

A word

news & views in area 4

Redistricting—Area 4 Carved Up Like a Holiday Turkey

Handwringing. Anger. Dismay. Threats of a lawsuit. The House of Representatives, controlled by Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran, recently approved a plan that will divide the 28th Middlesex district of Jarrett Barrios among Tim Toomey, Alice Wolf, Byron Rushing, and Paul Demakis. The 28th district, which contained much of Area 4, Riverside, Cambridgeport, and Mid-Cambridge, will no longer be majority controlled by Cambridge voters.

Area 4 residents will be split between Tim Toomey (Ward 2, Precinct 1, and Ward 3, Precinct 2) and Paul Demakis (Ward 3, Precinct 3). (See Area 4 map p.8.) The 28th district has elected three representatives of color since 1978 (Saundra Graham, Alvin Thompson, and Jarrett Barrios), but the district now will likely be controlled by Representative Demakis from Boston. Area 4, which has the highest proportion

of people of color of any neighborhood in the City of Cambridge, will now no longer be represented by a person of color. Jarrett Barrios announced some weeks ago that he would seek the Senate seat now held by

Thomas Birmingham, when Birmingham runs for governor in 2002.

This redistricting plan, when coupled with current senate districts, leaves Cambridge with only one all-Cambridge legislative seat (Rep. Wolf) despite a population of more than 100,000. Barrios lost an effort on the State House floor to preserve a majority Cambridge district and keep the minority neighborhoods of Riverside and Area 4 intact. "This is

a fight over a neighborhood having a district. Demakis led the charge to divide up the 28th Middlesex district, and when he had the chance to preserve the integrity of a blue-collar, working-class neighborhood

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"Redistricting is a scheme that politicians use to advantage themselves and to disadvantage their opponents....Redistricting is about the political agenda of the politician, they're playing a game....and to me, democracy should not be about games."

— Lani Guinier, the first African-American woman to be granted tenure at Harvard Law School (*CommonWealth*, Fall 2001)

Walking Tour— Area 4 Public Schools



Cambridge Historical Commission

First high school in Cambridge

In 1838 the term "high school" first appeared in the language of the Cambridge public schools. The rapidly increasing population of East Cambridge (called Lechmere's Point in 1838) and Cambridgeport led to the establishment of the first Cambridge high school (commonly called a classical school) at the southwest corner of Windsor and Broadway. This was a two-story building, 70 by 38 feet. It cost Cambridge \$5,791.05, including land. The idea of one high school to serve the entire city was not successful because people from

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From the Editor

Congratulations to Area 4 residents Denise Simmons, newly elected member of the Cambridge City Council, and Richard “Mokey” Harding, newly elected member of the Cambridge School Committee. (Because only seven votes separated School Committee candidates Harding, Walser, and Segat for the final two elected positions, a recount has been requested.) Simmons and Harding received about 20% of their citywide total of #1 votes from Area 4 precincts. The neighborhood vote made a difference. The October *4word*, which was delivered to every residence in Area 4, included a voter registration form and urged everyone to register and vote.

Unfortunately, fewer than 18,000 votes were cast citywide in the election. Only about 30% of those registered to vote actually went to the polls and hundreds of potentially eligible voters never even registered! Many Cambridge voters continue to feel that their vote does not count. We have many good reasons to feel that way.

Tim Toomey, the State Representative from the eastern part of Area 4, East

Cambridge, and Somerville is the only member of Cambridge’s State House delegation who does not support the Clean Elections law, which was approved by 77% of Cambridge voters. This law would help keep big money influence out of elections and give the rest of us a chance to be heard, but he continues to thumb his nose at the voters.

State redistricting and the recent Cambridge Election Commission redrawing of ward and precinct boundaries carved up Area 4 and Cambridge in a way that seriously impacts our ability to elect and empower minority representatives from Area 4.

A slim majority of City Councilors have tried to keep young voters from being able to participate in local elections at a time when interest in voting is at an all-time low.

Our democracy is being threatened from within. Our civil rights are under attack and dissent and dialogue about the war is being discouraged.

