Heather’s Highlights

Dear Readers,

First of all, we would like to start this newsletter by saying THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts! Thank all of you, our coalition member/donors and partners, for your advocacy efforts over the last few months. We received word that our Dept. of Public Health core funding was reinstated in the budget for this fiscal year, after a devastating veto from Governor Baker this past summer. The veto was overridden by both the MA House of Representatives and the Senate. Together we can keep a light on the important work of our rural region and continue to do amazing things!

The NQCC monthly forum in October highlighted the work of Valuing Our Children (VOC). The North Quabbin Patch and the North Quabbin Family Resource Center (FRC) are programs under the umbrella of VOC that help to illustrate the services and practices available. A valuable asset to our community, the goal of the organization overall is to provide family support, advocacy, parenting education, and to meet families “where they are at.” No matter which door a family may enter at VOC, whether the Family Center site at 217 Walnut Street, Athol, or the Patch and FRC at 423 Main Street, Athol, they will be connected to services to help meet their needs. They have staff available to first comprehensively assess the needs of the participant and then to send them to the appropriate resources, whether part of VOC or other community and state partners. For a complete list of programs/groups and contact information for Valuing Our Children, visit them at www.valuingourchildren.org, on Twitter or on Facebook.

Join us in November for our annual Legislative Roundtable Forum, and a chance to participate in the Heywood Healthcare Community Health Needs Assessment currently being conducted. Thank you again for all that you do!

Heather Bialecki-Canning, Executive Director

Next Coalition Forum:

November 17, 2017
9:00—10:30 am
Topic: Legislative Roundtable & Heywood Healthcare Community Health Needs Assessment

Athol-Orange Elks Club
92 New Athol Road
Orange, MA
(Driving directions at www.nqcc.org)

The next newsletter submission deadline is November 21, 2017.
Email details to admin@nqcc.org

Visit our comprehensive North Quabbin Area Community Calendar at nqcc.org/events.html

Like us on Facebook for regular updates!

NQCC
251 Exchange Street
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-3703
www.nqcc.org
info@nqcc.org
Rural communities are wonderful places to live and work, which is why over 60 million people – nearly one in five Americans – call them home. These communities provide the rest of the country with a wealth of services and commodities, and they are the economic engine that has helped the United States become the world economic power it is today. These rural communities also have unique healthcare needs and that is why the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health sets aside the third Thursday of every November to celebrate National Rural Health Day. Find out more at https://nosorh.org.
FREE THANKSGIVING DINNERS
Home Delivered
Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, Wendell

Do you need a hot, home-cooked meal on Thanksgiving Day?
We deliver free to the elderly and home-bound.
Call the North Quabbin Community Coalition
to make a reservation by November 17, 2017.
978-249-3703

Sponsored by the North Quabbin Community Coalition, the Athol Orange Elks, the Pioneer Junior Women’s Club, Athol Credit Union, Heywood Healthcare, and LifePath

~ OR ~

Come and enjoy a free congregate meal with
great company and great food at the
William J. O’Brien Dinner
12:00pm on Thanksgiving Day at the Athol American Legion
(corner of Exchange & Pequoig Streets) Drop-ins are welcome.
Come early and enjoy a cup of coffee. Transportation is available.
For reservations, call the Athol Council on Aging
978-249-8986

Sponsored by local organizations, businesses and North Quabbin residents.
Recovery During the Holiday Season

SATURDAY
November 4
10 AM - 12 PM

Greenfield Public Library
Greenfield Meeting Room
402 Main Street, Greenfield

Join us for a community discussion about supporting individuals in recovery and their allies during the holiday season, which will include information and demonstrations by local wellness providers.
A light breakfast will be included!

info@opioidtaskforce.org | (413) 775-7474
Have You Renewed Your NQCC Donor Status or Joined Us?

As the North Quabbin Community Coalition enters its 35th year, we are in need of your support to continue this important work! Come be a part of our mission.

The Coalition continues to focus on the priority needs of the region by hosting several task force efforts made up of local and regional stakeholders. Currently, we are working on issues of community development for economic strength in our area, children’s health and wellness, behavioral health for all families, transitions from jail to community, as well as substance abuse. The Coalition hosts monthly forums to address community-wide topics and coordinates a newsletter reaching over 1,000 people monthly. Through our online presence, the Coalition hosts a comprehensive resource directory, a North Quabbin area calendar that is updated daily, as well as Facebook updates and a “Weekend Happenings” weekly post highlighting our wonderful region.

