

The Common Thread

A North Quabbin Community Coalition Publication

December 2022 ~ Volume 39, Issue 3



Heather's Highlights

Dear Readers,

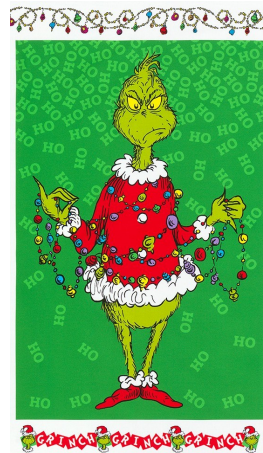
NQCC wants to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

As November rolled to an end it gave me a chance to reflect on how grateful I am for the strengths of our amazing North Quabbin Region. Although need areas are high, and we have struggles to face collectively, once again the region came through for each other and made our 2022 Thanksgiving Meal distribution possible! This year NQCC was able to distribute an unprecedented 267 meals to our older residents and homebound through the 9 towns of North Quabbin. NQCC Staff, Board of Directors, Community Volunteers, The Athol Royalston School District, Pioneer Jr. Women's Club, Witty's Funeral Home, and many more came together to make it all happen.

November also featured NQCC's annual legislative forum. Senator Jo Comerford, Representative Susannah Whipps and Representative Elect Aaron Saunders were all in attendance to discuss the "state of North Quabbin." A big thank you to our delegation for continued support of our region, and a commitment to hear our concerns for the future. Please find contact information for our legislators at https://nqcc.org/resource-directory/wpbdp_category/legislators/

Thank you for all you do,

Heather Bialecki-Canning
Executive Director



Next Coalition Forum:

December 16, 2022

9:00—10:30 am

Presentation by Clinical and Support Options

Virtual

(See back page or visit nqcc.org for Zoom link.)

**December Newsletter
DEADLINE: December 19,
2022**

Email details to
heather@nqcc.org

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

Our FY23 Donor/Members

July 2022-June 2023

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Valuing Our Children

PLATINUM SPONSORS
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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

Franklin County/North Quabbin 5th
Annual Sober Housing Summit

It Can Be Done!

Creating Supportive Sober Housing

DECEMBER 9, 2022

10 AM - 12 NOON

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DINING COMMONS

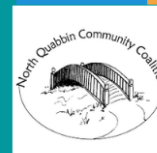
HOT BREAKFAST AVAILABLE!

REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/4FCPSE74](https://tinyurl.com/4FCPSE74)

Featuring the following speakers:

- Register John Merrigan, OTF Co-Chair
 - Shawn Hayden, COO, GAAMHA
 - Bill Miller, VP, Housing & Homeless Services, Clinical & Support Options
 - Denise Menzdorf, Executive Director, Massachusetts Alliance of Sober Housing
- and small group sessions with content experts



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIVING IN THE SEASON OF GIVING!

Gear and Goods Drive for Unhoused Residents in Franklin County and the North Quabbin from November 21, 2022 - December 21, 2022
Click [here](#) for a list of suggested donated items and [here](#) for drop-off places! Also, donate at the North Quabbin Community Coalition at https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=ZPNP7CP46VULW and put 2022 Gear/Goods Drive in the subject line.

Nourishment

When it comes to goods and gear for unhoused individuals, the basics are the best way to go.

Toothpaste and Toothbrush

Canned Goods

Water

Shampoo

Energy Bars

Warmth

Being outdoors, providing a few items that will protect the person against severe and harsh weather conditions is essential.

Sleeping Bag

Gloves

Tent

Hat

Scarf

Wool Socks

Sleeping Pad

Fleece/Coat

Boots

Pants

Food For The Soul

Things that will help make unhoused individuals make connections with others in their networks and our community.