Symbols of our response to the terror of September 11 are everywhere in Area 4. Flags, posters, shirts, buttons, and murals about September 11, the war in



Gerald Bergman

Flags fly from the windows of two apartments on Norfolk Street

Afghanistan, and the U.S. response to war are everywhere. It is not always clear what those symbols mean. We cannot be afraid to find out what our next-door neighbor is saying with that flag she is flying or what the family down the block means by the peace and justice symbol on their door. Listen to your neighbors, share your fears and your hopes for tomorrow.

Eastern Cambridge Rezoning

by Barry Zevin, Area 4 resident and member of the ECaPS Committee

On October 15, the City Council voted 9-0 to approve the Eastern Cambridge Rezoning Petition. The Petition was the product of the Eastern Cambridge Planning Study (ECaPS), the Planning Board, and the Council’s Ordinance Committee.

The “core mission” of the Planning Study was “to preserve and enhance the benefits of Eastern Cambridge’s diversity, while managing and diminishing the accompanying negative impacts” of new development on existing neighborhoods. The Community Development Department will soon publish a full report.

The major zoning changes are intended to make possible:

- the transformation of North Point from warehouses and rail yards to a new neighborhood of residential, office, and retail uses, with significant public open space;
- residential and retail development in Kendall Square, along with enough new commercial development to satisfy the needs of the Volpe Transportation Systems Center; and a major new public park almost as large as Cambridge Common;
- residential development in industrial areas along the edges of East Cambridge, with lower building heights and densities next to the neighborhood, and with incentives for moderate-income housing;
- more rational zoning of a series of parcels in Area 4, including the commercial area along Broadway, the lot behind 210 Broadway (from industrial to resi-

- dence), open space zoning for the new Harvard Street Park, and incentives for housing development in existing industrial districts, in accordance with the Citywide Rezoning recommendations;
- explicit criteria for design review of large projects in eastern Cambridge.

The net result should be a substantial amount of new housing (a good deal of it low- and moderate-income), some retail development, and better management of traffic impacts. There will still be a lot of new office and R&D buildings, but far fewer than under the existing zoning. And residents have a continuing say in the development process, since all large projects must be approved by the Planning Board and CDD through the Special Permit process, which includes public input. It’s critically important that Area 4 continue to make its voice heard as new projects come up for review.

A New Gymnastics Collaborative in Area 4

by *Bethany M. Allen*

This school year, JAM'NASTICS Inc. and the 21st Century Grant collaborative at the New Fletcher Maynard Academy have teamed up to bring a new opportunity to children in the community interested in gymnastics. The collaborative includes the Fletcher Maynard Extended Day, the Fletcher Maynard Community School, the Cambridge Sisters Program, and the Fletcher Maynard Childcare. Uche Amaechi, who coordinates the collaboration, says, "The generosity of JAM'NASTICS in concert with the extraordinary team mentality here at the Fletcher Maynard has allowed us, the group of programs, to offer so much more to the Area 4 kids than the individual programs could have offered separately."

This semester, the program consists of two parts. The first part is comprised of weekly gymnastics classes offered in five-week sessions. There are two girls' classes and one boys' class. Classes are free of charge to kids in the Extended Day program, and are offered at a minimal cost to other children in the community. This access to gymnastics classes fits the mission of JAM'NASTICS.

The second component is the Team Program. Students were invited to try out for a com-

petitive gymnastics team at the beginning of the season. Those who made the team then got the chance to work-out every week at the Fletcher Maynard and begin practicing on a regular basis at MIT's fully equipped Olympic gymnasium. Those students who weren't ready to be on the team were enrolled in the classes, with the chance to try out again at the end of the five-week session. This program not only serves the Fletcher Maynard school population, it also brings other children from across the city to train with fully certified instructors as part of the JAM'NASTICS Gymnastics Team.

The program is designed to enable students from the classes to ultimately be ready to participate on the team. Team gymnasts will become official members of USA Gymnastics and will compete across the region in age-appropriate group competitions. In order to participate, students have to commit themselves to come to class or practice on a regular basis, be prepared for class, and be responsible in general for their individual role on the team. Through the program, students learn life lessons, achieve a level of consistency, and are provided with a diverse group of positive role models that they can readily recognize in their community.



Olivia Jenkins

Students in the JAM'NASTICS summer program perform a break-dancing routine

If you are interested in learning more about this or other programs offered by JAM'NASTICS, please call 617-354-5780.

