The Common Thread

A North Quabbin Community Coalition Publication

November 2022 ~ Volume 38, Issue 3

Heather's Highlights

Dear Readers,

First, let me start off November by saying how grateful I am to live in such an amazing community! Fall in the North Quabbin is unmatched, with spanning views of beautiful color, festivities, and celebration of all things rural.

NCCC's October Forum was a chance to hear about all things related to the CONNECT Project from Deb McLaughlin and her tremendous team at the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and North Quabbin (OTF). One year in, so much has been learned with much room to grow as OTF and their partners continue to work to reduce overdose deaths and promote post-overdose support. Please reach out to OTF staff or opioidtaskforce.org/CONNECT for more information.

See you all in November for NQCC's Legislative Roundtable on November 18 from 9:00 to 10:30 am on Zoom. Don't forget to get out and vote on November 8!

Thank you for all you do,

Heather Bialecki-Canning
Executive Director





Photo courtesy David Runyan

Next Coalition Forum:

November 18, 2022
9:00—10:30 am

Subject: Legislative Roundtable

Online
(See back page for Zoom link.)

December Newsletter DEADLINE: Nov. 22, 2022

Email details to admin@nqcc.org

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

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

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ORANGE 2022 HOUSING SURVEY

The Orange Housing Production Plan Committee is conducting this survey to gather input from residents to create an Orange Housing Production Plan.

Market prices for buying and renting homes have significantly increased across the state in the past couple of years, making it more difficult for individuals and families to afford housing. In 2020, just over a quarter of homeowners and over 43% of renters in town were cost-burdened by housing (spending more than 30% of their income on housing).

The Town is hoping to improve housing options to meet the community's needs and hopes to hear from you on what the priorities should be for the next five years and beyond. Please complete this 5 minute survey to help us develop goals and strategies that will guide this work. *All responses are anonymous and confidential.*

Housing Plan Committee meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Community Development Director Alec Wade at awade@townoforange.org.

How to complete the survey

Online:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Orange_Housing

Paper copies available at: Town Offices, Post Office, Wheeler Memorial Library, Moore Leland Library, Council on Aging, and Community Health Center of Franklin County (Orange office)

Paper copies return by mail: Orange Town Office, 6 Prospect St, Orange MA 01364

Paper copies drop off: Town Offices (Cheney Street office building and town hall building), Wheeler Memorial Library, Moore Leland Library

For more information about this plan, check the Town website: https://www.townoforange.org/orange-housing-production-plan-committee

Access the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Orange_Housing



FREE
THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Home Delivered Meal*

*(*to those in Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick & Wendell ONLY)*

Do you need a home-cooked meal on Thanksgiving Day?
We deliver free meals to seniors and the homebound!

>> RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 21 <<

Call the North Quabbin Community Coalition at 978-249-3703

Sponsored by the North Quabbin Community Coalition, and the Pioneer Junior Women's Club.
Powered by volunteers!!

~ OR ~

Come and enjoy a free Thanksgiving dinner at the

William J. O'Brien Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner @ Noon

Athol American Legion, (corner of Exchange & Pequoig Streets)
Come early and enjoy a cup of coffee. Transportation is available.

>> RESERVATIONS REQUIRED <<

Call the Athol Council on Aging at 978-249-8986

Sponsored by local organizations, businesses, and North Quabbin residents.



New England Regional Job Fair

November 15-16
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Online via Premier

First-hour priority for Veterans on both days!

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS!

Looking to hire? Looking to expand your workforce?

PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL NEW ENGLAND JOB FAIR!

Free for qualifying New England companies, big or small.

Employers may attend one or both days relevant to their hiring needs.



REGISTER YOUR COMPANY TODAY!

or visit https://bit.ly/NEJobFairEmployer

Tuesday, November 15
Industry Spotlight - Education, Healthcare, Hospitality, and other industries.

Wednesday, November 16
Industry Spotlight - Engineering, Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation, Warehousing, and other industries.

The virtual New England Regional Job Fair will be held on Premier Virtual and allows employers to interact with job seekers through a virtual booth, instant message or chat, and view resumes.

Questions? Contact your local MassHire!

Registration Deadline: November 1, 2022

MassHire Programs and Services are fully funded by U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Employment and Training Administration grants. Additional details furnished upon request.

Employment Opportunities

Community Action Pioneer Valley - Full descriptions and requirements can be found at https://www.communityaction.us/job-openings.

Head Start Business Operations Coordinator-$2000 Bonus—This position requires working closely with families to ensure timely payment of child care fees, tracking revenue collection, coordinating billing activities, and assisting with processing other business office activities.

