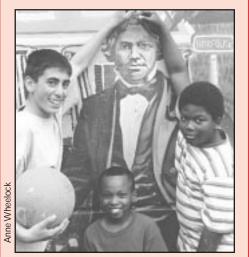
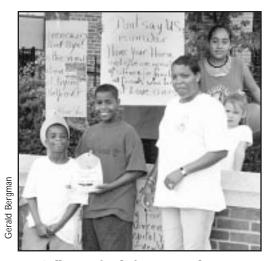
news & views in area 4

Summer Turns to Fall



Friends gather

ummer vacations are over and the days are growing shorter. We have to say goodbye to some of our friends and we greet others we have not seen since the summer began. We make new friends and share our dreams. We face new challenges. We celebrate, struggle, and now we mourn together.



Collecting funds for New York victims

September 11, 2001

We are all in this together.
We cry together as the images of the tragedy replay in our minds.

Area 4 is a neighborhood of many voices.

Some can speak personally of war, some cannot.

But we all know

war brings terror to innocent people.

e are outraged by the threats of violence hurled at Muslims in our neighborhood. In reaction to increased anti-Muslim sentiment and bomb threats against the Islamic Society at 204 Prospect Street in Area 4, Rev. Jeffrey

Brown, pastor of Union Baptist Church on Main Street, organized an interfaith march on September 14. The march began at the Islamic Society mosque and proceeded to City Hall, where hundreds of Cambridge residents linked hands in unity.



A wall of healing is created on the corner of Main and Columbia streets

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From the Editor

cowardly terrorist act has changed our lives forever. Now is the time to reaffirm our support for peace. Area 4 is a diverse community of many races, cultures, and religions. We must resist stereotypes and false blame. This is a time to heal and come together.

November 6 is election day in Cambridge. If you are not registered you can use the voter registration form that is enclosed in this copy of the 4word. These forms must be taken or mailed to the Cambridge Election Commission, 51 Inman Street (02139), no later than October 17. Area 4 residents are urged to ask tough questions of candidates and hold them accountable. Two Area 4 residents are running for City Council:

Steve Iskovitz, a member of the Green Party, and E. Denise Simmons, the Vice-Chair of the Cambridge School Committee. One Area 4 resident is running for School Committee: Richard Harding Jr., the new director of the Cambridge Men of Color Health Task Force.

I want to give special recognition to Robert Curley, a mechanic for the Cambridge Fire Department and a resident of Area 4, whose 10-year-old son, Jeffrey, was molested then murdered in 1997. Curley's unsuccessful effort to enact the death penalty in Massachusetts was well publicized. This summer he announced that he had changed his mind and that he now opposes the death penalty. "At first, you are filled with tremendous rage and if you weren't in favor of the death penalty after having that happen to your child, you better

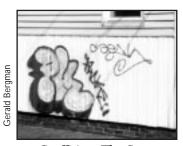


Election signs are popping up around the neighborhood

have somebody check your pulse," Curley said recently. "But after a while you take a look at things differently." If Robert Curley can move past his desire for vengeance and death, what about the rest of us?

Letter to the Editor

In the June 4word you asked for comments about graffiti in Area 4, and I thought I would tell you my experiences. When Commissioner Watson first arrived in Cambridge, a citywide meeting was held at the Charles Hotel to discuss the merits of community policing, of which the Commissioner was a champion. One major



Graffiti on Elm Street

theme of the community policing forum was that crime rates are much lower in graffiti-free neighborhoods.

I had a wooden fence around my property that was defaced frequently, and it was expensive to keep cleaning it. I eventually replaced the fence as it was impossible to keep it graffiti free. Since the commercial owners in my area would not remove their graffiti, I could not keep up with the removal problem.

I was invited to participate in the city graffiti committee. I went to several of these meetings and it was clear that no one was interested in doing anything about graffiti except discussing it. I brought up on many occasions the fact that the City of Boston removes graffiti at city cost. Once again the city talked me to death, listened politely, promised to be vigilant about having the graffiti removed by commercial owners, but did nothing-at least in our part of the city.

