

CAMBRIDGE



Main Street

NEWS *from* DOWNTOWN

## CALENDAR

**December 3, 5:30–7 p.m.**  
**Main Street Board**  
**of Directors Meeting**

Open to the public.  
 Hodes, Pessin & Katz,  
 411 Muse Street.

**December 6, 6–8 p.m.**  
**Art Opening at**  
**Maris Elaine**

Meet Susan Anderson, a painter from Boston who taught art at MIT. Her wide-ranging work will be on display at the Maris Elaine Gallery (520 Race Street) through February.

**December 8**  
**Old-Fashioned**  
**Christmas**

Enjoy shopping, dining, and much more downtown. Stores will be open all day until 9 p.m.

**December 8, 14, & 22**  
**Horse and Carriage**  
**Rides Downtown**

Breezeaway Shuttle Service is offering rides from Simmons Market, 600 Race at 5–9 p.m. December 8, and from Craig's parking lot, 409 Race, 5–7 p.m. December 14 and 5–7 p.m. December 22.

**December 9, 2–5 p.m.**  
**Holiday Open House**  
**at Gallery 447**

Enjoy art and festivities during the Holiday Open House at 447 Studios & Gallery, 447 Race Street. Featuring work by artists with studios there.

# Have a Happy Holiday downtown

Why suffer through crowded parking lots full of angry people, long lines, and sullen cashiers? This holiday season, head to downtown Cambridge with your gift list. You'll find one-of-a-kind gifts in all price ranges, friendly merchants who'll help you find the perfect item, and a relaxed, unharried atmosphere. You'll come away with a smile instead of an exhausted, stressed-out grimace.

Plus, shopping downtown has some other benefits that last long past December 25: you're helping to preserve Cambridge's distinctive heritage and feel. You're strengthening community ties, and you're helping keep money in the community. And that makes for a happier holiday season—and year—for everyone.

**CELEBRATE AN OLD-FASHIONED**  
**CHRISTMAS DOWNTOWN DECEMBER 8**

Get into the spirit Saturday, December 8, by strolling down luminary-lined streets in downtown Cambridge. During this special Second Saturday event, you'll find everything from hassle-free shopping to carriage rides to live music. Here's what's happening:

**Horse and carriage rides:**

At Simmons Center Market, 600 Race Street. Plus hot chocolate and cookies. 5–9 p.m.

**Santa's Workshop:** Kids can visit with Santa and his elves and create Christmas crafts. Cambridge Grill, 421 Race Street, 6–8 p.m.


**Music, music music:**

The Cambridge South Dorchester Gospel Choir will sing on Poplar and Race Streets, 6–7:30 p.m. DJ Jim Gesheidell will provide music outside of Shore Bid Antiques (446 Race Street), 5–9 p.m.

And guitar guru Mike Elzey will provide live music, 7:30–10 p.m. at Cambridge Grill (421 Race Street).

**Decorating contest:** Help decide which Main Street merchant will win the Window Display Competition, 5–9 p.m.

**Train Garden:** Delight in the annual Fire & Rescue train garden at the Cambridge Fire Company on Gay Street, 5–9 p.m.

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:** *News from Downtown* is brought to you by Cambridge Main Street, a 501c3 organization dedicated to revitalizing downtown Cambridge. Contact Liddy Garcia-Buñuel, Executive Director, at 410.228.0020 or [office@cambridgemainstreet.com](mailto:office@cambridgemainstreet.com). The Main Street office is at 450 Race Street, Suite 206.

**MORE NEWS**  
**ON PAGE 2!**



Check out the Cambridge Holiday Guide, available at downtown stores and as part of the *Shorelines* newsletter. Download it from [www.cambridge-mainstreet.com](http://www.cambridge-mainstreet.com).



## French bistro may start serving in late December

Start working up your appetite, because Bistro Poplar, the new French restaurant at 535 Poplar Street, could open as early as late December. The exact opening date will be subject to last-minute inspections and such, but Chef Ian Campbell is eager to share his approach to homestyle French food and excellent service. A Cambridge native, Mr. Campbell studied at the Culinary Institute of America and has worked at top restaurants from Florida to California. See the menu at [www.bistropoplar.com](http://www.bistropoplar.com).



Ian Campbell

## Viv's Gifts & More opens

A new gift shop has opened its doors at 518 Poplar Street (410.221.9992). Viv's Gifts & More offers a mix of gifts, decorative items, and home decor—something for everyone. Owner Vivi-Anne Stubbs moved to Cambridge from Kansas about three years ago and opening the shop has been her “lifetime dream.” “Since I moved here, downtown has come alive and I wanted to be part of it,” she said. Stop by 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon–4 p.m. Sundays. Plus shop online at [www.vivgifts.com](http://www.vivgifts.com).

## Downtown Cambridge retailers create new group

Downtown Cambridge retailers have started getting together weekly to share ideas and resources and develop solutions to issues of concern. Inspired by the Wednesday Morning Artists, a group of area artists, the Tuesday Morning Merchants meets every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m. at Never on Tuesday Book Store, 527 Poplar Street. Recent topics have included cooperative advertising and how to keep downtown clean. Guest speakers will offer advice and listen to concerns. Terri Easter, owner of the Maris Elaine Gallery, describes the group as a “purposeful and action-oriented way to help downtown mature and prosper.” For more information, call Terri Easter at 410.228.2100.

**NEWS BITS:** The **Dorchester Drama Guild** is holding auditions 7 p.m. December 5 and 10 a.m. December 8 for a **Murder Mystery** performance in January. Auditions will be at the Dorchester Arts Center, 120 High Street . . . As part of **Cambridge's sister county partnership with Duren County, Germany**, there will be special art



Maryland Historical Trust staff members toured downtown Cambridge to see how tax credits have made a difference in restoring some of Cambridge's historic buildings.

## Maryland Historical Trust tours downtown Cambridge

Historic buildings in downtown Cambridge were in the spotlight in early November, when more than a dozen staff members from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) came to see firsthand how federal and state tax credits have made an impact here.

The group looked at the Nathan Building at 317 High Street, restored by historic preservationist Victor MacSorley; along with 450 Race Street, 429–433 Race Street, 501 Poplar Street, and 303–305 High Street—all buildings owned and restored or being restored by Cambridge resident Brett Summers and NOVO Development. The tour was led by City Planner Anne Roane and Cambridge Main Street Executive Director Liddy Garcia-Buñuel, with help from Brett Summers, Victor MacSorley, and Linda and Andy Pasden.

“MHT views Cambridge as a success story,” said Ms. Garcia-Buñuel, “the way downtown developers have used tax credits to revitalize our historic downtown.”

## Brett Summers makes page 1 of *Sun*

The *Baltimore Sun* ran a front-page story December 2 featuring Brett Summers and his development efforts in downtown Cambridge. Calling him a “catalyst in the revival of an urban core,” the story traced how he bought a weekend home in Cambridge, then ended up moving here full time and investing millions of dollars in downtown. Read the story at [www.baltimoresun.com](http://www.baltimoresun.com).

exhibits and events featuring the works of three German artists at the Maris Elaine Gallery and Joie de Vivre Gallery. The artists will be among a delegation visiting Cambridge in January; a special event is set for January 5 at Maris Elaine. . . . **Have news to share?** E-mail [office@cambridgemainstreet.com](mailto:office@cambridgemainstreet.com).