You can customize your support dollars by choosing to donate to our general fund (which contributes to task force work, staff time, spotlights on positive work and people in the North Quabbin and Coalition events,) our capital fund (which contributes to the purchase of our building in downtown Athol,) or our Shirley Hebert Strength Through Adversity Scholarship Fund (which provides two scholarships a year to Mahar and Athol High School seniors furthering their education.) Every little bit helps! Thank you for your generous donation to keep the work of the Coalition going strong! Click here to donate through Paypal or use the form below.

Platinum Sponsor .............. $500.00  
Gold Sponsor .................. $250.00  
Silver Sponsor............... $150.00  
Bronze Sponsor............... $100.00  
Supporting Sponsor......... $50.00  
Individual Sponsor .......... $25.00

Please remit payment with the form below to North Quabbin Community Coalition, 251 Exchange Street, Athol, MA 01331.

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Organization: __________________________________________________________________________

Address: (If new address only) ___________________________________________________________________________________

Amount Enclosed: $___________ for General _____ Scholarship _____ Capital Campaign _____

Thank You for Your Generosity!
Save the Date: Greater Quabbin Food Alliance Winter Gathering on 12/05

The Greater Quabbin Food Alliance meets twice a year to connect, network, and work together on issues impacting local farmers, health, food access, and economic development. Ongoing projects include regional efforts to get more local food served at institutions, jump-start more food businesses in our area, support area farmers markets, coordinate efforts to protect farmland and help farmers, and address food access barriers.

Join the Alliance at their biannual meeting at 8:30 am on December 5 at the Orange Innovation Center, 131 West Main Street, Orange. Come share your ideas with the community, learn about local projects, and join a network of farmers, businesses, and organizations working to strengthen local food initiatives. Registration and info can be found at quabbinfoodalliance.wordpress.com.

Want to share a project or initiative you are working on? Consider giving a "Lightning Talk" at the gathering. A Lightning Talk is a quick 5-minute presentation about your organization or a project you are working on related to food, health, composting, business development, education, etc. Please contact Kat Kowalski at 978-248-2055 x29 or farmconservation_americorps@mountgrace.org.
The Literacy Project Seeks an Advisor and Assessment Specialist

The Literacy Project (TLP) is seeking an Assessment Specialist for posting at the Franklin/Hampshire Career Center (FHCC) 14 hours per week. This position is combined with the Education and Career Advisor/Instructor at the Greenfield Literacy Project classroom at 10 hours per week. The combined positions total 24 hours per week.

There is some flexibility in the days of the week and the hours per day. The work location is split between the Career Center location in Greenfield and The Greenfield Literacy Project classroom. The pay rate is $21.00 per hour, plus pro-rated benefits. The start date is as soon as possible.

The Education and Career Advisor/Instructor assists students with employment and college planning, and facilitates connections with community resources. This position works collaboratively with the TLP site staff, as well as with local social service agencies, community colleges and career centers.

Duties include teaching a Career Pathways class that covers workforce readiness, career exploration, job search, college awareness, and workplace contextualized math and English instruction. Additional duties include counseling students on their employment/education goals and facilitating referrals to needed services. This position is located at The Literacy Project in Greenfield.

The Assessment Specialist is responsible for the intake and assessment of adult learners at the Franklin Hampshire Career Center, adult learner counseling, referring learners to next steps such as GED testing or prep classes or other resources, and generating quarterly and annual reports on client statistics and activity.

Qualifications include experience in or willingness to learn ABE assessment and counseling; the ability to communicate effectively; basic computer skills; and good organizational skills. Preferred qualifications include experience with Adult Basic Education.

If interested in this position, please send a resume and cover letter by email to jobs@literacyproject.org with Advisor and Assessment Specialist in the subject line or mail to The Literacy Project, 15 Bank Row, Greenfield MA 01301. A background screening/CORI is required for this position. The Literacy Project is an EOE/ADA employer. Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply.

Orange District Court Monthly Site Visits

The Franklin County Justice Center is now able to implement some off-site support services and will be going to the Orange District Court monthly from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, which will be on the same days that Probate Court goes there. The current dates for these visits are November 15 and December 20. The services will be walk-in, first-come, first-serve, as is the case with their regular services on-site. The Court Service Center assists court users in completing forms and documents, general information regarding court rules, procedures and practices, contact information regarding community resources and legal services, and user-friendly self-help materials. The Court Service Center does not provide legal advice, nor does it facilitate attorney-client relationships. For more information, contact Maureen McMahon, Staff Attorney, at 413-775-7483 x7466.
Confused about the ever changing proposals on Health Care Reform?

