Heather’s Highlights

Dear Readers,

This month I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the life and work of a longtime NQCC employee, Jennifer Desjardins, who passed away on March 9, 2019. Jen worked for the Coalition as a Youth Project Coordinator for over 7 years. She was a wonderful team player and always reflected on her own children as she worked to support local youth. Her hope for the NQCC was that we receive the Drug Free Communities grant and increase our capacity to emphasize youth prevention of substance use and connectedness to our shared community. We were very proud to tell her that it came to fruition last Fall. She helped create the structures for our DFC model through her work with the Coalition. Jen left NQCC to work with Heywood Healthcare’s Chart Program and was most recently a DCF social worker for the Greenfield Area Office. No matter her role, she brought compassion and an infectious smile to the work of improving the quality of life of all she served. We were grateful to have her on our team and will miss her but we will carry forward her impacts.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we invite you to enjoy a cup of coffee in our conference room in memory of Jen! Thank you for all you do!

Heather

Heather Bialecki-Canning
Executive Director
Our FY19 Donors

**PLATINUM PLUS SPONSORS**
- Athol Daily News
- Athol Orange Rotary Club
- Community Action
- Heywood Charitable Foundation

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**
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- Rebecca Bialecki

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- Valuing Our Children

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- Pete’s Tire Barn
- Pioneer Junior Women’s Club
- Salvation Army Corp of Athol
- Jesse Sawin
- Kay Sheekey
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- SMallet Photography

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**Amanda Mankowsky**
Youth & Family Engagement Coordinator

**Sarah Collins**
Drug Free Communities Coordinator

**Katrina Burton**
Project Assistant

---

251 Exchange Street, Athol, MA  01331
978-249-3703 ~ info@nqcc.org

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Save the Date

**June 21, 2019**

**NQCC Annual Luncheon**

All Donor/Members are listed in our annual report distributed to Luncheon attendees!
Barbara Corey Award Nomination

The 22nd Annual Barbara Corey Award will be presented at the annual luncheon to be held on June 21, 2019. We are asking for nominations for this important award. The award is named for Barbara Corey, the first coordinator of the Coalition from 1984 until her retirement in 1997. Barbara embodies the spirit of the Coalition because of her passion, her values, her commitment to humanity and her love of the North Quabbin region. The award is presented to someone in the North Quabbin Community who has gone above and beyond in their commitment to improving the quality of life for those living and working in the region.

I would like to nominate: ____________________________________________

For the following reasons: __________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please return nomination forms by **May 8, 2019** to:
heather@nqcc.org
Or by mail to NQCC, 251 Exchange Street, Athol MA 01331
Or by fax to 978-575-0474
March 29, 2019

Dear Neighbors and Friends:

The North Quabbin Community Coalition is once again launching its annual campaign to become a Member/Donor and Supporter of our work to improve the quality of life for those living and working in the North Quabbin Region. The region includes Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, New Salem, Warwick, Wendell and Erving.

Your support is absolutely critical for the North Quabbin Community Coalition to both respond to the needs and celebrate the strengths of our shared community! Now 34 years old, the Coalition has increased its capacity to impact our region and maintains functions such as:

- Advocating for resources and maintaining collaborations to benefit the entire community locally, across Massachusetts, and nationwide.
- Host agency for the the North Quabbin Recovery Center which is devoted to providing a safe and compassionate space to offer peer support and allow multiple paths of recovery for all.
- Home of the North Quabbin Drug Free Communities Project which focusses on prevention and on delaying the age of first use for youth across the nine towns.
- Promotion of the North Quabbin voice and needs in collaboration with the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region, the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, the Children’s Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin, the Department of Children and Families Greenfield Area Office, and the Department of Transitional Assistance Greenfield Area Office.
- Hosting the North Quabbin Loan Fund Review Committee which helps provide outreach to small businesses and the resources needed to create and retain jobs locally.
- Manages a web-based, comprehensive guide for all local resources through the NQCC Resource Directory, as well as the North Quabbin Woods site focused on recreation and leisure in our beautiful region.
- Promoting access to quality health care, offering referrals to financial counseling/credit repair services, as well as other critical services needed locally.
- Providing community meeting space to the Girl Scouts, the North Quabbin Childcare Association and many others.
- Educating the community about child sexual abuse prevention as the western Massachusetts hub for the Enough Abuse Campaign and offering the Second Step “Talking About Touching” curriculum in the Athol Royalston Region School District for many years.
- Helping to educate and address the myths and realities of sexual offending through Sexual Offender Management Project trainings.

