Dear Readers,

It is officially autumn, although Mother Nature has continued to be a bit moody in her temperatures! Our first forum of the year featured a conversation with Congressman Jim McGovern. He was able to give a brief snapshot of the state of the nation, and hear from constituents and the agencies that serve locally. Many had questions about political priorities and what we can all do locally to support our interests. He encouraged us all to reach out to his office no matter what the concern, and to not hesitate to contact our local delegation as well. Representative Susannah Whipps also attended and echoed the Congressman’s sentiments about their offices being of service and willing to help however they can. The most important message throughout the conversation, whether it is regarding the opioid epidemic, elder services, or healthcare, was that ALL OF US have the power to make our voice heard. It is imperative that people vote and speak out to make sure their priorities are shared with their legislators.

Governor Baker’s recent veto, which slashed the model coalition language from line item 4590-0250 in the MA Budget, took away the NQCC’s core funding. An override has just been approved by the State House, but it still needs to be approved by the Senate. If you would like to help us with a call, letter or email to our Senators, you can find contact info at www.nqcc.org/legislator_directory.html. Thank you for your support!

Because we ran out of time in September, Brian Gordon will now be presenting an Overview of the Quabbin Retreat at our December forum. Happy fall to all, and thank you for all that you do for the North Quabbin! See you in October!

Heather Bialecki-Canning  
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OTHER SUPPORT
Orange Lions Club
Bill Burton
Wayne (Lumphy) Richardson
David Runyan

Have you renewed your Coalition donor/membership?

Click here for a form or to pay through Paypal
Athol Bird & Nature Club October Events

Visit www.atholbirdclub.org for meeting places, more events and info.

Oct. 1: 1-4 pm — Open House at the Millers River Environmental Center - “Birds around the North Quabbin” with Joe Superchi at 2 pm.

Oct. 8: 6 am — Birding Massachusetts South Shore Conservation Area - Join Ernie LeBlanc for this fall birding adventure. Info: Ernie 978-249-4064 or lebroyal@aol.com.

Oct. 11: 10 am – 1 pm — "Rte 2 Geology: The Great Wall of Erving to the Ancient Rift (Jurassic) Valley" - Join Harry Sharbaugh for this virtual geology tour and talk with specimens collected from the area including Gneiss, Schist, Shale, dinosaur tracks, and fossils.

Oct. 17: 7 pm — ABNC Geology Division - Hosted by Paul Kachinsky: This monthly meeting features various topics relative to geology.

Oct. 21: 10 am-1 pm — Tree ID Using Bark and Habitat Clues (Ages 16+) - Join naturalist Nancy Goodman to take a close look at trees and other botanical wonders at Northfield Mountain. For ages 16+. Preregister for this free event by calling 800-859-2960.

Oct. 28: 7 am — Quabbin for Birds - Join Club president Dave Small and Jeff Johnstone for this exploration of a section of Quabbin Reservoir. Preregistration is required as the number of participants is limited. Contact Dave Small at dave@dhsmall.net to reserve your place.

North Quabbin Weekend Happenings!

FRIDAY, September 29 (more online)
~ “Early Bird” Birding with Jeff (Athol)
~ Petersham Friday Market w/ Hillary Chase Performing (Petersham)
~ Tully Lake Campground Welcome Fire (Royalston)

SATURDAY, September 30 (more online)
~ Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction Fundraiser (Petersham)
~ Phillipston Farmers Market (Phillipston)
~ Athol Farmers Market (Athol)
~ Wendell Farmers Market (Wendell)
~ Boot Drive to Benefit Wave Ice Hockey Program (Athol)
~ Erving Fall Festival (Erving)
~ James Franklin Gilman Art Show (Athol)
~ "Wine Cheese and Chocolate, Please!" (Petersham)
~ “Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros” Perform (Wendell)

SUNDAY, October 1 (more online)
~ Open House at the Millers River Environmental Ctr & Bird Program (Athol)
~ 2nd Annual Cupcake Wars (Orange)
~ Craft Day w/ Maggie (Erving)
~ Open Ritual for Mabon (Autumnal Equinox) (Athol)
~ New Salem Harvest Supper Potluck! (New Salem)

Photo Courtesy David Runyan
Valuing Our Children’s Groups

Community Playgroup: Wednesdays 1:00—2:15 pm
Athol Community Elementary School, 1064 Pleasant Street, Athol

Open to all families in the North Quabbin region with children newborn to age 5. Have fun exploring the preschool classroom, art activities, circle time, and more! Use the Main Entrance to the school, sign in, and follow the signs to the Playgroup.

Valuing Our Children Playgroup: Thursdays 10:00—11:30 am
Valuing Our Children, 217 Walnut Street, Athol

Come be a part of our playgroup, which is designed for newborn to pre-school aged children and their parents or caregivers. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate in the playgroup alongside their child as they enjoy free play, art time, and story time! Sometimes we get wet or dirty during playgroup in nice weather, so dress accordingly or bring a change of clothes!