I believe that a citywide policy that is funded is the only way that we can be a graffiti-free city. If Boston can do it, why can't Cambridge?

Sincerely, J.G.

Cambridge Area Muslims Condemn Attacks on the U.S.

The Islamic Society of Boston, located at 204 Prospect Street in Area 4, issued the following statement on September 11:

"Muslims in Cambridge and Boston condemn in the strongest terms the cowardly attacks against the people of the United States of America and offer condolences to the families of those who were killed or injured. We join all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators.

No cause could ever justify or be assisted by such immoral acts.

"We are calling on all members of the Muslim community to offer whatever help they can to the victims and their families. The

Islamic Society of Boston is in the process of arranging a blood drive on its premises.

"We further call on media professionals to exercise restraint and not to rush to judgment as some did after the tragic Oklahoma City bombing. We cannot emphasize enough the need to maintain sensitivity in not placing blame on a particular culture or group." For more information please contact Dr. Walid Fitaihi, at 204 Prospect Street, 617-876-3546.



Islamic Society of Boston mosque

Community Art Center Parent Night Celebration

by Ligi-Elin Jacob, School Age Child Care Program Director

n August 30 the school age program of the Community Art Center celebrated its end of summer 2001 Parent Night, a gathering of children, parents, relatives, teachers, and friends. The event highlighted the Art Center children's accomplishments and allowed everyone to be part of this joy. The audience was able to walk through the classrooms to witness the visual, computer, media, and theatrical art pieces that the children worked on during the summer and watch children display their talents on the stage. "It was an event that my children made sure I came to," said Sonya Brown, mother of two children at the center, "it was really important for me to be there."

About 60 people came to view the artwork, including masks, paintings, collages, videos, lego robots, flowers from the art center garden, and more. The audience was also able to get a glimpse of our eventful summer as

they glanced over photos of children making masks and lego robots in the classrooms, having fun at the beach and Harbor Islands, and participating in other events.

Because tribal unity was one of the initiatives at the center this summer, this was the theme of the evening performances.

Children at the art center are divided into tribes and have tribal leaders to act as positive role models who give encouragement and share their guiding wisdom. With the help of their tribal leaders, each tribe put together a presentation on the idea of unity and every child participated. As Kiara Gomes (age 8) put it, "A lot of people performed. It was good." One teacher proved that every moment is a learning experiences as he stated, "The theme of the evening was unity. It's evident that the children have ways to go, but we'll get there!"

As the school year begins, the Art Center is preparing new projects and curricula that will be part of the next Parent Night. Area 4 parents with children between the ages of 7 and 12 are invited to enroll their children at the School Age Child Care Program at the Community Art Center and join the community in celebrating arts in education. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to tutor or assist teachers in the classrooms between 2 and 6 pm are encouraged to call.



Jennifer Marquez is making Jessica Syllien's mask in the Visual Arts class

We are also searching for a dedicated individual to fill the Media Teacher position. Find out about the Community Art Center and all it has to offer by dialing 617-868-7100 or by checking us out on our website.

The Teen Media Program at the Art Center is getting ready for its own season of programs. Along with video, photo, and web production, the teens in the Teen Media Program will be putting together the Sixth Annual Do It Your Damn Self!! National Youth Film Festival in November. Area 4 teens are encouraged to visit and join the program anytime. Photo and video work from the teen summer program, partially funded by the Office of Workforce Development in Cambridge, will soon be up on the Community Art Center's website. Keep connected to www.communityartcenter.org for displays of children's art, job listings, and upcoming events!

Affordable Housing in Area 4

rea 4 residents are being forced from their homes due to high rents. Home ownership is an impossible dream for most Area 4 residents. The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition continues to work with nonprofit housing developers to provide affordable housing opportunities. On August 31, Just-A-Start celebrated the YouthBuild program and the renovation of the former Squirrel Brand building at 17 Boardman Street, which will provide two 3-bedroom affordable rental units. In addition, work continues across the street on the former Squirrel Brand factory on Boardman Street which will offer 18 affordable rental units.

