



Harvard Square Neighborhood Association

November/December 2019 | Newsletter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thanks to those of you who came to the September 22 HSNA meeting. It was great to see everyone again - and a few new faces too. A reminder and note of follow-up on two key ongoing items of business from the meeting:

HSNA December Meeting. Sunday December 8 from 5 to 7 PM at Washburn Auditorium, Lesley University, 10 Phillips Place.

Subject: Framing the Future. We will be framing and exploring HSNA plans for the near future on everything from activism and environment to issues of history, to new social activities.

Guest Speaker: Vice Mayor Jan Devereau

HSNA Holiday Reception, December 8, 8pm



Join HSNA's board of directors for a social gathering with neighbors at [Nubar](#) at the Charles Hotel, One Bennet Street. Cash bar. Hors d'oeuvres served.



The Cambridge City Council Election is Now Over:

On November 5, Cambridge residents voted in five incumbent City Councillors (Dennis Carlone, Alanna Mallon, Marc McGovern, Sumbul Siddiqui, E. Denise Simmons, Tim Toomey and Quinton Zondervan) along with two new Councillors, Patricia Nolan and Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, in what is widely considered to have been a vitriolic campaign, framed in part around the highly controversial Affordable Housing Overlay. Long time Councillor, Craig Kelley was not re-elected in a tight race. Patricia Nolan replaces Jan Devereux as an at-large Councillor with a special focus on North and West Cambridge. While HSNA's own Nicola Williams was not elected, she ran a stellar race. The various Cambridge Political PACs, including the new group, Cambridge Citizens Coalition Action Committee, each had something to celebrate in this election. And in all likelihood, the Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Plan is likely to come up in some form after the January 2020 installation of new Councillors. In the course of the city's strong drive to pass the Overlay over the spring and summer, HSNA leaders had joined forces with the leaders of a number of other neighborhood groups in opposition to the AHO because of problems with the concept and plan. It was out of this effort

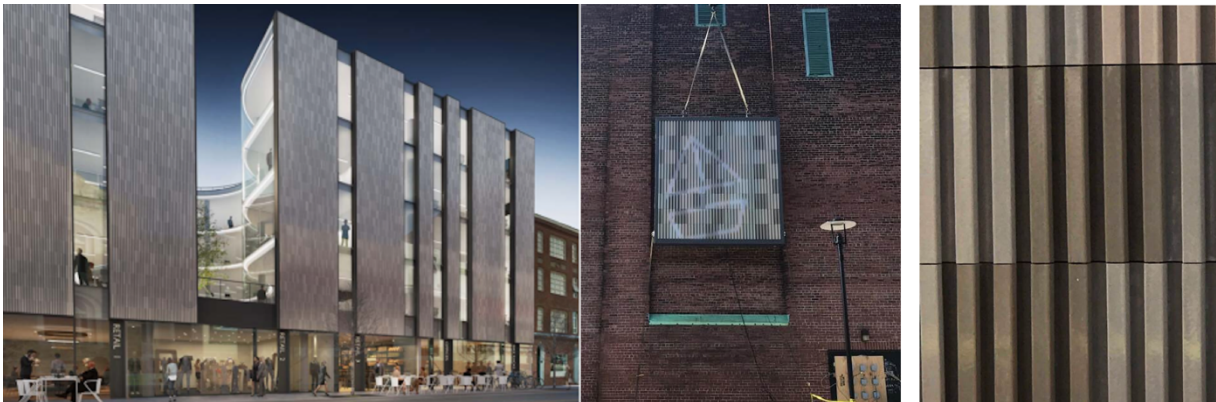
that new city-wide civic association CCC was formed; it plans to remain active in the two years between this election and the upcoming 2021. For information on joining or becoming a member of CCC see: www.cccoalition.org

Rezoning Harvard Square

The Harvard Square Neighborhood Association and the Harvard Square Business Association signed a 10 person citizens zoning petition for Harvard Square. This petition has been voted by City Council to move forward (a largely pro forma vote) and was reviewed by the Planning Board on Tuesday November 19th (it is the second item on [The Planning Board's](#) 11/19 agenda). You can read the petition under the resources tab of the new HSNA website: <https://www.harvardsquareneighborhood.org/>. Following the Planning Board meeting, it will come up before the City Council Ordinance Meeting on December 11. A key goal of this zoning petition is to provide greater chances to local businesses to find and retain footing in Harvard Square, and to limit some what the footprint of financial institutions and cannabis purveyors in the Square. A timely article in the Harvard Crimson addresses some of the issues that our petition is seeking to address. Read the recent overview [article](#) in the Cambridge as well as the recent Opinion Piece in *The Crimson* called [The \(Re\)Gentrification of Harvard Square](#). We urge Harvard Square Residents to attend the Ordinance Committee meeting and to write to both groups prior to this meeting. Emails to the Planning Board should be addressed to: Lpaden@cambridge.gov. Letters to City Councillors should be addressed to council@cambridgema.gov.

