



Boston Neighborhoods

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DORCHESTER

A giant duck will set the tone for festival celebrating beaches

If the sand and water aren't enough to draw people to Dorchester's Malibu Beach, how about a 15-foot-tall inflatable duck?

The duck, named Stormy, will be one of several displays at the first-ever Dorchester Beach Festival on Aug. 16.

The pair behind the event, Savin Hill residents Maureen McQuillen and Paul Nutting, came up with the idea after discussing how underused they found the beaches in Dorchester to be.

After Nutting was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the nonprofit group Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the two started planning in earnest.

The one-day festival will feature, among other

things, a tidal pool stocked by the New England Aquarium with creatures that beachgoers can touch; scavenger hunts led by marine biologists from the state Department of Conservation and Recreation; and, of course, Stormy.

The duck was created by Think Blue Massachusetts, a group that focuses on raising the public's consciousness about polluted storm-water runoff and teaching people what they can do about it.

It's also representative of what McQuillen hopes the festival will be: educational and entertaining.

The festival's organizers have been getting the word out to the community by hanging posters in

businesses and handing out postcards printed in English, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean, and Spanish.

McQuillen wants to involve as much of the community as possible, she said, because since moving to Dorchester from Waltham about four years ago, she has felt so welcome. She hopes that the event will become a continuing part of the local landscape.

"The community response has been really positive and that's rewarding enough for me," McQuillen said. "I hope it can grow into a much bigger festival."

KIMBERLY SANFELIZ ■

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