



Carrier Alert - A program for the Elderly and Disabled who live in Cambridge

What is Carrier Alert?

Carrier Alert is a free program that offers home-bound adults an extra measure of personal security. It works by cooperation between the United States Postal Service and the Cambridge Council on Aging.

This service has been operational in Cambridge for two years and is also available in some other communities in the U.S

How Does it Work?

- You fill out an application form. You provide the names of family members or friends to be contacted in case you need help.
- The Cambridge Council on Aging keeps this information confidential and uses it only if an emergency exists.
- Your letter carrier will check to make sure you pick up your mail from your mailbox. If mail starts to accumulate, the letter carrier will contact the Council on Aging.
- The Council on Aging will get in touch with your designated family member or friend to see if assistance is needed.
- To obtain an application form and more information telephone the Council on Aging at 349-6055.

How Much Does it Cost?

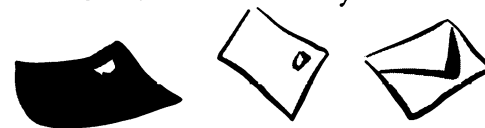
It costs nothing. This service is available to those who wish to participate provided that you have a mailbox accessible to your postal carrier. Mail slots are ineligible, but if you are interested in having your delivery changed to a mailbox, the Council on Aging can offer free assistance.

What if You are Away from Home?

Be sure to notify the Cambridge Post Office if you are away from your home by completing an official hold card.

How To Sign Up?

Simply call the Council on Aging at 349-6055 and leave a message with your name and telephone number on Voice Mail. The Council on Aging will call you to answer any questions and arrange to send you an application form. After you designate emergency contacts and send back your application, we will notify the U.S. Postal Service of your enrollment in Carrier Alert.



Sponsors include: Cambridge Council on Aging; Cambridge Postal Advisory Group; United States Postal Service; National Association of Letter Carriers; Cambridge Consumers' Council; Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities; Paine Social Services

Endorsed by: Cambridge Police Department & Cambridge Fire Department

Carrier Alert

P.O. Box 390649

Cambridge, MA 02139-0001



**FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES
PAID
USPS
PERMIT NO G-10**



September 27, 2000

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councillors;

The Cambridge Postmaster and the Cambridge Postal Customer Advisory Group is please to inform you that another outreach effort is underway to reach the most vulnerable Cambridge residents with a "safety net" effort called *Carrier Alert*. The attached mailing has just been sent to all Cambridge residents 70 years old and older to offer an opportunity to sign-up for this program if it seems to fit their situation.

The first effort to put this program in place in Cambridge occurred two years ago. Approximately 40 Cambridge seniors enrolled. These 40 seniors provided the necessary information to the Cambridge Council on Aging that could be important if the postal carrier noticed that their mail was accumulating in their mailbox. The carrier and the Post Office notifies the Council on Aging in such a circumstance and the emergency contact information the senior provided is then activated. This system certainly does not replace a 911 call or the Lifeline System but is a positive addition to the safety net needed for vulnerable senior citizens.

The Cambridge Consumers' Council and Council on Aging are the city departments most involved in the development of this program for the City. The National Association of Letter Carriers heartily endorses it because the letter carrier is the vital link to make it work. The Cambridge Post Office and a local non-profit agency that assists seniors, Paine Social Services, covered the cost of the printing.

We believe this is another good example of the Cambridge Post Office and the Customer Advisory Group working together to ensure not only good mail service in Cambridge but to seize opportunities for the Post Office to be a vital member of this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha A. Cannon".

Marsha A. Cannon
Cambridge Postmaster

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Schlaver".

Paul Schlaver for the
Cambridge Postal Customer Advisory Group

Consent Communication #22

S 312

A communciation was received from
Marsha A. Cannon, Cambridge
Postmaster, and Paul Schlaver,
Cambridge Postal Customer Advisory
Group, transmitting notification
of an outreach effort to reach the
most vulnerable Cambridge
residents with a "safety net"
called CArrier Alert.

In City Council October 2, 2000

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