Heather’s Highlights

Hello Newsletter Readers,

If there is one thing folks can always expect, it is that change is inevitable! The big change for the North Quabbin Community Coalition is that January began with the use of a new venue for our monthly forums. The Athol Orange Elks Club has closed their doors, and the Orange American Legion has taken us in with open arms. Forums will now be held there at 40 Daniel Shays Highway in Orange on the third Friday of every month from 9:00 to 1030 am. Hope to see you there!

January’s forum featured a presentation by the Western MA Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA). Their presentation was engaging and informative and provided a strong sense of their mission as well as how to utilize their services for children in the North Quabbin. They truly put children first, and tailor the experience on a case by case basis. Find info on them at bacaworld.org.

February’s forum will be a screening of the film “Resilience” and an in depth discussion with Sandi Walters of Clinical and Support Options. It is a powerful film that helps illustrate trauma informed care.

Thank you for all you do!

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David Runyan

Donations can be made via PayPal with the link on the cover of this publication, at www.nqcc.org, or by check to the address at left.
Loving Your Recovery
A free community event

Do you want to learn about the new North Quabbin Recovery Center? Are you looking to make connections with community members and local treatment and recovery organizations? Join us at Loving Your Recovery—everyone is welcome!

- Connect with local resources
- Arts and crafts
- Food
- Kid friendly
- Have fun!

North Quabbin Recovery Center
Recover and Discover

Saturday, February 10, 2018
1—4 PM
Athol Town Hall
584 Main Street in Athol
Snow date: February 17

info@opioidtaskforce.org
413.775.7474 | RSVP not required

This event is the third in a series that will happen throughout 2018 to promote recovery focused activities in Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region.
The Nurturing Father’s Program

Wednesdays, March 14th to June 6th 5:00-7:00pm at Valuing Our Children 217 Walnut St Athol

"It makes you look at life different. If you are a father, uncle, or brother to any young child. It helps in all your relationships."

-participant

If you are interested and/or have any questions please contact Jennifer at Valuing Our Children 978-249-8467 x23

Learn Play Grow Connect

Valuing Our Children Thursdays, 10 am - 11:30 am 217 Walnut St. Athol

A free weekly drop-in group for parents and their children ages newborn to 5. Free play, circle activities, crafts, literacy, science, and more!

For more information call Jennifer: 978-249-8467

CSO WALK-IN INTAKE HOURS!

MONDAY - FRIDAY
10:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

Insurance Card and Co-pay if applicable needed for Intake

491 Main Street
3rd Floor
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-9490
Community Network for Children Program offers

FAMILIES CONNECTING

A discussion group with a family meal, child care, and facilitated discussion time.

TUESDAYS, 5:30-7:30 @ Swift River School, New Salem

February 6th  * Beyond Bedtime Stories- Early Literacy at Home
March 6th    * Why Do They Do What They Do...and How Can I Make It Stop? with Sarah Patton
April 10th   * Toileting Tips- When? How? with Sarah Patton
May 15th     * First Aid at Home

“So helpful to know you are not alone on this parenting journey.”

- Each session we will offer a family meal, then break out to child care and separate adult discussion group. Each session will have a topic to discuss with an opportunity to share, ask questions and touch base.
- We will use resources from the Positive Solutions for Families Parent Guide and Engaging Families in Children’s Literacy Development to help guide our discussions.
- Focus on families with children 0-8 years of age. Bring a friend!

Contact the CNC Program TO REGISTER FOR DINNER & CHILD CARE budine@erving.com or 978-544-5157
BUILD YOUR FUTURE IN MANUFACTURING

Learn the skills needed for a career in manufacturing & CNC machining

Attend the Information & Application Session

Monday, February 12

Franklin Hampshire Career Center
1 Arch Place (2nd Fl)
Greenfield

3:00 — 5:00 pm

Grant funds available for trainings for manufacturing and CNC Operator jobs.
Training begins in June, 2018

Sign up today and reserve a seat at the Info Session!
RSVP at www.gcc.mass.edu/manufacturing or call 413-774-4361

Veterans, women, unemployed, and other under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

This program is funded by a $20 million grant awarded by the U.S. Dept. of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, Grant # TC-26450-14-60-A-25. This product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Funding for this Sector Partnership National Emergency project comes from the MA Department of Career Services through the US Department of Labor. This is an Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available on request for individuals with disabilities.

