

# 4word



## news & views in area 4

### Education: Equity and Opportunity

#### SCHOOL CHOICE

In February the School Committee reversed an earlier 4-3 vote in favor of high school choice and passed a motion supporting Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) Principal Paula Evans's effort to eliminate parent/student choice of small "schools" within CRLS. Next year choice will again be left out of the equation for placing ninth-graders. This year's assignment process distributed incoming ninth-graders throughout the five schools based on Stanford 9 standardized test scores. After students are distributed equally based on test scores, factors such as gender, race, zip code, ethnicity, and minority status are looked at to determine final stu-

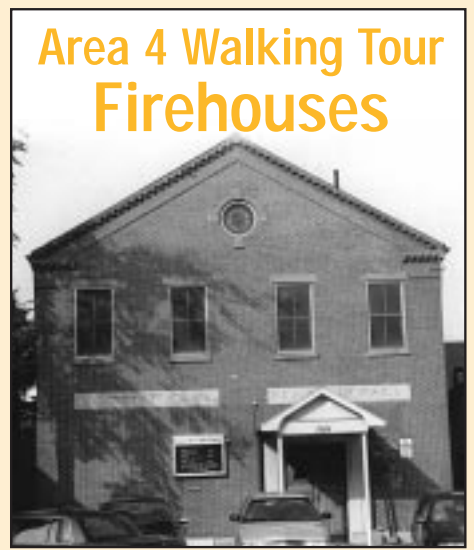
dent assignments. In the face of threats to resign, made by principal Evans and implied by Superintendent D'Alessandro, School Committee members Turkel and Simmons changed their vote, and joined Galluccio, Grassi, and Fantini in a 5-2 vote against school choice.

When high school restructuring was passed in February 2000, the School Committee approved a recommendation from Superintendent D'Alessandro that excluded choice for only one year. The final 5-2 vote changed existing policy and eliminated choice for the foreseeable future. Those opposing choice feared that the newly restructured high school would return to past practices, which resulted in splits by race and class in the CRLS small schools. Those in favor of choice said that if there are differences between small schools in classes such as language, science, and math, then parents and students deserve a choice. Choice was to be only one of the factors in assigning students, leaving the final decision in the principal's

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*The Cambridgeport School is on the move to Area 4*



**Area 4 Walking Tour  
Firehouses**

*Former firehouse on Main Street, now the Christian Mission Holiness Church*

The 4word is planning a special issue devoted to a walking tour of Area 4, which will highlight places, events, people, and the history of Area 4, past and present. We want to hear what you want highlighted on the tour.

Did you know that one of the first firehouses built in 1832 by the newly established Cambridge Fire Department still exists on Main Street between Cherry and Windsor Streets? It was later called Union Engine #2-Franklin Hook and Ladder Company #1. The original wood structure burned down and was replaced by a brick firehouse in 1846. It was used as a firehouse until 1894, and at the turn of the

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Gerald Bergman

Gerald Bergman

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# From the Editor

Recently Anthony Galluccio, the Mayor and Chair of the School Committee, delivered the State-of-Cambridge address. The speech was greeted with an outpouring of enthusiasm. Why not? Business is booming at an unprecedented rate in Cambridge, and real estate is changing hands at ever dizzying prices. Money is flowing into the hands of a few in ever increasing amounts!

However, if I were Mayor and Chair of the School Committee, I would have declared an education and housing state of emergency!

What about the recently released 1999–2000 School Data Report? Despite the fact that Cambridge spends more per student than any other public school district on the planet, low-income children and children of color are being left behind! Elementary schools are often segregated from one another by income, and income coupled with race has a direct relationship to academic success. The City measures income by eligibility for free and reduced meals. Last year 71% of the Fletcher Elementary School (K–5) students received a free/reduced lunch as compared to 63% of the Maynard Elementary School (K–5) students and only 20% of the Cambridgeport Elementary School (K–5) students. Academic achievement is measured by the Stanford 9 tests. At the Cambridgeport school, 75% of the third grade, 92% of the fourth grade and 74% of the fifth grade scored at proficient and above in the Stanford 9 reading test. Compare that to the Fletcher School where 18%

of the third grade, 35% of the fourth grade, and 34% of the fifth grade scored at proficient and above, and to the Maynard School where 30% of the third grade, 27% of the fourth grade, and 14% of the fifth grade scored at proficient and above. Don't all children in Cambridge deserve to succeed?

