Heather’s Highlights

Dear Readers,

It is officially December! There’s an end in sight for a year that has changed our region like none before. It is a bittersweet beginning to the holiday season as we once again find flexible ways to celebrate and come together even if not in person. Despite not being able to hold our home delivered meal program safely this year, the NQCC remained dedicated to sharing the most up to date resources for food security and take-away options for the Thanksgiving meal. Thank you to all who reached out to volunteer, donate, and support our most vulnerable community members. The resilience of North Quabbin will see us through, as it always has, and always will!

On November 20, the NQCC held our annual Legislative Roundtable. This year we were joined by Congressman Jim McGovern, Senator Anne Gobi, Senator Jo Comerford, and Representative Susannah Whipps, as well as members of their teams. The roundtable, although actually held via Zoom meeting, provided a rich discussion of the state of the current budget picture, the need for human compassion and kindness, as well as a glimpse of changes to come with administration transition post-election 2020. All graciously shared their remarks and urged every constituent to know that they may reach out to them at any time, for any reason. Contact information for our local delegation can be found on http://nqcc.org/legislator_directory.html.

Stay healthy and safe, North Quabbin. Thank you for all you do,

Heather Bialecki Canning
Executive Director
Our FY21 Donor/Members

PLATINUM PLUS SPONSORS
Community Action Pioneer Valley
InterRemedy Insurance Services**

PLATINUM SPONSORS
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Franklin County Sheriff’s Office

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Billy Goat Boats
Bill Burton
MA D.A.R.E.
Carol Newton
Opioid Task Force
Orange Lions Club
Quabbin Mediation, Inc.
David Runyan

** In memory of Edgar Sykes

Thank you

Happy holidays

From The North Quabbin Community Coalition
Heather ~ Katrina ~ Amanda ~ Sarah
The Wonderful Wizard of NQCC

Cordially Invites You to the 36th Annual NQCC Virtual Luncheon Celebration

Join us for a tour of NQCC’s last year of work in the North Quabbin. We were able to chart a path into 2020 using our strong collaborations across our region and a lens of warm hearts, bravery, and resourceful intellect.

Truly there is no place like home, North Quabbin!

Available December 8, 2020
Pre-recorded at www.nqcc.org
HIP/CSA Produce Shares at Quabbin Harvest in Orange

If you or someone you know receives SNAP Benefits, then they can sign up to get HIP/CSA Produce Shares at Quabbin Harvest in Orange this winter. A member application for 2021 must be completed before December 20 to start getting HIP Produce Shares in January 2021. HIP Participants get reimbursed on their EBT Card for shares depending on household size. Pick up an application at Quabbin Harvest, 12 No. Main Street, Orange, MA or click here. Call 978-544-6784 with questions.

Household Size HIP Monthly Cap:
- 1-2 persons $40
- 3-5 persons $60
- 6+ persons $80
North Quabbin Community Coalition Seeking a Drug Free Communities Coordinator

**Position Purpose and Objectives:** The NQCC seeks to hire a salaried, full-time individual to coordinate the Drug Free Communities Project by building and maintaining community collaborations, work with the project evaluator, collect and report data, create and implement a strategic action plan including a community needs/assets assessment, conduct environmental strategies to address substance misuse in the North Quabbin community by meeting all the requirements of the funding and ensure quality programming and service delivery. This position reports to the NQCC Executive Director, is the lead co-chair for the Youth Action Council, and co-chair of the Parent Advisory Council.

**Basic Requirements:** BS/BA in Health, Social Work, Human Services or a related field. Candidate must have a valid driver’s license, a vehicle, and automobile insurance. Candidate must be able to pass a criminal background check. Candidate also must have a commitment to the goals and mission of the North Quabbin Community Coalition. Please send resumes to: North Quabbin Community Coalition, Attention Heather Bialecki-Canning, 251 Exchange Street, Athol, MA 01331 or email info@nqcc.org. Screening will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. EOE/ADA

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Microenterprise Business Assistance Program grants are now available!

Your business may be eligible for up to $10,000 in grant funds for documented COVID-19 related losses incurred since the declaration of a state of emergency in Massachusetts on March 10, 2020.

To be eligible, your business must be located in Athol, Phillipston, Templeton or Winchendon

New Vue Communities, a non-profit community development corporation will assist with the management of this program.

