

The Common Thread

A North Quabbin Community Coalition Publication

December 2021 ~ Volume 37, Issue 4



Heather's Highlights

Dear Readers,

November's Forum was the North Quabbin Community Coalition's (NQCC) Annual Legislative Roundtable. This year we were joined by Congressman McGovern's Aide Eladia Romero, Senator Anne Gobi, Senator Jo Comerford and her Aide Elena Cohen, Representative Susannah Whipps and her Aide Rachel McMahon, as well as North Quabbin's newest member of our local delegation, Representative Jake Oliveria. The conversation was rich and filled with both celebration of past successes and hopes for the future as redistricting is implemented across the State of Massachusetts. We are lucky as we see movement in our delegation to the east, and the addition of a Representative, that all have promised to continue their teamwork to advocate for the dynamic and unique North Quabbin Region. Please find contact information of all of our representation on our newly revamped website nqcc.org (Legislative Directory: https://nqcc.org/resource-directory/wpbdp_category/legislators/)

November 2021 allowed the NQCC to once again resume the Thanksgiving home delivered meal program for older and homebound citizens in the nine town North Quabbin region. This year 200 meals were successfully distributed thanks to our amazing community volunteers, Wittys Funeral Home, Pioneer Jr. Women's Club, the Town of Warwick, the NQCC Board, staff, and their families!

Thank you for all that you do as always, and please take time to enjoy the Holiday Season North Quabbin!

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

Heather Bialecki-Canning
Executive Director



Next Coalition Forum:

December 17, 2021

9:00—10:30 am

Subject: Getting Real About Bias, Inclusion, Harassment, & Bullying

Online

(See back page for Zoom link.)

January's Newsletter DEADLINE: December 21

Email details to admin@nqcc.org

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*Thank
you*

NQCC's New Website

The NQCC is pleased to announce the release of its new website along with a great revamped and comprehensive North Quabbin Resource Directory! Please take a moment to visit us at <https://nqcc.org> and let us know if your listing needs changes!

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the North Quabbin Community Coalition website. The browser's address bar shows the URL nqcc.org. The website header features the NQCC logo, which is a circular emblem with a bridge and the text "North Quabbin Community Coalition". To the right of the logo, the text reads "North Quabbin Community Coalition" and "Working to improve the quality of life within the North Quabbin region since 1984. Serving Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, and Wendell, Massachusetts." Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Resource Directory, NQ Recovery Center, Youth Action Council (YAC), Parent Advisory Council (PAC), and Contact Us.

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is a vertical navigation menu with a red "WELCOME" header and the following links: HOME, NEWS & EVENTS, ABOUT, RESOURCE DIRECTORY, "THE COMMON THREAD" NEWSLETTER, NORTH QUABBIN RECOVERY CENTER, NQCC TASK FORCES, YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL (YAC), PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC), COMMUNITY EDUCATION, NORTH QUABBIN LOAN FUND, INVEST NORTH QUABBIN & NORTH QUABBIN REVOLVING LOAN FUND COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE, STRENGTH THROUGH ADVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP, and MEMBERSHIP/DONATE.

The right column features a large "About" section with a photograph of the North Quabbin Community Coalition building. Below the photo are three buttons: "About", "Membership/Donate", and "Contact Us".

Below the "About" section are three logos: the Youth Action Council (YAC) logo, the North Quabbin Recovery Center logo (with the tagline "Recover, and Thrive"), and the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) logo. Below each logo is its respective name: "Youth Action Council (YAC)", "North Quabbin Recovery Center", and "Parent Advisory Council (PAC)".

At the bottom of the page is a "Recent Posts" section. The first post is titled "Home Delivered Meal" and includes the text: "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 979-249-2703". The second post is titled "Thanksgiving Meal Delivery Program Sign-Up Deadline: Monday, November 22" and includes the text: "A BIG thank you to Witty's Funeral Home for their generous donation to the NQCC's Thanksgiving Meal Delivery Program! This is".

Youth Works



Fall 2021- Spring 2022

Open to youth ages 16-21 in Franklin Hampshire and N. Quabbin Regions

This will be a completely virtual programming for the Fall with the potential to do in person work placements in the Spring.

Why YouthWorks?

Learn important job readiness skills necessary for the changing landscape of the workplace, work on real projects with local businesses or agencies, and participate in career pathway training while earning money after school!

<https://www.masshirefhcareers.org/youthworks/>

For more information and to apply



Contact: Jonathan Olan
Youth Services Counselor
jonathanolan@masshirefhcareers.org
413.774.4361, ext. 306
413.279.4154 (cell)



Grocery Shoppers Needed



Help someone in your community with their grocery shopping! This LifePath program offers grocery shopping and delivery for people over the age of 60, people with physical illnesses or disabilities, and people who are immunocompromised. Volunteers create grocery lists with clients, collect their payment method, and shop and deliver groceries to their door once or twice a month. Volunteers may also help a client shop online for their groceries. LifePath has a waiting list of clients and they're actively recruiting volunteers. Apply today at <https://lifepathma.org/get-involved/volunteer>.

Orange/Athol Community Meal Site has Moved

Franklin County Community Meals Program's Orange/Athol community meal site has moved from behind the Orange Armory to the Orange United Methodist Church located at 104 South Main Street in Orange. They will still be serving every Thursday from 5:00 to 5:30 pm.

OUR ORANGE MEAL SITE HAS MOVED!



Now serving at
Orange United Methodist Church
104 South Main Street

Health Connector Open Enrollment

It's Open Enrollment for the Health Connector now until January 23. If you have an existing account with the Health Connector, this is the time to make changes to your application, if necessary, and also choose a different Health Connector plan if you want. If you do not have health insurance for any reason, this is the time to submit an application. You can do this at MaHealthConnector.org.

The Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC) can help! Their certified Health Connector Navigator is Wendy Gaida and you can reach her by calling 413-325-8500, extension 146.





Are you interested in getting fresh produce this winter? Sign up for a Quabbin Harvest Produce Share for 2022 to start getting in January.

HIP at Quabbin Harvest – Sign up Now for Winter Shares in 2022

Get a box of fresh produce weekly or biweekly

🍏 GET MONEY BACK in your EBT account!

🍏 Fruit and veggie shares available



12 No. Main St., Orange
Mon.-Fri. 10-7, Sat. 9-5
978-544-6784

Get Reimbursed up to these amounts:

1-2 person family: \$40/month
3-5 person family: \$60/month
6+ person family: \$80/month

How Does HIP Work at Quabbin Harvest?

To get reimbursed on your EBT/SNAP Card, you must sign up for a produce CSA Share, and once you start receiving CSA Shares you will be reimbursed each month. The sign up application is easy. Just ask for one in the store.

Note: You cannot get reimbursed when you just use your EBT/SNAP card. But you can use SNAP to purchase items in the store without reimbursement. A retail business does not operate the way that Farmers' Markets operate regarding HIP.

HIP/CSA Membership agreements are available at the store (12 N. Main St. in Orange) or online at https://quabbinharvest.coop/files/SNAP_CSA_Membership_App_2022_.pdf. *This is a year round program.*

People are reimbursed on their EBT Card for the CSA Shares automatically. You will receive \$1 for each dollar you spend for a Share, up to a monthly limit depending on household size. HIP is administered by MA DTA.

You can sign up now to get Shares starting in January, 2022. To get CSA Shares with HIP people must complete a membership application in order to start or continue getting Shares in January, 2022.

Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op/Community Market
12 North Main St., Orange, MA
978-544-6784

The Nurturing Program



Valuing Our Children

- A 15 - week Virtual Parenting Class for families with children ages 8 and under. (must have custody)
- Curriculum includes self care, child development, keeping kids safe, & discipline.
- Once a week deliveries to participant's homes of:
 - Parent / Child Activities
 - Ingredients and recipe for one meal

Group will run Thursdays
January 6th to April 14th
10 - 11:30 am via Zoom

For more information
or to register call
Christine or Kayla:
978-249-5070
Scan the QR Code
[or click here to register.](#)



Funded through the Coordinated Family and
Community Engagement Grant by the Massachusetts
Department of Early Education and Care

Family
Resource Centers

children's
trust
strengthening families





Aging Populations: Addressing the Workforce Crisis in Home and Community Based Care

A Legislative Event



Join us, and our legislators, in a virtual event to engage in dialogue around key legislative initiatives which impact individuals in need of home and community based services, workforce development, livable wages, and access to care.

**Friday, December 10, 2021
9:00 - 10:00 am**

*Please send questions in advance of the event to
hneal@lifepathma.org*

Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuce2hpzsvG9KIT3rHYjgS5NVzhxVGwJpf>

Invitation to Contribute to Hospitals' and Regional Community Health Improvement Plans!

Many of you contributed valuable input during the Heywood Healthcare and HealthAlliance-Clinton hospitals' community health needs assessment process. Now that the health assessments are completed, Heywood Healthcare invites their North Central and North Quabbin region's community members, stakeholders, and leaders to share your ideas and recommendations to the Hospitals' and the CHNA 9's Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP(s)).



The purpose of the CHIP is to serve as a roadmap for the development of a comprehensive, accessible, equitable health care system capable of meeting the most pressing health needs of those who live and work in our service area.

Hospital and CHNA 9 representatives will share key health needs and issues identified in the recent Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) for Heywood Healthcare and HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospitals, will convey current strategies the hospitals and CHNA 9 are implementing, and will facilitate a discussion where you will assist in developing recommendations to be included in the CHIP.

Please register for one of the following dates. Note that the same material will be covered at all sessions. If a participant has language access needs, please email chna9northcentral@gmail.com and they can arrange for interpretation services.

December 3 @ 10:00 am: Register in advance for this meeting at <https://lukinc.zoom.us/j/9123456789>

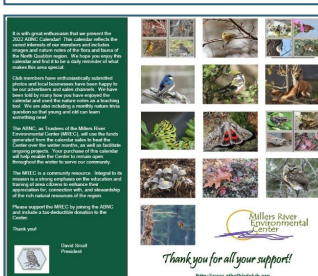
December 9 @ 2:00 pm: Register in advance for this meeting at <https://lukinc.zoom.us/j/9123456789>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Your participation will help to bring an essential perspective to the important work being done in the communities that we serve.

The Athol Bird and Nature Club 2022 Calendar Now Available



The Athol Bird and Nature Club (ABNC) 2022 calendar, "Birds and Nature of the North Quabbin", focuses on the local beauty of this region. It is chock full of nature notes, trivia questions and of course, some amazing photos of local birds, animals, and plants. The calendars are now available for purchase through: Trail Head, Quabbin Harvest, and Mount Tully Kennels in Orange; Flowerland @ Tintagels Gate, Else Where, Cornerstone Insurance, MacMannis Florist, the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce, in Athol; the Royalston Country Store in South Royalston, the New Salem General Store in New Salem; the Red Apple Farm in Phillipston; the Petersham Craft Center in Petersham; the Hardwick Farmers Co-op in Gilbertville; the Kitchen Garden in Templeton; the Wendell Country Store in Wendell; Connecticut River Liquors in Turners Falls; and the Wine Rack and Ruggeri's Beverage & Redemption Center in Greenfield.





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 December Forum:

Subject: Getting Real About Bias, Inclusion, Harassment, & Bullying

December 17, 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.