COC Administrative Assistant—The Three County Continuum of Care is looking for a well-organized professional to assist in the day-to-day operations and special initiatives for the COC regional efforts to end homelessness. The administrative assistant will support the COC's program staff's administration of funding, community engagement, data and reporting, and oversight of the coordinated entry system.

Energy Efficiency Coordinator—Our Energy Efficiency Program for income eligible households is looking for the right person to join our management team. Must be highly motivated, results driven, and with a good eye for detail. Excellent communication and time management skills essential. Experience working with vendors and contractors helpful. Will have at least 5 years of experience supervising staff. The position supervises energy technicians who provide efficiency services throughout Franklin and Hampshire counties and is responsible for setting goals and finding pathways to meet or exceed these targets. Full-time.

2 Energy Program Intake/Certifiers (Seasonal-Greenfield/Northampton)—The Energy Programs Fuel Assistance Program has full-time/seasonal openings for intake/certifier positions. These positions are responsible for interviewing and completing the application intake for individuals applying for the Fuel Assistance Program. The ideal candidates will have five years of related experience with client services and compiling financial information. Bilingual (Spanish, English, Russian) preferred.

Facilities Associate/Custodian—This position is a dual role including providing custodial services, completing daily maintenance tasks, and providing general repair in our buildings. Looking for someone who is organized, can work independently, and has general maintenance skills. Full-time.

Head Start Fiscal & Grants Coordinator-$2,000 Bonus—Large Head Start and Child Care Program seeking talented and motivated individual to work collaboratively with Director of Business Operations to manage multi-funded grants and budget processes for an approx. $10-$11M budget. Must be proficient with Microsoft Excel and Word, have excellent communication, organizational, and problem-solving skills, the ability to analyze data and work with complex budgets, be comfortable working in fast-paced, deadline driven environment, and the ability to work independently or as a member of a team. Experience in multi-funded grant and budget mgmt., fund accounting and knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) preferred. Degree in accounting or related field and five years grant and budget mgmt. experience. Supervisory experience preferred.

Head Start Cook – Orange, $2,000 Bonus—Candidate must be highly motivated and have a passion for cooking for children, including preparing nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and snacks for preschool aged children. Requires High School diploma or GED and one-year related cooking experience in a food service setting, current SERV safe Certification and Allergen Awareness Training, and a good driving record. 25 hours per week.

Head Start Cook Assistant – Franklin County $2,000 Bonus—If you are looking for daytime work and love to prepare food for young children, then this is the job for you. Min. requirements are, High School Diploma or GED plus six months experience in a food service setting, able to lift a min. of 50 lbs. and load/unload food for delivery, valid driver's license, evidence of a safe driving record. Hours 27.50/hr school year, 17.50 summer.

Head Start & Early Learning Programs Intake and Outreach Liaison (Administrative Position) (Turners Falls) - $2,000 Sign on Bonus—Will meet with applying families and determine eligibility for services and assist the family in determining what program options best meet their needs; enter family data into database systems; and participate in recruitment/outreach activities to promote all HS&ELP program options. The ideal candidate will have strong time management, organizational, communication, computer, and customer service skills. Sensitivity and knowledge working with families from diverse populations. Spanish speaking candidates preferred. High school diploma or High School Equivalency/HISET and two years of related experience OR Associate degree in related field and six months of experience. Position is 32.5 hours per week.

LifePath's Age-Friendly Needs Assessment Survey Results Presentation

LifePath
options for independence

Be the first to hear from LifePath onhow community members from 30 towns responded about the needs of local older adults and caregivers as they relate to healthcare, housing, transportation, and more. Using what they learned, they look to you to help prioritize regional needs to create a more age-friendly community in our local area. The presentation will take place Tuesday, November 1, 2022, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm on Zoom. Click here to register: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcOGhpj8sHNU8Qrg8cTKtwNMsI6qHyVsu#/registration. Once registered, you will receive the details of the virtual meeting.

For more information on the Age- and Dementia-Friendly project, click here: https://lifepathma.org/resources/age-and-dementia-friendly-program. To get involved or request our newsletter sent every other month or so, fill out the form here: https://lifepathma.org/component/flexicontactplus/?amp;view=contact&Itemid=253. LifePath thanks their partners from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and UMass Amherst for their continued collaboration on this project.

Help LifePath Make Our Community a Better Place to Age: Volunteer Opportunities in Western Mass and the North Quabbin

Join LifePath's team of dedicated volunteers who serve older adults and people with disabilities in our community. The demand for their programs increases daily, and they rely on their volunteers' generosity to continue delivering life-sustaining services to our most vulnerable population. Volunteer with them and enjoy these benefits:

- Build lasting connections
- Be a part of a vibrant team
- Learn and teach others in the community

Volunteers are needed in the following programs:

- Money Management
- Home Safety
- Meals on Wheels
- Grocery Shopping
- Ombudsman
- Rides for Health
- And others!



