



October 2009  
Volume 26 Issue 2

# The Common Thread

## North Quabbin Community Coalition

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

10 School Street  
Athol, MA 01331  
Ph: (978) 249-3703

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

Info@nqcc.org  
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### Coalition Meeting

October 16, 2009  
9 - 11 a.m.

**The Children's  
Behavioral Health  
Initiative:  
Massachusetts'  
new approach to  
supporting families**

**Presented by:  
Clinical & Support  
Options**

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

**Driving Directions  
Available at  
[www.nqcc.org](http://www.nqcc.org)**

### Rebecca's Ramblings

The September monthly forum of the North Quabbin Community Coalition was preceded by the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce breakfast. Representative Anne Gobi spoke to the group and highlighted some of the many legislative initiatives directed at providing critical support for small business. Small business is an important part of the local economy and it is imperative that policy at the state level support those efforts.

The monthly forum focus was on identifying and filling gaps in local services which are even more important to area residents when times are difficult. Many services have experienced funding cuts and since July have made many shifts in order to continue to assist people in the most cost-effective ways.

Some changes that affect residents across the community include some programs moving to new space. Community Action of Franklin, Hampshire and the North Quabbin recently consolidated all of their programs into one site at 167 South Main Street in Orange. These programs include: First Call for Help, Healthy Connections, Healthy Families, Fuel Assistance (Franklin County), Youth Programs, WIC and more. The number for local information about these programs is (978)544-8091.

As a result of this move, some new partners have moved into the Patch space at 423 Main Street Athol. These partners include the MOC Community Partnership (previously the Athol-Royalston CPC and the Parent Child Home program). Reach, an early intervention program of ServiceNet has also joined the folks at Patch including Valuing Our Children, The Department of Children and Families and the Department of Youth Services, a case worker from the Department of Transitional Assistance each Wednesday and Mass. Rehab. by appointment. Co-location of such service providers is not only cost effective, but builds stronger relationships as well as making accessing services easier for all those in need. For other changes in local programs, please visit the Resource Directory of the Coalition at [www.nqcc.org](http://www.nqcc.org).

*Rebecca*

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Follow your nose to the **11th Annual Garlic & Arts Festival, Saturday and Sunday October 3 & 4, 2009. Gates open at 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** for those with an appetite for garlic and a passion for fun, at historic Forster's Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange, MA. Festival Admission: **\$5.00 per day for adults, weekend pass \$8.00, kids under 12 free.** Wheelchair accessible parking and facilities, on-site vehicle to transport those with limited mobility. Visit [www.garlicandarts.org](http://www.garlicandarts.org) for past years highlights, directions and pet policy. The 2009 schedule of vendors, music and performances, chef demos, activities, workshops, and all you need to come have a scent-sational time is posted on the website.

### **Celebrate the Harvest**

Sunday October 11, 2009 at Butterfield Park in Orange. Parade steps off at 1 p.m. (Call Ken Reynolds for parade entries.) Fran Flynn Magician shows at 10:30 & 12:30; Country Kimberly Music 11-1; Car Show featuring the North Quabbin Cruisers 7 a.m.—3; Dance Studio Demos at 10:30; Silent Auction by Orange Lions Club; Crafters; Food vendors; Pumpkin Carving and Apple Pie Contests. For more information call Jay at (978) 544-5335 or visit the website at [www.orangebusinessassoc.org](http://www.orangebusinessassoc.org)

### **Athol Bird & Nature Club / Millers River Environmental Center**

**Sunday, October 4, 7 a.m.;** “Early Bird” Birding with Jeff: Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for fall migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

**October 9–13, Overnight Birding Cape May, New Jersey;** Witness the spectacle of hawk migration at this world-famous site, plus shorebirds and sparrows galore. Reasonable group accommodations. Reservations and deposit by October 5. Limited to club members. *Info:* Joan or Larry Duprey, 978-249-4964.

**Saturday, October 10, 8 a.m., Searching the Valley for Sparrows:** Join Jacob Morris-Siegel for a sparrow trip in the Connecticut River Valley. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Center for carpooling or at 9 a.m. at the Norwottuck Rail Trail parking lot on the Northampton sided of Coolidge Bridge *Info:* Jacob Morris-Siegel, [dendroica1@yahoo.com](mailto:dendroica1@yahoo.com).