Harvard Square Theatre (10 Church Street)

Gerald Chan's theatre project came under review by [The Historical Commission](#) at a special meeting on November 21st. HSNA has written a report on this project. which can be found on our website [here](#). We applaud Mr. Chan on his decision to include two cinemas in the basement of this project and to add ground floor businesses along Church Street. The interesting architectural plan featuring an atrium that will be partially visible from Mass. Ave. still raises concerns about its height, and illuminated facade while others like its innovativeness.



Harvard Square Kiosk (after Out of Town News)

Following the closure of Out of Town News, the city has invited a group

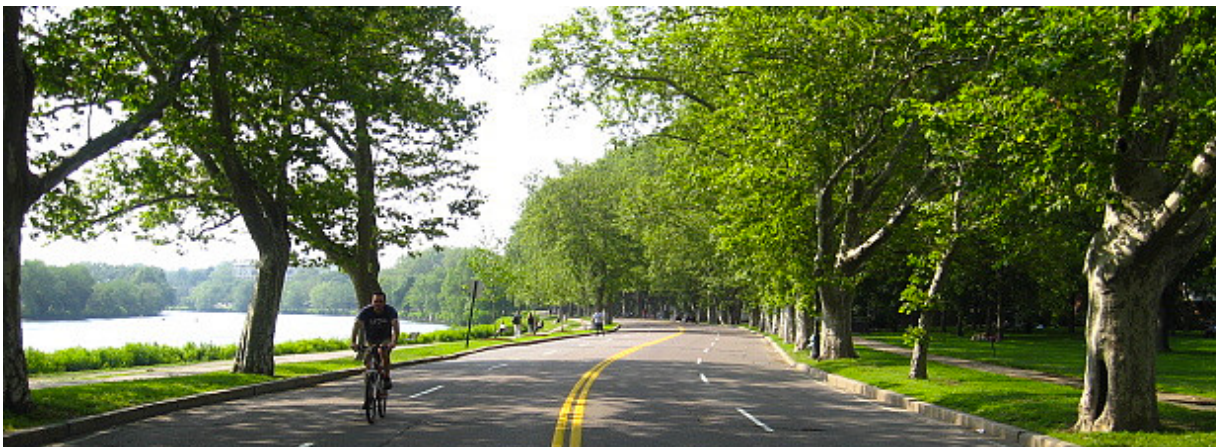
called *Culturehouse* to manage this space. Learn more about CultureHouse [here](#):



.CultureHouse in Kendall Square

Future Plans for Memorial Drive


The possibility of adding bicycle lanes to Memorial Drive that would replace one of the traffic lanes, while preserving the Sycamore trees that frame the Drive. Several groups, among these Green Cambridge, Mothers out Front, HSNA several City Councillors, and others are working with the state about the possibility of turning part of Memorial Drive into two bike lanes.



Safety in the Harvard Square Neighborhood

HSNA is also involved in an effort to stop the re-routing of the # 1 Harvard/Dudley bus down Dunster Street three times an hour at this critical and potentially dangerous pedestrian crossing from the Smith Center to the Kiosk. This proposed route change also would remove bus stops in front of the Harvard gates and along Quincy Street.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