Letters of Encouragement

YMCA Pass

Notepad and Pen

Gift Card

Cell Phone Minutes



Organized by the Franklin County/North Quabbin Emergency Services for Unhoused Individuals Task Force

NORTH QUABBIN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Midnight Madness

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 10TH 2022
6PM - 12AM



ARE YOU A CRAFTER
OR OWN
A HOME BASED BUSINESS?
LIMITED POP-UP VENDOR SPACE
IS AVAILABLE AT
REVIVAL WHEELER MANSION
IN ORANGE



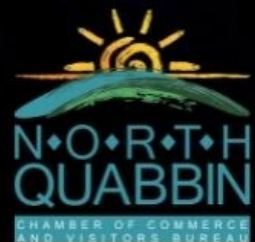
REVIVAL WHEELER MANSION
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

'Tis the Season
to Shop Local

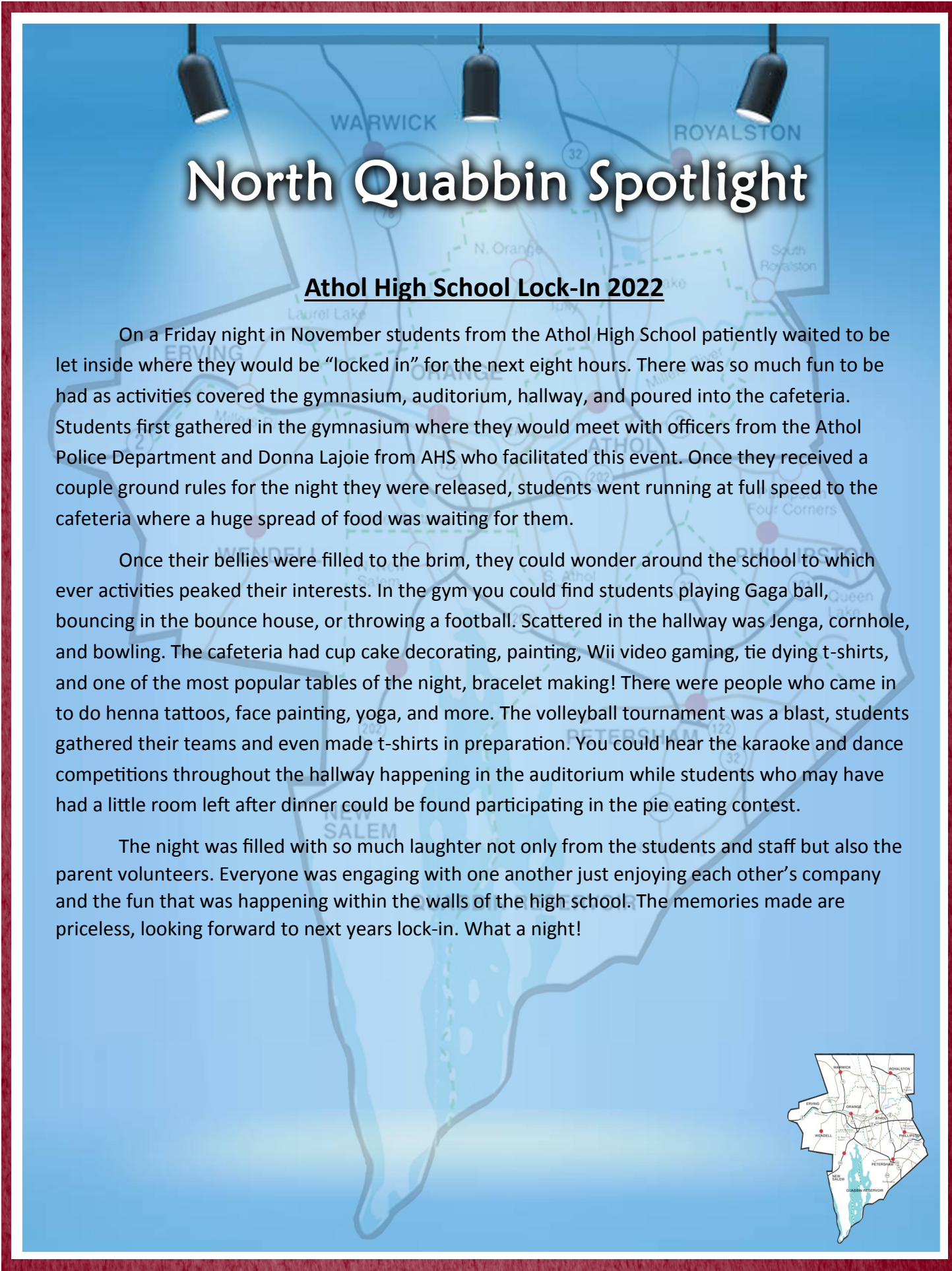
SIGN YOUR BUSINESS
UP TODAY!

