**Did You Know?**

Hubway is Boston’s bike sharing system. There are 1,300 bikes and 140 stations and includes Brookline, Cambridge and Somerville. Hubway provides you with a means to be able to ride a bike within the city without owning one. Each 30 min. ride or less is free and is a great way to run a quick errand or speed up your commute. There are three Hubway Stations in the area:

- Corner of Avenue Louis Pasteur and Longwood (sponsored by Harvard)
- Corner of Brookline Avenue and Longwood (sponsored by BIDMC)
- Corner of Tremont/Huntington/Francis (Brigham Circle)

Did you know Harvard has a discounted membership? It’s only $50 per year, which is a 40% discount on the full cost. To find out how to get the discount visit hsp.harvard.edu/bikes (click on Hubway). After you have signed up, Hubway will send you a key in the mail - all you need is a helmet and you’re good to go!

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**Brookline Avenue Bike Lane: Cyclists Feel Safer!**

It’s safe to say that Brookline Avenue is popular for all commuting modes, but for bicyclists safety is often a major concern. In Spring 2013, MASCO in conjunction with the City of Boston, installed a combination of bike lane, protected bike lane (painted buffer) and shared lane markings on Brookline Avenue between the Sears Rotary and the Riverway; a bike box was also added at the Brookline/Longwood intersection for left-turning cyclists.

MASCO surveyed bicyclists before and after implementation to assess the impact of these facilities on cyclists’ perception of safety. Here are some key results:

- Cyclists’ safety perception increased with the new bike lane. On a scale of 1 (not safe) to 10 (very safe) Brookline Avenue ranked an average of 3.3 prior to bike lane implementation and 5.8 post implementation.
- Protected bike lanes were perceived as most safe (7.4) followed by conventional bike lanes (6.6) and shared lane markings (5.1).
- Of those cyclists who had used the bike box, 73% felt much safer or a little safer than before and 26% felt as safe as before.

If cycling on Brookline Avenue has made you nervous in the past, check out these safety features and consider giving it a try!

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**Green Tipster**

Have you checked out Harvard’s CommuterChoice website or MASCO’s? They both provide greater resources for commuting options in Cambridge and in the Longwood Medical Area.

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**MASCO Shuttles**

Have you noticed the new MASCO shuttles? Did you know MASCO transports more than 12,000 riders each day across eleven different routes? The new buses were purchased by MASCO with the aid of a tax-exempt lease from MassDevelopment. The old MASCO fleet consisted of retrofitted 1996 New Flyer buses. They were workhorses that had reached the end of their useful lives and needed to be replaced.

Besides just looking better there are some gains in the environmental impacts of the new buses vs. the old ones. Since 2002, MASCO has been at the forefront in using the newest diesel fuel available, called Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD). The old buses were retrofitted with state-of-the-art CMX catalytic converters/ particulate traps that made them as clean or cleaner than Compressed Natural Gas buses. The low-emission shuttles reduced hydrocarbon emissions (a component of ground level ozone or smog) to nearly zero and reduced particulate matter emissions by 93%. Both smog and particulate matter are irritants with a negative impact on respiratory function.

The new buses have the latest technology available and are also using ULSD fuel with their 2013 Cummings engines. This engine is a lot quieter than the engines on the old buses. So there you have it, the buses are not just more pleasant to travel in, they are also better for the environment.

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**Don’t Miss This!**

**Countway Community Garden Harvest Day:**
Tuesday September 16th @ 3:00pm.
3:00pm-4:00pm Medicinal Herb workshop by Danielle Laberge of the Commonwealth Center for Herbal Medicine
4:00pm-5:00pm Reception in the Countway Community Garden: informal garden tours, treats, live music, fresh herbal tea. For more information contact: countwaycommunitygarden@hms.harvard.edu

**EcoOp Meeting:**
Wednesday September 17th @ 11:00am, Kresge 201.

**EcoOp Happy Hour:**
Wednesday September 17th @ 5:00pm at The Squealing Pig.

**EcoOp Seminar Series:**
Wednesday September 24th @ 12:30pm.
Kresge 212. The presenter is Jennifer Clifford and the title of her talk is “Zoonotic Contagions: Our most dangerous diseases courtesy of the livestock industry.”

**Bike Breakfast:**
Thursday October 2nd 8:30am-10:30am, Kresge Courtyard (rain location Kresge Atrium). Free bike safety checks. Just show your helmet.

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You can register your bike to get access to the bike cages via a link on the Harvard Longwood Bicyclists website. The link is hsph.harvard.edu/bikes (click on Bike Cages). This website has a wealth of information that includes safety tips as well as the location of showers on both the HSPH and HMS campuses.