Continued…
• Spreading the work of Nurturing Parenting as a part of the Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts Statewide Team.
• Coordination of the Thanksgiving Home Delivery project for over 230 elderly and home bound individuals every year.
• Providing small scholarship opportunities for youth facing adversity going on to higher education post high school.
• Hosting community-wide FUN and engaging events to raise awareness of issues that impact the quality of life such as Munch & Move, Family Fun Day, and National Night Out Against Crime.
• Working to promote and support public safety and public health.
• Publishing The Common Thread newsletter monthly, which allows information to be shared with over 1000 people across the community. Weekly happening updates on Facebook every Thursday are reaching several hundred views.
• Hosting monthly full coalition forums to provide local agencies, municipalities and residents with resources and networking opportunities.

The North Quabbin Community Coalition could not, and would not want to, do all that it does without your support! Please consider becoming a Member/Donor and keep the work going strong! For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us through www.nqcc.org. Thank you for all you do for our community!

Sincerely,

Heather Bialecki-Canning
Executive Director

Steve Raymond
Fundraising Chair

**Donation Guidelines:**

Platinum Plus ..............$1000 +
Platinum Sponsor ............$500
Gold Sponsor ..................$250
Silver Sponsor ...............$150
Bronze Sponsor .............$100
Supporting Sponsor ..........$50
Individual Sponsor ..........$25

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

Name: __________________________
Organization: __________________________
Address: __________________________
Amount Enclosed: $ __________________________
Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts

The Family Nurturing Center has a long history of strengthening families statewide and building community in Boston’s challenged neighborhoods. We have delivered programs to thousands of families through partnerships with schools, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters, and city and state agencies. We provide training and technical assistance throughout the state to help spread the Nurturing Program for Fathers and for Families.

2nd Annual WHERE TO TURN RESOURCE FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

For Individuals in recovery and/or re-entering the community post incarceration.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

9 AM—12 Noon
Greenfield Community College
Dining Commons
One College Drive, Greenfield

Questions? info@opioidtaskforce.org
413.775.7474 | www.opioidtaskforce.org

3 DAY FACILITATOR TRAINING
Father’s Nurturing Program

April 8, 9, and 10, 2019
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Greenfield Public Library
402 Main Street
Greenfield, MA

A fun, interactive training that will explain the values and philosophy of the Father’s Nurturing Program. It will provide an opportunity to understand ways to support fathers and focus on their strengths. It encourages participants to develop positive, nurturing ways to interact with co-workers, clients, and family members. ***Participants must attend all three days of the training.***

Register at http://www.familynurturing.org/training-program-calendar

3 DAY FACILITATOR TRAINING
Family Nurturing Program

May 21, 22, & 23, 2019
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Greenfield Public Library
402 Main Street
Greenfield, MA

This is a fun, interactive training that will explain the values and philosophy of the Family Nurturing Program. It will provide an opportunity to understand ways to support families and focus on their strengths. It encourages participants to develop positive, nurturing ways to interact with co-workers, clients, and family members. ***Participants must attend all three days of the training.***

Register at http://www.familynurturing.org/training-program-calendar

Join us at Our Annual Child Abuse Awareness Month Child-Friendly Celebration and Flag Raising Event

April 5 @12:30 pm
(Snow date April 12)
Athol Police Department
280 Exchange Street, Athol
District Attorney David E. Sullivan
North Quabbin Community Coalition
Athol Police Department
Department of Children and Families
Children’s Advocacy Center

Hosted by the Children’s Advocacy Center, the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office, and the North Quabbin Community Coalition
Marijuana and The Adolescent Brain

Please join Athol Royalston Regional School District and North Quabbin Community Coalition’s Parent Advisory Council for a Presentation of “Marijuana and The Adolescent Brain.” This engaging training will focus on the effects of marijuana use on the developing brain and vaping. This training also tells the truth all parents and caregivers should know about retailers marketing to our youth.