**Sunday, October 11, 7 a.m.;** “Early Bird” Birding with Jeff: Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for fall migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

**Tuesday, October 13, 8-10 a.m.;** Accessible Birding with Joe: Join Joe Superchi on the 2nd Tuesday of the month visiting local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

**Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.;** Entomologist Eric Eaton author of the Kaufman field guide to Insects of North America will talk about his experience writing this indispensable field guide and some of the interesting insects he has encountered. Eric is a Tucson Resident on temporary assignment at UMass Amherst At the MREC.

### **Recent Donations**

WJDF 97.3 FM      Wal-Mart  
Winniphred Stone    Donna Liebl      Attorney Lynnette Goodnow  
Athol Office of Planning & Development    Franklin County Home Care  
Tony Paoletti, Burbank Real Estate      Cindy Boyle, NWDA Office

## GED Class Openings

The Literacy Project at North Quabbin (formerly The North Quabbin Adult Learning Center) has several openings for students at the Basic Skills, Pre-GED and GED levels. Classes run various weekdays from 10 AM to 2 PM. Students range from 16 years old to adult. Call Julie at (978) 544-8917 to set up a brief intake.

### Office Space for Sub-Let

Nice office space available for sublet in historic building near downtown Orange. Approximately 12' x 15', windows on both West and North sides. Built-in shelves, Internet capacity, phone jacks. Asking \$225 per month. Please call Cathy at The Literacy Project North Quabbin at (978) 544-8917. Available immediately.



### North Quabbin Food Co-Op



Since June, a group of dedicated individuals has been meeting weekly to organize a cooperative that will allow for increased access to fresh, healthy, local food farmed in the North Quabbin area. In the fall we also plan on organizing a monthly bulk food order through the natural foods distributor Associated Buyers.

Weekly produce orders will take the form of a CSA. Each week by Friday you can choose to purchase a half or full share of produce for pick-up the following Wednesday at the Orange Innovation Center. Though you will not know exactly what will be in your share, you can expect a wide variety of fresh produce that is in season. Please see the attached form for more info on the farms we are using to fill our orders and for a further explanation of the "share" system. If you have any questions about ordering, please e-mail or call Amy Borezo at 978-413-6557. You can also visit our blog for more information [www.northquabbinfoodco-op.blogspot.com](http://www.northquabbinfoodco-op.blogspot.com)

**Clinical and Support Options is the Community Service Agency** that serves the North Quabbin Area. Beginning on Jun 30, 2009 we have begun to offer Intensive Care Coordination to youth up to age 20 with a mental health diagnosis/Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). The family works with a Care Coordinator who builds a care planning team for the youth and a Family Partner, through Valuing Our Children, who supports the family during this process. Clinical Support Options and Valuing Our Children work together to provide the Intensive Care Coordination Process. If you have further questions or would like to make a referral, please call 978-249-9490 or contact Sandi Whiteman at 413-774-1000.

### The Fall 2009 schedule for the Wheeler Children's Room follows:

**TUESDAYS 10:30** Rise and Romp Storytime for young children birth to 3 years old. This is a program of handplays, songs, stretches, rhymes and short short stories. After the activity time children will be invited to do a craft or play together as suits their age.

**WEDNESDAY 3:30** After School Story Activity for children 4 years old and above. This is a program of stories and activities including crafts that share a different theme each week.

From mid October through November a series of Monday evening workshops will explore sophisticated picture books including a visit from nationally known author Ann Turner. The culmination of this workshop will be individually created hardbound picture books made by the participants. This activity is intended for those 9 years old and above with each young person bringing an adult of their choice. Registration will be required and limited to 10 pairs so check your Monday evening schedule and watch for further announcements. For more information, call Candace Cross at (978) 544-2495 x103

**Women's Health & Wellness Forum:** A free informational evening for women to improve their health and well being. Wednesday—October 21, 2009, Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, South Main Street, Orange, MA; 6 to 8 pm. Featured Speakers and Topics: Andrea Damour, M.D. — Mysteries of Menopause; Anne-Katrin Weischedel, M.D. — Women's Heart Health; Denise Renzi, OTR/L — Stress Management; Marjorie Sobil, R.D. — Nutrition for Optimal Heart Health. Door prizes, Raffles, Informational Booths, Refreshments, For more information, please contact Tina Kelley, PT at (978) 249-1208; [www.atholhospital.org](http://www.atholhospital.org)

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**Operation Laughter: Comedy event to benefit the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center (MVOC);** Friday October 23 8:30 p.m. at the Gardner American Legion, 22 Elm St. Gardner. Comedy acts include: Johnny Joyce (voted one of Boston's Best 3 years in a row), Larry Lee Lewis (a mix of music and song), and Jerry Caruso (classic comedy performer). Tickets are \$12 per person, \$10 for Veterans, Day of event \$15. Table (8) is \$60, Sponsor includes table and program recognition for \$75. For information or reservations, Call Charles Bollinger (978)632-9601 or e-mail [cbollinger@veterans-outreach.com](mailto:cbollinger@veterans-outreach.com).