Orange Community Playgroup: Tuesdays 1:00—2:15 pm
Fisher Hill Elementary School, 59 Dexter Street, Orange

Running Tuesdays until May 22, 2018. For more information, call Sally at REACH at 413-665-8717 or Jen at Valuing Our Children at 978-249-8467. There will be no playgroup on October 17 & 31, December 26, January 2, February 20, April 17, and May 8.

Petersham Playgroup: Thursdays 10:00—11:30 am
Petersham Center School, 31 Spring Street, Petersham

This group is open to children from birth to 5 years old with their parents or caregivers. Parents are encouraged to interact with their child while they play, learn, explore, and make new friends! We will enjoy free play, crafts, activities, circle time, and more! This group runs through the school year, but there will be no playgroup on November 23, December 28, February 22, and April 19. If school is canceled or delayed due to the weather, there will be no playgroup. Please use the main entrance and check in at front desk.

Phillipston Playgroup: Fridays 10:00—11:30 am
Phillipston Congregational Church, 60 The Common, Phillipston

For families with children newborn to age 5. Free play, activities, crafts, stories, songs, movement, and more!

More

For more information on these programs, please call Jennifer at Valuing Our Children at 978-249-8467. For information on their story walks and other programs, please visit their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/valuing.children or their website at www.valuingourchildren.org.
3 DAY FACILITATOR TRAINING
NURTURING FATHERS’ PROGRAM

Learn and practice key skills and become acquainted with the Nurturing Parenting Program® Model

Learn from highly experienced facilitators of Nurturing Fathers’ Programs

Participate in Fun, experimental activities that demonstrate how nurturing skills are taught

Understand ways to support families and focus on their strengths

Learn from nationally recognized, experienced facilitators of the father nurturing program

Required to attend this training:

- You MUST be able to commit to attend ALL 3 days - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
- To Register: [Click Here] (Hold Ctrl + click)

October 16th, 17th, and 18th 2017
9:00am – 4:30pm

North Adams Public Library
74 Church Street North
Adams 01247

Parking Available
Lunch is provided
For more info contact
LaWaun Curry
lcurry@familynurturing.org
617-474-1143 x231

FAMILY NURTURING CENTER
200 Bowdoin Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
617.474.1143
www.familynurturing.org

Register NOW!
Don’t Believe the Rumors! The Athol-Orange Elks Lodge is Here to Stay!

THE ATHOL-ORANGE ELKS
92 NEW ATHOL ROAD
ORANGE MA 01364
PRESENTS

COMEDY NIGHT
OCTOBER 21, 2017

BUFFET AND SHOW ONLY $12.50!
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM; 8:00 PM SHOWTIME
FOR RESERVATIONS
21 YEARS AND OLDER!
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OR
STOP AT THE ELKS LOUNGE

ROB STEEN

PHILLIP IS A NATIVE OF NY, PERFORMING AT ICONIC CLUBS SUCH AS DANGERFIELDS, CAROLINES, AND THE NYCC.

PHILLIP ANTHONY

ADULT LANGUAGE AND CONTENT. LINEUP SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

THE NECR FOR YOUR UNIQUE EVENT
413.219.5376
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info@necomedyreview.com
Energy Savings for Seniors

Do you want to save money on your home heating and energy costs? Join LifePath on October 3 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Two Avenue A, Turners Falls or on October 4 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Athol Senior Center, 82 Freedom Street, Athol, to learn how to lower your fuel and electric bills. LifePath will share information with folks age 60+ and their family and/or caregivers about home energy benefits they qualify for that will help them save money, gain access to free or low-cost weatherization programs, and obtain rebates for energy efficient appliances. One-on-one assistance for home owners and renters will be available. For more information or to sign up, visit https://lifepathma.org/events/energy-savings-for-seniors.

New Edition of “The Silverline” Available

One of the most important services that LifePath provides is access to information about issues, programs, and services for elders, caregivers, and persons with disabilities. This is the gateway that, many times, serves to introduce people in our community to the wide variety of resources and support available to elders, persons with disabilities, families, and those helping to provide care. Every two years, LifePath updates and produces The Silverline, a directory and guidebook that collects information on many of these services. To read the new edition of The Silverline, visit https://lifepathma.org/resources/the-silverline-resource-directory-for-elders-caregivers-and-persons-with-disabilities, or call the Information & Caregiver Resource Center at LifePath at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 to request a hard copy.

Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15

If you have Medicare, sometime during the month of September you should have received important information known as an Annual Notice of Change from your Prescription Drug Plan or your Medicare Advantage Plan, HMO (Health Maintenance Organization), or PPO (Preferred Provider Organization). The mailing will explain any changes to your plan in the coming year regarding premiums, drug coverage changes (formulary), providers, and restrictions. It is very important to review the letter to make sure the plan still works for you. Starting October 15 through December 7 is the time when you can join, drop, or change your insurance, and the new coverage will begin on January 1, 2018. LifePath offers much more information at lifepathma.org/news/stories/576-shine-medicare-open-enrollment-begins-october-15-2017 and has state-certified SHINE (Medicare) counselors to help you understand your plan changes, as well as other options you may have. Call early to get a SHINE appointment at 800-498-4232 during Open Enrollment!
Conference and Event Info from the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office

You Lead! Youth Conference for Middle School
A conference for middle school youth and their advisors developed by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) to help support, connect and develop resources for drug free youth. Sponsored by the NWDA, Communities that Care, Gill Montague Community School Partnership, Northampton Prevention Coalition, Easthampton Healthy Youth Coalition, Greenfield Safe Schools Safe Streets, Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region, SPIFFY, South Hadley Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition and Hampshire HOPE. Oct. 17, 8 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Greenfield Community College Registration link under Events at NorthwesternDA.org

6th Annual Safe & Healthy School Summit: Promoting Respect, Civility and Dignity
A conference to explore how to cultivate a respectful school climate -- for administrators, teachers, para-educators, school counselors, nurses, resource officers and other school community members. Sponsored by the NWDA, Collaborative for Educational Services and Communities that Care. Attorney Michael J. Joyce and Psychologist Chris Overtree will present. Oct 26, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz St., $35, lunch provided. Registration at NorthwesternDA.org

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
Help keep unwanted medications out of the wrong hands – and out of the environment. Drop them off at locations throughout Hampshire and Franklin counties and Athol. You can also drop them off anytime at one of the drop-off boxes located at police stations in many communities. Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Check NorthwesternDA.org soon for exact locations.

Pioneer Valley Youth Conference: Youth Connect
Soup & Game Night to Benefit Children’s Advocacy Center
Come support the Children’s Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin at a Soup and Games night at the Hope and Olive Restaurant, 44 Hope Street, Greenfield, on October 2, from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. You’ll enjoy soup, desserts, a few drinks, and play a game (or not!) For more information, contact Irene at info@cacfranklinnq.org or call 508-843-7306.
The Athol Public Library & North Quabbin Energy present
Reverence, Resistance, Resilience film series
At the Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol

Join us for these timely and thought provoking films about climate justice.

**SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, October 11
7:00
Before the Flood

Wednesday, November 1
7:00
Requiem for the American Dream

Tuesday, December 5
6:00
Awake, a Dream from Standing Rock

**FREE ADMISSION**

Made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Athol Public Library

Moderated Conversations to Follow Each Film

Please call 978-249-9515 to reserve your spot!

In collaboration with North Quabbin Energy
www.quabbinenergy.org

More films to come in the spring
Free and Open to the Public
Everyone is welcome

For information:
www.athollibrary.org  978-249-9515
Positions Available with The United Arc

The United Arc provides services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties and the North Quabbin region of Massachusetts. They are hiring for the following full-time and part-time positions in Holyoke, Greenfield, and Turners Falls. Competitive salaries and benefits are offered. Visit http://www.theunitedarc.org/employment.shtml for full descriptions and information on applying.

Community Outreach & Family Support Manager
A passionate team leader to oversee community outreach efforts and supervise Family Support Specialist staff. This position will supervise, train, and support the Family Support staff and manage the overall programs and services by participating in service provision meetings, engaging in outside communication, and ensuring family support service connections.

Family Support Specialist
A spirited team-player for its Family Support Centers in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region. The Family Support Specialist is responsible for community outreach, case management, client-resource connection, etc. This position requires a flexible schedule, and candidates must be able to travel throughout our region.

Adult Services Program Coordinator
A dynamic and team-oriented individual to supervise and support activities of direct care staff; provide leadership and support to inspire staff to reach full potential; be responsible for overall program and well-being of consumers assigned; channel information to other staff and program director; facilitate communication with outside agencies and providers; train new staff; assure that staff attends all mandatory trainings, and maintain all certifications. Accurate record-keeping is a must.

Shared Living Provider
Anyone who would like to include another person in their life, including families with children, retirees, people currently living alone, with friends or with a partner.

Direct Support Professional
Someone with a background in special needs, developmental disabilities, mental illness, or other similar experience. We are looking for a "big brother/sister" type who can provide positive role modeling and skill development 5 hours/week.

Individual Companion
A person to serve as an Individual Companion for a client in its Adult Services Program located in Greenfield.