Applications for three 3-bedroom homeownership units at the corner of Harvard and Windsor Street have been taken. These limited equity homeownership units will sell for \$135,000 each. These affordable housing opportunities were supported by grants from the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) fund. Call Just-A-Start at 617-494-0444 for more information. You are invited to attend the monthly Area Four Neighbor-hood Coalition meetings to discuss these and future affordable housing opportunities.



Just-A-Start YouthBuild celebration at 17 Boardman Street



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 **(A)** 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



Voice Your Open Space Preferences

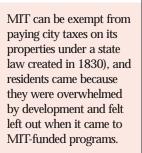
final decision on the open space plan for 238
Broadway/163 Harvard
Street will be made in the next few weeks. After a series of open space meetings this past spring and summer, three options are being discussed by the neighborhood.

This summer, neighborhood youth met at the Area Four Youth Center to hear a presentation on the three options. They overwhelmingly supported Option A, with support being voiced for a large water area in the park. Voicing concerns for safety and expressing the need for a large play area, the neighborhood has been nearly unanimous in its support for closing Clark street (Options A and C).

In addition, plans for a park in front of the New Fletcher Maynard Academy (Harvard and Windsor streets) have been finalized. The design will feature a large play structure and room for active games surrounded by trees and plantings. Construction will begin this Fall. TENNIS COURT

The Squirrel Brand community gardens (Broadway and Boardman Street) planning process will be continuing over the next several weeks. Initial neighborhood consensus seems to support a children's play area and a neighborhood community garden.

Area 4 residents are urged to attend the monthly Area Four Neighborhood Coalition meetings for updates on open space plans and development in Area 4. You can also contact Venita Mathias of the Cambridge Community Development Department for neighborhood open space planning meeting dates and for minutes of past meetings. Call her at 617-349-4603 or e-mail: vmathias@ci.cambridge.ma.us.



At the July 11 meeting in the auditorium of the Fletcher Maynard Academy, neighborhood residents urged the establishment of a resident/MIT planning committee to address short- and long-term planning regarding MIT expansion in the neighborhood, and expand the school's philanthropy in Area 4.

Responding to the remarks of City Councilor Born that the Tech Square development was not downzoned partly because of a desire to raise taxes for the city, Area 4 resident Esther Hanig responded: "This is not about money, it's beyond taxes. This is my home, and every time you expand and

120' X 210'
MULTI-USE LAWN
PLAYGROUND W/
WATER PLAY

GATHERING SPACE

Option A: Playfield

TENNIS COURT

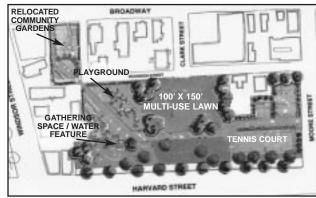
RENOVATED COMMUNITY
GARDENS

WATER PLAY
WATER FEATURE

110' X 120'
MULTI-USE LAWN

GATHERING SPACE

Option B: Streetside



Option C: Lawnview

MIT and Area 4

rea 4 residents turned out on a hot July evening this past summer to meet with MIT representatives over what they felt was a lack of response to the needs of the Area 4 neighborhood. The recent "secret" purchase by MIT of Tech Square (part of Area 4 bounded by Portland Street, Broadway, the railroad tracks, and Main Street) took the neighborhood by surprise. City Councilors organized the meeting because of their concern about a potential loss of taxes (as an academic institution,

"This is not about money, it's beyond taxes.
This is my home, and every time you expand and build, it's my neighborhood that's right up there on the line."

Esther Hanig, Area 4 resident build, it's my neighborhood that's right up there on the line."

Paul Parravano, director of community relations for MIT, attended the September meeting of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition. He began to outline the current resources MIT invests in Area 4 community organizations while setting the stage for future conversations about how MIT can increase their support. He will be attending the October 8 meeting of the Coalition to continue those discussions. All Area 4 residents are invited to attend.

Area 4 Walking Tour

he *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 trail.

