



# The Common Thread

**North Quabbin Community Coalition**

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

**March 2010  
Volume 26 Issue 8**

427 Main Street

Athol, MA 01331

Ph: (978) 249-3703

[www.nqcc.org](http://www.nqcc.org)

Info@nqcc.org

Rebecca@nqcc.org

**Coalition Meeting**  
**March 19, 2010**  
**9 - 11 a.m.**

*This Month:*

**Youth CHOICE:**  
**A Community Action Plan for Substance Abuse Prevention**

Athol-Orange Elks Club  
 92 New Athol Rd.  
 (Rt. 2A)  
 Orange, MA 01364

Driving directions can be found at [www.nqcc.org](http://www.nqcc.org)

## Rebecca's Ramblings

The recent forum hosted by the North Quabbin Community Coalition featured a presentation by Director Jeanette Robichaud on the History and current programs offered by the Athol Area YMCA. The YMCA was established first in England with the first United States Y being founded in 1851 in Boston, Mass. The Athol Area YMCA was founded in 1859 and the local Y is celebrating 150 of service the North Quabbin region. The Current site began with the cornerstone being laid in 1911 with land and funding donations provided by Leroy Starrett. In 1918, Johnny Johnstone became the Director of the Y and held that position until 1971. Even after "Retirement", Johnny stayed on until his passing in 1982. Joe Hawkins was the Director from 1971 until his retirement in 2007. Great community traditions can be traced back to the early history of the Y, with Camp Wiyaka bring built in 1921 and events like the Hatchet Hunt starting in 1922. The Athol Area YMCA now has 62 staff a 21 member volunteer Board and over 150 program volunteers. Last year the Y distributed over \$72,000 of assistance to local families to provide membership and camp scholarships.

The Y has long served the community as a resource offering a wide variety of services and programs. The Y currently offers many types of youth sports activities, after school arts and recreation programs, a child care center, pre-school nursery program, both residential and day camp during the summer months, adult fitness, swimming and 20 men's residence rooms. Anyone who has not been to the Y lately, has not been to the Y. The many invaluable resources offered to the community by our local YMCA should not be taken for granted. The rich history of our local Y has set a great foundation for the future and continued growth as a community treasure.

*Rebecca*

## 7th Annual Food-A-Thon

**Tuesday, April 13th - From 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

Donate any non-perishable food items or any amount of cash! Every penny benefits 6 local organizations providing community meals and/or have a food pantry serving residents of the North Quabbin. For more information call Rick Kwiatkowski (978) 544-1100 x107 To volunteer, call Carol Courville at A.O.T.V. (978) 249-4470. Proceeds benefit: Franklin County Community Meals Program, Saint Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Church, Salvation Army, Athol Four-square Church, Good Neighbors Food Pantry and Our Lady Immaculate Church.

## Recent Donors

Shirley Hebert Janet Kraft Dr. Wayne Miller Joe Hawkins North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy  
 Berkshire Children and Families Franklin Regional Housing & Redevelopment  
 Gardner Visiting Nurse Association Franklin County CDC Higgins-O'Connor Funeral Home  
 MOC Community Partnerships & Parent Child Home Program The Village School  
 The Association for Community Living Young Entrepreneurs Society North Quabbin Woods  
 Franklin County Community Meals Valuing our Children