There are signs of spring in Area 4. In this edition of the *4word* we hear about the Area 4 Tree Walk and we can almost taste the ice cream from Toscanini's when we read *People Pride*. The dreams of school-aged children are filled with vacation plans; April school vacation and a summer vacation with Cambridge Camping. Despite dreams of a vacation from school, the April *4word* takes a look at education issues. The Cambridgeport School is moving to Area 4 in September; the New Fletcher-Maynard Academy is growing stronger; and issues around school choice at the high school and the School Data Report are grabbing headlines. There are vast achievement gaps between one elementary school and another. Within schools, achievement gaps between low-income students and students of means, and achievement gaps between children of color and white students, continue to challenge parents and school teachers and administrators. What is being done to bridge these gaps? Why is it that some elementary schools, similar to the former "houses" in the high school, have been so segregated by income and race?



Gerald Bergman

## Winter turns into spring in Area 4

In the last issue of the *4word* you read about zoning and how residents battled for three years to gain passage of a Citywide Rezoning Plan. In this issue you will read about how a substitute rezoning plan took center stage in the final two days of this campaign, and zoning in Eastern Cambridge was put on hold and affordable housing opportunities were diminished. The power of universities and big business was realized in this rezoning disappointment.

Congratulations to the many outstanding student athletes that live in Area 4. Among them are Louie Ford, who led CRLS to the state championship in basketball, and Artis Bergman, the co-captain of the CRLS swimming and diving team, which became the first all-boys team to win the Greater Boston League Championship.

The *4word* wants to hear your ideas as we gather information for our Area 4 Walking Tour. Have you missed past editions of the *4word*? Go online and see the *4word* at [city.mit.edu/Area4](http://city.mit.edu/Area4).

—Gerald Bergman, Editor

## Walking Tour

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century the building housed a fraternal organization. Since 1916 it has been home to the Christian Mission Holiness Church. The lintels of the two large front doors, which opened to bring in the horse-drawn fire engines, are still visible though the openings themselves have been bricked up.

Do you know of other "firsts" that occurred in Area 4? Do you have stories to tell? Do you have photos that you can share with the *4word* that depict events, places, and people that should be highlighted? What are your ideas? Who lives and has lived in our neighborhood who has a special place in our history? How does Area 4 shape the history of Cambridge? What events took place in Area 4 that had a special impact on issues such as rent control, civil rights, education, housing,

arts, and entertainment that should be noted? What do you know about your house, your business, the block you live on, and your community group in Area 4 that you would be willing to share?

Please contact the editor of the *4word* by calling 354-2648 or e-mailing [gerrberg@aol.com](mailto:gerrberg@aol.com). Look for special walking tour updates online at [city.mit.edu/Area4](http://city.mit.edu/Area4).

# Cambridge Camping

By Pam Lingel, Board Member

The Cambridge Camping Association (CCA) office is busy all year round. We have partnerships with many different camps and we run our own camps for Cambridge children, Cambridge Adventure Day Camp (CADC) and Daybreak Day Camp, each summer.

Last year, Cambridge Camping provided 615 children between the ages of 5 and 15 with close to \$340,000 in camperships. Approximately 230 campers came from Cambridge, 85 were from Area 4. In the last Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) cycle,



Kevin Burke

Campers "dig" Waltham Farm

the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition, which has been a sponsor of camperships for Area 4 children the past several years, awarded Cambridge Camping a grant of \$10,000.

Each January, applications are mailed to families, schools, and agencies. By the end of March, CADC is fully enrolled; Daybreak is well on its way to being full; the scholarship program and contract with the Department of Social Services are in full swing. By May and June, staff for our day camps is hired and trained; camps open; kids arrive.

Last year one camp counselor wrote: "As I look back at my photos from this summer, I can't help but wish that I had 10 year olds pulling at my leg and asking me to do that which I never thought I would love so much...day after day they returned and the smiles peaked out of their tough exteriors."