Broadway Baptist Church

Many Area 4 residents remember the Broadway Baptist Church located on the corner of Broadway and Boardman Street. The foundation of the church, which was demolished in 1972, remains buried under the current community gardens. Community meetings regarding a new community gardens/play area plan for this parcel are now underway. The original Broadway Baptist Church of 1866 was damaged by fire in 1889, and was rebuilt in a typical Queen Anne fashion. The church was abandoned by the congregation in 1966, and the building was subsequently used by the Salvation Army as a community center.



Broadway Baptist Church, 1969

Cambridge Neighborhood House

The Cambridge Neighborhood House, which was located at 79 Moore Street on the corner of Harvard Street in Area 4 until 1973, housed the country's first child-care center. The site of the former Neighborhood House is now part of the current master plan open space area. The Neighborhood House served as an educational, social, and recreational center for almost one hundred years. Before 1878, the 1830 house served as a private residence for Josiah Mason, a local merchant, and later for Alexander Dickinson, who was known for his fruit orchards and nurseries nearby. By 1878 this portion of

Area 4 was the site of extensive tenement construction. Single houses were cut up into apartments for two and three families, factories were built where orchards had grown and brick tenements replaced some of the frame houses of an earlier day.

Pauline Agassiz Shaw, daughter of scientist Louis Agassiz, found the building appropriate for her newly established day nursery and kindergarten. After leasing the facilities for several years, she bought the property in 1887 and expanded it. In 1879 she opened a library and reading room and held sewing classes, and in 1883 she began a mothers' club, a playground, and dressmaking and woodworking classes for children. The kindergarten that was established was taken over in 1889 by the Cambridge Public Schools. By 1900, she established classes in music, drawing, and painting. In

1914 a Health Committee was organized to meet the health problems of Area 4. There was a baby clinic and a pre-natal clinic, which was eventually taken over by the city. In 1915 the house and grounds were open at the noon hour for factory employees for lunch, reading, classes, and meeting.

Day and evening activities on the playground next to the building were central to the program of the Neighborhood House. By the 1840s the playground included a whole block, which included an outdoor dance floor, basketball court, fire-

places, and shaded and surfaced spaces for rest and games.

Pauline Shaw's house, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places largely to commemorate her work, burned in 1973 and had to be torn down. The activities she founded continue in the work of the present day Margaret Fuller House on Cherry Street.

Please share your memories of the Broadway Baptist Church and the Cambridge Neighborhood House. Do you have stories to tell? Do you have photos that you can share with the *4word* that depict other



Cambridge Neighborhood House, 1821

events, places, and people that should be highlighted? What are your ideas?

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

Community Preservation Act

he Massachusetts Community Preservation Act established a dedicated funding source to enable cities and towns to acquire and preserve open space, acquire and restore and preserve historic buildings and sites, and help meet local families' affordable housing needs.

The funding source for these community preservation purposes would be a surcharge of 3% on the annual property tax and matching funds distributed by the state. The City Council approved two exemptions when it unanimously endorsed the Community Preservation Act in June. The first \$100,000 of residential property would be exempt from the surcharge, and property held by lowincome owners or moderate income seniors would also be exempt.

In order to levy the surcharge and receive nearly \$5 million in state matching funds, the Community Preservation Act must be passed by the voters of Cambridge on November 6.

Cambridge Historical Commission

Cambridgeport School Opens in the Fletcher Building

School starts at the Cambridgeport

School on Elm Street

by Lynn Stuart, Principal of the Cambridgeport School

n September 4, the construction projects ended and the Fletcher School was once again alive with the voices and the promise of students. It was a day of wonder for almost 250 students who were joined two days later by 40 kindergarten children in their new school. But it was also a day of excitement for all the adults in the school community for it

meant a wonderful new beginning for the Cambridgeport School. Our new home at the Fletcher school building offers a new stability and an opportunity to welcome change and become a part of the Area 4 neighborhood.

As the principal of the Cambridgeport School, I am thrilled to return to a neighborhood where I once had many students as a young bilingual

teacher. The classrooms have always been among the most special ones I have ever known—large, bright, and welcoming. It is a great building and we look forward to

celebrating its 100th birthday together with the neighborhood in 2003!