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### 2009 PUBLIC SEASONAL FLU CLINICS

**APPOINTMENT ONLY:** Oct. 5, 2009 Orange Armory: 9AM-1PM, Call Orange COA at: 978-544-1113

**No appointment necessary:** October 27, Tuesday: Athol/Orange Elks: 10AM-2PM; October 7, Wednesday: King James Court:(Residents only); November 3, Tuesday: Athol Town Hall : 4-6PM

**Vaccination is recommended for:** All persons age 50 years and older; Women who will be pregnant during influenza season; Persons who have chronic pulmonary ( including asthma), cardiovascular (Except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus); Persons who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus); Health –care personnel; Household contacts and caregivers of children younger than age 5 years and adults 50 years and older, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children less than 6 months; Household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk.

**Please bring all health insurance cards with you to the clinic. Clinics are free regardless of health care coverage. Flu vaccinations available only to adults age 18 and older.**

Adult Vaccine Administrative record forms to bring to the clinic are available at the Athol & Orange Boards of Health & Libraries, YMCA, Healthy Connections and Pequoig Apartments, Council on Aging or the Athol town website: [athol-ma.gov](http://athol-ma.gov)

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**The ATHOL-ORANGE ROTARY CLUB Presents the ANNUAL GOURMET DINNER & LIVE AUCTION** Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Athol-Orange Elks Lodge, 5:30 – Social Hour, 6:30 - Dinner (Auction continues throughout the evening), Tickets \$35.00 per person Available from Rebecca at the NQCC or from any Rotarian.

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Join us as we develop a local community strategic plan to address substance abuse prevention among youth! For this plan to be effective, the whole community needs to participate. The Youth CHOICE project invites you to be a part of one of the working groups addressing the following priorities: Parental Attitudes toward alcohol and drug abuse, Community Laws and Norms and Rewards for pro-social involvement by youth. For more information about how you can be a part of this exciting project, call Jennifer at (978)249-3703 or email her at [jennifer@nqcc.org](mailto:jennifer@nqcc.org)

## LOCAL SERVICES & SUPPORT

**Patch Parents Council:** Open to new members, meets at the Patch Office at 423 Main St., Athol the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5—7 p.m. Light supper and child care are provided. Contact Bette or Heather for more information at (978) 249-5070.

**Free Backpacks** for North Quabbin children ages kindergarten through 12th grade are still available. Please call Patch at (978) 249-5070 for details.

**Community Action! is happy to announce our new North Quabbin location:**

### **167 South Main Street in Orange**

Many Programs Under One Roof to Better Serve the Community:

#### **First Call for Help and Housing Services; Healthy Connections**

(978) 249-8091 or (413) 475-1770

**WIC:**(978) 544-8093 or (413) 475-1775

**Healthy Families and Parent Child Home Program:** (978) 249-7481 or (413) 475-1780

**Child Care Outlook:** (978) 544-8205 or (413) 475-1782

**Fuel Assistance:** (Appointments starting in October) (413) 376-1101 or (413) 376-1102

**Free Tax Assistance:** (With appointments starting in January) Phone number to be announced later



#### **We Need Your Help!**

The Town of Orange needs your donation to complete the Veterans Honor Roll Memorial. The Town has raised \$108601 and is just \$20000 short of reaching the goal. Dedication and unveiling of the memorial at Veterans Park is scheduled for May 30, 2010 as part of the Orange Bicentennial Celebration. If funds are not raised to complete the project by October 31, 2009, the cost will increase and the project will be delayed. The Honor Roll is an important part of Orange history and your donation will demonstrate the community's support and gratitude for local veterans who have sacrificed for our country. Please send your donations to Town of Orange, 6 Prospect St. Orange, MA 01364. For more information, call Rick at (978) 544-1100, or Bob Andrews at (978)544-8558.