Date: Thursday April 4th 2019
Time: 6:30pm until 8:30pm
Place: Athol High School
2363 Main St. Athol, MA 01331

For more information contact heather@ngcc.org

Special thanks to the:
Communities that Care Coalition
Craft Your Own Life Internship

Seeds of Solidarity Farm and Education Center (SOS) in Orange, MA, is offering Survive and Thrive internships to gain skills for a resilient life in a peaceful, inspiring setting. There will be two sessions in 2019 and the application priority due date for both is May 1, 2019:

**Monday, June 10, to Thursday, June 13, for young adults ages 20 to 24** (in college or working, or just post college. Rustic camping on-site available, although program hours are mostly 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.)

**Monday, August 5, to Thursday, August 8, for local teenagers ages 15 to 19** (this is a day-program, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. There is no transportation available, but you can brainstorm with SOS, if needed.)

During Craft Your Own Life you will: Learn to grow food and cook to eat well (and economically); Use tools and build (boost confidence, use your hands); Be creative; Reconnect with (or seek) your true nature—learn techniques to unwind (sitting & walking, meditation, yoga); Make self-care products; Clear your head (of intoxicants and technology); Communicate about topics of interest (emotional & spiritual wellbeing, relationships, social justice and environmental issues, activism, your future); Experience time, space, and support to contemplate your ideas and life vision in order to stay engaged in disruptive times, and Live your life with joy and meaning.

We are seeking mature young people who will bring an open mind, enthusiasm, respect, and commitment to this special internship opportunity. Comparable programs average $300. Thanks to funding from Common Good Greenfield and generous individuals, there is no set cost in order to make it accessible to all. If you can contribute to help cover food and other expenses, that is appreciated. No one will be turned away for inability to contribute financially.

To apply, please email a letter of interest (no more than one page) with your name, contact info, and responses to the following questions to deb@seedsofsolidarity.org:

- What intrigues you most about the Craft Your Own Life internship?
- What experiences or interests do you have that you feel will benefit the group?
- Do you have a current goal or future aspiration that might be nourished through this experience?
- And, anything else you would like to share about who you are.

Application due date is May 1, but each group will be limited to 15 and filled on a rolling basis, so apply sooner than later. You must be able to commit to the duration of the internship to apply. Contact deb@seedsofsolidarity.org or 978-544-7564 with any questions.

Seeds of Solidarity Education Center (seedsofsolidarity.org) is a non-profit organization founded by Ricky Baruc and Deb Habib, who will facilitate this internship with Jac Strauss, plus other guest presenters. Seeds of Solidarity was begun after Ricky and Deb walked from Auschwitz to Hiroshima with an international Buddhist order. Farmers and visionaries, they took the leap to create a bountiful oasis on barren land, initiate a non-profit organization that teaches toddlers, teens, those incarcerated, and thousands of others to Grow Food Everywhere, and started a garlic and arts festival with their neighbors that attracts 10,000 people (and produces only three bags of trash!). The vision and energy of the facilitators and group is bound to inspire yours!
**SOCIAL FABRIC**

For all domestic and sexual violence trauma survivors to express themselves through social means

**Every Friday 10:00AM-11:30AM**

**In Orange MA**

A NELCWIT group led by a trauma informed domestic and sexual violence counselor, focusing on identifying individual strengths and utilizing empowerment methods to bring us closer to our goals. The group focuses on building healthy awareness around patterns of power and control, conflict resolution, calming techniques, and creating and maintaining safety.

Please join us in 2019! To be in attendance please call 413-406-3139 for the location and a brief intake, as well as to stay updated on weather days, holidays, and cancellations on the voicemail.

---

**16th Annual North Quabbin Foodathon**

To raise funds & food for pantries and meal programs in the North Quabbin area!

**Tuesday, May 21st, 2019 • 6AM-6PM**

DROP OFF SITES WILL BE:

Orange Center, Hannaford & Market Basket.

---

**Having a hard time paying your bills?**

**RAFT may be able to help!**

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition

- Are you facing eviction?
- Is your electricity or other utilities in shut-off?
- Behind on your mortgage or property taxes?
- Need help with security deposit and first and last months rent?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, Apply for RAFT today!