But a school is more than its building. It is people-students, teachers, and families. And it is shaped and enriched by the neighborhood in which it is located. The Cambridgeport School brings approximately 300 students to the Fletcher building. There

are 16 classes, mostly multigraded, including one special education class. Fifty percent of our students are children of color from many different backgrounds and families.

Classroom teachers work closely together in grade-level teams and develop curriculum that is both tough and fun. Our commitment to teaching all learners to the best of our ability

and each student's potential are strong. We hope our neighbors will visit the school for many events to share in that potential and the achievements of students. But just as we hope our neighbors and community agencies in Area 4 will visit us, we know that most of all, we have a lot to learn from the neighborhood.

We look forward to working with the Fletcher Maynard Academy on several projects. We hope neighborhood residents will let us know what is important and how we can do our part. We hope the school can be a hub of activity—from the school day to the playground to the many Community School programs that will help us create new bonds.

The New Fletcher **Maynard Academy**

A year of achievement, wonder, and new experiences await the students attending the second year of the New Fletcher Maynard Academy. Best wishes to the students, teachers, and staff of this great school!



Assistant Principal Margaret Silverio greets students

UDAG Funding

he Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has money to fund projects to benefit the Area 4 neighborhood. The money comes from the former US Trust repayment of a federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) to compensate the neighborhood when it moved here in the 1980s. Every two years the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition, after a series of public meetings and a public voting process, awards approximately \$250,000 to neighborhood groups and individuals. Over \$1,250,000 has been given in grants by the Area Four Coalition over the past several years.

This past June the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition gave out grant awards totalling \$247,782. At open public hearings in May

and June the UDAG Funding Committee and the Area 4 community reviewed and voted on 21 proposals with requests totaling \$519,597.

2001–2003 Grant Recipients:

Young People's Project, Inc.: After School Math Institute (\$31,000); Community Art Center, Inc.: Computer Arts Project (\$14,500); Neighborhood Four College Scholarship Program (\$25,000); Earn-A-Bike Program (\$15,000); Area Four Youth Center: S.A.T. Prep. Course (\$17,184); Area Four Youth Center: Project 13 Summer Program (\$13,072); Neighborhood Four Newsletter: 4word (\$32,026); Area Four Community Celebrations (\$6,000); Cambridge Camping (\$10,000); Homeowners Rehab Inc.: Home Improvement Program (\$60,000); Cambridge Carnival

International (\$11,000); One to One Program (\$15,000); JAM'NASTICS Inc. (\$10,000) and the Area Four Emergency Fire Fund (\$3,000).

More information about these grants will be available at the monthly meetings of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition and in upcoming 4word newsletters.



Residents gather to discuss UDAG Grants

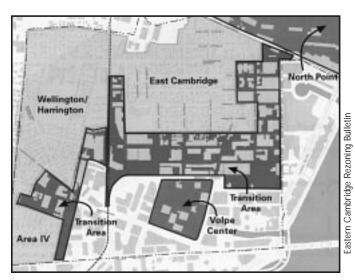
Eastern Cambridge Rezoning

n the next few weeks the final decisions will be made regarding rezoning in Eastern Cambridge. Many Area 4 residents have worked on this plan. While calls for rezoning in Area 4 were being ignored by most City Councilors (note the new Bulfinch buildings on Broadway, Tech Square and the massive development along Main Street), the city began the Eastern Cambridge Planning Study (ECaPS). Eastern Cambridge comprises a portion of Area 4 (east of Windsor Street), part of the Wellington/Harrington neighborhood (Area 3), all of East Cambridge, part of Kendall Square, and North Point. Much is at stake for the entire city regarding open space, affordable housing, jobs, traffic, and development density.

The ECaPS rezoning plan will reduce the threat of increased development on Broadway between Portland and Windsor in Area 4 by "cleaning up" the maze of zon-

ing districts in the Transition Area and by reducing the maximum height and density allowed for new development. ECaPS will increase open space. The plan calls for a 7.5acre public park on the Volpe Center (between Broadway and Binney). ECaPS will create more housing and will add to the affordable housing stock. ECaPS will reduce the allowable height and size of new developments, therefore reduc-

ing density and easing future traffic problems. The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has called on City Councilors to maximize affordable housing and open space opportunities in Eastern Cambridge.