Visit https://newvuecommunities.org/aptwmap/ to learn more about and to obtain an application or contact Bill Brassard at New Vue Communities at 978-288-0180 bbrassard@nvcomm.org.

Microenterprise Business Assistance Program funded by The Community Development Block Grant program Department of Housing & Community Development, DHCD
Healthcare UP!

HEALTHCARE UP - INFORMATION SESSION

Launch your career in healthcare!

- Grant-funded program providing FREE Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Home Health Aide (HHA) training to qualified participants
- Area employers are ready to hire trainees directly from this training program
- CNA/HHA training can start you on a healthcare career path towards medical assisting (MA), licensed practical nursing (LPN) & more
- Learn other employment skills along the way
- Virtual pre-training job readiness workshops & prep happening now
- Virtual CNA/HHA trainings planned for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021

Attend a Virtual Healthcare UP Information Session to learn more.

Virtual Webinar Sessions Conducted via ZOOM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 30 @ 10:30am</th>
<th>November 19 @ 10:30am</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 13 @ 1:30pm</td>
<td>December 8 @ 1:30pm</td>
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Call to sign up: 800-457-2603 or 413-774-4361

Manufacturing UP - JOB FAIR

December 1, 2020
10am – 1pm

Come to the Virtual - and LIVE - Job Fair.

Recruiters will be answering your questions in the Chat Room

The Recruiters are Now Hiring for Local Manufacturers such as:

- Deerfield Packaging
- Pelican Products
- Yankee Candle

40 jobs available!

A proud partner of the American Job Center® network

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Train for a career in Manufacturing and CNC Machining.

Apply early to see if you qualify for funding that pays for 100% of the training, no cost to you.

Attend one of these upcoming Info & Application Sessions to learn more about Advanced Manufacturing Training offered at Greenfield Community College and other W. Mass. schools:

Free Online Info Sessions

- December 7
- January 4

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>December 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>January 4</td>
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Sign up TODAY and reserve a seat!

Next GCC Manufacturing Training begins on January 25, 2021

COMMUNITY ACTION

At Home!

HEAD START & EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

A unique opportunity for Franklin, Hampshire, and Western Hampden County children and families to enjoy flexible virtual learning with experienced and caring Head Start staff!

- STORY TIME, ART, MATH, SCIENCE, AND MORE!
- INDIVIDUAL, SMALL, & LARGE GROUP ACTIVITIES
- PARENT DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- CONNECT WITH OTHER LOCAL FAMILIES
- SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, & FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Program options available for pregnant women and children 0-5

CHOOSE THE PARTICIPATION LEVEL THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY

CALL 413-387-1250
WWW.COMMUNITYACTION.US/HSHELPAPPLY

FRANKLIN HAMPIONE WORKFORCE BOARD

This project is funded in part by an Advanced Manufacturing Training grant awarded to the Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board (FHWB) by the Mass. Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED). The Manufacturing Skills Initiative (MSI) is an Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available on request for individuals with disabilities. Greenfield Community College (GCC) and FHWB are affirmative action/equal opportunity institutions. For disability accommodations, please contact the GCC Coordinator of Disability Services (413) 775-1812.
GREENING LORD POND PLAZA

SAVE THE DATE!

The Town of Athol has received a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to conduct a FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT OF LORD POND PLAZA. The purpose of this assessment is to identify opportunities to incorporate nature-based solutions and green infrastructure into the Lord Pond Plaza downtown revitalization project. Daylighting of the buried Mill Brook stream beneath the plaza will also be assessed.

Please join us for a community SITE WALK to learn about this project and be part of the planning process!

WHERE: LORD POND PLAZA  
Meet outside the Athol Council on Aging Building  
82 Freedom Street, Athol MA 01331

WHEN: Saturday December 5, 2020  
December 12, 2020 (Snow Date)

TIME: 10 am - 11:30 am

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and health regulations, we are not able to offer any refreshments. All persons on the property will be required to: wear a face-covering, social distance 6 feet from others, self-certify they are symptom free, and provide a name and phone number for contact tracing.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
Visit our website:  
https://lordpondplaza.wordpress.com/
LifePath's New Annual Report is Here!

Last year started out as any other, a new fiscal year with bright new plans. Little did we know that our innovative skills would be put to the test with a global pandemic. March 17 saw the dispersal of our staff to their homes with boxes of supplies for what everyone thought was a brief spell. Since then, we have reimagined our workplace, our ways of communication, our service delivery, and, well, the unimaginable! We have shown that together we can face anything and make a huge difference in the lives of those we serve.