Redistricting

continued from page 1

both white and minority, he chose to fight against it. His victory will hurt Cambridge in the decade to come," said Barrios. The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has supported a City of Cambridge lawsuit against the state redistricting under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ensures equal representation and prohibits state legislatures from diluting the voting strength of minorities.

State redistricting followed shortly after the Cambridge Election Commission redrew voting lines, which angered many political activists and some local politicians. Their anger was directed at the unwillingness or inability to significantly politically enfranchise Area 4 when it created a new voting map for the city. Voting lines are redrawn every ten years based on new census data.

They set the geographical boundaries for ward committees, which are the basis of much of local political activism. Because Area 4 is a part of Ward 2, which contains the student population at MIT, Area 4 residents say that this weakens the political clout of Area 4.

"When I saw what the Election Commission had done, I was just shocked. I thought it was truly outrageous," said Esther Hanig, a resident of Area 4 and former chairwoman of the Ward 2 Democratic Committee. Ward 2 activists expected the city to help the neighborhood by giving MIT precincts to either Cambridgeport or East Cambridge. Richard Harding, the newly elected member of the Cambridge School Committee and current chair of the Ward 2 Democratic Committee, said that the Election Commission decision raised a "fundamental issue of equity and fairness that has not been addressed." Some activists have speculated that the Cambridge Election Commission's

redrawing of Cambridge wards and precincts contributed to the loss of the Cambridge-controlled 28th Middlesex District.

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 **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.

Walking Tour— Area 4 Public Schools

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the differing communities of Old Cambridge and East Cambridge objected to sending children to one location.

In 1843 the high school building became a grammar school known as the Broadway School (later the Sargent School). The building was demolished in 1916.

In 1802 the first Area 4 public school was built at the corner of Windsor and School streets. This one-room wooden schoolhouse became known as the Boardman School. It lasted until 1868, when it was



Thurston, Hall and Company, site of the former Fletcher School now the Cambridgeport School

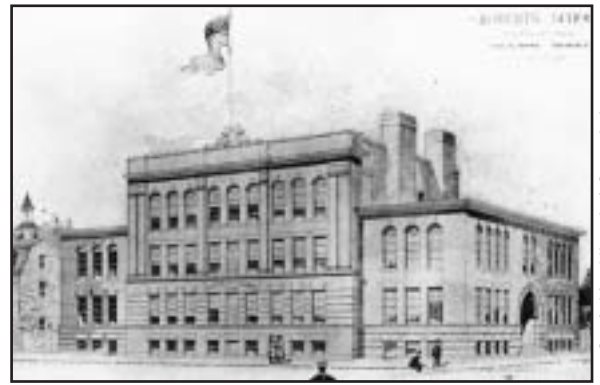
Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

replaced by the present building, still called the Boardman School, now the oldest surviving school building in the city.

The Harvard Schoolhouse, which was located on Harvard Street opposite Essex Street, was built in 1843. When a new Harvard School was opened at the corner of Inman Street and Broadway in 1871 (now the City Hall Annex), the Harvard Schoolhouse was renamed the Stearns School. This site eventually gave way to a playground in Sennott park and later to the Area Four Youth Center.

In 1899 the first Roberts School was completed on the corner of Harvard and Windsor streets only to be rebuilt in 1929. The second Roberts School also incorporated the site of the first high school. The Roberts School was later called the Maynard School after School Committee member Joseph Maynard. Due to the recent merger of the Fletcher and Maynard school communities, it is now known as the New Fletcher Maynard Academy. The original name came from Benjamin W. Roberts, the veteran principal of the Allston school.

The Allston School was established in 1859 and was located at the site of the former Squirrel Brand factory (soon to become affordable rental housing) on Boardman Street. In the January 30, 1858, *Cambridge Chronicle*, the Allston school was described as the best-planned school in the city of Cambridge and well worth the considerable price of \$24,000. The Allston school housed



First Roberts School, Harvard and Windsor streets

Cambridge Historical Commission

nearly 600 students. It burned in 1901 and in 1916 the site began to be used by the Squirrel Brand Company.