978-249-3849

NORTHQUABBINCHAMBER.COM



NORTH
QUABBIN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND VISITORS BUREAU



North Quabbin Spotlight

Athol High School Lock-In 2022

On a Friday night in November students from the Athol High School patiently waited to be let inside where they would be “locked in” for the next eight hours. There was so much fun to be had as activities covered the gymnasium, auditorium, hallway, and poured into the cafeteria. Students first gathered in the gymnasium where they would meet with officers from the Athol Police Department and Donna Lajoie from AHS who facilitated this event. Once they received a couple ground rules for the night they were released, students went running at full speed to the cafeteria where a huge spread of food was waiting for them.

Once their bellies were filled to the brim, they could wonder around the school to which ever activities peaked their interests. In the gym you could find students playing Gaga ball, bouncing in the bounce house, or throwing a football. Scattered in the hallway was Jenga, cornhole, and bowling. The cafeteria had cup cake decorating, painting, Wii video gaming, tie dying t-shirts, and one of the most popular tables of the night, bracelet making! There were people who came in to do henna tattoos, face painting, yoga, and more. The volleyball tournament was a blast, students gathered their teams and even made t-shirts in preparation. You could hear the karaoke and dance competitions throughout the hallway happening in the auditorium while students who may have had a little room left after dinner could be found participating in the pie eating contest.

The night was filled with so much laughter not only from the students and staff but also the parent volunteers. Everyone was engaging with one another just enjoying each other’s company and the fun that was happening within the walls of the high school. The memories made are priceless, looking forward to next years lock-in. What a night!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
NORTH QUABBIN RECOVERY CENTER'S

Photos with Santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
10AM-12PM
416 MAIN ST. ATHOL
THIS A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
OPEN TO ALL





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

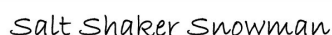
1-2pm

For more

information or to
register please

contact Nicole at
978.249.8467

Online Registration



Child Care Stipends are available for children 0-10yrs of age.



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

Valuing Our Children

- A 15 - Week Parenting Class for families with children ages 6 and under.
- Curriculum includes self care, child development, keeping kids safe, & discipline.
 - Breakfast and take home lunch included
 - Opportunities for parent child engagement
 - Childcare with activity in separate room

Group will run Thursdays

January 5th to April 13th

9:30AM-11:30AM



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



DECEMBER
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 9-11 AM Tree Decorating 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	2 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	3
4	5 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	6 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM ACT 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	7 9-11AM Decorate Santa Hats 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	8 9-11AM Holiday Crafts 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	9 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	10 Pictures w/ Santa 10-12
11	12 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	13 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM ACT 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	14 9-11AM Decorate Cupcakes 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	15 9-11AM Movie Day- ELF 11:00 AM All Recovery Meeting	16 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	17
18	19 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	20 9:00AM Coffee Bar 10:00AM ACT 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting 7:50PM AA Meeting	21 9-11AM Book Club 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	22 9-11AM Holiday Safety Plan 11:00AM All Recovery Meeting	23 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	24
25 	26 5:30PM Drug Court Alumni Group 7:00PM Al-Anon	27 7:50PM AA Meeting	28 		30 7:00PM All Recovery Meeting	31

COMMUNITY ACTION MONEY MATTERS WORKSHOP AT THE BRICK HOUSE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15TH

10:00AM-12:00PM

BUDGETING



SAVINGS

EDUCATION

STABILITY

Do you need help making ends meet?



LEARN WAYS TO GET MORE
BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!



Register by contacting:
John Camerota
Jcamerota@brickhousecrc.org
(586)335-9693
The Brick House:
24 3rd st. TFMA





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:
Presentation by Clinical and Support Option
December 16, 2022, from 9:00 to 10:30 am.
Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Covid-19 Corner

Throughout the holiday season it is 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>.



North Quabbin
Recovery Center
Recover and Discover

416 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 ~ A Project of the North Quabbin Community Coalition

Weekly Happenings

Mondays

7:00 pm ~ Al-Anon

Tuesdays

10:00 am - 12:00 pm ~ Franklin Cty.
Sheriff's Office Drop-In Hours

11:00 am ~ All Recovery Meeting
7:50 pm ~ AA

Thursdays

11:00 am ~ All Recovery Meeting

Fridays

7:00 pm ~ All Recovery Meeting



The North Quabbin Recovery Center provides a compassionate, safe space to offer peer support to allow multiple paths of recovery for all. All Welcome! For updated information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/NorthQuabbinRECOVERYcenter>