

**DEHC's MISSION:**  
 To tackle urban environmental health concerns with community-based education and organizing, leading to measurable improvements and a healthy environment for people who live and work in Dorchester.



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, No. 2

Mar-Apr 2007

## Spring into Action!

Many environmental-related activities throughout Dorchester:

March 1—Dorchester Avenue Project Public Meeting, 6:30-8:30, 42 Charles Street. For more info visit [www.dotavenueproject.com](http://www.dotavenueproject.com).

March 5—DEHC Open Space Campaign Team meeting, 3 pm, 1452 Dorchester Ave. For more information, contact Trina Hofreiter, at 617-552-6792, [hofreite@bc.edu](mailto:hofreite@bc.edu).

March 6—Friends of Ronan Park, 6:30 pm at Bowdoin Street Health Center, 230 Bowdoin St. For more—[www.ronanpark.org](http://www.ronanpark.org).

March 8—DEHC Air Quality Campaign Team meeting, 11:30 am, 637 Washington St. The AQ team meets 2d Thursdays at the Codman Square Health Center.

March 10—Fields Corner Anti-Litter Campaign "Don't Spot the Dot!" Kickoff is at



10 a.m. For a clean community, call Evelyn, 617-474-1432.

March 16—deadline for Urban Ecology Institute CityRoots grants. Please contact Trina (see March 5 listing.)

March 17—Franklin Park Woodlands Walk to Welcome Spring, meet at 10 am Valley Gates Parking Lot. Call 617-282-2881, or see [franklinparkcoalition.org](http://franklinparkcoalition.org).

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- Members
- Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow
  - Alternatives for Community & Environment
  - Annapolis Neighborhood Association
  - Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Assoc.
  - Ashmont Hill Association
  - Boston Public Health Commission
  - Boston Urban Asthma Coalition
  - Boston Urban Forest Coalition
  - Bowdoin Street Health Center
  - Breath of Life: Dorchester (BOLD) Teens
  - Cape Verdean Community UNIDO
  - Civic Health Institute, CSHC
  - Clean Water Action
  - Codman Square Health Center
  - Codman Sq. Neighborhood Dev. Corp.
  - Conservation Law Foundation
  - Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
  - DotWell
  - Fields Corner Civic Association
  - Fields Corner Main Street
  - Four Corners Main Street
  - Greater Bowdoin/Geneva Neighborh. Assoc.
  - Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
  - Hub on Wheels
  - John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
  - Lead Action Collaborative
  - MassCOSH
  - New Ecology Inc.
  - St. Marks Area Main Street
  - SCI Dorchester
  - Trust for Public Land
  - The Urban Ecology Institute
  - Viet-American Initiative for Development

### **What is DEHC?**

The Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) is a network of community organizations and individuals who are concerned about environmental health threats in Dorchester and are committed to identifying and addressing them. DEHC is funded by Anonymous Foundation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you would like to become a member of the Coalition, please contact Rosanne Foley for information on how to join, at 617-474-1478, or email [Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org](mailto:Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org)

## Walking in Dorchester



Walking is good for you. It reduces obesity and health risks such as diabetes. Walking is an easy, inexpensive way to add activity to your daily routine. The

City of Boston wants to encourage residents to walk more and bike more. Several initiatives are happening in Dorchester, such as Walkable Main Streets. Contact DEHC today for more information.

## What is PM\* and Why is Everyone so Upset About it?

\*Particulate Matter also known as particle pollution or PM, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. This mixture is sometimes referred to as "soot". Particle pollution is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles. The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is concerned about particles that are 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller because those are the particles that generally pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs. Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs, and cause serious health effects such as triggering an asthma attack. The EPA groups particle pollution into two categories:

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*Check out SCIDorchester's new website—[www.scidorchester.org](http://www.scidorchester.org).*

## DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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→Join the DEHC listserve and post events for free online:  
check out <http://lists.dotwell.org/mailman/listinfo/dehc>



*Six issues available annually: Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, May-June, Jul-Aug, Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec. Available via email, via the web at [www.codman.org](http://www.codman.org) and/or [dorchesterhouse.org](http://dorchesterhouse.org), or find hard copies at any Dorchester or Mattapan Boston Public Library branch. Please email or fax your brief articles or event notices by the 15th of the month preceding the target issue.*

## BOLD Teens Program News

BOLD (Breath Of Life: Dorchester) Teens is a youth-led environmental group concerned with such issues as air quality, water quality and green space, involving teens from 14-18 years of age.

