



# DEHC Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 1

The Coalition welcomes new member Fields Corner Civic!

March-April 2005

*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.
- Community Improvement Association (Torrey St)
- Dorchester Center for Adult Education
- Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
- DotWell
- City Councilor Maureen E. Feeney
- Fields Corner Civic Association
- 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.
- State Senator Jack Hart
- John Snow, Inc. (JSI) Research and Training 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.
- Trust for Public Land
- The Urban Ecology Institute
- Viet-American Initiative for Development
- State Representative Martin Walsh

## Springtime Happenings

### SAVE THE DATE!

The DEHC Environmental Forum, Wed, April 27th, 5:30—7:30 pm in the Great Hall of the Vietnamese American Community Center, 42 Charles Street, Fields Corner

The keynote speaker will be James W. Hunt III, the former assistant secretary of the state Executive office of Environmental Affairs, new head of the City of Boston's new Environment and Energy Department, and Dorchester resident. Mr. Hunt will talk about his vision for Boston. Free event, open to the public. Contact Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org, 617-474-1478, for more.

Dorchester Avenue Project: Mayor Menino has pledged to support redesign and revitalization of the avenue. Two meetings are scheduled: Thurs, April 7, 6—9 pm, O'Hearn School, 1669 Dorchester Ave., or Sat, April 9, 10 am - 1 pm, Campbell Re-

source Center, 1216 Dorchester Ave. See www.dotavenueproject.com for details!



EJ in the Hood 2005—April 30, 9-4, at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. Call Quita 617-442-3343 x 235, or email [quita@ace-ej.org](mailto:quita@ace-ej.org).

Arbor Day is April 22d! Tree City USA event, April 21, at the MA State House. Contact Eric Seaborn at DCR, 617-626-1468, [eric.seaborn@state.ma.us](mailto:eric.seaborn@state.ma.us)

2d Annual Plant Yourself in the Park Day, Saturday, April 30. Contact the Boston GreenSpace Alliance at 617-426-7980, or [www.greenspacealliance.org](http://www.greenspacealliance.org).

Neponset Greenway Council's monthly meetings are the first Weds of each

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## The MBTA in Dorchester and Mattapan: Project Updates

One of the Coalition's priority activities is to address local air quality issues by working to improve public transit for the community. The Mass. Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has projects underway at Dorchester's Red Line stations—Savin Hill, Fields Corner, Shawmut and Ashmont—and plans to link Mattapan Station improvements to the work. Also planned are improvements to the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line.

**SAVIN HILL STATION (\$17 mil)**  
The station was completely demolished and is currently almost completely rebuilt, with new platforms, elevators, and a new station head house, for complete accessibility. Savin Hill reopens in May 2005.

**FIELDS CORNER STATION (\$39 mil)**  
Much of the station has been demolished, will be rebuilt, and the busways lowered, to allow for easy transfers and complete accessibility.

**SHAWMUT STATION (\$11 mil)**  
This project involves historic restoration of the existing station, the addition of elevators, and installation of an additional exit to the street.

**ASHMONT STATION (\$44 mil)**  
A multimodal station, Ashmont will receive major renovations including new platforms, two headhouses, new roof, bus and trolleyways, and improved traffic patterns. Also, a privately-funded multi-use transit-oriented development will be built next door.

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## DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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Join our new listserve!

<http://lists.dotwell.org/mailman/listinfo/dehc>

*This bi-monthly community newsletter is compiled and edited by Rosanne Foley. Six issues are available annually: Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, May-June, Jul-Aug, Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec. Access is via email, as a publication on [www.codman.org](http://www.codman.org) and [dorchesterhouse.org](http://dorchesterhouse.org), and at any Dorchester or Mattapan Boston Public Library branch. Please email or fax brief articles or event notices by the 15 of the month preceding the issue you want your info in.*

### Springtime Happenings (Contd. from page 1)

month, 7-9 pm. April 6—Old Dorchester Post, 500 Galivan Blvd. See [bostonnatural.org](http://bostonnatural.org) for more.

For more upcoming activities, visit DEHC partners' links:

AHT: see [www.healthytomorrow.org](http://www.healthytomorrow.org)

Boston Public Health Commission: [www.bphc.org](http://www.bphc.org)

Friends of Ronan Park meet monthly, at 1 Arcadia St, 6:30 pm, first Thurs. See [www.ronanpark.org](http://www.ronanpark.org) for more.

JSI—[www.jsi.com](http://www.jsi.com), conducts free environmental health resources training for community groups, see National Library of Medicine's website for online info: [toxstown.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxstown.nlm.nih.gov).

Pope's Hill Neighborhood Assoc. [www.popeshill.com](http://www.popeshill.com)

St Marks Area Main Street: [www.smams.org](http://www.smams.org)

Urban Ecology Institute/CFP — [www.urbaneco.org](http://www.urbaneco.org)

Vietnamese American Initiative for Development: [www.vietaid.org](http://www.vietaid.org)

## BOLD Teens Program

BOLD (Breath Of Life Dorchester) Teens, a youth peer leadership environmental health group and DEHC partner, has a new website: [www.boldteens.org](http://www.boldteens.org). If you would like a tree planted this spring, call Bill Loesch at 822-8189, or email Bill. [Loesch@codman.org](mailto:Loesch@codman.org).

## Healthy Trees, Healthy Neighborhoods:

*A training on identifying and inventoring city trees*

The Community Forest Partnership and the Boston Parks Department invite you to join us to learn about our city trees and help complete Boston's Urban Tree Inventory! This workshop is a day-long volunteer training that will cover:

- Tree identification training.
- Topics in urban ecology and Boston's urban forest.
- Discussion about environmental and public health benefits of the urban forest.
- Training in the Greater Boston Urban Forest Inventory's street tree inventory methods.

This workshop will be offered twice this spring, on Saturday, April 23, and Saturday, May 7 (choose one) from 9 am to 5 pm, locations to be announced. It is free of charge, and lunch will be provided.

In exchange for the opportunity to attend this event, we ask workshop participants to commit ten hours of volunteer time to the street tree inventory. If you'd like to register for or learn more about the workshops, or to learn more about the urban forest, please contact Jessica Noon at the Community Forest Partnership, Urban Ecology Institute: 617-552-1563 or [noonj@bc.edu](mailto:noonj@bc.edu).

### MBTA in Dorchester & Mattapan (contd. from page 1)

#### MATTAPAN STATION (\$8 mil)

The MBTA plans to totally revamp the station, including a platform with transparent canopies and a two-story station house with waiting area, and bathroom facilities. To address community safety concerns, the new station will house transit police headquarters. The Mattapan trolley to Ashmont station will be shut down during renovations, and replaced by bus service, in January 2006. (see [www.bostonneighborhoodnews.com](http://www.bostonneighborhoodnews.com)).

#### FAIRMOUNT LINE [Indigo Line]

The Fairmount commuter rail line, 9.2 miles long, runs from

South Station to Readville, through Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan. Despite the density of these communities and a lack of nearby rapid transit lines, there are currently only two stations serving these neighborhoods—Uphams Corner and Morton Street—with low frequency of service, infrastructure in a state of disrepair, and inaccessibility issues.

The Fairmount improvement project would upgrade the Uphams Corner and Morton Street stations. In addition, four new stations have been proposed.

For more info, call (617) 222-6757, or see [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com).

**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, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Library of Medicine, and is a DotWell initiative.



DotWell is our new name for the Health Services Partnership, 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.