-  **Lighting of the Harvard Square Holiday Giving Tree:** Please join Harvard Square Business Association on Sunday, 12/1 at 3:30 to help decorate Harvard Square's annual Holiday Giving Tree on Deguglielmo Plaza at 27 Brattle Street.
- **Sparklefest in Harvard Square 2019 (November 29th – December 31st):** HSBA is excited to announce the schedule for Sparklefest 2019! Sparklefest is a five-week celebration of the holiday season in Harvard Square that begins on Plaid/Black Friday and culminates on New Year's Eve. With stunning holiday lights adorning the trees and street lamps, Harvard Square becomes the perfect festive location to shop and dine during the holiday season. Harvard Square is more than just a world class destination for shopping and dining! Set aside time to enjoy all the holiday events offered this season. For a list of events, visit <https://harvardsquare.com/events/week>
- **José Mateo Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker"** (11/30-12/22): Don't miss New England's longest-running production of the holiday classic at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre and Strand Theatre! Tickets start at just \$25 and runs from Nov. 30- Dec. 22. More information here: <https://www.ballettheatre.org/nutcracker/>
- **City Council Meeting (12/2):** Mon., 12/2, 5:30-7:30pm, City Hall (795 Mass Ave) [City Council and School Committee joint roundtable](#) on Universal Pre-K.
- **Participatory Budgeting (vote 12/1 through 12/8)**
The 6th round of [Participatory Budgeting](#) voting opens on 12/1 for residents ages 12 and up (vote online or in person). A total of \$1 million will be budgeted based on our selections. [Voting locations.](#)
- **Planning Board Meetings (12/3 & 12/10):** See agendas [here](#). Tues., 12/3, 6:30pm, City Hall Annex (344 Broadway) re: 31 Church St (cannabis, continued) and 97 Cambridgepark Dr. Tues., 12/3, 6:30pm re: 1686 Massachusetts Ave., New St. and Mobile Fueling.
- **Historical Commission meeting (12/5):** See agenda [here](#). Thurs., 12/5, 6:00pm, City Hall (795 Mass Ave) (Note new location.) Agenda includes discussion of the Harvard Sq Conservation District Study Report, the Foundry Project, and solar panels on 11 Church St (First Church Cambridge).
- **Committee Hearings (Tues., 12/3 & Wed., 12/4)**
 - * [Public Safety](#) will meet on Tues., 12/3 at 12 noon to discuss prohibiting face surveillance technology
 - * [Transportation Committee](#) will meet on Tues., 12/3 at 3:00pm to discuss a report on the Parking & Traffic Demand Management Ordinance.
 - * [Government Operations](#) will meet on Wed., 12/4 at 2:00pm to discuss the Open Meeting Law and whether the Council may hire a private attorney (this hearing was rescheduled for 11/20).
- ** All 3 hearings will be televised and live-streamed from City Hall.*
- **City Managers Open Houses:** Meet City leaders & get information on and access to a variety of City services, including flu shots, resident parking sticker renewal,

Library Cards, job counseling and more. *[Tues., 12/3, 6:00-8:00pm](#), Community Art Center (119 Windsor St) *[Fri., 12/6, 6:00-8:00pm](#), Fresh Pond Apts. (364 Rindge Ave)

- **Neighborly Securities Mini-Bond Holder Meeting (12/4)** There will be another [info session](#) on Wed. for residents who purchased municipal mini-bonds through Neighborly Securities, which is closing. 6pm at the Citywide Senior Center.
- **Harvard Sq Kiosk Crosswalk Design Meeting (12/5)**
Following the death of a pedestrian in Harvard Sq, the staff are suggesting some changes to improve the safety of the "super-crosswalk" between the Coop and the Kiosk Plaza. Learn more at a [meeting](#) at the Smith Center on Thurs., 12/5 at 6pm.
- **Urban Forest Master Plan Report & Meeting (12/5).** View agenda [here](#). The consultants' technical [report](#) has been released, and we held a Health & Environment Committee hearing to discuss their analysis and preliminary recommendations ([see presentation](#) and [watch video](#)). The [task force will meet on 12/5](#) at 6:00pm at the CRLS Media Cafe (open to public).
- **BZA Meeting (12/5),** View agenda [here](#). Thurs., 12/5, 7:00pm, Citywide Senior Center (806 Mass Ave)
- **Arts Events at Multicultural Center (12/6-12/8)**
The Multicultural Arts Center is hosting Luminarium Dance in Concert on Fri., 12/6 and Sat., 12/7 at 8:00pm ([tickets \\$28](#)). On Sun., 12/8, there will be a [local arts market](#) from 1-5pm
- **"The Curious Person's Guide to Earth Repair: Regenerating Soil and Water Landscapes, with Journalist/author Judith D. Schwartz (12/12)** [Biodiversity for a Livable Climate](#) is hosting this event on Thursday, 12/12, 6:30-8:30pm at Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway. Judith has travelled widely to find people who are successfully restoring healthy soil and water ecosystems will have a fireside chat with activist and entrepreneur Nicola Williams about her books *Cows Save the Planet* and *Water in Plain Sight*, and a forthcoming book about the global ecosystem restoration movement. RSVP [here](#).

CLOSING OF OUT OF TOWN NEWS

This is in anticipation of the renovation of the Kiosk and the Kiosk Plaza. There is a good article on *Boston.com* quoting HSNA on this: [Out-of-Town News Closing in Harvard Square](#)



The Harvard Square Neighborhood Association brings together residents and others seeking
to enhance the historic vitality and livability of our neighborhood.

We are a We are a 501 (c3) organization

Join / Donate

To contribute via check

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