

## Activities

### Youth Outreach Program Takes Part in Operation Clean Sweep

Youth Outreach Program played its role in taking part in the city-wide clean up, "Operation Clean Sweep", held on April 28th. Citizens went to work cleaning our city's parks and playgrounds, streets and sidewalks & several trouble spots, which were identified throughout our neighborhoods. Shannon youth did a tremendous job being involved in this great cause!



### Leadership Group Training

The B.M.C. Durfee High School Leadership Group met again over April vacation week to begin planning for the upcoming Peace by Piece Summit and their roles as facilitators and leaders in the breakout sessions at the summit. The group did a great job reflecting on common societal violence scenarios and analyzing their personal reactions to these situations, along with discussing how other youth may perceive them.

The group is continuing to meet weekly in preparation for this event, and they look forward to future events in which this group can play a vital role



### Peace by Piece Summit 2012

The Peace by Piece Summit 2012 is an opportunity to engage the Fall River youth leadership population and beyond to discuss how violence impacts them and their community while discussing action steps to prevent and reduce violence. We will reflect on common societal violence scenarios, and issues of discussion will include bullying, healthy relationships, gang involvement, substance abuse, and more. Discussion groups will be facilitated by youth leaders and supported by professionals in the field and Violence Prevention Staff. Our goal is to mobilize by connecting and empowering attendees with the resources required to address those issues. We look to develop service learning opportunities surrounding these prevalent issues and creating collaborative solutions for a peaceful tomorrow. All high school aged youth leaders are welcome to attend this free event.

#### Youth Summit Event

May 4, 2012

8:30am Check-In, 9:00am ó 1:30pm

Fall River Government Center

Lunch will be provided.

*To register or for more information, please contact Michaela Gagne Hetzler at [michaelajgagne@gmail.com](mailto:michaelajgagne@gmail.com)*



### Britland Park Clean Up Continues

The CD Rec Youth Outreach Program continued this month to make serious strides in cleaning up Britland Park! great job!



### White Ribbon Ceremony

Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month were both acknowledged in a White Ribbon Day event in the atrium of Fall River Government Center on April 4, 2012.



### Announcements

#### Fall River Shannon CSI Website

Make sure you check out our website at [www.frshannon.org](http://www.frshannon.org)! It provides various information surrounding the Shannon Grant, partner information, a calendar of events, an ongoing blog of activities, and more!

#### BOLD Coalition Sponsors Prescription Drug Take Back

Prescription Drug Take Back ó Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> ó 10:00 a.m. ó 2:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church, 282 Rock St, Fall River, MA

\$10.00 Stop & Shop Gift Certificate for first 200 participants who return 3 or more prescriptions! Everyone is welcome!

#### Governor's Youth Council

*For the past two terms, Fall River has had representation on the Governor Deval Patrick's Youth Council.*

The Governor's Office will be selecting 28 new Youth Council members to represent Massachusetts' 14 counties, two Council members per county. Members serve for 2 years. Youth Council applicants should be passionate, motivated and emerging leaders between the ages of 14 and 20.

To learn more about activities, initiatives and trainings that the Youth Council has participated in please visit [www.mass.gov/governor/youthcouncil](http://www.mass.gov/governor/youthcouncil) or contact Anny Jean-Jacques Domercant at the Governor's Office of Community Affairs (617-725-4020).



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### **April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. To learn more visit the National Sexual Violence Resource Center online.

### **The Vagina Monologues**

On April 27, 2012, The Vagina Monologues were held at Rachel's Lakeside in Dartmouth, a way for Fall River to join the global effort to stop violence against women and young girls. This was a performance and readings of Eve Ensler's critically-acclaimed play. The performance was made possible through the generosity of United Neighbors of Fall River, and proceeds from the night went to benefit the Katie Brown Educational Program.

### **Self-Defense Made Simple Course**

Family Safety Instincts (FSI) Presents: **Self-Defense Made Simple**

-Be aware of basic safety guidelines

-Assertiveness

-Verbal confrontation skills

-Safety strategies

-Physical techniques

-Strike points

-Learn how to avoid dangerous situations

Sponsored by The Fall River Park Advocates

Mon. 4/30, 6pm-8pm at CD REC ó 72 Bank Street, Fall River, MA

Please RSVP to Sandy Dennis: 508-673-2039 or [DENDENLLC@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DENDENLLC@COMCAST.NET)

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### **April's Events**

4 ó White Ribbon Campaign: Mayor William Flanagan to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month, 3:30pm-5pm, Fall River City Hall

4 ó Youth CHOICES Meeting, 3:30pm, Government Center

9 ó Fall River Shannon Meeting, 10am, CD Rec

12 ó Invest in Prevention: Payment Reform Depends On It – *Press Conference and Day of Action*, 10:30am, Massachusetts State House Room 222

16 ó B.M.C. Durfee Youth Leadership Team Meeting/Peace by Piece planning, 10am-1pm, CD Rec

17 ó Massachusetts Department of Child and Families College Fair, 11am-1pm, Holiday Inn ó Marlboro, MA

19 ó Planning meeting for the 100 Best Communities for Young People Competition, 11am, CD Rec

27 ó The Vagina Monologues, Rachel's Lakeside, 950 State Road in Dartmouth, doors open at 7pm, show begins at 8pm, \$10

27 ó 18th Annual "A Wish Come True" Dinner, Venus DeMilo Restaurant

28 ó VOLUNTEER: City Wide Park Clean Ups, 8:30am ó 12:30pm (cook out to follow at Kennedy Park)



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28 ó Children's Museum of Greater Fall River's "An Old Fashion Day of Play", free family event, 10am-2pm, Spencer Borden Elementary School  
28 ó BOLD Coalition Prescription Drug Take Back, 10am-2pm, First Congregational Church, Fall River  
30: Self-Defense Made Simple Class, 6-8pm, CD Rec

### **May's Upcoming Events**

2 ó ADHD ó Triggers to Child Abuse Lecture (\$22), 8:30am ó 1:00pm, St. Vincent's Home, Fall River (508-675-5778)  
4 ó Peace by Piece Summit, 8:30am ó 1:30pm, Fall River Government Center  
12 ó VOLUNTEER: Stomp Out Cancer Walk, Diman Regional High School Track, 10am

*Please check the website for continuous updates for upcoming events at [www.frshannon.org](http://www.frshannon.org), and check out some of our partners' testimonial videos on the individual Shannon partners' pages!*

**\*\*Shannon Partners: Please remember to email Michaela Gagne Hetzler with your updated contact information for the FR Shannon website, a written testimonial, and to schedule a site visit with her if you have not already: [michaelajgagne@gmail.com](mailto:michaelajgagne@gmail.com). Thank you!**