### Upcoming Work Groups:

**Parental Attitudes Group:** 3/16

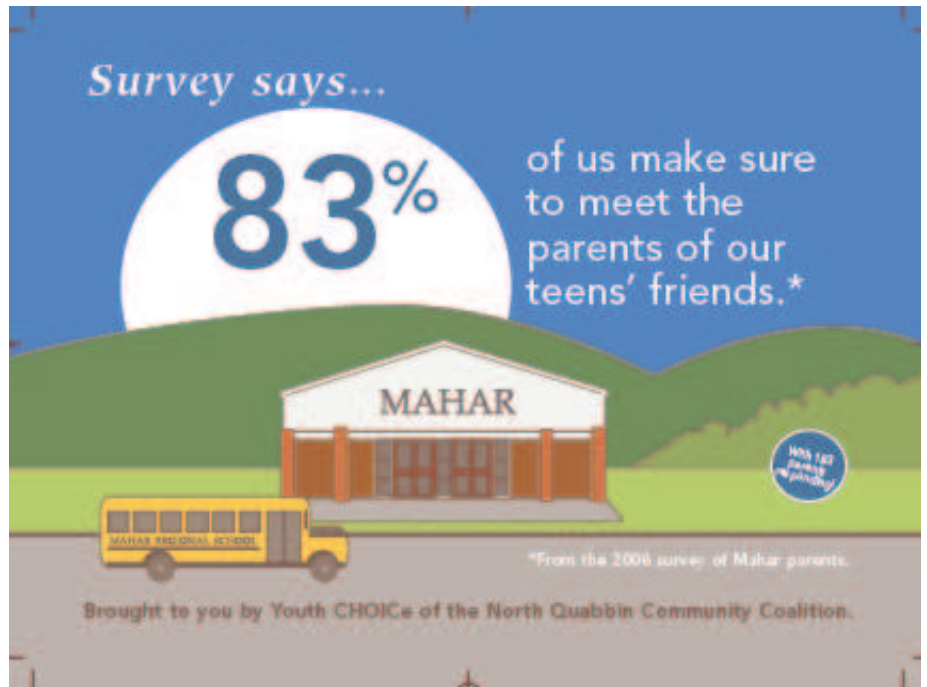
10:30 am at 423 Main St. Athol

**Laws & Norms Group:** 3/16;

3 pm at Dial Self, 15 E. Main  
Orange

**Youth Rewards Group:** 3/11

10:00 am at Mahar Reg. High



### Spotlight on Youth

The Youth CHOICE Project has begun a new Youth Recognition Effort to highlight the positive power of youth in our Community. Anyone interested in nominating a young person for the monthly Spotlight Award, can e-mail [jennifer@nqcc.org](mailto:jennifer@nqcc.org) or call the Coalition office at (978)249-3703 Ext. 302 to tell us why. Any young person or group of youth from the nine-town region is eligible, just let us know how to reach them (and their parent/guardian) and how they have contributed to improving the quality of life for the North Quabbin Community.

### *The North Quabbin Home, Living and Energy Expo*

Join the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce for the annual event on **March 20 from 10—5 at Athol High School**. Many local vendors and demonstrations will be scheduled throughout the day. Door prize drawings all day! Food concessions available. For more information or to secure a booth space, call the Chamber at (978)249-3849 or send an email to [nqcc1@verizon.net](mailto:nqcc1@verizon.net)

## Athol Bird and Nature Club Events

**Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m. Bears of Massachusetts:** Our regular monthly meeting at the (100 Main St., Athol) features wildlife biologist Ralph Taylor, who will discuss the black bears in Massachusetts and human confrontations with them. How common are black bears in our area? What draws them to our town? Can we learn to live at a respectful distance from these large, furry neighbors? The manager of the Connecticut Valley district of the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Belchertown, Taylor will help us understand those questions.

**Sunday, March 28, 8 a.m. Lovely Weather for Ducks:** Meet Jeff at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, and then head out as he searches for winter ducks in some choice locations. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

**Tuesday, April 13, 8-10 a.m. Accessible Birding with Joe:** Join Joe Superchi on the second Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

**Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m. Birds of Harvard Forest:** Our regular monthly meeting, *co-sponsored with Harvard Forest and held at the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum 324 N. Main St. (Rte. 32), Petersham*, features outstanding photographs by Brooks Mathewson, who over the last two years has captured images of almost all the bird species which breed at Harvard Forest. Mathewson will also discuss recent conservation research involving many of the species, while giving the audience a chance to view close-up images of these forest birds. See his work at [www.AvianArtImages.com](http://www.AvianArtImages.com).

**Saturday, April 24, 10-11 a.m. Fascinating Frogs!:** Join educator Rachel Roberts at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, for a program focusing on the fascinating life cycle of frogs. FREE and geared towards families with young children. *This program is supported in part by a grant from the Athol Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.* To register or for more info, contact Rachel at [robertsrml@verizon.net](mailto:robertsrml@verizon.net) or 413-774-7290.

**Sunday, April 18, 7 a.m. "Early Bird" Birding with Jeff:** Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

**The Women's Care Coordination program from Franklin County Home Care** provides free health screenings to women age 40-64 who are uninsured or underinsured and living in Franklin County or the North Quabbin area. Please contact Ms. Terrie Edson, program director, for more information. 978-544-2259 or 413-773-5555 or [info@fchcc.org](mailto:info@fchcc.org)

**Child and Family Service is now CHD...** In July 2008, Child & Family Services merged with Center for Human Development (CHD). In the North Quabbin, the CHD Outpatient Behavioral Health site is located at 131 West Main St. Orange at the Orange Innovation Center. At CHD—North Quabbin, a wide array of services is offered including expanded service hours, increased prescribing services, newly renovated space and over 450 hours of service each month. For more information about any of the services or groups offered, call Cathy Sickles, at (978)544-2148.