Seventy-five percent of our campers return every year. What makes our camps really work? Part of the electricity for the children is

the pleasure of familiarity and that so much goes on: music, drama, arts and crafts, cooking, sports, swimming, library time, field trips, and overnights. The activities quickly come to life in new and wonderful ways.

Lynn Browning, CADC's librarian and newspaper "publisher," created the Wall of Communication on which campers spoke through their writing. Some of what they said was clever, some funny, some wise, some poignant, some sad. All of it was there for others to read and think about. The idea came to Lynn like an epiphany. "You know, I think I've finally figured out what this camp is all about. The campers talk about their concerns and people *listen*."

In 1990, Daybreak Day Camp was founded. The idea behind this camp was to make it possible for children with emotional and behavioral difficulties to have some place to go during the summer. Initially, there were 15 campers and now the size has doubled.

One parent of an Area 4 camper wrote: "Our son has attended the last four summers at Daybreak Day Camp. We cannot begin to thank you enough for your contribution to building his self-esteem and social skill . . . he has gained the confidence to try new things. He has also learned to share his feelings. We are very sad that he has outgrown the program but realize the foundation that Daybreak has provided will guide him in his life experiences.

A highlight for the Daybreak staff is planning a theme for each of the four weeks of camp. Last year, the idea was to have campers walk through an elaborate time machine on each Monday, entering a time period that was the focus for the rest of the week.

- Week one: Campers entered a prehistoric period with cave drawings, dinosaurs, and primitive musical instruments.
- Week two: campers landed in a medieval court where the doings of knights and ladies and kings occupied their time.
- Week three: campers traveled back to the 1960s with rock and roll, "cool" clothes, and the landing on the moon.
- Week four: campers were hurled into the



Kevin Burke

## Cambridge Adventure Day Camp

future and had to figure out what the world will be like in 100 years.


Here are some of the comments our Cambridge campers wrote in the end-of-camp Memory Book of what they liked best at Daybreak:

Chrystal: "Swimming, the Museum of Science trip, beading, the visit from Animal Adventures." Marcus: "Field trips, trains, trains, and trains." Abraham: "Swimming at the lake, the New England Aquarium, Animal Adventures, gymnastics, basketball, games, and making pretzels. And oh, the sprinklers." Dede: "Kickball, baseball, and everything else." Amber: "The Chocolate Factory, dancing, and making paper dolls."

There are many reasons the shared summers often change the way the campers and their counselors look at their lives.

Area 4 residents are invited to call Cambridge Camping at 864-0960 or stop in at 99 Bishop Allen Drive for more information.

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 e-mail: gerrberg@aol.com. Read the *4word* online in PDF format at [city.mit.edu/Area4](http://city.mit.edu/Area4)



## Education

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control. Most agreed that as of now, there are no real differences between small schools, and providing school choice would offer little or nothing to students.

The situation at CRLS had been one that found hallways full of diverse races and backgrounds but found classrooms segregated by socio-economic class, race, or prior elementary school. The question being debated by School Committee members remains whether or not choice caused the problems at CRLS and to what extent school choice can exist while fully integrating the high school and providing equity across race and class.

### CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL DATA REPORT

Parents have been concerned for many years that there is a lack of equity systemwide in the Cambridge schools. Ever since the Rainbow Coalition first began working on school data reports that highlighted the lack of equity, linked to race and economic class in the school system, concerns have been raised over the lack of race and class integration in elementary school and in the small schools at CRLS. The School Data Report for the 1999–2000 school year, released this past month, supports the contention that children of color and low-income children were concentrated in certain schools and were failing to achieve at the same level as white children and children with parents of higher incomes. Lenora Jennings, Executive Director of Student Achievement and Accountability, said that “the worries expressed by the NAACP that Cambridge schools are not meeting the needs of children of color are not off-base.” School administrators have expressed a desire to end the comparisons between schools and to concentrate on looking at the districtwide improvement plan, a blueprint for where the school system hopes to see itself at the end of two years.

