

~ 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 4, No. 1

*DEHC welcomes new partner SCI Dorchester!*

Jan-Feb 2006

## Upcoming Events: New & Noteworthy



**January 14, 2006, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm** the Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) will meet at The Medical Foundation's offices at 622 Washington St, Codman Square so members and interested parties can discuss strengthening the impact of DEHC's work. We hope to create a more effective coalition and set directions for the future.

restructuring of the Coalition's future.

If you live, work, play or learn in Dorchester and have concerns about environmental health impacts in the community, please feel free to call or email Rosanne Foley, DEHC Coordinator at Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org or call 617-474-1478.

The purpose of this event is to bring together key people and organizations in Dorchester to create a more effective environmental health coalition whose purpose will more closely reflect the needs of the community. We hope to look at critical issues for DEHC and its future, including re-evaluating its mission and purpose; determining key issues and projects for DEHC to address; facilitating more active membership involvement; and determining a more effective structure to carry out its work.

~ Hear **Legends of the Night Sky**, on Tuesday, January 26, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the **Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center in Mattapan**. Gather around the indoor "bonfire" to hear tales from distant lands about the stars in the night sky. Includes light refreshments and a craft activity. And on Monday Feb 13, 5:30-6:30 pm, do a **Full Moon Walk**. Experience the serenity and brightness of a full moon during this winter nature walk. These and other

*(Continued on page 2)*

- 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
  - 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 Dev. Corp.
  - Codman Square Neighborhood Council
  - Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association
  - Columbia Washington St. Neighborh. Assoc.
  - Community Improvement Assoc. Torrey St.
  - Conservation Law Foundation
  - Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
  - DotWell
  - Environmental Careers Organization
  - City Councilor Maureen E. Feeney
  - Fields Corner Civic Association
  - Fields Corner Main Street
  - Four Corners Main Street
  - Friends of Ronan Park
  - Greater Bowdoin/Geneva Neighborh. Assoc.
  - Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
  - Greenwood Family Life Center, Inc.
  - State Senator Jack Hart
  - Hub on Wheels
  - John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
  - Jones Hill Association
  - Lead Action Collaborative
  - Mattapan Community Development Corp.
  - Mattapan Community Health Center
  - MassCOSH
  - John W. McCormack Civic Association
  - Melville Park Association
  - New Ecology Inc.
  - 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
  - SCI Dorchester
  - Technology Goes Home/TGH Alumni, Inc.
  - Trust for Public Land
  - The Urban Ecology Institute
  - Vietnamese-American Civic Association
  - Viet-American Initiative for Development
  - State Representative Martin Walsh

## Paid Internships Available at Environmental Careers Organization

Apply Now for ECO's Conservation Careers Diversity Program! Candidates should apply by **January 31, 2006** for an exciting summer internship at the US Fish and Wildlife Service or USDA Forest Service.

management, public policy, environmental education, community sustainability, and climate change.

Each year, more than 500 ECO Associates are chosen for 12-week to two-year internship assignments.

For over 30 years, The Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) has helped train new professionals for the environmental field through paid internships at government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and companies across the U.S.

ECO Associates have the chance to explore environmental career paths, acquire transferable skills, network with professionals, and have a positive impact on the environment. Associates earn competitive pay, typically \$400-\$800 per week (full time).

Internships cover many facets of the environmental profession, from resource conservation to hazardous waste

For more information on paid internships, visit [www.eco.org](http://www.eco.org)

*January 2006 is National Blood Donor Month! Visit [www.aabb.org](http://www.aabb.org) for donation sites.*

## DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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Join our new listserve!

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



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

### New & Noteworthy (continued from page 1)

programs are \$4 per person (member rate). Please call 617-983-8500, visit 500 Walk Hill St, Mattapan, or go online to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) for more information.

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#### Guide to Safe Shellfishing in Boston Harbor

The Boston Harbor Association (TBHA) has produced guides on the health hazards of eating contaminated shellfish and on the regulations on shellfishing in Boston Harbor. The guides are available in Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Vietnamese, Laotian, and Khmer. For copies, contact TBHA, 374 Congress Street, Boston, 02210, 617-482-1722, or go to [www.tbha.org](http://www.tbha.org).

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For Legal and Technical Assistance free of charge for environmental or public health problems such as rundown or unsafe parks, vacant and abandoned lots, unsafe traffic, dangerous or polluting workplaces, contact Alternatives for Community & Environment. ACE helps neighborhood groups in lower income communities who are willing to work together with neighbors. ACE, 2181 Washington St, Roxbury, 02119. Call 617-442-8917 or visit [www.ace-ej.org](http://www.ace-ej.org) for more info.

### BOLD Teens Program News

Kudos to BOLD (Breath Of Life: Dorchester) Teens, a youth leadership environmental health group that was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant by The Medical Foundation.

BOLD is currently seeking peer educators for their program at Dorchester House. Ideal candidates will be civic-minded, environmentally conscious youth between 13 and 19. For more information, send email to [Bill.Loesch@codman.org](mailto:Bill.Loesch@codman.org).

### PARK(ing)- a temporary urban park

Feeding the meter of a parking space enables one to rent precious downtown real estate for an hour or two. Rebar, a creative collective based in San Francisco, wondered "What is the range of possible occupancy activities for this short-term lease?"

PARK(ing) was their investigation into reprogramming a typical unit of private vehicular space by leasing a metered parking spot for public recreational activity.

Rebar identified a site in an area of downtown San Francisco that is underserved by public outdoor space... There they installed a small, temporary public park that provided nature, seating, and shade.

Their goal was to transform a parking spot into a PARK(ing) space, thereby temporarily expanding the public realm and improving the quality of urban human habitat, at least until the meter ran out. To see the process go to <http://www.rebargroup.org/projects/parking/index.html#>.

After the park was dismantled, the sod was planted in a local backyard, where it is growing nicely.

~ February is Heart Health Month! ~

### Fifth Annual MUSH THE GREENWAYS

Join the Boston Natural Areas Network for a fun morning of mushing at Pope John Paul II Park in Dorchester on Saturday, January 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. THIS IS A FREE EVENT! Participants will get an opportunity to handle and harness the sled dogs, learn the intricacies of mushing, and enjoy a short sled ride. Reservations are required for rides. For reservations call



617-542-7696 or email [info@bostonnatural.org](mailto:info@bostonnatural.org), with the number of children and adults who will go on the ride and your contact information. The event will take place whether or not there is snow cover!

**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, Boston Public Health Commission, 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.