# North Quabbin Healthy Smiles Family Fun Day Participation Registration

The Event is rain or shine!

Please return/respond by March 30th, 2010:

MOC Community Partnership/Athol  
423 Main Street  
Athol, MA 01331  
Tel. (978) 249-7661

Orange CPC  
75 Dexter Street  
Orange MA 01364  
978) 544-1124

YES! We would like to participate in the Family Fun Day on Saturday, May

8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Athol-Orange Elks Lodge. This event is being co-sponsored by the MOC Community Partnership Athol and Orange Community Partnerships for Children , and the North Quabbin Community Coalition

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity or Display: \_\_\_\_\_ Your alternative plan (In case of rain): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Set up time is from Friday 5-8 PM and Saturday morning from 8-10 AM**

How many people are you bringing with you (including yourself)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Items you will need to bring:** Tape, trash bags, materials for your activity. Should you need a TV/VCR for your presentation, please bring them along, but let us know ahead of time to assign you to a location with an electrical outlet. Should you need water, let us also know ahead of time. Thanks!

## **Lunch will be provided for the volunteers!**

**The Desmond Callan Community Health Center Dental Expansion is underway!** With a planned completion Spring 2010 the expansion will offer two more dental chairs, a panoramic x-ray unit, improved dental lab facilities, larger waiting area for patients, which all means we can help more people with their dental needs in a more comfortable and better equipped environment! This expansion will also provide additional space to enhance our Behavioral Health area and allow us to upgrade the entire office for the eventual conversion to electronic medical and dental records in 2011. Open House invitations will distributed upon full completion of the expansion.

We are also welcoming to the Desmond Callan site Dr. Flora Sadri as she expands her hours to see patients in Orange and Diane Grasso, FNP starting in March 2010! Dr. Sadri is board certified in family medicine and has been delivering quality healthcare to our local community since 2004. She is accepting new patients of all ages at the Desmond Callan Community Health Center. Dr. Sadri is an experienced doctor committed to serving our community in a caring atmosphere.

Diane Grasso, FNP received her Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and has been delivering quality healthcare in our local community since 2005.

Both Dr. Sadri and Diane Grasso, FNP are accepting new patients of all ages at the Desmond Callan Community Health Center, 450 West River St. Orange, MA (978) 544-7800.

## Scrabble Tournament

Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol is hosting a Scrabble Tournament Saturday, March 6 at Liberty Hall at the Athol Town Hall from 12:45 pm to 4:00 pm . Three Scrabble games will be played, with 15-minute intervals between games. Pre-registration is encouraged. Admission is \$10.00 per adult player (19 and older) and \$5.00 per student player (18 and younger). Trophies will be awarded in the following categories: Highest total individual score, Second highest total individual score, Third highest total individual score, Best scoring single word score, Highest total individual score Junior Division. There will be a door prize, a coffee can auction, and a snack bar. Call 978-249-5381 to register. All proceeds will benefit Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol (LVOA), a non-profit organization that provides free, private, confidential, student-centered instruction in basic reading and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for adults and out-of-school youth in Athol, Orange and surrounding areas.

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**Narragansett Area Little League:** NALL is looking into the possibility of starting a challenger division in our league this season. We are currently trying to determine if we would have enough players for this division. Little League's Challenger Division was established in 1989 and aims to give mentally and physically challenged boys and girls the opportunity to enjoy the full benefits of participation in a Little League program structured to their abilities. The Challenger Division accommodates participants ages 5 to 18, or anyone still enrolled in high school. In addition to learning the game of baseball, the value of the Little League Challenger Division is found in the proven therapeutic and socialization benefits of participating in sports; the strengthening of participants' self-esteem; and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. The Challenger Division provides the framework so that Little League programs may offer a structured, athletic activity for all youth in their community. Playing with the same uniforms and equipment on the same fields, Challenger Division participants have the opportunity to experience the joys of pulling together as a team, being cheered, and earning awards for their achievements. If you have a player or know of a player who would be interested in participating in this division, please contact league President Gretchen Haibon - [haibon@comcast.net](mailto:haibon@comcast.net), or Carla Charter - [cifreelancewriter@earthlink.net](mailto:cifreelancewriter@earthlink.net)

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual DIAL/SELF Badminton Bash: Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, *(snow date April 7<sup>th</sup>)*

### Forslund Gym at Northfield Mt. Hermon School, Tournaments at 9am, 12pm, or 3pm

DIAL/SELF is pleased to announce that online registration for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual DIAL/SELF Badminton Bash is now open! Teams of three can register to play in one of three tournaments to benefit the community services programs of DIAL/SELF, including the RISE program, the ACT Volunteer Center, and the YouthServe AmeriCorps program. Trophies will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place as well as Wild Card categories such as extraordinary effort, best costuming, best team cheer, and most improved.