### CAMBRIDGEPORT SCHOOL AND THE NEW FLETCHER-MAYNARD ACADEMY

The Cambridge School Department and the Cambridge City Council have approved \$500,000 to renovate the interior of the Fletcher building on Elm Street. This money was approved on the condition that proximity preference for the new Cambridgeport

School be limited to families that live around the former Fletcher School. The school department gives families registration preference at the two schools closest to their homes. The policy of proximity preference dates from the 1980s, when neighborhood schools were eliminated and registration for all schools was opened up to every child regardless of his or her address. Superintendent Bobbie D’Alessandro agreed to send a letter to Area 4 families notifying them that a new school will open in September and that they have proximity preference. Parents will have several weeks from the date of the letter to change their original school choices. Despite the overcrowding at the current Cambridgeport School, there will be opportunities for Area 4 children to attend the Area 4 Cambridgeport School in September, primarily in kindergarten and 1st grade.

**“The worries expressed by the NAACP that Cambridge schools are not meeting the needs of children of color are not off-base.”**

**—Lenora Jennings,  
Executive Director of  
Student Achievement  
and Accountability**

On March 8, Cambridgeport Principal Lynn Stuart, Assistant Principal Holly Hatch, representatives of the community school program, the architect for the building renovations, and Cambridgeport teachers and parents attended the monthly meeting of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition to discuss their school and the upcoming move to Area 4. Questions were fielded concerning renovations, school registration, outreach, community relations, school programs, curriculum and philosophy, teacher and student demographics, parking, playground use, community schools, and future collaboration between the Cambridgeport School and the New Fletcher-Maynard Academy.



Gerald Bergman

**Assistant Principal Margaret Silverio at the New Fletcher-Maynard Academy**

According to Principal Stuart, this was the first in what will be an ongoing series of meetings with Area 4 residents to discuss the Cambridgeport School and to involve residents in all aspects of the Cambridgeport program. Discussions will also take place around the selection of a new name for the school.

The Cambridgeport School began in 1990 with a single kindergarten class. Today, the school has grown to include 300 students in grades K–8, and the limited space it occupies at the former Blessed Sacrament School makes it the most crowded school in the district. Most classes are composed of two grades, usually allowing students to spend two years with the same teacher. There are two kindergarten classes, then there are multigrade classes in grades 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8. The philosophy of the school is built on “developmental learning,” the understanding that children develop in similar ways, but each child has her/his particular rate and style of learning. Teachers design exciting curricula that expand upon the city and state curriculum frameworks. Each year, students and teachers select work for each student’s portfolio, which shows student growth. Area 4 residents attending the meeting had an opportunity to look at some of the portfolios. Cambridgeport offers a variety of after-school options, including homework and computer clubs, music lessons, childcare, and dramatic arts.

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# Citywide Rezoning Petition

**D**espite three years of work to develop a citywide rezoning plan for Cambridge, seven City Councilors voted in February for a limited rezoning package, thus avoiding zoning decisions in controversial areas of the city, primarily Eastern Cambridge—which includes Area 4 east of Windsor Street and all of East Cambridge—and eliminating a number of proposed housing districts.

Strong opposition to the original citywide rezoning package by big business and universities made it unlikely that there would be seven votes for the comprehensive zoning proposal, which had been supported by the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition and other community groups across the city. Bowing to this opposition, Councilors Born and Maher put forward the limited rezoning proposal in the hopes of finding enough votes for passage. Many residents criticized the fact that the 95-page rezoning substitute was made public only two days before the final vote. Voting against the limited zoning plan were Councilors Jim Braude and Henrietta Davis.

The strongest opposition to the plan came from affordable housing advocates and residents of East Cambridge and Area 4.

There was a fear that because Eastern Cambridge was left out of the plan, any rezoning of this portion of the city would be severely weakened. Affordable housing advocates noted that only six of the 17 residential districts originally included by the Planning Board were adopted. These 17 housing districts would have replaced commercial and industrial areas and would have made housing the only permitted noninstitutional use. Four of the six housing districts that passed were modified. Seven of the eleven districts not included in the compromise plan were in Eastern Cambridge.