For information visit [boldteens.org](http://boldteens.org). For BOLD Codman Square, contact Bill Loesch at 617-822-8189 or [Bill.Loesch@codman.org](mailto:Bill.Loesch@codman.org). For BOLD Fields Corner, please contact Nebby at 617 288 3230 x2297 or email at [Nebulla.Stephen@dotwell.org](mailto:Nebulla.Stephen@dotwell.org).

## Activities (continued from page 1)

### Activities in APRIL

April 7—Free ecological landscaping workshop, all day, Codman Library, 690 Washington St. Call Trina for info (see March 5th listing.)

April 27—Arbor Day events throughout Dorchester.

April 28—Save the date! EJ in the 'Hood Annual Conference.

April 30—Dot Environmental Health Coalition's 2d Quarterly Meeting, 6-8 pm, 42 Charles Street, Fields Corner. Free Event, Food. Sponsored by DEHC's Air Quality (AQ) Campaign Team, headed by Davida Andelman of Bowdoin Street Health Center, will lead this open meeting. Got asthma? The AQ team is looking at ways to educate Dorchester residents about air pollution and health effects.

Do you want a healthier Dorchester? If you live, work, play and/or learn in Dorchester and want to help improve the community's environment, please join a campaign team: Air Quality, Community Involvement/Leadership Development, or Open Space & Land Use. For info, call (617) 474-1478, or email [Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org](mailto:Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org).

April 27 & 28—Boston Shines citywide cleanup, contact 617-635-4500 for more information on how to get involved.

Save the date! May 23—Annual Jammin' for Justice event.

## Trees for Dorchester

Does your street or neighborhood park need more healthy trees?

- ◇ Trees help shade streets and keep homes cool during the summer,
- ◇ Trees help cut electric utility bill costs,
- ◇ Trees reduce flooding from rainstorm water runoff,
- ◇ Trees reduce effects of air pollutants on global warming.
- ◇ Trees absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. A single tree will absorb approximately one ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime.
- ◇ Trees also have a calming effect on people, which makes tree-lined streets safer for residents.

Dorchester needs more trees!

Please contact Trina Hofreiter about the DEHC Open Space/Land Use Campaign Team

## PM Pollution (continued from page 1)

"Inhalable coarse particles," such as those found near road and dusty industries, are larger than 2.5 micrometers and smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter.

"Fine particles," such as those found in smoke and haze, are 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller. These particles can be directly emitted from sources such as forest fires, or they can form when gases emitted from power plants, industries and internal combustion vehicles react in the air.

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/oar/particlepollution> for info.

## Diesel Pollution Solution

Regulations on the use of soot-producing diesel fuel are starting to be tightened nation-wide. A group of community environmental advocates including the DEHC Air Quality Campaign Team, Asthma Regional Council, Breath Of Life Dorchester Teens, Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), and other regional advocacy groups are leading a **diesel pollution solution** that supports state-wide pollution reduction legislation. For info contact Penn Loh, [penn@ace-ej.org](mailto:penn@ace-ej.org) or visit [www.ace-ej.org](http://www.ace-ej.org).

**DotWell** was established by Dorchester House Multi-Service Center and Codman Square Health Center. DotWell works to provide integrated clinical and community services to address health disparities, build social capital, and meet the complex needs of the dynamic Dorchester community.

**dotWELL**  
for a healthy neighborhood