Interested applicants should complete the HCEC Intake Form for assistance.

Intake Forms can be picked up at our office or completed on our website at www.fcrhra.org or over the phone with our RAFT Administrator.

241 Millers Falls Rd, Turners Falls, MA 01376

between 9am-4:30pm M-F

413-223-5228

---

The Early Childhood Education Team of Athol and Royalston presents the:

**Early Childhood Education Fair**

**Tuesday, April 9th 5:30 - 7pm**

at the Athol Community Elementary School (ACES)

Learn more about Early Childhood programs for families in Athol and Royalston for children new born to Kindergarten. Lots of activities and giveaways for the kids and plenty of info for the parents.

- Playgroups / Story Times
- Home Visiting Programs
- Child Cares
- Preschools
- Kindergarten Programs

Families will have an opportunity to register their children for Kindergarten in The Athol Royalston Regional School District. Please bring: original birth certificate, proof of residency, and immunization records.

Come see Ed the Wizard!
And enjoy free pizza while supplies last!
HONORING OUR PAST, CREATING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

CommUNITY Voices
Supports and resources for those who have experienced crime

You are not alone.
One in four people in the US have experienced crime.
Hear the voices of individuals impacted by crime.
Unite to honor and remember local victims and survivors.
Learn about resources in your community.

April 11, 2019, 5 - 7:30 pm
Free Event
Mount Wachusett Community College, Multipurpose Room - Gardner, MA
5 - 6 pm Resource Fair • 6 - 7 pm Panel Discussion • 7 - 7:30 pm Candlelight Vigil

For more information, call 800-579-0000 or email Info@LJK.org

Western Massachusetts
Health Equity Network

Save the Date!
April 10, 2019, 3pm-6:00pm
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Springfield, MA

Health Equity Policy Assembly
Come learn about state policy priorities and how you can help
advocate for them to advance health equity in Western
Massachusetts. (It’s free!)

Look for the sign-up link and a policy poll in mid-March.

Join multi-sector community
leaders & advocates from
Berkshire, Franklin,
Hampden, & Hampshire
Counties

* Students * Public Health professionals
* Clergy * CHWs * MDs * RNs *
* Teachers * Board Members *
* Municipal Staff * Business Owners
& you!

Hosted by
UMass Amherst School of Public Health &
Health Sciences
Western MA Health Equity Network
@WMAHEquityNetwork

Facilitated by
MA Public Health Association
MAPublicHealth.org @MAPublicHealth

With support from
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Questions?
Andrea Freeman, afreeman@mapublichealth.org, (857) 263-7072, x1103
Risa Silverman, risa@schooldph.umass.edu, (413) 545-2529

Autism Support Group
Please join us for our monthly Autism Support Group. Parents,
caregivers, grandparents & siblings of autistic children & adults
are welcome to attend.

Future Meetings will be held on the 4th
Sun. and 2nd Wed. of
each month.

Enjoy refreshments & support from parents
and other caregivers.

April 28
6pm - 7:30pm
Athol Memorial Hospital
2033 Main Street
The Hills Conference Room

April 10
6pm - 8pm
Heywood Hospital
242 Green St
Gardner, MA
Dining Room B

For Questions & RSVP Contact
Amanda Gallant
amanda.gallant@heywood.org
Certified Navigator Available to Assist with Health Coverage

The Community Health Center of Franklin County has a certified Navigator available to assist area residents with applying for new health coverage or fix issues with existing Mass Health or Health Connector coverage. This service is free of charge.

Wendy Gaida is available in both of their facilities located on Main Street in Greenfield and on West River Street in Orange. If you have a question or would like to make an appointment with Wendy, please call 413-325-8500, extension 146.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

The Dementia Caregivers Support Group at LifePath is for caregivers of people with memory disorders such as, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease. Facilitated by Molly Chambers, the in-person support group offers participants a place to ask questions, share experiences and resources, and get answers. From time to time, the group views films about dementia and caregiver concerns and hears from speakers. The support group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the large conference room at LifePath, 101 Munson Street, Suite 201, in Greenfield. The building is accessible, and the group is free and open to the public.