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition sent the following letter to the City Council prior to the vote: “We, the undersigned members of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition, believe that the area covered by the Eastern Cambridge Planning Study should be included in the Citywide Rezoning Petition. Passing the FAR changes and the Housing Districts would significantly increase the city’s supply of housing and affordable housing, a main goal of the current City Council and of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition. Excluding Eastern Cambridge from the Citywide Rezoning Petition

The substitute rezoning proposal was not the recommendation of the extensive community and Planning Board process; it did not include nearly enough of the housing incentive proposals; it will not have a sufficient impact on traffic problems for the City; it left out East Cambridge, Alewife, and Cambridgeport, therefore it was not citywide; it was released too late for community review.”

—Councilor Henrietta Davis

would seriously undermine our neighborhood. If the Citywide Rezoning Petition cannot be passed in its entirety, we will be extremely disappointed in our City Councilors.” For more information about ongoing rezoning efforts in Area 4 and East Cambridge, all residents are invited to attend the monthly Area Four Neighborhood Coalition meetings.

## Education

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The Cambridgeport School population is 50% white and 30% African American. 25% of the students receive free/reduced lunch. The average class size is 24 students. There will most likely be one preschool special needs class. 43% of the teachers of the core curriculum are teachers of color. For the purposes of comparison, the New Fletcher-Maynard Academy, as of last October, had 282 students, 25% white, 52% African American, and 19% Hispanic. 65% of the students receive free/reduced lunch. The class size is limited to 15 students in kindergarten and 17 students in grades 1–8.

Most Area 4 residents came away from the meeting excited about the prospect of having two outstanding schools in the neighborhood. Future editions of the *4word* will have updates about the New Fletcher-Maynard Academy and the Cambridgeport School.

### School Committee Members

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# R.A.P.

By Renee Green

The Recreational Activities Program (R.A.P.) was started in the fall of 1992, after the tragic death of two youths in the Newtowne Court housing development. The residents of Newtowne Court and Washington Elms were tired of being awakened in the early hours of the morning to the sounds of sirens and flashing blue lights. Washington Elms and Newtowne Court were considered a "rough" part of Area 4 because there were lots of drugs, crimes, violence, and gunshots fired at various times of the day. Many residents in these family developments were scared to go outside.

While the Cambridge Housing Authority worked with residents of the two developments and the Cambridge Police Department to increase police presence and make the needed arrests, residents decided to take some steps on their own to take back the place where they lived. They wanted to give their families, and especially the youth of the developments, some pride and self-esteem and to remind everyone that there was more to their community than crime on the streets.

After many meetings with the Housing Authority, a group of residents was finally given the OK to start this program. Funded in part through a Youth Sports grant from

HUD, the program would be run by a Governing Board made up of Washington Elms and Newtowne Court residents and a few CHA staff.

The first year was a life experience in itself. The program was located in the old gym building at Newtowne Court. At first, all we had was a gym and an office. We played basketball, organized a basketball tournament, and did arts and crafts. That summer the R.A.P. staff and board started a summer camp to keep children off the streets and out of trouble. The camp was a success.

In the winter of 1998, we were given the best gift of all: a new home at 119 Windsor Street. That gave us more space: an office, two activities rooms, a game room, and a brand-new gym. The staff, with the board's help, was able to add more daily activities in the program, like cooking and sewing class. We filled the game room with a pool table and a nine-one game table and bought arts and crafts materials for the activities rooms. Most of all, we had a room to help children with their homework. We received a generous Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition in 1999. We added martial arts and also had the pleasure of working with the Portlife Foundation, which ran the chess club and girls basketball.

Now that the program for the 2000–2001 school year is well underway, we look forward to working with two outside agencies.



RAP participants

The Somerville Boys and Girls Club will be helping out with three discussion groups for children: Smart Kids, Smart Girls, and Passport to Manhood. We will also be working with the Portlife Foundation, which will help us with such programs as 3-on-3 basketball, Chess Club, Math 2001, and a Portlife Step dance team.

R.A.P.'s goals are to enhance the program and to serve as many children of the Area 4 community as possible. We invite volunteers to work in the program. If any *4word* readers want to volunteer, we would be grateful for your help—just call Renee Green at 499-7015.

