

## Great expectations for renovated Main Street



**Cambridge celebration.** Melanie Figueiredo (left), Jacqueline Tucci and Montana Barbosa chat on a bench on Main Street in Cambridge after the street was officially reopened Saturday after renovations. David Bebee/Record staff Source: Record staff

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CAMBRIDGE — Renovations to Main Street in downtown Galt aim to boost street traffic, and Cody Arand hopes the improved sidewalks will guide customers his way.

Arand will open Quick Snips Pet Grooming and Holistics on the new granite-curbed strip early this fall.

The \$1-million project's completion was celebrated Saturday in Cambridge to kick off Galt Grand Fest celebrations throughout the weekend.

"It's phenomenal," said Arand, who sat outside what will soon be his storefront, offering psychic readings as part of Saturday's festivities.

"Personally, I've got a thing for the benches," Arand said, gesturing to a black bench that looks more like woven ebony ribbon than criss-crossed metal.

He also likes the trees, which are, surprisingly, one of the more contemporary aspects of the streetscape.

The irrigation system that runs beneath the octagonal grating surrounding the trees' trunks is designed to increase their longevity.

"They provide a better growing environment for the trees," said Craig Melvin of Cambridge-based CityGreen System, which builds the "RootCells." He said the black recycled-plastic cells are strong enough for trucks to drive over, so they supply stability that nurtures the saplings' growth.

Arand hopes to watch the trees grow alongside his business. He wants to expand to uptown Waterloo someday, but he decided to open his first shop in Cambridge. There's no other pet grooming business in downtown Galt, and the holistic store around the corner he used to work at closed down.

The more pedestrian-friendly and accessible street is an attempt by the city to draw and keep more entrepreneurs such as Arand in the area, but it also highlights the beautiful architecture of the old buildings in the core. The old, cracked Main Street — that resumes just metres from Arand's door but which the city promises will receive its own facelift in good time — detracted from their esthetic appeal.

"The overall look really does tie in with the buildings and it does seem more spacious," said Susan Reise, landscaper for the city of Cambridge, adding, "even though we didn't change the width of the sidewalk."

Instead, the city moved the trees, benches and landscaping closer to the road to create wider sidewalks without stealing space from the road.

Arand watched the boulevard-style renovation boost foot traffic in the area as he selected his location. He's excited to open his doors onto the fresh concrete, saying, "business is going to boom."

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