We invite you to take a few moments to review LifePath's 2019-2020 Annual Report to learn more about the ways in which we've been honored to serve our community this past year, and about the people and organizations who have made it possible. Visit https://lifepathma.org/images/pdfs/LifePath-Annual-Report-2020.pdf.

The People’s Town Hall with Senator Jo Comerford

You are warmly invited to join Jo and her team for The People’s Town Hall—a virtual town hall that’s one part report back from Jo and the team and one part feedback from you—on Tuesday, December 8, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm via Zoom.

With just weeks left until the end of the 2019-2020 legislative session, Jo will share what’s been accomplished and what’s still ahead. There will also be time for you to ask questions and share your ideas about what you want Jo to tackle in the 2021-2022 legislative session.

The town hall will be closed captioned in English and Spanish. Spanish-language translators will also be on hand as needed.

If you’d like to attend, please complete and submit the registration form here: https://senatorjocomerford.org/the-peoples-town-hall-registration. You will be contacted closer to the event with a Zoom link to join. Dial-in options will also be available.
Athol Bird & Nature Club Events
Please visit https://atholbirdclub.org for more info.

2021 Calendars Now Available—The Athol Bird and Nature Club (ABNC) calendar, chock full of nature notes, trivia questions, and of course, some amazing photos of local birds, animals, and plants, is now available. While many people may enjoy a calendar with pictures of exotic nature and scenery, the “Birds and Nature of the North Quabbin” 2021 calendar focuses on the local beauty of this region, making this calendar a local treasure. Order your calendar online at https://www.cognitoforms.com/AtholBirdAndNatureClub/ABNCNatureCalendarOrderForm or visit one of the local businesses listed here: http://atholbirdclub.org/abnc-2021-calendar-now-available.

Dec. 9 @ 7:00 pm: ABNC Members Night—Come one and all! No matter where you are, you can participate in this year’s virtual members’ night on Zoom. Send us up to 15 images from some of your favorite adventures to share. Send images you want to share to Dave@atholbirdclub.org or, alternately, you can get Dave your photos on a stick drive, SD card, and, by calling him at 978-413-1772 and he'll guide you in getting your images together to show. Register in advance for this meeting at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqc-6rqzwrEtXWuHWFyqVvUbe7V_BEoGh2. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Dec. 19 All Day: Christmas Bird Count—Join this "Citizen Science" project, the longest continuously running bird data in the area. Contact Dave Small for additional information and to participate in this nationwide annual event: 978-413-1772 or Dave@dhsmall.net. Covid-19 rules are in effect and National Audubon has issued guidelines which ABNC will use. In preparation, zone leaders will need to think about how we can safely work our respective areas. Carpooling will not be allowed and only family members or social pod groups. Social distancing and masking are required. All activities must meet local and state guidelines. With all this in mind, feeder watching will be a huge part of this year’s count. Encourage your neighbors to begin feeding the week before the count (if bear activity is low) and consider other ways to safely count our area birds. Unfortunately, our morning breakfast and compilation party will not be happening. We will have a virtual compilation via zoom so people can log on and relate the days sightings and events.

Dec. 19 6:30 pm: Christmas Bird Count Wrap-up and Party —Join us as we find out the preliminary results of the Annual Christmas Bird Count in an informal online group discussion and meeting. Find out what unusual birds were seen during the days' count. Register in advance for this meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcuquqzwoHNU6MLBTdDeFDyoxexYwYN6xj. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
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.

Coalition Regular Happenings

North Quabbin Recovery Center Hours
The North Quabbin Recovery Center provides a compassionate, safe space to offer peer support to allow multiple paths of recovery for all. The Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. All Recovery Meetings happen from 11:00 to 11:45 am and can be accessed virtually through this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/364283750 or in person. All are welcome.

ACT Group
The ACT Group is held every Tuesday from 1:15 to 2:15 pm. The link to access the meeting is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82131343295.

NQCC December Forum:
Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

December 18, 2020, from 9:00 to 10:30 am Online Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87256905901?pwd=ekFybHN2WG0zalk0N3pNSnZTYjlvQT09
Meeting ID: 872 5690 5901 ~ Passcode: 644702 ~ Meeting ID: 872 5690 5901
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kwimd89e