



The Common Thread

North Quabbin Community Coalition

Working to improve the quality of life in the North Quabbin.

January 2010
Volume 26 Issue 5

427 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331
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www.nqcc.org

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Coalition Meeting

January 15, 2010
9 - 11 a.m.

This Month:

**Differential Response:
The MA Dept. of
Children & Families**

Athol-Orange Elks Club
92 New Athol Rd.
(Rt. 2A)
Orange, MA 01364
Driving directions can be
found at www.nqcc.org

Rebecca's Ramblings

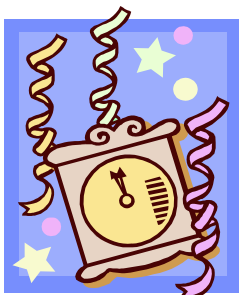
The December meeting of the North Quabbin Community Coalition featured a conversation about public health and flu prevention. As the winter season has begun, the second wave of the H1N1 Flu has arrived in the area. Many have expressed that they don't need to get the vaccine as this virus has already affected the local population, but public health officials warn that a spring wave of the virus will follow. Regional flu clinics are now scheduled locally.

Everyone can lower the risk of getting or spreading the flu by covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, use your inner elbow if a tissue is not readily available. Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth. Wash your hands often and clean frequently touched surfaces with a disinfectant household cleaner. Hand sanitizer is also helpful when water is not available. Keep a distance of 3 to 6 feet from yourself and other people. Stay home if you are sick to reduce your risk of passing the flu to others.

For more information about flu prevention and the H1N1 vaccine please visit www.mass.gov or www.flu.gov. Make an informed decision about protecting yourself and your family.

Rebecca

**Wishing
Everyone a
Safe and Happy
New Year!**



Grand Opening!

Join the **NQ Community Coalition &
the NQ Chamber of Commerce**

427 Main St. Athol

Jan. 15, 2010 from 1-4 pm

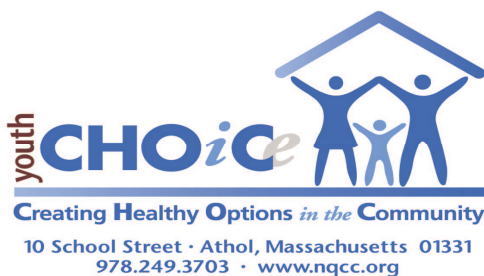
Ribbon Cutting at 2 pm; Light Refreshments will be served

First Call for Help is available to help North Quabbin residents in need of financial assistance with heating costs this winter. Residents in need of heating assistance should contact **Avery Oldach, Resource Specialist** at **(978) 544-8091 x579**. We request that residents in need call First Call for Help so that they may be pre-screened for eligibility over the phone. Arrangements will then be made to meet with staff a person so that necessary verifications can be collected.

First Call for Help/NQ is a information and referral program of Community Action, serving the nine towns of the North Quabbin region. Requests for financial assistance are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and not all applicants will receive assistance. Only complete applications will be screened for program eligibility.

Recent Donations

**Cornerstone Insurance Steve & Ruth Penka Maria & Richard Rodman
Tom Wolff, PhD**



Upcoming Work Groups:

Parental Attitudes Group: 1/26

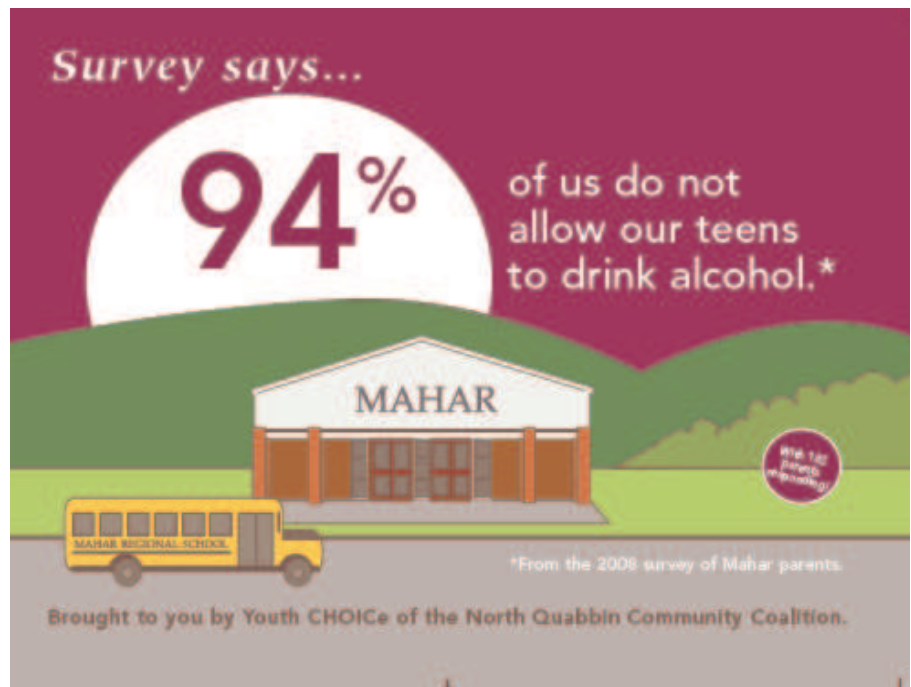
10:30 am at 423 Main St. Athol

Laws & Norms Group: 12/19

3 pm at Dial Self, 18 E. Main Orange

Youth Rewards Group: 1/7

10 am at Mahar Reg. High School



The Time Bank now has 113 members and we have **two new coordinators: Betsy Ames and Sharon Wachslar** of Wendell have **joined Amber Ortiz** of Orange in taking the Time Bank in exciting new directions. **Start following our blog** at <http://nqtimebank.blogspot.com> **Upcoming Events:** Our next **potluck** will be **Thursday, January 21 at 6 PM** at the YES Biz Office (26 South Main St., Orange, a wheelchair accessible location). *Snow date: Thurs., Jan 28.* Please bring a dish to share -- if you're a member, you'll **earn a time dollar** for doing so! FMI: Amber at amber@yes-inc.org or 978-544-1869. **We've got other great events in the works**, including the next **Community meal** on **Thursday, Jan. 21**, and so much more! **Check out our website for further details.** **February: Pet-Care Meet, Greet & Treat!** We're **looking for an Athol locale** (ideally, where well-mannered pets would be welcomed) for an event for those providing and seeking pet-care services to get to know each other. If you have location ideas, please contact Amber amber@yes-inc.org or 978-544-1869. **March: Childcare Meet, Greet, & Eat!** A potluck in Wendell for those offering or seeking childcare services to meet each other, build trust, schmooze, and enjoy delicious food. Watch the blog for details.

Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol is offering a free Basic Literacy Tutor Training at Athol Town Hall, Lower level, Classes: Saturdays, January 16, 23, and 30, 2010; 10 am – 4 pm; Orientation to be announced. Snow date: Saturday, February 6, 2010; LVOA is a Non-profit, Free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring service offering Reading & Writing, GED preparation, Citizenship and English for Speakers of Other Languages. For more information and to register please call (978) 249-

Flu Clinics:

Regional Flu Clinics will provide the H1N1 Vaccine at the following dates and locations:

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010: Athol Royalston Middle School Pleasant St. Athol 9—2

Open to ages 2 and up , 17 and under must be accompanied by parent/guardian.

Clinic is free regardless of insurance status

Please bring insurance cards with you if you are insured.

Seasonal and Pneumonia vaccine also available.

Athol Board of Health for more info. (978)249-7934

Orange Armory, East Main St. Orange Jan. 18

Call Orange Board of Health for more info (978)544-1107

Starry, Starry Night: December 31, 2009: Ring out 2009 and ring in 2010! Come to see a wide variety of free entertainment from magic to music. Fun for the whole family. Starting at 6 pm and continuing through the fireworks display at 10:15 pm. Join the fun in the center of downtown Orange. Maps and venue schedules available at many local retailers or visit www.townoforange.org for details.

Volunteers Wanted to help persons with disabilities live more independently. NO HANDS ON CARE. Help people hire and manage their personal care assistants (PCA). For more information contact Franklin County Home Care's PCA program at (413) 773-5555, 978-544-2259 info@fchcc.org Read more at www.fchcc.org

The Elder Protective Service Program at Franklin County Home Corp. covers all of Franklin County and the towns of Athol, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston in Worcester County. Our program investigates reports regarding elder abuse, neglect and self neglect for people who are 60 and over. Additionally as needed, our program will provide support to elders in need. People can call in a report at 978-544-2259, 413-773-5555 and the Elder Abuse Hotline after hours and on weekends at 1-800-922-2275. Also we are available to provide information and discussion about our program to agencies and organizations that come into contact with elders. Please call Linda Puzan, Director of the Elder Protective Service Program if you would like to set up a time to discuss our program or to learn more about the Elder Protective Service Program at Extension 2213.

G R E A T E R



G A R D N E R

Greater Gardner
Community Development
Corporation

"The FTHB class is just what I needed. It's given me a reason to think of things that otherwise wouldn't make sense to me. I am glad I did and I think everyone needs to take this course."