Athol CCBHC Activity Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Health, Wellness &amp; Chronic Pain support: 10AM, Susan Denis, RN-Intern Charles Poston, until May 2019</td>
<td>Board Games (Adults): 10AM, Susan Denis, Ongoing</td>
<td>Peer Led Substance Use Support Group: 11AM with Deb Lincoln, Ongoing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Smoking Cessation Support: 1PM, RN-Intern Charles Poston, until May 2019</td>
<td>All Recovery (Mental, Physical, and/or Substance use) Peer Led Support Group: 1PM, Deb Lincoln,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puzzles &amp; Coloring: 1PM, Susan Denis, Ongoing</td>
<td>Exploring Community Resources: 2PM Susan Denis, Ongoing</td>
<td>Early Recovery Group, 2 pm, weekly, Jade Martin and Deb Lincoln, ongoing</td>
<td>Anxiety Management Group (adults): 2PM, Jade Martin, Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Led Substance Use Support Group: 2PM, Deb Lincoln, Ongoing</td>
<td>Walking for Wellness (Adults): 3PM, Susan Denis, Ongoing</td>
<td>Board Games (Family): 4PM, Susan Denis, Ongoing</td>
<td>Crocheting &amp; Knitting: 4PM, Susan Denis, Ongoing</td>
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Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol (LVOA)  
— By Christine Miranda for Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol

Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol (LVOA), under the direction of Coordinator Louise Doud, is alive and well in the North Quabbin/Central Mass region. LVOA’s mission is to offer free, confidential, individualized tutoring in basic literacy as well as English for speakers of other languages. Doud, who is a certified Orton-Gillingham reading specialist, provides an intensive 18-hour workshop to interested tutors and then matches them with prospective students. LVOA’s individualized tutoring is student centered and focuses on the student’s skill level, goals, interests, and learning style.

“Seri” came to LVOA looking to improve her command of the English language. She is originally from eastern Asia. She would like to improve her pronunciation and comprehension so she can help with the family business. Her tutor is a retired teacher who has been working with “Seri” for over a year and both have seen improvement. Along with weekly pronunciation drills, they work on improving reading comprehension. “Seri” is fond of graphic novels, but they contain many idioms which hinders comprehension. An idiom uses figurative speech rather than literal interpretation. So when you hear “You hit the nail on the head,” it means you are exactly right! Both tutor and student enjoy deciphering these idioms.

Overall, volunteering and seeing students make progress in improving their reading skills can be very rewarding. Their ability to communicate more clearly raises their confidence level and allows them to improve their lives. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please call the LVOA office at 978-249-5381 to make an appointment and sign up for the next training class. If you are looking to improve your ability to communicate and feel you would benefit from one-on-one tutoring also, call the coordinator, Louise Doud, and make an appointment. It could change your life. Christine Miranda is an ESOL tutor with Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol, and serves on its Board of Directors.

LVOA's next Basic Literacy training will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays starting May 7 at the Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol. There will also be a May training for working with non-native English speakers. Information sessions to learn about tutoring (required before training) will be held on Monday, April 22, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, Tuesday, April 23, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and Thursday, May 2, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. To register for an information session, training, or ask questions, call Louise Doud at 978-249-5381 or email her at lvoa01331@gmail.com.

Please join LVOA at its annual Celebrating Literacy on Monday, April 29, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, at the Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol. They will be recognizing their dedicated tutors and students, sharing stories and food!
GOT DRUGS?
Do you or your relatives have a medicine cabinet full of old medication?
Help get rid of them safely

SAV E THE DATE!
National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is
SATURDAY
APRIL 27
2019
10am-2pm
Check back soon for participating communities.
More than 50,000 pounds collected since 2011!

You can also bring medications to a permanent Drop Box location. Drop Drugs at these Police Stations: Amherst, Athol, Belchertown, Bernardston, Buckland, Cummington, Deerfield, Easthampton, Erving, Greenfield, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Leverett, Montague, Northampton, Orange, South Hadley, Southhampton, Sunderland, Ware, Whately, Williamsburg
Simply bring them to your local police station and drop them in the MEDIRETURN BOX.

