

- *The Coalition'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 3, No. 5

*DEHC welcomes new partner Hub on Wheels!*

Nov-Dec 2005

## Upcoming Events and Activities...



### **Historic Walking Tour of Franklin Park - Sunday, October 30, 1-3 p.m.**

Join Dorchester Historical Society board members and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site's ranger for stories of the park's origins. See historic places and peak fall foliage. You'll learn about Olmsted's dream for an urban park and how relevant that dream still is today. Meet at the "Resting Grounds" picnic area across from the Shattuck Hospital. Call 617-908-4002, email [franklinpark@verizon.net](mailto:franklinpark@verizon.net), or visit [www.franklinparkcoalition.org](http://www.franklinparkcoalition.org)

### **"Tour de Grave" Community Bike Ride - Sunday, November 6, noon to 3 p.m.**

A revival of an old favorite. A post-Halloween trip of about 25 miles to Boston's famous and lesser-known graveyards. Tour departs from the Hub On Wheels Festival area behind the Franklin Park Zoo at NOON (to avoid the ghosts!) Visit [www.HubOnWheels.org](http://www.HubOnWheels.org)

You are invited to two Boston Building Materials Co-op and Building Materials Resource Center events:

**Sculpture Ribbon Cutting event - Thursday, November 3, 11 a.m.**, 100 Terrace Street, Roxbury, to dedicate the BBMC and BMRC's new pedestrian entrance. This unique arch sculpture was created from the actual tools that were used to build structures in and around Boston for more than 50 years. The one-of-a-kind gate, sure to become a landmark on Terrace Street, reflects the organizations' commitment to helping people improve their homes.

*(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. Neighbor. Assoc.
  - Community Improvement Assoc. Torrey St.
  - Conservation Law Foundation
  - Dorchester House Multi-Service Center
  - DotWell
  - Environmental Careers Organization
  - City Councilor Maureen E. Feeny
  - 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.
  - 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
  - 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

## Neponset River Volunteer Opportunity—Dam Assessment

Calling all those who enjoy getting out in the crisp autumn air and who have an interest in the health of their local environment! The Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) needs your help to conduct dam assessment surveys during the final week of October and into early November!

Learn how dams affect aquatic ecosystems and how the Neponset River, host to several dams, may be ecologically restored. During the dam assessment survey, volunteers visit a designated stretch of water in the Neponset River Watershed, then fill-out a questionnaire about what they observed. The results will help NepRWA gather information on the location and condition of dams

throughout the watershed.

NepRWA has been assessing the physical state of dams in the watershed as well as documenting dams and other obstructions that may not be listed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts dams database. The ultimate goal of the assessment is to identify the physical barriers to fish and other aquatic species migration, with an eye toward future dam removal and habitat restoration.

Interested volunteers will participate in a weekend-morning training session, then head out to the field to collect

*(Continued on page 2)*

*ACE Annual Meeting—Oct 26, 5:30-8:30 pm, at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave, Boston*

## 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 on [www.codman.org](http://www.codman.org) and [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.*

### Noteworthy Events (continued from page 1)

#### **Weatherization Open House event - Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.**

Wentworth Institute of Technology. Before soaring gas and oil prices drive up your heating bills, learn how to seal up drafts in your home, find info on fuel assistance programs, and sign up for an energy audit. Free money saving information and giveaways! For directions, visit [www.bostonbmrc.org](http://www.bostonbmrc.org) or call 617-442-8917.

**Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center in Mattapan**  
*Living with Wildlife in Boston*, Sat., Nov. 5, 1-2:30 pm,  
*Family Night Hike*, Thursday, November 17, 6-7:30 pm  
and *Urban Astronomy*, Tuesday, December 6, 7-8:30 pm.  
Call 617-983-8500 or visit 500 Walk Hill St, Mattapan or go online to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org).

### DEHC's Future

On Monday October 17, the Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) Steering Committee met to discuss strategic restructuring with consultant Judy Freiwirth. Over the next few months we will work with Judy to focus DEHC's work in improving environmental health in Dorchester. We are interested in hearing from DEHC members who would like to be involved. All are welcome. Next meeting is November 17, 4-6 pm at VietAID, 42 Charles St. Email [Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org](mailto:Rosanne.Foley@dotwell.org) or call 617-474-1478.

### Neponset Dam Assessment (contd. from page 1)

data. This is a great chance for you, your family and friends to get outside and explore the local area before the snow falls!

For more information, contact Andrew at 781-575-0354 or [leahy@neponset.org](mailto:leahy@neponset.org).



## **BOLD Teens Program**

Find out about BOLD (Breath Of Life Dorchester) Teens, a youth peer leadership environmental health group and DEHC member, by checking out their website, [www.boldteens.org](http://www.boldteens.org).  
If you want to know more: call Bill Loesch at 822-8189, or email [Bill.Loesch@codman.org](mailto:Bill.Loesch@codman.org).

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

The Boston Harbor Association (TBHA) has produced a brochure that provides information about the health hazards associated with eating shellfish gathered directly from Boston Harbor. The brochure is available in Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Vietnamese, Lao-tian, and Khmer. For copies, contact TBHA at 374 Congress Street, Suite 609, Boston, MA 02210, 617-482-1722, or check their website at [www.tbha.org](http://www.tbha.org) to download the brochure.

~~~

MassEnergy Consumer Alliance has a Discount Heating Oil Network that enables members to save \$100-\$300 each heating season with one of their participating oil dealers. Membership is \$15 per year, \$5 for seniors, and free to clients of the state's Fuel Assistance Program. Please visit [www.massenergy.com](http://www.massenergy.com) or call 617-524-3950.

~~~

Skin Deep: How safe are your personal care products? The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics has made available an interactive personal care product safety guide for use online. The searchable database features brand-by-brand safety rankings and in-depth info on 14,000 shampoos, lotions, deodorants, sunscreens and other products from 1,000 brands. Take a toxic tour of your bathroom cabinet and discover what's known about the potential health risks from the personal care products you use everyday, and learn about safer options. Visit [www.safecosmetics.org](http://www.safecosmetics.org).

~~~

*The Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) funds the pilot Dam Assessment Project in the Neponset River Watershed. Please consider using an environmental plate; half of your registry fee will be donated to MET to fund water-focused environmental education and protection programs like NepRWA's Dam Assessment Project. Visit <http://www.massenvironmentaltrust.org/>*

**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.