On the R.A.P team, everyone counts!!!



YWC members at the Women of Color Art Festival (l. to r.) Athena, Shakyma, Anet, Lynn, Shakera and Berlin

After more than four years of educating, developing, and promoting, one thing is for sure when members of the Young Women's Club (YWC), formally known as the Little Women's Club, get together—there's still a whole lot of fun and excitement going on.

## Young Women's Club

By Annette Brown, YWC Founder & Director

The idea for the YWC actually came from two of the club's first members, Athena Brown and Danielle Hairston, who were at that time nine and ten years old. With the help of some wonderful volunteers and funding provided by the Area Four Coalition, their idea became a reality. Whether members are shopping on a budget, talking girl talk, doing

the dutch, writing about daily drama, or mentoring children, there's *never* a dull moment.

The goal of the YWC is to provide skill-building activities that aid in the social and economic future of adolescent girls. The

YWC meets three days a week including Saturdays at various locations and has successfully provided activities to over 20 girls whose ages range from 9–13. Although many program activities are geared toward developing skills, they are also about providing support and developing friendships.

The YWC collaborates with many organizations including the Cambridge Public Library and the Cambridge Tree Project, and promotes a number of community events including the Annual Poetry Contest and the Women of Color Art Festival. The YWC received a \$10,000 grant from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition in 1999. To become a member or to volunteer, call Annette Brown at 876-4712.



## People Pride

According to Gus Rancatore, owner of Toscanini's, "Central Square and Area 4 is a real crossroads." In the heart of that crossroads is Toscanini's ice cream and coffee shop. Gus speaks with pride about "selling a place as well as food, an atmosphere, a place for neighborhood residents, students, and business people to gather and sample food and music." What better place to interview Gus than the original Toscanini's, the first of three stores in Cambridge, which opened in 1981 on Main Street. More than an alternative to Starbucks, for many Area 4 residents, it is a Starbucks antidote.

According to Gus, owning Toscanini's is about communication, a dialogue between owner and customer, an exchange between neighbors. This results in the Toscanini menu, thought weird or eccentric by some, but deeply appreciated by neighbors who come for such ice creams as grape nut, mango, or saffron, highly prized by families from Jamaica, the West Indies, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. Gus sees Toscanini's as "ice cream for people . . . My ice cream menu mirrors the diversity of Central Square and Area 4."

Often thought of as the Ben and Jerry of Cambridge, Gus is known for his social consciousness when it comes to donating ice cream. One donation recently fed 400 protestors, among them Colombians, Tibetans, and their supporters from Area

"Self portrait" cartoon in the background drawn by Gus Rancatore

4, who traveled by bus to New York with Amnesty International. There is rarely a school or youth event in the neighborhood that does not feature a Toscanini donation.

Gus moved to Cambridge in 1975 and now lives on Amory Street. Every day he can be seen riding his bike or walking to work through Central Square and Area 4. Gus is fundamentally optimistic about Cambridge but wonders how and why some political decisions are made. A strong supporter of a new library in Central Square, Gus was stunned by those City Councilors who voted against the new site. He has concerns about rising business and residential rents, which are quickly changing the City's landscape. New leases in Central Square, which had been \$35 per square foot, are now between \$40 and \$55. "Traffic is choking the city, and there is an urgent need to develop a shuttle and van service as well as assist mass transit programs," says Gus. He has been active in helping to shape the future of Lafayette Square. At a cost of millions of dollars, the Shell station and roadways will be removed and a plaza created across from the fire station. Gus raised several questions about this plan: "What will the traffic flow look like and how will the plaza be used and maintained? Who are the major beneficiaries of this plan, and how will it affect businesses and residents in Area 4?"

According to Gus, the schools are the most troubling and challenging aspect of life in Cambridge. He employs many Cambridge youth, and cares deeply about youth and their education. He says "the system in Cambridge strives for consensus. People in



*Gus Rancatore*

the schools want to be 'liked.' They don't want to be discouraging or squeeze too hard or ratify failure. This attitude often leads to students who lack fundamentals." The recent school data report troubled Gus because of the disparity between races and classes, and the high number of students who did not learn basic skills. "Too many of the high school workers we hire can't write a simple report, keep accurate notes or do basic math, yet they are getting As and Bs in school." Gus suggests that the Cambridge schools experiment more with programs for gifted students, Saturday classes, longer school years, and other supplementary programs. "It is impossible to continue as we are."