Medicines can remain in original containers with labels. No liquids, syringes, IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs. Prescription and non-prescription drugs, vitamins and veterinary meds are accepted.

For more information: NorthwesternMA.org

LifePath
Meals on Wheels Walkathon
Saturday, April 27, 2019
8:30 am to 11:00 am
101 Munson Street, Greenfield

Will you participate in support of the 550 local elders who receive home delivered meals daily plus those who are served at congregate meal sites so that they may receive balanced nutrition, socialization, wellness checks, and information?

1. Sign up with a team or start a team of your own. We expect more than 30 teams and 200 walkers to participate! Teams with the highest fundraising totals win recognition and a plaque to display. Amounts raised by teams last year ranged between $238.00 and $3,661.00.

2. Encourage family members, friends, and others to join your team or pledge donations. We suggest that you ask at least ten people for pledges.

3. Be present everywhere. Be ready to share information and ask for support related to the Meals on Wheels Walkathon. If you have a Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter profile, use your reach with social media to crowd fund.

4. Let us know how we can help you. Can we send a supply of walker forms to you or your business? Would you like to see your walker sheet from last year? Just ask!

To register, for pledge forms, or other information visit www.lifepathma.org or contact Carol Foote, Development Director, at gfoote@lifepathma.org or 413-773-3555 x2225.

Thank you to Greenfield Savings Bank for their commitment as the Half Plate Community Partner!

Register Now!
APRIL 11, 2019
SAFE & HEALTHY SCHOOL SUMMIT
Rights and Responsibilities in Schools
Guidance for Navigating Challenging Issues

A conference on how to safeguard student rights and create a safe learning environment for all with Attorney Michael Joyce
For Grades K-12 administrators, superintendents, building principals, pupil services directors, school resource officers and others

Garden House, Look Park
300 Main Street, Florence, MA
8am - noon
Sponsored by: Northwestern District Attorney’s Office
Collaborative for Educational Services, SPIFFY, Communities that Care
Click HERE to register - $25 fee (breakfast provided)
Details at NorthwesternMA.org

Office of Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan

7th Annual Safe & Healthy School Summit

We are resilient. We are real. We are survivors. We are human. We are more than just a number.

Massachusetts is trying to better understand and meet the needs of youth and young adults who experience housing instability and homelessness.


Data from this survey will impact funding and services for young adults experiencing housing instability.

The survey will be available online during the survey period here: https://tinyurl.com/mayc2019.

Learn more at https://tinyurl.com/mayc2019 or by emailing massachusettsyouthcount@gmail.com.

With strength from unity, we can make our voices heard!

Massachusetts Youth Count is a project of the Massachusetts Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth.

2019
LIFE PATH
Meals on Wheels Walkathon
Saturday, April 27, 2019
8:30 am to 11:00 am
101 Munson Street, Greenfield

Will you participate in support of the 550 local elders who receive home delivered meals daily plus those who are served at congregate meal sites so that they may receive balanced nutrition, socialization, wellness checks, and information?

1. Sign up with a team or start a team of your own. We expect more than 30 teams and 200 walkers to participate! Teams with the highest fundraising totals win recognition and a plaque to display. Amounts raised by teams last year ranged between $238.00 and $3,661.00.

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4. Let us know how we can help you. Can we send a supply of walker forms to you or your business? Would you like to see your walker sheet from last year? Just ask!

To register, for pledge forms, or other information visit www.lifepathma.org or contact Carol Foote, Development Director, at gfoote@lifepathma.org or 413-773-3555 x2225.

Thank you to Greenfield Savings Bank for their commitment as the Half Plate Community Partner!
Learn About Foster Parenting and Adopting from Foster Care

The Massachusetts Department of Children & Families serves children of all ages — from infants to adolescents — from every community — who need a home.

✦ You can be single, married, partnered, divorced, or widowed.
✦ You can rent or own a home.
✦ Time spent with you in a stable and secure environment gives a child a chance to heal.
✦ The rewards of providing daily care, guidance and acceptance to a child are immeasurable.

Every Parent Makes a Difference.

***NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR***

B.A.C.A.

