in tree programs difficult. Many renters do not fully understand issues around permissions regarding trees, tree planting subsidies and assistance, and the obligations of maintaining trees on someone else's property.

Spring tree programs available to Area 4



Gerald Bergman

Larry Acosta

residents will be advertised next year in the March 2001 edition of the *4Word*. Larry Acosta is eager to assist in forming volunteer tree protection and planting groups, educating about the client tree program, and helping to organize tree walks in the neighborhood. He is available for consultation regarding trees on public as well as private land, and will give references to good tree contractors when necessary. To learn more about tree and planting programs and how you can participate call Larry Acosta at 349-6433.

Playground Victory

Finally, by September 2001 at the latest, the hard asphalt in front of the Maynard School will be replaced with a new and gleaming play area for students of the Fletcher/ Maynard merged school and children in the neighborhood. Thanks to the hard work and tireless advocacy of Area 4 residents and the Fletcher and Maynard school communities, years of neglect and frustration from being passed over when other school playgrounds were renovated or built will come to an end.

According to Lisa Peterson, Assistant City Manager, "the design of the park will take place during the fall/winter...our goal would be to have the Maynard School park constructed by September 2001. It is possible that construction could begin prior to July 1, 2001, if this were acceptable to the school."

The long wait is almost over.



Gerald Bergman

your calendar

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the **second Thursday of each month** from 7-9 p.m., at the Area Four Youth Center, 243 Harvard Street. The next meetings will be held on **Thursday, July 13** and **September 14**. All residents of Area 4 are welcome. Food from local restaurants is served beginning at 6:30 p.m. In June Area 4 residents enjoyed great food donated by Izzy's Restaurant and Sub Shop located at 169 Harvard Street.

Wednesday, August 30 is the last day to register to vote or change party affiliation for the State Primary which will be held on September 16. Look for the October *4word* which will include a voter registration form for the November general election.

Thursday, August 31 will be the Community Art Center's End of the Summer Community Night in Newtowne Court from 6-9 p.m. Food, fun, and performances. Partial funding will be provided by the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition Community Celebration Fund.

Translating the *4word*

Para Residentes Que Falan Português
Se precisa de ajuda com traduções ou qualquer outro assunto, a MAPS oferece serviços de traduções assim como assistência social a pessoas de lingua portuguesa que residem na zona. Para mais informações, por favor contacte a MAPS através do número 617-864-7600. A MAPS está aberta de segunda a sexta feira das 9:00 da manhã a 5:00 da tarde.

Pou Rezidan Ki Pale Kreyol
Si w yon moun bezwen ed pou li JOURNAL ZON 4 LA e pou nou byen konpran enfòmasyon yo tou. Silvouple rele Biwo Ayisyen: 617-349-6351.

Para Residentes Que Hablan Español
Si necesita ayuda en inglés, tenemos intérpretes que le pueden acompañar a sus citas y traductores que pueden traducir sus documentos personales por escrito. Sólo llame a Concilio Hispano al 617-661-9406 y comuníquese con Sandra o Cecilia. Nuestro horario de atención es de lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

4word
Gerald Bergman, Editor
PO Box 390768
Cambridge, MA 02139

Locations mentioned in this issue of *4word*

- 1- Margaret Fuller House Pantry
- 2- St. Paul A.M.E. Pantry
- 3- Mass. Ave. Baptist Church Pantry
- 4- Windsor Street Health and Community Center
- 5- Site of the future school playground
- 6- City Foods grocery store (closed)