Gus urges the residents and businesses of Area 4 to join in the dialogue about the city's problems and its possibilities. "As consumers and partners in the future of the city, our hopes and dreams must be included on the city's menu."

## \$600 Community Celebration Grants Available Now

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has set aside \$6,000 to assist Area 4 individuals and Area 4 community groups in holding free community celebrations, block parties, and community events that can help unify and celebrate our neighborhood. Up to \$600 is available for each event for such uses as food, outreach materials, postage, entertainment, prizes, printing, etc. Requests for assistance must be

made in writing to the grant coordinator and must indicate the type of event, the approximate date, who is invited, outreach strategy, a 25% donation match, and a contact person. No individual or organization can receive more than \$600 in any one calendar year.

After the completion of the event, the contact person will need to send receipts, copies of outreach materials, and a photograph taken at the event for a future issue of the *4word*.

For more information please contact: Gerald Bergman, Volunteer Grant Coordinator, PO Box 390768 (02139), telephone: 354-2648, fax: 864-2519, e-mail: [Gerrberg@aol.com](mailto:Gerrberg@aol.com)



*Recycling celebration in Area 4*

# Are There Elm Trees on Elm Street?

**Y**ou are invited to an Area 4 Tree walk on Saturday, May 5, with city arborist and Area 4 resident Larry Acosta. Meet at the Squirrel Brand Community Garden on the corner of Broadway and Boardman Street at 10:30 am. Join your neighbors to explore the diversity of trees in Area 4 and learn how to identify common and unusual trees in our neighborhood. Learn how to recognize common tree problems and how to take care of the trees on your street and in your yard. We will explore the competing concerns of trees, sidewalks, public utilities, and buildings. What can you do to save your backyard tree? When and how should you prune your tree and how do you arrange for the city to trim your sidewalk tree? Learn the benefits of trees in the city to our climate, economic health, and environment. You will have the opportunity to adopt a tree in Cambridge. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the walk at noon. For more information call 547-1413 or e-mail [doaneperry@compuserve.com](mailto:doaneperry@compuserve.com) or see [www.cambridgegreen.org](http://www.cambridgegreen.org).



Gerald Bergman

*Trees at the Squirrel Brand Community Garden*



*your calendar*

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the **second Thursday of every month** from 7–9 pm, at the Area 4 Youth Center, 243 Harvard Street. The next meetings will be on **April 12** and **May 10**. Food and refreshments, often from local restaurants, are served beginning at 6:30 pm.

**Monday, April 30** – City Council hearing and final vote on homerule legislation that would lower the voting age to 16 in Cambridge. City Hall. 5:30 pm.

**Saturday, May 5** – Area 4 Tree Walk. 10:30–noon. Meet at the Squirrel Brand Community Garden at the corner of Broadway and Boardman Street (see article, left).

**Thursday, May 17** – Public presentation of Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) proposals to the community from 6:30–8:30 pm at the Area 4 Youth Center, 243 Harvard Street. Food and refreshments from a local restaurant will be served at 6:30.

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition is a community-based organization open to all neighborhood residents.

Read and review all editions of the *4word* in PDF format at [city.mit.edu/Area4](http://city.mit.edu/Area4).

## 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 língua 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 as 5:00 da tarde.

### Pou Rezidan Ki Pale Kreyol

Si w yon moun bezwen èd 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  
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### LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE OF 4WORD

1. First Cambridge Firehouse/  
Christian Mission Holiness Church
2. Squirrel Brand Community Garden
3. Windsor Street Health and  
Community Center—R.A.P. Office
4. Former Fletcher School—future site  
of the Cambridgeport School
5. The New Fletcher-Maynard  
Academy
6. Area 4 Youth Center
7. Toscanini's
8. Cambridge Camping Office
9. Shaded Area—Area 4 portion  
of the Eastern Cambridge  
Planning/Rezoning Area