Greenfield Community College and Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board are affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the GCC Coordinator of Disability Services (413) 775-1812.
The Tommy Filliault Band Benefit Concert for Seeds of Solidarity

Shake off winter on February 3 at 7:30 pm with some blues, rock, swing and funk from The Tommy Filliault Band at a benefit for Seeds of Solidarity’s youth and community Grow Food Everywhere programs! The performance includes great local musicians Doug Plavin, Klondike, Peter Giancola and Bo Henderson. The evening also honors the amazing Charles Neville to help offset his cancer medical expenses, and in solidarity with the Northampton ‘Celebrating Charles’ event that same night. The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse is located in Old Town Hall, 9 Morse Village Road, Wendell. Come experience the Valley’s only Dessert-O-Rama in an affordable family-friendly venue. Admission is a sliding scale donation of $6 to $15.

www.wendellfullmoon.org.

MGM Springfield SkillSmart Workshop

MGM Springfield will be hiring 3,000 people starting March 2018, so now is the time to connect with SkillSmart! MGM Springfield has joined with SkillSmart to help interested parties identify possible job types that might fit their skill sets and to identify training opportunities that might be of interest. Begin the process at a Franklin Hampshire Career Center workshop on February 8 at 1:30 pm at their offices at 6 Arch Street, Greenfield, and learn how to create your profile to see how your skills match up with MGM’s needs. This workshop will help you with entering your skills you’ve gained from your work, school or other life experiences and they will show you how your skills match the employment or training opportunities that may interest you. Sign up today at www.fhcc-onestop.com or call 413-774-4361.

2018 Position Openings with TerraCorp

TerraCorps is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. This winter, they are looking for a member to come and serve in a full-time, 24-week (900 hour) position with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust in Athol. The member will be serving as the Youth Education Coordinator and helping to support programming and projects with local schools, conduct outreach with community members, and provide opportunities for families to get outside and connect with nature. In addition to this position, TerraCorps is looking to fill an additional four member spots across the state.

Application specifics, position descriptions, and information about organizations hosting TerraCorps members can be found at terracorps.org. AmeriCorps programs provide equal service opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to any particular status. They encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request. No medical screening is required.
Health Foundation 2018
Activation Fund Grant Open

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is pleased to invite new grant applications for its Activation Fund in 2018. The Activation Fund supports discrete, one-year projects in Central Massachusetts that demonstrate creative and innovative approaches to addressing community health concerns and that move an organization to its next level of capacity and effectiveness, which can be sustained beyond the term of the grant. Activation Fund grants typically range from $10,000 to $100,000. In 2017, eleven grants were awarded, and the average grant was approximately $63,000.

Those interested in applying for an Activation Fund grant should visit the Foundation website at www hfcm org and attend an in-person or online information session (registration required) for details including guidelines, deadlines, and examples of previous grants. In addition, interested parties are asked to meet with Dr. Amie Shei, Vice President for Programs, before submitting a Letter of Intent (due April 5) to assess the fit of a proposed project with the Activation Fund guidelines. For additional information, please call the Foundation at 508 438 0009 x2.

The Foundation was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the sale of Central Massachusetts Health Care, Inc., a physician-initiated, not-for-profit HMO. The Foundation currently has assets of approximately $73 million and has awarded grants totaling around $39 million.

Greater Athol Area Advocates for Special Needs Scholarship

The Greater Athol Area Advocates for Families with Special Needs (GAAAFSN), in affiliation with The United Arc, announced the availability of scholarships for post-secondary education. There will be up to four educational awards given in amounts up to $800 per award to cover tuition, books or other student fees. Eligible applicants may apply in their senior or final year of public, collaborative or technical high school or during their freshman and sophomore years of college or post-secondary school. Priority will be given to students from communities in the North Quabbin area. Potential grant recipients would include:

- Individuals with disabilities pursuing educational opportunities beyond high school;
- siblings of individuals with disabilities;
- individuals who have a parent or parents with disabilities;
- individuals planning a career that would support people with disabilities, such as careers in education, human services, health care or technology and research with a disability focus.

Applicants are asked to complete a short application form to be submitted along with one reference and current transcript to the GAAAFSN Scholarship Committee, GAAAFSN/The United Arc, 357 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331, postmarked or delivered no later than Friday, February 9, 2018. For application materials, contact 978 249 4052 x 1047 or email officeassistant361@unitedarc.org. Award recipients will be announced at the GAAAFSN Annual Meeting on March 2018. Awardees will receive $100 towards books and miscellaneous educational expenses and an additional amount up to $700 to be paid directly to the school based on a letter of acceptance and current bill.
Mental Health, Behavioral Health & Substance Use Survey

One of the goals for the CHNA 9 Community Health Improvement Plan is to improve the overall behavioral health, mental health, and well-being of the region, including preventing substance abuse in a culturally diverse, responsive, and holistic manner. One strategy is to educate the community on signs, symptoms, and resources available for the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance use issues. This survey will provide a baseline for the current understanding of these issues and identify training needs and interests. Information from this survey can then be used to bring available trainings to community partners that match the needs and interests identified from the survey.