As a replacement for the Allston School, in 1902 the City made an appropriation of \$11,000 to purchase 24,000 square feet of property from Thurston, Hall and Company, the manufacturer of crackers, ginger snaps, and other kinds of cookies, for a new school at the intersection of Elm and Market street. In 1903 a permit was granted for the construction of a three-and-one-half story school at a construction cost of \$58,000. The Fletcher School is the only turn-of-the-century Area 4 school still in use. Now the Cambridgeport School, it was originally named in honor of Ruel Hasseltine Fletcher, a Cambridge educator who was at that time the headmaster of the Thorndike School after serving for four years at the Otis School in East Cambridge. Ruel Hasseltine Fletcher began teaching in Cambridge in 1857 and retired in 1910 at the age of 80 never having taught at the Fletcher School.

Children's Gardening Programs

by *Rebecca L. Ramsay*

Three children's groups have ongoing gardening activities at the Broadway and Boardman Community Garden: the Community Arts Center, the New Fletcher Maynard Academy community afterschool program and summer camp, and the Margaret Fuller House. Each group has its own garden plot.

Planting for the New Fletcher Maynard Academy garden took place in the spring. In the later part of the afternoon one day during a weeding session, one of the children wanted

to know if there was anything to eat yet, then asked specifically about the spinach. He and a friend picked a spinach leaf, washed it off, and divided it in half to share. They liked it enough to pick a second leaf. Other crops planted and tended by this group were: tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, green beans, and corn. There were also lilies and sunflowers. On a recent trip to the garden, a small group harvested carrots and planted 40 crocus bulbs.

The Community Arts Center garden had strawberries in the spring, then tomatoes and corn. On a recent visit to the garden, a group of five children made bouquets from the light purple, pink, and fuchsia cosmos. The Margaret Fuller House garden had very successful corn, tomatoes, and bright pink and yellow zinnias.



Planting crocus bulbs in the fall. Briana, Fnan, AnnaMarie, Denisha, Dinara and Shannon

Rebecca L. Ramsay

Voting Reform—Demand the Vote!

“Our youth must be brought into the circle of our political conversation. Giving 16-year-olds the right to vote in local races will encourage elected officials to reach out to them and will empower youth opinion in the process.”

—State Representative Jarrett Barrios

The Youth Action Coalition (YAC) celebrated a hard-fought victory on election night when five candidates endorsed by YAC—E. Denise Simmons, Brian Murphy, Ken Reeves, Henrietta Davis, and Anthony Galluccio, won seats on the Cambridge City Council. Only Jacob Horowitz, Steve Iskovitz, and Ethridge King failed to win a council seat. YAC, a large organization of high school students that worked for the past two years to lower the voting age through its “Campaign for a Democratic Future,” wrote letters to all the City Council candidates and invited them to pursue an endorsement. Seventeen candidates responded and eight candidates were endorsed. Campaign for a Democratic Future supporters will now hold a decisive 5–4 majority on the upcoming City Council.

Young adults in Cambridge learned a valuable lesson this past June: Talk is cheap. It’s the vote that counts. After months of praise for the initiative of young adults and endless speeches about the need to get young adults involved in the political process, the Cambridge City Council failed to pass an initiative that would have lowered the voting age to 16 in city elections.

On June 4, a crowd of over 100 voting-reform supporters, many of whom wore buttons that read “Expand Democracy” and “We are Your Constituents Too,” crowded into the City Council Chambers for the final vote. This vote was the culmination of over two years of work, discussion, and coalition building. Hopes were high that this time the result would be different.

Despite two hours of public testimony, in which dozens of young adults and promi-

nent adult allies, such as School Committee Vice-Chair Denise Simmons and State Representative Jarrett Barrios, spoke emphatically in favor of this voting reform, and despite groups and organizations such as the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition and the Democratic City Committee speaking in favor of change, the City Council defeated the reform by a vote of 6–3. A compromise resolution that would have lowered the voting age to 17 lost by a slim 5–4 margin.

At a time when voter participation has fallen to a dismal low, Area 4, which has the highest proportion of young adults in the city and one of the lowest voting turnouts, would have had the most to gain by this voting-reform change. It was hoped, as voiced by Denise Simmons and others, that the inclusion of young-adult voters would activate participation by their parents as well, thereby greatly increasing the vote of those residents of color who have been largely left out of the political system.

Voting in favor of the compromise resolution to lower the voting age to 17 were Councilors Braude, Davis, Reeves, and Galluccio and voting against the original resolution and the compromise were councilors Born, Decker, Maher, Sullivan, and Toomey.