Volunteer Meals on Wheels driver Alan Coutinho (right) delivers a hot meal to Joan Wilson at her home in Shelburne. Courtesy LifePath.

Call 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259, Ext. 3006, or visit their website to apply: https://lifepathma.org/get-involved/volunteer.

2022 Virtual Winter Series Via Zoom



OVERDOSE PREVENTION & NARCAN TRAININGS

Monday, November 14 5:30 PM

Friday, December 16 2:00 PM

Please join us at an upcoming community overdose prevention training to learn how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. Participants will also learn how to administer Narcan, a lifesaving opioid overdose reversal drug.

Participants will learn the answers to these questions:

- What is an opioid overdose?
- How do you recognize and respond to an opioid overdose?
- How do you administer Narcan to reverse an opioid overdose?

OPIOID Task Force
of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region

tapestry

Want to join the Zoom call? Please email info@opioidtaskforce.org.
www.opioidtaskforce.org

North Quabbin Spotlight

ARRSD Community Night Out

The Athol-Royalston Regional School District's (ARRSD) Family and Community Center/Athol High School Food Pantry hosted a Community Night Out the last Wednesday in October with temperatures in the high sixties drawing out a fantastic number of folks. They spread across O'Brian Field enjoying music, food, a flaming bonfire, trunk or treating, and of course the company of one another!

Youth of all ages came out with their family and friends to enjoy the abundance of activities. It was heartwarming to watch teens playing volleyball, cornhole, and hitting the football tackling dummy. Youth were engaging in conversations not only with their peers but also with community members, building those bonds and allowing their voices to be heard. The bonfire was higher than the trees over in the distance while everyone walked down the line of cars covered in decorations for trunk or treating. Athol Community Elementary School (ACES) won with their blow-up Christmas decorations towering over the cars. The smiles visible through the mist were enough to know that this event was successful, our community is present.
Be on the lookout for next years event, it is one you do not want to miss. Happy Halloween North Quabbin!









NOVEMBER 2022

North Quabbin Recovery Center

Recover and Discover

Open Hours
Tuesday- 9am-12
Wednesday 9am-12
Thursday 9am-12

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM FCSO Drop In Hours 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	2 9-11AM Creative Expression 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	3 9:00AM Video/Discussion 10:00AM UNO 11AM All Recovery Meeting	4 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	5
6	7 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	8 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM FCSO Drop In Hours 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	9 9:00AM Creative Space 10:00AM Comedy Hour 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	10 9:00AM Video/Discussion 10:00AM Tik Tok w/ Sherry 11AM All Recovery Meeting	11 VETERANS DAY 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	12
13	14 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	15 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM FCSO Drop In Hours 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	16 9-11AM Creative Expression 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	17 9:00AM Video/Discussion 10:00AM Recipe Swap 11AM All Recovery Meeting	18 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	19
20	21 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	22 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM FCSO Drop In Hours 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	23 9-11AM Gratitude Activity 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	24 Thanksgiving	25 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	26
27	28 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	29 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM FCSO Drop In Hours 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	30 9-11AM Creative Expression 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting			

The VITA Program Seeks Volunteers

COMMUNITY ACTION PIONEER VALLEY
Access • Opportunity • Community

The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program at Community Action is actively looking for volunteers to prepare simple tax returns from January to April of 2023. They provide comprehensive training, so no tax experience is necessary! If you enjoy talking directly with community members, entering info to online forms (or are willing to learn), and helping bring money back into the pockets of Western MA residents, this might be the opportunity for you! For more information and to sign-up call 413-376-1179 or visit their online at communityaction.us/taxes.

Job Opening: Massachusetts State Senate Director of Communications and Engagement for Senator Jo Comerford

Position Summary: The Director of Communications and Engagement develops and distributes communications about the office's work and leads the engagement of constituents in the legislative process and the work of the Senate office. This position could be based in the district or in the Massachusetts State House and reports to the Chief of Staff. Salary is commensurate with experience. Visit https://senatorjocomerford.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/office-of-senator-comerford-director-of-communications-and-engagement-job-description.pdf for a full job description. To apply for this position, please send your resume and a cover letter to Jared.Freedman@masenate.gov.

North Quabbin Community Coalition
251 Exchange Street, Athol MA 01331
www.nqcc.org

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.

NQCC November Forum:

Legislative Rountable
November 18, 2022, from 9:00 to 10:30 am.
Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87476827668

Covid-19 Corner

As we enter the holiday season, it becomes imperative that folks take extra care to protect themselves and their loved ones. Check out this link for most current guidance, and don't hesitate to seek free test kits from the Athol Board of Health.
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-guidance-for-the-general-public.