Course Graduate

Greater Gardner
Housing Resource Center

*Your Information Source
for Housing Programs
and Services throughout
Greater Gardner*

Located at the CDC
in downtown Gardner

246 Central Street
Gardner, MA 01440
978.630.2975
Fax 978.669.0099
info@ggcdc.org

Are you dreaming of owning your own home?

*Big dreams need planning!
It's never too early to start.*

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER COURSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH & 23RD, 2010

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM *(Please arrive 15 minutes early)*

(Must attend both sessions)

Greater Gardner CDC
246 Central Street
Gardner, MA 01440

This workshop will help you answer such questions as

Where do I start?

Am I financially prepared?

How does the home buying process work?

This **First-Time Homebuyers Course** leads to a certificate required by many financial institutions. Cost of the 2-part course is \$50.00 per household.

Call the Greater Gardner CDC to register now!

978-630-2975

Funded in part by Community Development Block Grant funds administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development through the City of Gardner and charitable foundation grants from Bank of America, Citizens Bank Foundation, TD Bank, Wells Fargo Foundation and The Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is always the third Friday of the month prior to the upcoming newsletter. This is a community newsletter so your input, advertisements and announcements etc... are **always** welcomed and encouraged.

Federal Government

(for the North Quabbin Region)

U.S. Senator John Kerry (413) 785-4610

Fed. Bldg, 1550 Main St., Springfield, MA 01101

Website: www.kerry.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Paul Kirk (617)565-3170

2400 JFK Federal Building, Boston MA 02203

State Government

(for the North Quabbin Region)

Governor Deval Patrick (617) 725-4005

Office of the Governor

State House, Room 360, Boston, MA 02133

Email: GOffice@state.ma.us

Senator Stephen Brewer (617) 722-1540

Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, Athol

State House, Room 109B, Boston, MA 02133

Email: stephen.brewer@massmail.state.ma.us

Senator Stanley Rosenberg (617) 722-1532

Wendell, Erving, New Salem

State House, Room 320, Boston, MA 02133

Email: StanRosenberg@state.ma.us

Rep. Chris Donelan (978)-544-2180

Erving, Orange, Athol, Warwick

186 Walnut Hill Rd., Orange, MA 01364

Email: rep.christopherdonelan@hou.state.ma.us

Rep. Anne Gobi (800) 650-4624

Petersham, Phillipston

State House, Rm. 473F, Boston, MA 02133

Email: Rep.AnneGobi@hou.state.ma.us

COALITION MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Coalition is open to all agencies, religious communities, business and industry, government officials, civic groups and other interested individuals and organizations. The Coalition holds monthly meetings (the third Friday of every month except July & August) on relevant topics, facilitates monthly task forces on critical local issues, publishes a monthly newsletter, provides resource materials, networking services and advocacy efforts on behalf of Coalition issues. The North Quabbin Community Coalition is an affiliate of Valuing Our Children. The Coalition is funded in part by the generous contributions of members; the Department of Children & Families' Community Connections; the Central Mass. AHEC; UMass Medical School MASS AHEC Network, Community Coalition for Teens DFC Mentoring Grant; the Boynton Fund and the Athol-Royalston Regional School District.

NQCC Advisory Board

Charlie Winters (President) - Athol Area United Way
Shirley Hebert - (Vice-President) Comm./Business Rep.
Jeanette Robichaud—(Treasurer) Athol Area Y.M.C.A.
Fran Gromelski- Community Transit Services
Donna Liebl - Franklin County Home Care Corp.
Kathleen Hardie - Valuing Our Children
Sharon Tracy - Quabbin Mediation
Frances Graziano - A-R Comm. Partnerships for Children
Pat Roix - Community Representative
Chief Tim Anderson - Athol Police Department
Pat Moore - Community Rep.
Steve Raymond - North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce
Steve Penka - Athol Memorial Hospital
Chief Brian Spear - Orange Police Department
Michael Truckey—Franklin Hampshire Career Center

Task Force Mtg. Schedule

DENTAL TASK FORCE

Wed. Jan. 13 @ 12 Noon at NQCC Office,
427 Main St., Athol

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wed. Jan 20 @ 5 p.m. at the NQCC Office,
427 Main Street, Athol

YOUTH POLICY BOARD (YPB)

Thurs. Jan.21 @ 10 a.m. at Mahar Regional High School

NQ System of Care (Children 's Behavioral Health Initiative)

Mon. Jan. 25 @ 10 a.m. at Athol Memorial Hospital



**NORTH QUABBIN
COMMUNITY COALITION**
427 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331

Mission Statement

**The North Quabbin Community Coalition
is a community-wide alliance committed to
improving the quality of life for all those living
and working in the North Quabbin region.**