Advocates for voting reform have vowed to keep up the fight. “When you are voting on the local level and can really see the effects and consequences of your vote, you are



Preparing for the voting rally at City Hall

Gerald Bergman



Explaining the voting-age issue to the press

Gerald Bergman

more likely to stay involved,” said CRLS student Hannah Jukovsky, a resident of Area 4.

Non-Citizen Voting Rights Bill

The Non-Citizen Voting Rights Bill, which would grant the right to vote to Cambridge noncitizens in school committee elections, has been sent to a State House legislative study—pending the rewording of the bill in order to prohibit noncitizens from running for elected office. This bill has the support of the Area Four Neighborhood Coalition and deserves the support of the entire community.

Community Celebration Grants

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition has set aside \$6,000 to assist Area 4 individuals and 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 describe the event, the approximate date, outreach strategy, a 25% donation match, and a contact person. For more information contact: Gerald Bergman, Volunteer Grant Coordinator, 82 Elm Street (02139), telephone: 354-2648, fax: 864-2519, e-mail: gerrberg@aol.com.



Preparing for the egg-carrying contest at an Area Four community block party

Gerald Bergman

The Port Life Foundation

by Sharon Stentiford, Area 4 resident

A child growing up in the Washington Elms housing development in the 70s, Richard Harding was often found playing basketball, completing his homework, or hanging out with friends at the Boys and Girls Club behind St. Mary's Field. He vividly recalls Area 4 as being one of "the most closely knit neighborhoods of the city." And unlike so many who grow up in a neighborhood and after achieving success make their first priority moving to a more "upscale" environment, Harding has made a conscious effort to stay. His present-day Windsor Street home in fact looks out upon the development he grew up in. He says with conviction, "If you can make it in Area 4, you can make it everywhere."

Many Area 4 young people know Harding through his work as a volunteer in the Department of Human Services, as youth advocate at the Area 4 Youth Center, and for his eight years in the basketball coaching circuit. Four years ago Harding wanted to bring "a new, more grassroots neighborhood initiative" to Area 4. He enlisted the help of Benjamin Barnes, an attorney, license commissioner, and former assistant DA. They envisioned, rather than a citywide program, one that could more effectively address local needs, especially of less-affluent residents.

Out of their effort came the Port Life Foundation, which has the goal of making



Sharon Stentiford

Port Life basketball players at Columbia Park with Richard Harding (second from left)

Area 4 a "better place to work, live, and raise a family." They hoped to provide activities that would attract youth who were not using the teen centers and community school-based services, who were disenfranchised and at risk. Noting that some kids in housing developments never leave that environment, Harding wanted to bring them services, support, positive competition, and connections that could give those with "no options at all" the chance of an opportunity down the line.

The Port Life Basketball League was organized. Once they become active in the league, some players take advantage of Port Life's mentoring program, in which they meet once a week with adults who represent various professions including police officers, politicians, and lawyers. Activities such as job shadowing, going to lunch, and attending sports events can set the background for development of a friendship that might enable a teen to talk about issues at home or at school.

Two other programs launched by Port Life are the Chess Program and Step Team. The Chess Program enrolls 15-20 youths who compete against other chess clubs. Some evenings, the players are treated to a visit by London Hardy of the Math Literacy Program, where math concepts are integrated into chess strategy. The Step Team, lead by Arney Lawrence, uses the joy of dance to reach girls. At the eighth-grade level, the 10-15 girls will be eligible to receive a volunteer mentor from the high school.

Possible future projects of the Port Life Foundation include publishing a newsletter, providing efficient job training and placement, and establishing a scholarship fund. For more information on the Port Life Foundation or to volunteer, call Richard Harding at 617-722-1280 or e-mail him at PortLifeFoundation@yahoo.com.

CNAHS Helps Property Owners with Affordable Apartments

by the CNAHS Staff

Have you seen the apartment building at 77 Elm Street lately? Perhaps you remember the unsightly condition of this property three years ago. A city-sponsored nonprofit agency, Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Services (CNAHS), has turned the property into an attractive building with affordable homes for six families.

Economic events of the past few years have placed a strain on the city's affordable housing stock. When Rent Control ended, Cambridge, a city with a tradition of diversity, began losing many of its low- and moderate-income tenants.

