

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. Feeney
- 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

Friends of Ronan Park News

By Larysa Kulynych

The 16th Annual City Year Serve-a-thon in Boston, held Saturday October 23rd, included projects in several locations in Dorchester and was a resounding success in Ronan Park. The Friends of Ronan Park had quite a turnout, despite the blisteringly cold weather -- 41 volunteers from the Harvard Business School and 10 local neighbors as well as several City Year team managers.

Friends of Ronan Park co-chair Larysa Kulynych happily reports that all projects were completed. Neighbors have commented that Ronan Park looks much "brighter" now. That's a nod to the newly painted tot lot structures, walls and benches. In addition, much progress was made to clear the weeds and debris from the sidewalk drainage lines along sloped areas, which was quite a challenge and

generated volumes of heavy trash bags.



Needless to say, none of this work would have been possible without the support of the Boston Parks Department and collaboration with City Year. The crews came early with tools and weed whips to clear the sidewalks; and delivery/pickup and trash disposal was all done on Saturday, not the usual routine. Many thanks to Boston Parks Department staff and City Year volunteers - see you all next year?

For more information on activities at Ronan Park, see www.ronanpark.org or come to one of the Friends' monthly meetings at 1 Arcadia Street, first Thursday of every month.

Safe Routes to Schools

"Getting Kids Walking and Bicycling to School Again" is the goal of this WalkBoston program.

With the assistance of Massachusetts Highway Department, WalkBoston launched New England's first comprehensive *Safe Routes to Schools* program in 2000. The program is continuing in partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission, and has expanded into several Boston schools.



The goal of the *Safe Routes* program is to make the trip to school an opportunity for daily

physical activity. WalkBoston is working to reverse a disturbing national trend—the number of students walking to school has decreased from approximately 65% thirty years ago to only 10% today.

WalkBoston uses a variety of strategies to help make walking safe, fun and practical for families:

- Walking in groups with parent escorts;
- Providing safety training;

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DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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This monthly newsletter, compiled, written and edited by Rosanne Foley, is again 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 the 3d Monday of each month for inclusion in next issue.

NE GRASSROOTS CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE

4th Annual—Sunday, Nov 14, 9 - 5:30, at M.I.T.'s Stata Center, 32 Vassar St, Cambridge, MA.

Keynote: "The Next Four Years...What do we do now ?" by Mindy Lubber, Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies. 20+ Workshops. \$45 inc breakfast & lunch. To register email CambClimAct@aol.com or call 781-643-5911.

Hosted by MA Climate Action Network & MIT Students for Global Sustainability, Tufts Climate Initiative, MASSPIRG, Clean Water Action, The Green Roundtable, MassEnergy, NE Sustainable Energy Association. See <http://www.massclimateaction.org>.

2004 Faces of GreenSpace Awards at The Union Club, 8 Park St, Boston, Thurs, Nov 18, 6 to 9 pm.

Join the Boston GreenSpace Alliance in celebrating 20 years of green and open space advocacy. Each year the BGSA recognizes the unsung heroes of Boston's parks and open spaces. Through the Faces of GreenSpace awards, the BGSA celebrates the diverse park caretakers who promote the protection, creation, care and use of Boston's parks and open spaces for all. This year's awardees include Dorchester's Friends of Ronan Park. Tickets are \$50, \$60 at the door. Please call 617.426.7980 or visit <http://www.greenspacealliance.org> to purchase tickets.

BOLD Teens

For information on BOLD (Breath Of Life Dorchester) Teens, a youth peer leadership environmental health program at Codman Square Health Center, contact Bill Loesch at 617-822-8189.

Mass GIS Day—Nov 17, 10 am—2 pm , State House

At Mass Geographic Information System (GIS) Day in the Great Hall of the Massachusetts State House, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about current GIS mapping projects. Here are some of the exhibits on display during the free event:

MassGIS—Census Characteristics in Legislative Districts, visitors can order a Legislative District Map.

Old Colony Planning Council—Natural Hazards Mapping.

MA Department of Public Health—Geographic Analysis of Obesity in Massachusetts.

State Data Center (MISER) at UMASS Donahue Institute with US Census Bureau—using Census, EPA and USGS data to model risks to populations and property.

MA Office of Coastal Zone Management—online Massachusetts Ocean Resource Information System (MORIS).

MA Office of Transportation Planning—will present Active Construction Maps and Multi-modal Transportation Maps

MA Department of Environmental Protection will update visitors on GIS activities at DEP.

Franklin High School—student mapping project with local police.

For more info on MassGIS Day, contact Paul Nutting, Education and Outreach Coordinator-MassGIS, 251 Causeway St, Boston MA 02114, 617-626-1238, or Paul.Nutting@state.ma.us

Safe Routes to Schools (contd. from page 1)

– Working with local municipalities to ensure sidewalks, crosswalks and streets are safe for pedestrians.

Results so far have been impressive, with the greatest gains made in Arlington elementary schools—only 42% of students walked to school prior to the *Safe Routes* program. After two years the number of walking students had increased to 56%.

WalkBoston has created a "Tool Kit" to help people set up their own *Safe Routes* program. Parents, school principals interested in improving walking safety and opportunities for physical exercise, the manual includes Step by Step Organizing; Safety Training; Classroom Activities; Sample Forms and Surveys. *To find out more information on the Safe Routes to Schools program, contact WalkBoston at 617-367-9255, or email info@walkboston.org.*

What 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 Anonymous Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Environ-