This survey is part of the CHNA9 - North Central Mass Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). It is anticipated it will take five to ten minutes to complete. Please complete the survey by February 9 and consider distributing it widely among your clients and colleagues. All responses to the survey are anonymous. If you would like to receive paper copies of the survey, become involved with the CHIP Mental and Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Working group, or discuss a specific training need, contact the working group leadership team through Mary Giannetti, at mary.giannetti@heywood.org. For full info and access the survey, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHIPtrainingassessment. A Spanish version is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHIPtrainingassessmentspanish.

Heywood Healthcare’s “A Winter Affair”

You are cordially invited to join Heywood Healthcare in celebrating the exceptional contributions that promote health, stimulate growth and inspire collaboration within our communities at their “A Winter Affair with Caribbean Flair” event on February 9 from 5:30 to 10:00 pm at The Colonial Hotel, 625 Betty Spring Road, Gardner. In recognition of their generous contributions to the advancement of our region, they will honor Heywood Healthcare Collaborator Award Recipients the Athol-Orange Rotary Club and the Gardner Rotary Club, as well as the Heywood Healthcare Community Health Hero Award Recipient, Michelle Dunn, from the A.E.D. Foundation. All proceeds from the Winter Affair benefit the Heywood Healthcare Weekend Backpack Food Program. This program supports more than 250 food-insecure youth in local public Schools. For more information on sponsorship and registration, please visit www.heywood.org/winteraffair.

Free Life Skills Elementary/Middle School Level 1 Certification - Effectively Preventing Prescription Drug Misuse & Other Drug Use

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is offering free Botvin LifeSkills Trainings (LST) for health educators, school nurses, and teams. LST is a research-validated substance abuse prevention program proven to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug misuse, and violence. LST Elementary Level 1 consists of a series of sessions in the 3rd and 4th grades. LST Middle School Level 1 consists of a series of Sessions in the 6th or 7th grade; but schools implementing it for the first time can also offer it to 8th graders. The program can be implemented by adults who attend this one-day certification training. The training, curriculum and student guides are offered at no charge by the MDPH. This comprehensive and exciting program provides young people with the confidence and skills necessary to successfully handle challenging situations. Many one-day training options are offered, but only one day is required. All sessions run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm with registration beginning at 8:30 am. Certification is granted after attending one of the following sessions. Teacher and student materials are free and lunch is provided. Sessions are accessible by public transportation or free parking. For more information or to register, visit www.cvent.com/d/74q78p/6T. Prior registration is required. Both elementary and middle school trainings are available there. Six hours per day of training will be awarded: the CEUs can be used for nurses; PDPs for educators; and 6.5 hours for Certified Prevention Specialists (CPS) Credits.

Locations for free Elementary trainings:
- February 13, 2018; TownePlace Suites; Wareham
- February 14, 2018; Four Points Sheraton; Norwood
- February 15, 2018; Boston Marriott; Peabody
- February 16, 2018; Courtyard Marriott; Marlborough

**Additional Elementary School Trainings will be scheduled in Western/Central Mass – Dates TBA**

Locations for free Middle School trainings:
- February 27, 2018; DoubleTree by Hilton, Hyannis
- February 28, 2018; John Carver Inn, Plymouth
- March 1, 2018; Congregation Lion of Judah, Boston
- March 2, 2018; Marriott Hotel, Peabody
- March 12, 2018; John W. Olver Building, Greenfield
- March 13, 2018; Hotel Northampton, Northampton
- March 14, 2018; Publick House; Sturbridge
- March 15, 2018; Courtyard Marriott; Marlborough
Athol Bird & Nature Club

Feb. 10: 6:15 am — Birding the North Shore Of Massachusetts - Join Club director Ernie LeBlanc on a trip to coastal Massachusetts for the wintering birds of Cape Ann, including gulls, alcids, and sea ducks. Meet at 6:15 am at the Millers River Environmental Center (MREC), 100 Main Street, Athol. Please call ahead to let us know you are attending. Bring snacks and extreme cold weather clothing! Contact Ernie at 978-249-4064 or lebroyal@aol.com to register or for more info.

Feb. 20: 7:00 pm — ABNC Geology Division - Hosted by Paul Kachinsky. This monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month will feature various topics of discussion relative to geology. Come join in for this informal evening of exploration and learning.

February Story Walks
Fridays at The Athol Public Library 9:30 - 11:30 am

Pages from books are set up on signs throughout the library from 9:30—11:30 am every Friday. Each week there will be a craft or activity that goes along with each book!

For more information contact Jen at VOC: 978-249-8467 or Angela at APL: 978-249-9515

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBER/DONOR STATUS WITH THE NQCC?
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.