Since 1985, CNAHS has been helping owners profitably rehab their apartment buildings while retaining their tenants. Its Affordable Housing Rehab Loan Program gives owners financial and technical assistance to meet the challenge of rehabbing their buildings and getting a decent return on their investment, without displacing tenants.

Through the program, CNAHS's staff works with property owners to determine the rehab that the building needs. It provides a deferred payment rehab loan for the work. That means owners make no monthly payments as long as the units remain affordable. In

most cases, the loans are forgiven and no payments need ever be made.

CNAHS staff also provides valuable technical services. They will write-up work specifications, put them out to bid, help find reputable dependable contractors, and inspect the work to assure it is done correctly.

The Elm Street property had been in a state of decline for years. Four of its units were unliveable. The renovations were so extensive that the tenants were relocated during the construction. The rehab included gutting the building, replacing all the systems, and making structural repairs. New windows and roof, heating and electrical systems, even fire sprinklers were installed.

Owners who are considering rehabbing their apartments, who want to retain their low- and moderate-income tenants and get a very decent return to their investment, should call CNAHS at 617-491-1545.



Gerald Bergman

77 Elm Street

Walking Tour

Slip on your shoes, lace up your boots. We are going on an Area 4 Walking Tour, but we need your help. 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 our neighborhood, past and present. We will be incorporating information from a variety of sources such as the Cambridge African American Heritage Trail, the Women's Commission, the Historical Commission, and the Arts Council. Most importantly, we want infor-

African American Heritage Trail

In November 1990, Ken Reeves sponsored a City Council resolution asking local organizations to collaborate in the creation of an African American Heritage Trail. In 1991 the Cambridge African American History Committee was formed. As a result, the African American Heritage Trail was developed, trail markers were established, and the Cambridge African American Heritage Trail guide was published (written by the staff of the Cambridge Historical Commission and available for purchase at the Commission, located at 831 Massachusetts Ave. For information call 617-349-4683).

Legislature (photo #2). A third marker is dedicated to J. Milton Clarke and Lewis Clarke, who were writers and lecturers and active in the antislavery cause in Cambridge (photo #3).

African American Heritage Trail Contest

Area 4 residents are encouraged to read the African American Trail Heritage publication and look for the Heritage Trail markers. In collaboration with the *4word* walking Tour, Area 4 businesses have contributed gift certificates to the African American Heritage Trail Contest.



Charlotte Hawkins Brown



Joshua Bowen Smith



J. Milton Clarke and Lewis Clarke

photos by Gerald Bergman

mation from you to highlight on the tour. For example, which well-known pioneers and "firsts" (such as Margaret Fuller) and lesser-known important figures should be mentioned? Think about people from our past as well as our contemporaries. Think about the contributions of the many immigrant groups in Area 4. 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? What do you know about your house, your business, the block you live on and your community group in Area 4 that would be appropriate for a walking tour? Who lives and has lived in our neighborhood that has a special place in our history? How does Area 4 shape the history of Cambridge?

The *4word* wants your stories and ideas. And any photos you can share that depict events, people, and places that should be highlighted. Please contact the editor of the *4word* by calling 617-354-2648 or emailing gerrberg@aol.com.

Three of the twenty heritage trail markers are located within the boundaries of Area 4. Several others are located on streets next to or in proximity to Area 4. One marker is dedicated to the memory and work of Charlotte Hawkins Brown, an educator; lecturer; social worker; and religious leader. (Photo #1). A second marker is dedicated to Joshua Bowen Smith, a noted abolitionist and member of the Massachusetts State

Contest Rules:

Complete the official contest form below (or printed from the *4word* online at city.mit.edu/area4) and drop off your entry at the December 13 or January 10 Area Four Neighborhood Coalition Meeting (meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Area Four Youth Center, 243 Harvard Street) or bring them to the Community Art Center, 119 Windsor Street, before January 10. On January 10, a minimum of three entries with all correct answers will be chosen at random to receive gift certificates.

Write in the correct address/street location for:

- 1) Charlotte Hawkins Brown marker location (photo #1):

- 2) Joshua Bowen Smith marker location (photo #2):

- 3) J. Milton Clarke and Lewis Clarke marker location (photo #3):

- 4) Facing marker (photo #3), what building is immediately to the left?