Health Care Forum
Monday, November 6, 2017 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Royalston Town Hall

Guest Speakers Include:
- Tina M. Santos, Vice President of Patient Care Services, Heywood Hospital
- Elaine Fiset, President and CEO of GVNA Health Care
- A representative from our legislators (Senators Warren, Gobi, Rosenberg and Reps McGovern and Whips)

- All are Welcome -
Refreshments will be served

Sponsored by the Royalston Democratic Town Committee
(for more info, email royalstonedems@gmail.com)

Soup & Song
A BENEFIT FOR NORTH QUABBIN CITIZEN ADVOCACY

Adults $8, Children under 12 Free

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 | 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Elks Lodge, 92 New Orange Road, Orange

Enjoy an evening of fun, food, and entertainment with delicious homemade soups, breads, and other goodies.
Live musical entertainment featuring local talents including Chuck Berube with Mark Irwin and The Tectonics

Join a Healthy Living Workshop Series
FALL 2017 WORKSHOPS
- My Life, My Health: Chronic Disease Self-Management
- Chronic Pain Self-Management
- A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls

Workshops are free and are open to people with one or more chronic health conditions as well as their caregivers and loved ones. Stay tuned for next season’s offerings!

For more information or to register for a workshop, call 413-773-5555 x2304 or 978-544-2259 x2304, or email mchiaretto@lifepathma.org. For complete list and more details about upcoming workshops, visit LifePathMA.org.
The BIG Read!

Saturday, Nov. 4th
10am-12pm
at The Elks
93 New Athol Rd Orange

Free Books:
- Free gently used books for all ages
- Baby to adult
- Activities for the kids
- Raffle prizes
- Resources and information for families

For more info please call Jennifer:
978-249-8467

Scavenger Hunt
Animal Alphabet Maze
Free Literacy Kit Raffles
Character Photo Booth
Tons of Fun!

This is not a school sponsored event.

Valuing Our Children
The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness’ Secure Jobs Advisory Committee is pleased to offer this opportunity:

“Career Services, Training and Education Resources”
A workshop for providers serving people
at risk or experiencing homelessness

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm

CareerPoint, 850 High Street, Holyoke MA
Paper City Room, 3rd floor

All providers (housing, education, health care, food insecurity, child care, etc.) and state and local agencies are welcome from across the four Western counties.

Come learn about:

- what career services, job readiness, educational assistance and training opportunities are available
- when and where a referral is appropriate
- how to describe to your clients the skills they can gain, including career readiness, English language, internet use

Presenters include: BerkshireWorks, CareerPoint, Franklin Hampshire Career Center, FutureWorks, Way Finders’ Secure Jobs Program.

Please RSVP to Pamela Schwartz, Network Coordinator, at pschwartz77@gmail.com by November 10.

Please visit http://westernmasshousingfirst.org to get connected!
Athol Bird & Nature Club

It’s Membership renewal time! Please consider donating by visiting their website at www.atholbirdclub.org. Also visit their site for meeting places, more events and info.

Nov. 5: 1-4 pm — Open House at the Millers River Environmental Center - Dale Monette book signing at 2 pm.

Nov. 8: 6 pm — Annual Dinner Meeting & “The Majestic Moose” Program - Dinner reservation deadline: Nov. 3 - No reservation needed for the program.

Nov. 9: 8 am — “Accessible Birding with Joe” - Join Joe Superchi in a search for birds at local sites. Open to birders of all abilities.

Nov. 11: 7 am — Birding Plum Island and Vicinity - Search for late fall migrants, then enjoy a warm-up meal and camaraderie at the end of the day.

Nov. 18: 10 am — New England Entomological Society - This meeting is going to be a very exciting day with two speakers, lunch, and an ID session for everyone to participate in.

Nov. 21: 7 pm — ABNC Geology Division - Hosted by Paul Kachinsky. Come join in for this informal evening of exploration and learning.

Fuel Assistance Applications

Available to both homeowners and renters, the Fuel Assistance Program helps income-eligible participants afford their home heating expenses. Program eligibility is determined by family size and gross annual household income.

New England Farm Workers will be at the North Quabbin Patch office, 423 Main Street, Athol, to assist with Fuel Assistance Program applications for those living in Northern Worcester County on the following dates: 11/01, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13 and 12/27. All appointments need to be scheduled through New England Farm Workers at 978-342-4520.

Those from Franklin and Hampshire Counties need to apply through Community Action by visiting http://www.communityaction.us/fuel-assistance.html or by calling them at 413-774-2310 or 800-370-0940.
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 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.

**ACT Group**

A weekly group meeting for men with a history of criminal justice involvement

**Day/Time:** TUESDAYS 1:15pm-2:15pm

**Place:** 251 Exchange St. Athol, MA 01331
North Quabbin Community Coalition Office

Please call Ruben for more information
413-774-4014 ext. 2233
FREE Lunch Provided