ECaPS Study Area

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Let Your Voice Be Heard

by Peter Berry, Area 4 Resident and Member of the ECaPS Committee

he Eastern Cambridge Planning Study (ECaPS) has now entered the political arena. The developers are lobbying for more, the Planning Board may propose changes, and finally, the City Council could make changes of its own.

First the development lobby. Some property owners are resisting reductions in what they will be allowed to build and other developers, who have already been given additional development rights, are asking for more. It's no secret that the ability to build more is directly related to increased profits for the developer. It also means larger buildings (in close proximity to existing neighborhoods), increased traffic problems, and other issues related to increased density.

Developers are applying pressure to the Planning Board and the City Council. While they may talk with Councilors on an individual basis, their appeals to the Planning Board are much more public. In the past two months the participation of the development community at Planning Board meetings has far surpassed the presence of the general public. Possible

changes may, for example, allow for increased commercial development at the expense of housing and/or open space.

The ECaPs is also before the Ordinance Committee (co-chaired by Councilors Born and Maher) and will soon be before the entire Council. It is likely that they will accept a good portion of the proposal. However, it is equally as likely that some changes will be made that directly benefit one or more developers and adversely effect the surrounding neighborhoods, if not the entire city.

Now is the time for the neighborhoods to apply pressure of their own. The end of the current moratorium on development coincides with this year's City Council election. It's important that they see and hear from the people that live here. People are asking for a zoning plan that will protect the neighborhoods by creating better transitions between residential and commercial areas; a plan that will increase the affordable housing stock, preserve and acquire open space, and reduce the impact of traffic on our roads. Please come to City Hall and let your voices be heard.

NECCO to Move

ECCO (New England Confectionery Company), a major employer of Area 4 residents and an abutter to Area 4 at 254 Massachusetts Ave... announced recently that it is selling its factory and moving to Revere in 2003. NECCO has been located adjacent to Area 4 since 1927 when it built its Massachusetts Avenue plant (look for



NECCO at 254 Massachusetts Avenue

the candy colored rooftop water tower), which is still the largest candy factory in the world. This Halloween untold numbers of Area 4 families will be enjoying the trademark Necco wafers, and the small pastel hearts and discs imprinted with loving messages. At its busiest time, between Halloween and Valentine's Day, 600 employees work in the plant. In all, 1,100 employees from its various locations will move to Revere. Plans are underway to convert the 500,000 square-foot brick factory into a biotech super-development. Area 4 will still be home to Cambridge Brands, a subsidiary of the Tootsie Roll Company, which is located on Main Street.

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 October 11 and November 8. Free on-site childcare is available. Food and refreshments, often from local restaurants, are served beginning at 6:30 pm. Nominations and voting for the Leadership Council of the Coalition will take place on October 11. If you are interested in serving as a member of the Leadership Council contact Richard Goldberg (492-1343), Lorraine Scott (491-6710) or Lydia Vickers (547-1256).

The Cambridgeport School is working with the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition to host a Block Party on **Friday**, **October 12th.** Food, games for children, tours of the school, music and art will fill the evening. Please call 617-349-6587 to participate in the planning.

October 17 is the last day to register for the City Council and School Committee elections on November 6. Please return your election registration form to the election commission at 51 Inman Street (02139). The registration form has been inserted into this edition of the *4word*.

Translating the 4word

Para Residentes Que Falam 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 atraves do nümero 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 JOUNAL ZON 4 LA e pou nou byen konpran enfòmasyon yo tou. Silvouplè 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.

LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE OF 4WORD

- 1. MIT Tech Square
- 2. Site of former Cambridge Neighborhood House
- 3. Site of former Broadway Baptist Church
- 4. Islamic Society of Boston
- 5. Wall of healing

- 6. Community Art Center
- 7. Affordable housing at 17 Boardman Street
- 8. Area 4 Youth Center
- 9. NECCO
- 10. Cambridgeport School
- 11. New Fletcher Maynard Academy
- 12. Open space planning area