#### **On The Home Front: Challenges in Assisting Returning Veterans and their Families**

A free multi-disciplinary conference designed for those who interact with veterans, including law enforcement, emergency services responders, judiciary, attorneys, court personnel, nurses, social workers and school personnel. Wednesday; October 28, 2009 at the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House; Easthampton/Holyoke. Sponsored by NW District Attorney's office. The conference includes a continental breakfast, coffee break, lunch and all conference materials. **Registration is limited.**

**There will be no registrations accepted after October 19, 2009.** A registration form must be filled out for each conference participant. If a participant has a disability and needs special accommodations to attend this conference, please let us know three weeks prior to the conference. Please feel free to contact **Cindy Boyle or Chris Geffin at 413-586-9225** for additional information.

**Child & Family Service of Pioneer Valley (A Program of The Center for Human Development)** has added staff including additional licensed mental health professionals and additional psychiatric nurse services. Many new groups available as well. Most insurances accepted. To make a referral: call Sandy at (978) 544-2148 Ext. 10. For more information about these groups or other services, contact Sandy Mallet or Clinic Director Cathy Sickles, (978) 544-2148.

### **ATHOL: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Town of Athol **CERT Program** is being started because of the need for a well-trained civilian emergency work force. The CERT Program provides for community self-sufficiency through the development of multifunctional response teams who act as an adjunct to the Town's emergency services during disasters. When emergencies happen, CERT member can give critical support to first responders and provide immediate assistance to disaster victims. CERT members can also assist with non-emergency projects and events within the community. Through this unique program, people from the community organizations, business and industry, and town employee groups will become CERT members. They work as team members and perform as individual leaders by directing untrained volunteers in the initial phase of an emergency.

To become a CERT graduate, you must complete the 20 hour Level 1 Course. The course is followed by continuing education programs including annual refreshers. The CERT Program will also offer additional training courses which include, but are not limited to, CPR; Shelter Operations; Advanced First Aid; and other programs that will benefit our CERT members and the community.

#### **Free training!**

Session I – Introduction & Disaster Preparedness; Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Session II – Disaster Medical Operations Part I; Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Session III – Disaster Medical Operations Part II; Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Session IV – Disaster Fire Suppression; Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

at the Athol Fire Station – 2251 Main Street

Session V – Light Search & Rescue; Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Session VI – Disaster Psychology; Team Organization; Course Review & Disaster Simulation

Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Note: Session topics are subject to change based on instructor availability

**(\*All sessions held at Town Hall Except November 5, to be held at Athol Fire Dept.)**

**PLEASE CONTACT Chief Wright IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM**

Email: [atholfd@verizon.net](mailto:atholfd@verizon.net) ; Phone: 978-249-8275 – Leave a voice mail for Chief Wright



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is always the third Friday of the month prior to the upcoming newsletter. Bring it to the monthly meeting, email it or fax it to us. 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)

**Congressman John Olver** (978) 342-8722

463 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Website: [www.house.gov/olver](http://www.house.gov/olver)

## 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: [Sen.StanRosenberg@senate.state.ma.us](mailto:Sen.StanRosenberg@senate.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)

**Rep. Robert L. Rice, Jr.**

(Royalston); State House, Rm. 33 Boston, MA 02133

Email: [Rep.RobertRice@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:Rep.RobertRice@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 Office of Community Programs, Community Coalition for Teens DFC Mentoring Grant; and the Athol-Royalston Regional School District.

## NQCC Advisory Board

**Charlie Winters (President) - Athol Area United Way**  
**Shirley Hebert - (Vice-President) Community/Business Rep.**  
**Jeanette Robichaud—(Treasurer) Athol Area Y.M.C.A.**  
**Fran Gromelski- Community Transit Services**  
**Rev. Harold 'Skip' Lloyd - Athol Congregational Church**  
**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. Oct. 14 9@ 12 Noon at NQCC Office,  
10 School St., Athol

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wed. Oct. 21 @ 5 p.m. at the NQCC Office,  
10 School Street,

### YOUTH POLICY BOARD ( YPB )

Thurs. Oct. 15@ 9:30 a.m. at Mahar Regional High School

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

Mon. Oct. 26@ 10 a.m. at Athol Memorial Hospital



**NORTH QUABBIN  
COMMUNITY COALITION**

10 School Street  
Athol, MA 01331

NON-PROFIT  
PRESORTED  
STANDARD MAIL  
PERMIT #21  
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.**