

# The Common Thread

A North Quabbin Community Coalition Publication

November 2021 ~ Volume 37, Issue 3



## Heather's Highlights

Dear Readers,

On October 7th, the North Quabbin Community Coalition (NQCC) was able to hold its annual meeting virtually! It was a great event highlighting the silver linings throughout the “dark clouds” of our past year and half. We were pleased to present awards and recognition to amazing folks across the North Quabbin going above and beyond to make our community stronger, safer, healthier, and awesomer! (yes that is a word) Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to an in-person annual meeting in June, fingers crossed!

The NQCC also held the first official monthly forum of the new year on October 15th. It was a chance for folks to network and check-in. Our speaker for that forum will be featured in January to ensure that we all hear about the RSVP program available in the Franklin County towns of the North Quabbin.

As we enter November, it is clear that Thanksgiving is coming! The NQCC will be holding it's annual Thanksgiving Meal Delivery program for the elderly and homebound in the North Quabbin. Please see the flyer within this issue, and feel free to call the NQCC for more information, to drive a route, or to volunteer your time!

Last but not least, we hope to see you all at our Annual Legislative Forum on November 19th! As always, the zoom link can be found on [www.nqcc.org](http://www.nqcc.org) or at the back of this issue.

Thank you for all you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather".

Heather Bialecki-Canning  
Executive Director

## Next Coalition Forum:

**November 19, 2021**

9:00—10:30 am

## Legislative Roundtable Online

(See back page for Zoom link.)

## December's Newsletter DEADLINE: November 23

Email details to [admin@nqcc.org](mailto:admin@nqcc.org)

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Billy Goat Boats  
Bill Burton  
Opioid Task Force  
David Runyan

*Thank  
you*



### JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Are you looking to take part in addressing food insecurity and making a difference in your community?

We have open opportunities for you to become engaged in one of many fulfilling volunteer roles.

#### DO YOU HAVE...

- Energy & Passion
- Financial Expertise
- Business/Non-profit Experience
- Legal Expertise
- Connection with the Franklin County Community - or -
- A Range of Diverse Perspectives & Skill Set?

Help plan events, fundraise, and provide your expertise to our growing team!

For more information, call Executive Director Rochel Berggren at 413-772-1033 - Or email us at [fccmp.mo@gmail.com](mailto:fccmp.mo@gmail.com)

Help us grow in our mission to alleviate hunger in Franklin County!



# 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 the elderly and homebound!

**>> RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 22 <<**

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

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

~ OR ~

Drive thru and pick up a great Thanksgiving meal at the Annual

## William J. O'Brien Memorial Thanksgiving Day Dinner

Co-sponsored by the Athol Council on Aging

**>> BY RESERVATION ONLY <<**

**Call the Athol Council on Aging at 978-249-8986 to Sign Up**

Pick up between 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Athol Senior Center, 82 Freedom Street.

Out of concern for the health and safety of our staff and volunteers, should the COVID virus prove to put them at risk, the Thanksgiving Day Dinner will be cancelled. All who have signed up will be notified by their given phone numbers.





Valuing Our Children

# Teen Group

Wednesdays 3:45

Teens must be signed up by their parent or guardian.

*Be the change you wish to see in the world...*



To sign up or for more information please call Charlene 978-249-8467

or [online registration](#)



## Employment Opportunities

### Behavioral Health Network, Inc.



Come join Behavioral Health Network's (BHN) team of competent and compassionate professionals for an exciting job opportunity right in your community! BHN is opening a program in the North Quabbin to help those struggling with opioid dependence and is looking to hire an **LPN, Receptionist, and Behavioral Health Clinician**. BHN's Orange Opioid Treatment Program, located at 119 New Athol Road, Suite 210, will provide methadone in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to provide a holistic approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. To learn more about each position and to apply, visit [bhnworks.org](http://bhnworks.org).

### Valuing Our Children (VOC)

Valuing Our Children seeks to hire a **Program Manager** for the North Quabbin Family Resource Center. The successful candidate must possess a deep understanding of strength-based family support. Work collectively with local providers, statewide systems, and families to deliver coordinated family support services. Successful candidate must have supervisory experience, program management, group facilitation, data collection, and computer literacy. Transportation required. This is a full-time position. Qualifications: bachelor's degree or work equivalent experience preferred. Submit resume to Kena Vescovi, Executive Director, at [kenavescovi@valuingourchildren.org](mailto:kenavescovi@valuingourchildren.org) or 217 Walnut Street Athol, MA 01331. Screening will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. EOE/ADA



Valuing Our Children

### Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol (LVOA)



Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol seeks an energetic, poised part-time **Coordinator** to coordinate the LVOA program that provides free, private, individualized and confidential tutoring to adults in basic reading and writing, and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The ideal candidate for this position will have excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills. Visit <https://lvao.org/news> for full description and instructions to apply.

### Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC)

The Community Health Center of Franklin County has open positions for a **Medical Provider**, a **Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner**, **Licensed Dental Assistants**, and a **Dental Hygienist**. They are also seeking a full time **Switchboard Operator** and a number of **Office Assistants**.



For full descriptions and application instructions, visit <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Community-Health-Center-of-Franklin-Count>.

# Shout Out!

**Virtual Program**  
**open to youth ages 14-21 in**  
**Franklin + Hampshire**  
**Counties & North**  
**Quabbin**

**Earn up to \$50 per month for participation!**

**Gain leadership and activism skills!**  
**Plan and participate in group projects**  
**for issues you care about!**  
**Make a difference in your community!**

**Meets on Zoom & Discord**



With optional in-person events

Monday group meets once a week on Mondays from 3:00-4:30pm Starting Oct. 25

We offer two groups- you can join whichever one works best for you!

Tuesday group meets once a week on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30pm Starting Oct. 26

For more information or to enroll, fill out our interest form

here or use QR code: [bit.ly/CAPVinterest](https://bit.ly/CAPVinterest)

Contact Merrow: [mragan@communityaction.us](mailto:mragan@communityaction.us)



**COMMUNITY ACTION**  
**PIONEER VALLEY**



updated 9/28/21



## AUTUMN STORYWALKS AT THE NEW SALEM QUABBIN OVERLOOK

Bring your children and join CNC outside with your little ones!

Take home activity and free book for each child.

Tuesdays at 11:00am

November 2nd: *In the Middle of Fall* by Kevin Henkes

November 9th: *Greeting Seasons: Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter* by Kenard Pak

- **REGISTRATION REQUIRED HERE:** <https://bitly.co/94PH> on the CNC program registration form. We will notify you if the walk is cancelled due to weather.
- Meet us on Tuesday mornings for a StoryWalk together after Tales & Tunes at the New Salem Library, 23 South Main Street.
- The StoryWalk will remain posted on the Quabbin Overlook path for the week if you can't meet us on Tuesday mornings you are welcome to visit it yourself. The trail is accessed from the driveway beside the New Salem Fire Station in the Center of Town. Follow the driveway past the athletic fields to a small parking lot. Look for the StoryWalk signs!
- Contact CNC if you have questions 413-422-0170 call/text or [Budine@erving.com](mailto:Budine@erving.com)

Funded by a grant from the New Salem Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and in collaboration with the New Salem Library. The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the Community.



## Tales & Tunes with Katie at the New Salem Library

Songs, music, books and friends! We will be **outside** as weather allows and inside, masked if weather is inclement.

Join CNC at the New Salem Library for a 5-week series on Tuesdays at 10:00am

November 2nd, 9th, 16th



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** <https://bitly.co/94PH>

or use the CNC QR to access the online form

Contact CNC 413-422-0170 call/text with questions.



The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the community. This program is supported in collaboration with the the New Salem Library

## Free Welcome Baby Baskets



For families in The North Quabbin who have recently had a baby. Baskets include diapers, new clothes, and blankets.

For more information or to request a Welcome Baby Basket please call Aimee at Valuing Our Children 978-249-8467



## Moms' Connection

Valuing Our Children's Family Center  
217 Walnut St. Athol

A group for moms to socialize, support each other, and make things!

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month  
1pm



For more information or to register call Nicole: 978-249-8467



[Online Registration](#)





**North Quabbin Community Coalition**  
251 Exchange Street, Athol MA 01331  
[www.nqcc.org](http://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:**

**Subject: Legislative Roundtable**

November 19, 2021, from 9:00 to 10:30 am—Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89017545543> ~ Meeting ID: 890 1754 5543 ~ Passcode: 242560

## **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, located at 416 Main Street, Athol, is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays with All Recovery Meetings happening on those days either in-person or virtually. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/NorthQuabbinRECOVERYcenter> weekly for times. All are welcome. **All Recovery Meetings:** Every Friday, in person at the Center at 7:00 pm.

### **ACT Group with the Franklin County Sheriff's Re-Entry Team**

The ACT Group is held every Tuesday from 1:00 to 2:00 pm, in person, at the North Quabbin Recovery Center, 416 Main Street, Athol, MA.

