

September 12, 2012

Dorchester Cares

You know how it is. Two guys get together over coffee and you can make bets on what the topic will be. Well, if those two guys are Tony and Carlos you would lose your money. When Tony Paciulli of Meetinghouse Bank, and Carlos Vargas of Vargas and Vargas Insurance get together there's only one topic, and it isn't sports! It's the neighborhood! And mostly it involves the phrase ... "and what else can we do?"

After their latest get together ideas were flyin'! Tony was thinking that he might like to resurrect an idea that he put in motion several years ago in another neighborhood and of course Carlos jumped on it. Within a couple of days, the thing took shape and in less than a week, it had legs and took off running as a full-fledged project, with Sponsors, Co-Sponsors, a Selection Committee, volunteers and a Media Coordinator.

When it comes to our community these guys waste no time!

Dorchester Cares, (DC) Sponsored by Vargas and Vargas Insurance and Meetinghouse Bank will create a very special day for a needy, elderly or disabled home owner in Dorchester. On October 27th, (rain date, November 3rd) DC volunteers will commit to four to five hours of clean up, yard work, light repairs and general help to a home owner struggling with up keep. Norfolk Hardware has already agreed to provide DC with what they need at cost! What a neighborhood!

Once the word was out there was no stopping the Dorchester community from getting on board. Co-Sponsors already include Frank Baker, City Councilor, Linda Dorcena Forry, State Representative, Carney Hospital, Sibley Construction, Conway Realty, Boston Bayside Properties, Connolly Equipment and Snow Plowing and never missing an opportunity to give back, Cedar Grove Gardens and Lower Mills Web Design. Before the flyer was even finalized ten volunteers had already signed up to do the work!

Anyone can nominate a home owner. The criteria are simple. The property must be located in Dorchester, the owners(s) must be elderly or disabled and the property must be owner occupied. The Selection Committee comprised of Carlos Vargas, Joann Sacco, Julie Joyce and Shelly Goehring will review all nominees and properties, and make a selection based on need. Nominees must be in by sent in by October 8th and the announcement of the recipient will be made October 15th.

Be part of this significant community event. Help your neighbor and help the 'hood. It's a win-win situation. Volunteers, Co-Sponsors, Donors are all needed. Drop by the Meetinghouse Bank or Vargas and Vargas Insurance to pick up flyers, distribute them in your neighborhood and to your local merchants, vendors and friends. Ask your church or other associations if they have a home to recommend.

With an eye toward the future, the DC team is hoping this is a Pilot Program of an annual event, next year selecting perhaps more than one home to assist.

Dorchester Cares is just one more reflection of caring people who populate this community. The snowball effect of this fledgling program is an indication that we are always at the ready with a community spirit that is robust and driven. Dorchester cares and also shares what we have with those who are in need.

SO! Bring your friends. Bring your own special talent, or just lend your time to this very special event. Know that you have not only helped someone in need but that you have added your own personal thread to the fabric, texture and strength of our community.

For more information on how you can help, donate, sponsor, volunteer or nominate please contact Carlo Vargas (cvargas@vargasinsurance.com) or Tony Paciulli (apaciulli@meetinghousebank.com).