

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.

Members/Partners

Alternatives for Community & Environment
Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow
A.N.G.E.L.S.
Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association
Ashmont Hill Association
Boston Greenspace Alliance
Boston Urban Asthma Coalition
Breath of Life: Dorchester (BOLD) Teens
Bowdoin Street Health Center
Cedar Grove Civic Association
Civic Health Institute, CSHC
Clam Point Neighborhood Association
Clean Water Action
Codman Academy Charter School
Codman Square Health Center
Codman Sq. Neighborhood Development Corp
Codman Square Neighborhood Council
Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association
Columbia Washington Street Neighborhood Association
Dorchester Center for Adult Education
Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
City Councilor Maureen E. Feeney
Greater Bowdoin/Geneva Neighborhood Assoc
Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
Greenwood Family Life Center, Inc.
Health Services Partnership
State Senator Jack Hart
John Snow Institute
Lead Action Collaborative
Mattapan Community Health Center
Mattapan Community Development Corp
MassCOSH
John W. McCormack Civic Association
Melville Park Association
Richard J. Murphy School Parent Council
Park Partners of Wainwright Park
Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association
State Representative Marie P. St. Fleur
St. Marks Area Civic Association
St. Marks Area Main Street
Technology Goes Home/TGH Alumni, Inc.
Torrey Street Neighborhood Group
The Urban Ecology Institute
Viet-American Initiative for Development
State Representative Martin Walsh

Dorchester Ecosystem Forum, Dec 15th at the Great Hall

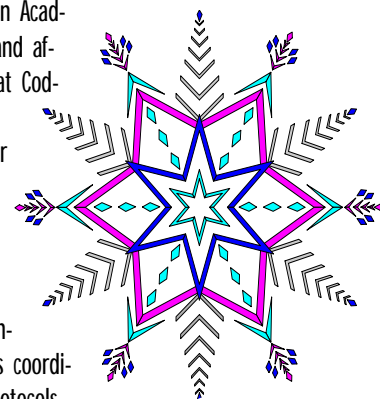
The next DEHC Quarterly Meeting will be held Dec 15th at the Great Hall, from 4 to 6 pm.

The public is invited to this free event, which is hosted by Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) Youth Environmental Justice (YouthEJ) Committee. Also presenting will be Urban Ecology Institute (UEI) and Neponset River Watershed Association.

Massachusetts Environmental Trust, which focuses on marine, estuarine and freshwater resources of the Commonwealth, has funded DEHC to expand its environmental organizing in Dorchester to include water quality with its ongoing open space and air quality work.

DEHC's Youth EJ Committee is working to raise public awareness about urban waterways such as the Neponset River and resources such as Dorchester's beaches and Boston Harbor.

Students from Codman Academy Charter School and after-school programs at Codman Square Tech Center and Dorchester House do water quality testing, in collaboration with UEI's Field Studies Curriculum. Free training for the program's coordinators in research protocols and field data collection techniques is provided by UEI.



Another DEHC public forum will be held next spring, and the students will present at UEI's Annual Student Research Conference, held in May and attended by over 500 UEI students, teachers, environmental professionals, and community members. For more on this program, please contact DEHC, 617-822-8205.

DEHC Year-End Summary

The idea for Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) began with discussions by community leaders to find ways to improve community wellness (public and individual health) in Dorchester, through education and addressing environmental injustices.

In 2001, DEHC was called the Environmental Affairs Program for Codman Square Health Center and Dorchester House through Health Services Partnership. The initiative was funded to develop a multi-issue environmental organizing voice in Dorchester, educating residents and building clout. Research findings on environmental issues affecting the health of residents were presented in the Dorchester Environmental Profile, released in January 2003.

Public reaction to the Profile, community feedback and surveys helped develop inter-related areas of concern over the past year -

Air Quality, Water, Quality of Life/Wellness, and Environmental Toxins.

Each area has a variety of health consequences—asthma, blood lead levels, obesity, learning and behavioral issues—which can impact individuals, families and the community.

To address the above, DEHC members are involved in such activities as: Transportation (public transit; traffic; transit-oriented design); Toxins (lead in paint; auto

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UMass 2004 Garden Calendar

The UMass Cooperative Extension Program calendar features daily gardening tips, beautiful color photos, and a variety of topics on how to select trees, grow shrubs, flowers, vegetables, lawns with minimal pesticides. To order, check out www.umassgardencalendar.org.

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This monthly newsletter is available via email, at any of the Boston Public Library branches in Dorchester and Mattapan, and at other locations throughout Dorchester.

