



DEHC Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 3

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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 Public Health Commission
- 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 St Neighborhood Assoc.
- Dorchester Center for Adult Education
- Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
- City Councilor Maureen E. Feeny
- Fields Corner Main Street
- Four Corners Main Street
- Friends of Ronan Park
- 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
- Jones Hill Association
- 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 Watershed Forum, April 22d Baker Lofts, Lower Mills, 4 to 7 pm



You are invited! The Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) is hosting an Earth Day Forum on environmental issues facing the Neponset River Watershed. Held in the Baker Lofts Community Room, 1231 Adams Street, from 4 to 7 p.m., the forum will highlight youth groups and organizations who have been working in the Neponset River region.

the river's banks, DEHC hopes to provide greater access to and advocacy for this regional water resource

Codman Academy Charter School students will present their findings in field studies done with DEHC partner Urban Ecology Institute. Also presenting will be Boston Natural Areas Network, the Neponset River Greenway Council, and the Neponset River Watershed Association. There will be pizza and prizes!

The forum's location is in a new artist live-work studio complex in what was an abandoned administrative building for the Baker Chocolate Factory. Over 300 years of industrial use has harnessed the river's water flow through dams and channeling, changing forever the character of the river. Migrating fish are blocked from moving upstream, and pollutants have settled on the river bottom. There are many considerations to increasing access and recreational use for the community.

The primary purpose of the forum is to raise awareness in the Boston neighborhoods along the Neponset River about opportunities for involvement, particularly for youth, in the river's recreational and environmental discussions. By increasing public usage of the Greenway Path, and working to extend the path further along

This forum also serves as the spring quarterly DEHC general membership meeting. For information on how you can get involved in activities along the Neponset River, and other DEHC activities, call 617.474.1478, or visit our new free and open to the public listserve - <http://lists.topica.com/lists/dehc> - for email discussion, meeting and event notice postings.

Traffic Calming (final in a three-part series)

Faster traffic produces more noise. For example, from 16 yards away, a car traveling at 56 miles per hour (mph) makes ten times as much noise as it would traveling at 31 mph....After "traffic calming" measures in several German towns reduced average vehicle speeds from 25 mph to 12 mph on residential streets, there was a reduction in noise to less than one-tenth its initial level.



detrimental impact on a community...People living on high-traffic streets tend to know their neighbors less, and have less awareness of and interest in their neighborhood. Many people living on such streets no longer use their yards or front porches...Property values suffer, as does the human-scale character and social fabric of a community.

Detrimental Impacts on Community: The physical obstruction, visual blight, noise, and feeling of personal insecurity created by fast-moving traffic on a wide road can have an extremely

Air Pollution: Finally, faster traffic exacerbates air quality problems experienced by many regions of the United States. It produces higher emissions of nitrogen oxides and thus higher

DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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This monthly newsletter, compiled, written and edited by Rosanne Foley, is available via email, as a publication on the www.codman.org website, and at any Dorchester or Mattapan Boston Public Library branch. Send brief article or event notice by fax or email by 3d Monday each month for inclusion in next issue.

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Picture A Healthy Dorchester Contest - deadline 3/26. Submit your photo, win dinner for 2. See www.codman.org, hspnetwork.org, or dorchesterhouse.org for entry forms and instructions, or call 617-474-1410.

29th Gardeners Gathering, Saturday, March 20, 285 Columbus Ave, 11-5. Multicultural seed exchange, workshops, butterfly gardens, and more. Free. For more info, call BNAN at 617-542-7696, or www.bostonnatural.org.

WalkBoston 14th Annual Meeting, March 25, 5:30–8 pm, 60 State Street, Boston. RSVP to 617-367-9255, or email info@walkboston.org.

Neponset Greenway Tour, Saturday, March 27, 10 am; Pauls' Bridge, Hyde Park. Seven-mile walk along river, see how the trail links up. To register, call 617-542-7696.

Toxics Action 2004 Conference, April 3, 8 am to 7 pm, Wentworth Institute. Registration \$30 pre-paid, \$35 at the door. Call 617-747-4362, or mbrandt@toxicsaction.org.

Dorchester Watershed Forum, April 22, 4-7 pm, Lower Mills, (see accompanying article.)

Environmental Justice in the 'Hood, April 24, 9-4; 8th Annual, at the Reggie Lewis Center. Free. To register, call Quita, 617-442-3343, x35 or email quita@ace-ej.org.

Save the date! Parks Action Resource Center (PARC) Forum, Saturday, May 8th, Bunker Hill Community College.

Youth Environmental Justice Collaborative & BOLD Teens

BOLD Teens, the Codman Academy Charter School and after-school programs at Codman Square Health Center, 450 Washington St Tech Center, and Dorchester House Multi-Service Center have joined forces to form a Youth Environmental Justice (EJ) Collaborative for peer leadership. Contact 617-474-1442 for more.

One such peer leader is Angelina Reyes, 17, at the Bowdoin Street Health Center. She is a student at the Log School, and is enthusiastic and concerned about environmental issues in the community where she lives and works. *By Angelo Nogueira Sanca, Comm Health Worker, BSHC, 617-754-0017.*

Plant Yourself in the Park, Saturday, June 5th, 9-3

Coming to a park near you... Thousands of volunteers will be working all over Boston sprucing up parks; plans are also underway in several Dorchester area parks as part of the city-wide event. Here are some of the Dorchester locations where PYP events are planned:

Dorchester Park
Florida Street Neighborhood Watch
Franklin Park
Mother's Rest
Nonquit Street Garden
Ronan Park
Savin Hill Beaches
Shawmut Corridor Gardens
Tech Center, 450 Washington St

Dorchester's green spaces—parks, playgrounds, urban wilds—are crucial for community health as places to walk, bike, play or just relax. The Boston GreenSpace Alliance is organizing this event to help clean-up the city's parks, but also to help build a constituency to advocate for parks in the city. For information on how your group can get involved, call Marcus, 617.474.1442, or email Marcus.Owens@hspnetwork.org.

Traffic Calming (contd. from page 1)

levels of ground-level ozone, acid precipitation, and fine particulate matter. Once traffic reaches a speed of approximately 20 mph, the faster it moves, the more nitrogen oxide it emits.

Conventional traffic flow "improvements" and road projects therefore typically do not serve important public goals that should be central to the mission of a transportation agency. They limit mobility by making walking and bicycling difficult and unpleasant. They tend to increase the risk of death or serious

injury for non-motorists. The visual blight and higher noise levels resulting from conventional projects often degrade property values as well as environmental quality. *(This is the final excerpt in a three-part series on traffic calming, taken from the Conservation Law Foundation's website www.clf.org).*

If you want to work towards solving Dorchester's traffic problems, and encouraging walkable/bikable neighborhoods, call 617.474.1478, or email Rosanne.Foley@hspnetwork.org.

Who is DEHC? *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.