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone #: _____



Laptop Inauguration Day



Gerald Bergman

Students receiving laptops

The New Fletcher Maynard Academy gym was filled with the happy and proud faces of students, parents, teachers, and community guests for Laptop Inauguration Day, the day that all students in grades 5–8 received their own Apple laptop

computers. All students in grades 5–8 recited and signed the pledge, which was created by student Nate Belazaire: “I pledge to treat my laptop with respect. I will care for my laptop by always keeping it in a safe place. I know my laptop is a big responsibility. I know that self-control is required when using my laptop. My laptop is a tool to increase my knowledge. I know if this pledge is broken, my laptop privileges will be reduced or taken away.”

Principal Robin Harris reinforced the pledge when she spoke about pride and responsibility and stressed the fact that all students at the New Fletcher Maynard Academy were “special.” Students, swelling with pride, responded in a chorus of voices: “I am somebody.”

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 **December 13** and **January 10**. Free on-site childcare is available if requested in advance. Food and refreshments, often from local restaurants, are served beginning at 6:30 pm.

The Area Four Neighborhood Coalition is a community-based organization open to all neighborhood residents. The Coalition serves as a source of information for the community. It is committed to affordable housing, sustainable development, open space, and other issues of equity and empowerment that affect area residents. The organization serves this mission by funding local community development projects, advocating for neighborhood concerns, and disseminating information.

Area 4 residents are invited to participate in a series of meetings to update the Area Four Neighborhood Study. Residents will have an opportunity to discuss and update recommendations for land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and open space. For more information contact Rebecca Sozanski, Neighborhood Planner for the Cambridge Community Development Department, 617-349-4639.

Translating the 4word

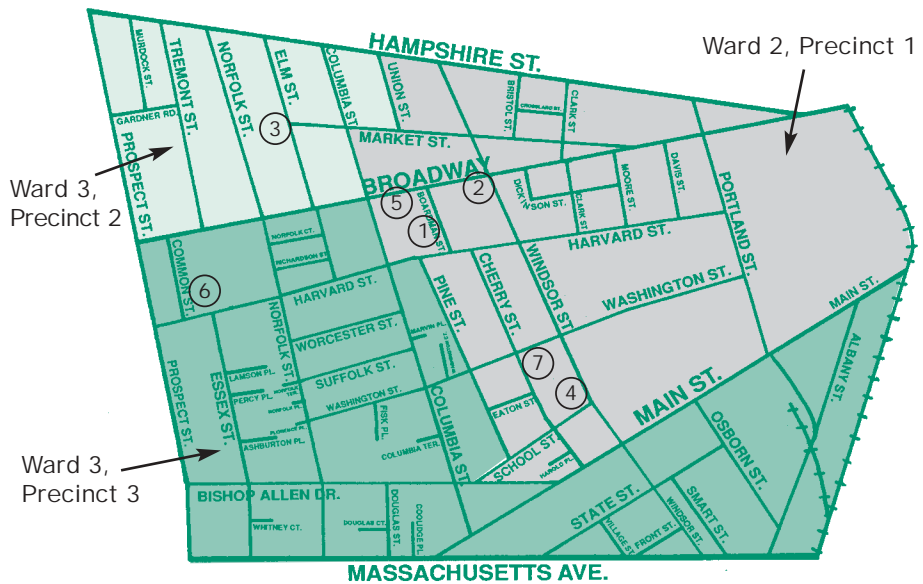
Para Residentes Que Falan Português
Se precisa de ajuda com traduções ou qualquer outro assunto, a MAPS oferece serviços de traduções assim como assistência social a pessoas de lingua portuguesa que residem na zona. Para mais informações, por favor contacte a MAPS através do número 617-864-7600. A MAPS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

LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE OF 4WORD

- 1. Former site of the Allston School
- 2. Former site of the first Cambridge High School
- 3. Former site of Thurston, Hall and Company
- 4. The Boardman School, the oldest surviving public school building in Cambridge
- 5. Squirrel Brand Community Garden
- 6. Area 4 Youth Center
- 7. Community Art Center



New Area 4 Wards and Precincts/ House Redistricting

- Ward 2–Precinct 1, Rep. Timothy Toomey
- Ward 3–Precinct 2, Rep. Timothy Toomey
- Ward 3–Precinct 3, Rep. Paul Demakis