Present The
4th Annual Benefit Dinner

Held At
Knights of Columbus
460 Granby Rd., Chicopee Ma 01013

Benefit Dinner
Saturday April 06, 2019
4pm to 9pm
Tickets $15 @ Door
Advance Tickets $10
(Kids 10 & Under Free)

DJ’s Door Prizes* 50/50 Raffle * Cash Bar
Proceeds Benefit the Children of Western Mass B.A.C.A.®

North Quabbin Autism Resource Fair
Tuesday April 30th
6pm – 730pm
Athol Public Library

Questions? Contact Kat Kowalski at kowalskikate11@gmail.com or call 413-245-2035 x 29

Learn and Get Involved: Many businesses and organizations are saving money and helping the local community and environment by switching to composting and recycling. This event will be inspiring and useful for community agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations, restaurants, food processors, and residential facilities that could benefit from composting and recycling efforts, as well as organizations of local interests seeking to increase special event waste diversion.

Eat, Drink and Network: Enjoy a complimentary light dinner from Nature’s Kitchen and grab a local beer from Honest Weight during the event.

Workshop Includes:

✦ Real-life examples
✦ Individual support for designing action plans
✦ Access to free resources and follow-up consultations

Everyone will leave with concrete, feasible ideas to initiate or advance their composting and recycling efforts.

REGISTER NOW
To RSVP, go to https://rsvp.composting.org
Questions? Contact Kat Kowalski at kowalskikate11@gmail.com or call 413-245-2035 x 29

Shomita Bhattacharya
Program Specialist for Recycling/Composting Center for the First UU Congregation

Western Mass B.A.C.A

Bikers Against Child Abuse, Inc. is a tax exempt 501 (C)(3) non-profit corporation. For more information, please email at info@wma.bacaworld.org or call 413-320-0408.
Athol Bird & Nature Club Events
Events take place at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, unless otherwise noted. www.atholbirdclub.org.

Apr. 10 @ 7:00 pm: National Bat Appreciation Day Presentation — MassWildlife’s Bat Conservation Program Coordinator, Jennifer Longsdorf, will share her knowledge and experience regarding the most underappreciated and misunderstood mammal on Earth.

Apr. 12, 19, 26 @ 7:00 am: Early Bird Birding w/Jeff — Join veteran trip leader, Jeff Johnstone, for a look at the migrating spring birds moving through the local area. These are great events for the novice birder to learn from one of our best field naturalists. Meet at 7:00 am at the Center parking lot to carpool. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Severe weather cancels. Info: Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

Apr. 27 @ 9:00 am -12:00 pm: Athol Clean-up Day — Come help clean up the streets of Athol! Cleanup will be followed by a celebration at Millers River Park (behind Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol). Volunteers are to meet at the park to receive supplies, safety instructions, and a list of designated streets that need a little TLC from our residents. https://www.facebook.com/events/366219690638869.

Career Services Director Position Available
Join the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center management team! The Career Services Director oversees employment and training programs for adults such as Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Trade, Disability Employment Programs, Competitive Integrated Employment Services (CIES), work-based training programs, and career pathway training programs. Works closely with educational partners, employers, and social service agencies including the Department of Transitional Assistance, housing programs, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, and ABE/ESOL. They seek an experienced manager with strong organizational, program management, and supervisory skills. Experience with employment and training programs required. Bi-lingual capacity a plus. Full job description is at https://masshirefhcareers.org/come-work-for-us. Full-time position. Starting salary is $60,721 with an excellent benefits package. Submit cover letter and resume to: FHETC, HR, One Arch Place, Greenfield, MA 01301 or email jobs@masshirefhcareers.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EEO Organization

Showcasing Talents & Pursuits—The Arc’s Turners Falls Open House
The Arc will be celebrating the talents and pursuits of people they serve at an Open House at their Turners Falls location, 294 Avenue, on April 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They will feature the talents and pursuits of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Take this opportunity to tour their Turners Falls location, the Franklin County Family Support Center, and their Positive Parenting Center. A special treat this year will be Greenfield Savings Bank showcasing the artwork of several individuals The Arc serves who donated their work to The Arc’s Annual Gala & Auction. The artwork will be on display from April 8 through April 12.
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, Regional Manager at 978-466-3552.