Please visit <http://www.dialself.org/bash2010.html> to learn more and to register!

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### The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is pleased to announce the following grant

**application cycles for 2010. Activation Fund:** Letters of Intent due: April 30, 2010; Applications invited: June 17, 2010; Applications due: August 16, 2010; Grant awards: September 16, 2010; **Health Care and Health Promotion Synergy Initiative:** Letters of Intent due: August 2, 2010; Applications invited: September 16, 2010; Applications due: November 1, 2010; Grant Awards: December 9, 2010.

Please visit the Foundation's website ([www.hfcm.org](http://www.hfcm.org)) to review the guidelines for each of these grant categories. Contact Elaine Cinelli at [ecinelli@hfcm.org](mailto:ecinelli@hfcm.org) or 508-438-0009 x26 to discuss your proposed project.

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**KEYSTONE TRAINING**

Do you wish you knew more about land conservation, forestry, and wildlife management options?

Are you a town board member or official, or active in your community in some other way?

The Keystone training selects and educates forest owners and community leaders who play an active role in their communities. The program offers participants information about forest ecology, sustainable forest management, wildlife habitat enhancement, and land protection through a combination of lectures, field trips, discussions and take home resources. In return for the 3-day training and take-home resources, graduates of the program, called Keystone Cooperators, agree to return to their communities and advance forest conservation through a project of their choosing. This year's training will be held April 15th - 18th, 2010 at the Harvard Forest in Petersham. The Keystone Project is a competitive program. Applicants can either own forestland, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an involved community leader. This year we are particularly interested in applications from municipal officials. Download an application for the Keystone Project annual training using the following web address: [masskeystone.net/apply/index.html](http://masskeystone.net/apply/index.html) **Application deadline is March 1, 2010.** Learn more about this excellent learning opportunity at [masskeystone.net](http://masskeystone.net), or contact Paul Catanzaro, Forest Resources Specialist at UMass Amherst, at [cat@umext.umass.edu](mailto:cat@umext.umass.edu) This year's Keystone Project training is made possible through the generous support of Congressman John Olver and USDA Extension.

**North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce  
Executive Director Job Posting**

The North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce seeks a dynamic Executive Director

An innovative and outgoing individual sought to act as primary advocate for a 200+ member organization. Candidates should have proven leadership skill to develop, plan, and direct all activities of the chamber in partnership with staff, the Board, and volunteer committees. The ideal candidate will possess superior written and verbal communication skills, strong financial management experience, and a genuine interest in being actively engaged in the community.

The Executive Director works for the membership of the Chamber and reports to the Board of Directors. Successful candidates will also possess strong public relations skills, experience with government affairs, and be an experienced leader of both staff and volunteers.

Qualifications:

- College degree preferred; Any combination of experience and/or education that supports the knowledge and skills required.

- Successful tenure in a leadership position with staff management experience
- Exceptional interpersonal skills
- High energy, drive, integrity and sincerity
- Superior written and oral communication skills
- Strong fiscal management skills
- Knowledge of the 9-town NQ region (Athol, Orange, Erving, New Salem, Wendell, Warwick, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston)
- Goal oriented with a proven history of meeting annual performance benchmarks
- A self-starter with the initiative and ability to effectively handle multiple, complex tasks and collaboratively solve problems
- Advanced computer skills with Microsoft Office Word, PowerPoint, Outlook and Microsoft Excel, QuickBooks

Resume and cover letters are accepted until the position is filled. Anticipated start date is July 1, 2010. Salary range \$25,000 - \$35,000

Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter *in word document format* via email to [info@nqcc.org](mailto:info@nqcc.org) or by mail in a sealed envelope to **NQ Chamber of Commerce, marked Attention Search Committee; Personal & Confidential , 427 Main St. Athol MA 01331.** No phone inquiries please. EOE/ADA

Jay Deane, Board President, Search Committee Chair

## 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](http://www.kerry.senate.gov)

**U.S. Senator Scott Brown**(202) 224-4543

Senate Russell Courtyard 1

Washington DC 20510

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

March 10, 2011 427 Main St. Athol

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Wed. Mar 24 @ 5 p.m. at the NQCC Office,

427 Main Street, Athol

### **YOUTH POLICY BOARD ( YPB )**

Thurs. March 18 @ 10 a.m. at Mahar Regional High School

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

Mon. April 26 @ 10 a.m. at the NQCC Office 427 Main St. Athol



**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.**