

~ DEHC's NEW MISSION:  
We are a coalition of community-based organizations who are committed to addressing environmental health problems in Dorchester. Our mission is to tackle urban environmental health concerns and promote environmental justice, leading to measurable improvements and a healthy environment for people who live and work in Dorchester.



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, No. 2

Mar-April 2006

## DEHC Summit Briefing

On Saturday, January 14, DEHC held an extremely successful first ever Membership Summit! Over twenty organizations met to determine the critical environmental health and justice issues facing Dorchester, set strategic programmatic directions for DEHC, and design a more effective structure to carry out the Coalition's work.

Decisions emerging from the Summit focused on ways to take a more proactive, community-organizing approach:

**Develop three campaigns focused on key environmental health issues facing Dorchester.** Campaign Teams were organized around -

1. Improving air quality in Dorchester;
2. Increasing open space in the community, and;
3. Increasing community involvement in DEHC.

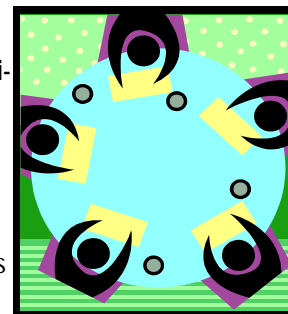
Dates and times for team meetings are below—open to DEHC membership and to the public.

Community Involvement Team— Weds, March 8, 5 PM, 560 Washington St., NDC office.

Open Space/Vacant Lots Team—Thur, March 9, 9 AM; at 1452 Dorchester Ave, 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

Air Quality Team—Thur, March 16, Noon, at 637 Washington St., Codman Sq Health Ctr.

To increase participation of membership at all levels including the Steering Committee and to better represent the diverse interests and concerns of



Dorchester residents, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that all DEHC members sign was revised. DEHC will hold Membership Strategy meetings three times a year. These measures will encourage and increase member involvement in all aspects of the Coalition's work. The 2006 Schedule of membership meetings is as follows: March 29, June 29, Oct 30. All meetings are from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, with locations TBA.

Benefits of DEHC Membership include:

- ◇ Free community activities listing in DEHC newsletter and emails;
- ◇ E-mail blasts with environmental health action alerts;
- ◇ DEHC list-serv—opportunity to discuss

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## March & April Events and Activities

**Tues, March 7, Air Quality Symposium.** 8:30 am to 4 pm. Creating Effective Collaborations re air quality, transportation and land use. Sponsors: Boston Public Health Commission, Harvard School of Public Health, Alternatives for Community and Environment, DotWell, New England Asthma Regional Council, etc. Contact Jalal, 617-534-2682, e-mail: jghaemghami@bphc.org.

**Weds, March 8, Boston Steps Consortium.** 8:30 to 11 am. Diabetes in Boston: Prevention and Control. At the Codman Square Health Center Great Hall, 6 Norfolk St, open to the public. Please RSVP to Sandra Vasquez at 617-534-5690.

**Sat, March 25, EJ in the Hood.** 9 am to 4 pm, Harriet Tubman House, South End. Environmental justice gathering and conference. Contact Khalida Smalls at ACE 617-442-3343 x221.

**Weds, March 29,** DEHC Membership meeting, location to be determined

**Tues, April 18, Boston Bus Marathon.** The day after Boston Marathon runners travel a little over 26 miles in about 2 hours, this marathon will see how far riders can travel on an MBTA bus in the same amount of time. For info, see [www.ace-ej.org](http://www.ace-ej.org), or contact Lee Matsueda, 617-442-3343.x221, or email [lee@ace-ej.org](mailto:lee@ace-ej.org).

**Fri & Sat, April 28 & 29, Arbor Day Tree Plantings.** One hundred trees will be planted by the Boston Urban Forest Coalition in partnership with YouthBuild. Tree planting is community-building, investing in the livability, health and beauty of the neighborhood now and into the future and bringing youth and adults together to nurture and sustain

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### 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. Neighbor. Assoc.  
Community Improvement Assoc. Torrey St.  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Dorchester House Multi-Service Center  
DotWell  
Environmental Careers Organization  
Fields Corner Civic Association  
Fields Corner Main Street  
Four Corners Main Street  
Friends of Ronan Park  
Greater Bowdoin/Geneva Neighbor. Assoc.  
Greater Four Corners Action Coalition  
Greenwood Family Life Center, Inc.  
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  
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

\* Members that have signed revised MOUs so far.

## DORCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

DotWell, 1452 Dorchester Avenue, 4th Floor, Dorchester MA 02122

Phone: 617-474-1478; Fax: 617-474-0465

Email: Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org,

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.*

## **BOLD Teens Program News**

We welcome Alexandra Chery, Arlene Ruiz, Chris Alcantara, Jessica Nguyen and Linda Tran who are working with the BOLD Teens in the Fields Corner/ Dorchester House area. They have been working with TeensLeadATWork teen group at MassCOSH to seek ways to make businesses safer from chemicals or work place safety issues, and on a campaign to reduce the number of children and elderly who die in fires started by cigarettes, as well as injuries to fire-fighters and the damage to property. Call BOLD, 617-822-8189.

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

green space. Fri April 28, in Dorchester at the Holland School, Geneva Ave and Olney St, 9 am to 1 pm, and Sat April 29, in Mission Hill, Tremont St near Brigham Circle, and Mission Main, 9-3. Volunteers needed. Refreshments and info tables. Contact Rita Renee Toll-Dubois for details, 617-628-5607 x 206.

### **Employment Opportunity—Urban Forester Internships**

The first of its kind in Boston, the Greater Boston Urban Forest Inventory (GBUFI) will survey all the street trees in every neighborhood to obtain the data needed to understand, manage, and assess the value of our trees. Using handheld computers and GIS software, volunteers will collect detailed data that will be used to expand the capacity of city and state agencies to manage Boston's urban forest.

We are looking for outgoing, energetic individuals for several different internships: **Field Interns**, **Team Leaders**, **Volunteer Coordinator** and **GIS Coordinator**. Six month stipended internship, starting in May; Tues-Sat, 8 hours/day, with some weekday evenings. For more info about GBUFI, visit [www.urbaneco.org](http://www.urbaneco.org), or contact Elizabeth Walsh, GBUFI Coordinator, Urban Ecology Institute, 355 Higgins Hall, 140 Commonwealth Ave, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, email [walshio@bc.edu](mailto:walshio@bc.edu) or call 617-552-1563.

### **Spring Biking Activities**

#### **Neighborhood Bike Ride—Sunday, March 26**

Join Hub on Wheels for monthly Neighborhood Bike Rides. "Enlarging Boston's Emerald Necklace" is a 20 mile ride from Franklin Park to South Boston. The ride will continue south along the Neponset Greenway's existing and proposed route. Meet at 9:15 am, leaving from Franklin Park or 10 am from Castle Island. For more information, please contact [dmink@massbike.org](mailto:dmink@massbike.org).

#### **SPRING EARN-A-BIKE CLASS FOR TEENS**

For girls and boys: a fun after-school program! Choose a bike, learn how to rebuild it, and then you keep it! Explore the city streets, learn safe riding skills, see how bikes are healthy for you, your community and the environment. Classes meet every Mon, Tues and Fri, 3:30-6:30. Two sessions: Mar 27-Apr 28, or May 8-June 9. Call Matt, 617-442-0004, [learn@bikesnotbombs.org](mailto:learn@bikesnotbombs.org), or drop by 59 Amory St. #103, Roxbury, 02119.



### **Summit Summary**

- ideas and strategies with members and exchange info about environmental events/campaigns;
- ◇ Obtain Dorchester-wide support for local organizing and educational efforts;
  - ◇ (Future) ability to link members' websites to DEHC.org site;
  - ◇ Participate in Dorchester-wide environmental health and justice strategy discussions and planning sessions.

**Steering Committee recruitment**—Elected by DEHC membership, the Steering Committee is comprised of members of the Coalition, Campaign Team Chairs, and the Coordinator. To ensure the Steering Committee reflects the diversity of the coalition, this invitation is sent to encourage any interested DEHC members

to serve.

Steering Committee members represent DEHC, along with staff, in meetings, events, and media, and help coordinate the work of the campaign teams. Actively involved in fundraising for the Coalition, and assist staff in deciding what work/campaigns DEHC should participate in. The Steering Committee meets once a month, or more frequently as needed.

A Summit Report and revised MOUs were sent out to all current DEHC members. If you would like to remain (or become) a DEHC member, please request the revised form. Please call or email Rosanne, 617-474-1478 or [Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org](mailto:Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org) with any of your questions or comments.

**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.