Community Support Program Coordinator
A person interested in joining a dynamic team committed to supervise and support activities of direct care staff.
Valuing Our Children seeks to hire a full-time Family Support Worker who will provide home visiting and support services to families in the North Quabbin area. Successful candidate will work as part of a team with DCF and other area resources. Knowledge of area providers, excellent communication and collaborative skills and experience in strength based work with families required. Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience in relevant field preferred. Please send resume to Attn: Julie Moschetti, Valuing Our Children, 217 Walnut Street, Athol, MA 01331 or email JulieMoschetti@valuingourchildren.org.

Family Fun Night
The Athol Area YMCA at 545 Main Street, Athol, will be holding a Family Fun Night on October 7 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. There will be crafts, games, open swim, juice & snack, open half gym, coloring pages, scavenger hunt, and give-a-ways! YMCA members’ cost is $10 per family with community members’ cost at $15 per family. Families can order pizza, subs or salads for an extra cost. For questions or more information, call 978-249-3305.

The Literacy Project Seeks an Executive & Development Assistant
The Literacy Project is seeking an Executive and Development Assistant for 15-18 hours per week at $17 per hour with prorated benefits, generally Monday and Friday, with occasional evening and weekend hours. The Executive Assistant is responsible for providing support for the Executive Director (ED) and the Program Director (PD), including but not limited to, data entry for volunteer hours and postings, data entry for development, data entry for SNAP, attending meetings and taking minutes, planning and setting up for agency fundraising events, and updating Constant Contact and Facebook.

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum of two to three years relevant work experience. BA Degree or equivalent. Strong computer skills: demonstrated ability to learn new software and guide others in usage including fundraising software, doodle poll, Survey Monkey, Constant Contact, Access and Excel. Good critical thinking skills. Able to handle multiple tasks in an efficient manner. Excellent organization skills, oral and written communication skills, self-motivated, interpersonal skills and attention to detail. Email resume and cover letter to jobs@literacyproject.org.
ServSafe Food Protection Manager Training

The Orange Board of Health, partnering with the Orange Senior Center, will be hosting a ServSafe Food Protection Manager Training class on October 14 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Orange Armory, 135 East Main Street, Orange, in the senior center dining room. There will be a working lunch time, so please bring your lunch or snack as lunch is not provided. The cost is $125 per person plus $7.95 S&H for the book. Online registration and payment can be made at https://www.hrfoodsafe.com/servsafe-sign-up.php. Use Promo Code: Orange (press the check button to confirm code and make sure Orange is spelled with a capital O) If you have any questions on registration, please contact Bud with HR Food Safe at 855-478-7246.

Seeds of Solidarity Farm Tour

Experience Seeds of Solidarity’s farm, home and education center that integrate abundant no-till and low maintenance gardens, solar greenhouses, energy efficient buildings, and solar electric & hot water systems with founders Ricky and Deb on October 28 at 10:00 am. Learn about Seeds of Solidarity’s youth and community programs that cultivate resilient lives and communities. If you wish, bring a dish for a potluck lunch! The tour is free with no pre-registration and all are welcome. Seeds of Solidarity is located at 165 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange. For more information, visit https://seedsofsolidarity.org.

MOC Child Care - Early Head Start & Head Start Services

The MOC Child Care program is a nationally accredited preschool program for children 3 to 5 years old with a highly trained staff to work with your family. They offer part-day and full-day programs (starting at age 2.9) with nutritious meals provided. Applications are now being accepted for their Athol, Gardner, Winchendon, Fitchburg, Clinton and Leominster sites. Full-day DTA, EEC, DCF and CCR vouchers are accepted and priority is given for children with disabilities. Parents are responsible for transportation and assistance is available to access transportation resources. For more information or to apply, call 1-800-523-6373.

CSO WALK-IN INTAKE HOURS!

MONDAY - FRIDAY
10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.
Insurance Card and Co-pay if applicable needed for intake

491 Main Street
3rd Floor
Athol, MA, 01331
978-249-5490
From Roots to Fruits

Building Resilient Communities Through Prevention
A Prevention Conference Presented by the Gardner Community Action Team (GCAT) & Community Partners


Friday, October 27, 2017 - 8AM-12PM
Mount Wachusett Community College (Multipurpose Room)
Registration is free on EventBrite!
For more information,
GCAT@LUK.org - www.LUK.org/LUKPrevention
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 since 1984.

Congressman James P. McGovern’s Local Office Hours in Athol

Congressman James P. McGovern, serving the 2nd Congressional District, Massachusetts, has announced new local office hours at the North Quabbin Community Coalition, 251 Exchange Street, Athol. Staff will be available on the third Friday of every month from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to meet with you and provide assistance/advocacy with matters pertaining to federal government agencies and to discuss concerns, thoughts or opinions regarding matters pertaining to the federal government. To schedule an appointment or for additional information, please contact Eladia Romero, District Representative at 978-466-3552.