Brief articles and upcoming event notices are always welcome. Please fax or email by 3d Monday for inclusion in next issue.

MBTA NEWS

MBTA Capital Investment Program (CIP) Public Hearings held throughout December.

Each year, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) develops a 5-year Capital Investment Program (CIP). The CIP contains the Authority's planned capital expenditures for a five-year period, and the need for future capital investments. This month the MBTA is looking for public comments on the CIP.

Dorchester projects included in the CIP are the four Red Line subway stations at Savin Hill, Fields Corner, Shawmut and Ashmont, and improvements to the Fairmount commuter rail line, also known as the Indigo Line, from Readville to South Station, which currently runs through Mattapan and Dorchester with minimal stops.

Public CIP meetings scheduled for this month include:
12/1/2003, 6:00 PM, MBTA Employees Credit Union, 147 W. 4th St, South Boston; 12/11/2003, 6:00 PM, Dudley Branch Library, 65 Warren Street, Roxbury, and 12/16/2003, 5:30 PM, State Transportation Bldg, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA.
The FY04 – FY09 Draft CIP is available at www.mbta.com.
Public comments are welcomed from 12/1-12/31, 2003.

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exhaust and arsenic from pressure-treated wood in city-owned tot lots); Green Space/Open Space (street trees; parks; urban wilds); Watershed Pollution/Storm Drains; Dorchester Beaches/Neponset River; Walk/Bike Routes; Safe Routes to School; Trash/Illegal Dumping; Recycling; Public Safety; Sustainability/Density; Research; Mapping/GIS Technology. These help address one or more areas of concern - either through change in city infrastructure, personal lifestyle choices or through policy changes.

If you or your group are interested in DEHC membership (there is no membership fee) contact Rosanne at 617.822.8205.

BOLD Teens Speak Out...

Plants Stop Pollution...

Recent public health studies are showing that indoor air pollution is increasing-and is making people sicker and sicker. We, the **BOLD (Breath of Life Dorchester) TEENS**, encourage you to learn what is causing pollution at home and in your work-place. Whether household cleaners, hair spray, paint, mold, carpet, or tobacco smoke, try to reduce the causes. And this Holiday Season we suggest you give green plants to your loved ones and to yourself. The plants will help clean the indoor air, look nice and have a "soothing-relaxing" effect on everyone.

The **BOLD TEENS of Dorchester House** are: Ziola Ayala, Shatora Mcgruder, Wanda Martinez, Linda Martinez, Julissa Guzman, Shauna Pulley, Jessica Garcia and China Patterson.

The **BOLD TEENS of Codman Square Health Center** are: Brandon Burton, Tyrell Moment, Jonathan Lewis, Cynthia Loesch, Shayna Holloway, Ava Fields, Bernice Bennett, Cathy Loesch, Cindy Pires, Lisa Braithwaite, Dominique Pires, Jeffrey Key-Alston and Ashley Jackson.

For more about the BOLD Teens program call 617-822-8189.

Boston Parks 2004 & Plant Your Self in the Park Day

A major event during July 2004, the Democratic National Convention, will have a powerful short-term effect on Boston, drawing national/international attention and boosting the local economy. Boston Parks 2004 (BP2004) is a campaign to celebrate, promote, and improve the city's parks, and to galvanize and coordinate neighborhood groups and individuals to make lasting improvements in parks throughout the city.

"Plant Yourself in the Park" Day, Saturday June 5, 2004, is BP2004's city wide volunteer day, with a goal of 5,000 volunteers working in local parks, playgrounds, gardens, schoolyards, and urban wilds on that day. PYSP Day is more than a huge park clean up. In the months leading to PYSP Day, parks' Friends groups throughout the city, stimulated by BP2004's small grant program, will be planning dozens of park projects. It will be a day for planting, a day for building community, and a day for putting down roots in community parks.

"Plant Your Self in the Park" Day activities can range from a traditional park clean up, to planting trees and flowers, installing new signs, fence repair/painting, clearing blocked park entryways, constructing bird houses, and trail building.

To get your Dorchester park or open space project involved in "Plant Your Self in the Park" Day, call Rosanne at 617.822.8205., or email Rosanne.Foley@codman.org.

BP2004 is a project of the Boston GreenSpace Alliance, email BP2004@greenspacealliance.org or call Ashley Lanfer at 617.426.7980, or check out www.bostonparks.org.

The Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) is a network of community organizations, environmental leaders and individuals who are concerned about environmental health threats to Dorchester residents and are committed to identifying and addressing local environmental problems. The Coalition is supported by funding through the Boston Public Health Commission, Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, Merck Family Fund and the Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

