

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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(placed by Catherine Daly Woodbury, Cambridge DPW 617-349-4818)

Updated Flood Insurance Maps

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of updating Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Middlesex County. This process will revise the limits of the flood plain in Cambridge, which is principally located in the Alewife area of the City. Property owners in the flood plain who have mortgages provided by a federally regulated lender are required to purchase flood insurance. The preliminary maps indicate that the flood plain and flood way has expanded, therefore more Cambridge residents/property owners may be required to purchase flood insurance.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Flood Hazard Management Program (FHMP) is the State Coordinating Office for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has partnered with FEMA to assist with the administration and management of FEMA's flood hazard mapping program in Massachusetts.

FEMA recently issued preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Middlesex County. FEMA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Flood Hazard Management Program (FHMP) will be hosting 6 community coordination meetings throughout Middlesex County, where representatives from FEMA, their consultants, and the FHMP will discuss the mapping process and address comments and questions.

While any interested parties are welcome to attend any of the 6 meetings, the 3 afternoon meetings will be geared towards community officials and the 3 evening meetings will be geared towards the general public. Additionally, please note that the meetings in Belmont and Medford will be specific to the Mystic River modeling project and are most relevant to the Cambridge remapping. The meeting times and locations are:

Monday, November 5, 2007, 1 to 3 PM

Holliston Public Library, 752 Washington Street, Holliston

Monday, November 5, 2007, 7 to 9 PM

Nevins Auditorium at Framingham Town Hall, 150 Concord Street, Framingham

Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 1 to 3 PM

JV Fletcher Library, 50 Main Street, Westford

Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 7 to 9 PM

Belmont Town Hall Auditorium, 455 Concord Avenue, Belmont

Thursday, November 8, 2007, 1 to 3 PM
Medford Public Library, 111 High St., Medford

Thursday, November 8, 2007, 7 to 9 PM
Billerica Town Hall Auditorium, 365 Boston Road, Billerica

Preliminary Maps and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) are available for review on line at www.cambridgema.gov and at these Cambridge locations:

City Clerk's Office - 795 Massachusetts Avenue
Conservation Commission Office - 344 Broadway
Community Development Department Office - 344 Broadway
Department of Public Works - 147 Hampshire Street
Inspectional Services Department - 831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge Public Library - Longfellow School, 359 Broadway
Boudreau Branch Library - 245 Concord Ave
Collins Branch Library - 64 Aberdeen Ave
O'Neill Branch Library - 70 Rindge Ave
Central Square Branch Library - 45 Pearl St
O'Connell Branch Library - 48 Sixth St
Valente Branch Library - 826 Cambridge St.

Residents/property owners are encouraged to view the maps before the meeting. If you disagree with the designation for your property and have technical information you believe may persuade FEMA to change the designation or the boundary of the flood zone, you may appeal to FEMA. Appeals must be filed before a date that has not yet been determined (approximately February 2008).

The City strongly urges residents/property owners who think they may be affected by the new flood maps to attend FEMA's meeting and to review the maps and FIS.

If you have any questions about these meetings, please contact Christopher Penney at FHMP by phone at 617-626-1352, or by email at christopher.penney@state.ma.us.