

Cover Story Continued	2
Spooky Fun at Trick-or-Treat	3
Blast from the Past (1990-92)	4-5
YLP Seeks Participants	6
Coalition Calendar	7
nbCC staff	8

Coalition news

An update from



November 2025, Volume XL, Number 5

October Community Forum: Leaders Share Updates for Ongoing Projects Throughout the Community



The Coalition invited numerous community leaders to October's forum to report updates on important ongoing projects, as well as some projects the general public may not have been paying attention to. Updates were offered by Mayor Macksey, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), Hoosac River Revival(HRR), North Adams Public Schools(NAPS), the North Adams Partnership(NAP), MASS MoCA, and the City's Administrative Officer.

State Rep. Barrett stopped by briefly to share his most pressing concerns for the coming months amidst the federal shutdown and policy changes. We look forward to a follow-up from him in the coming months.

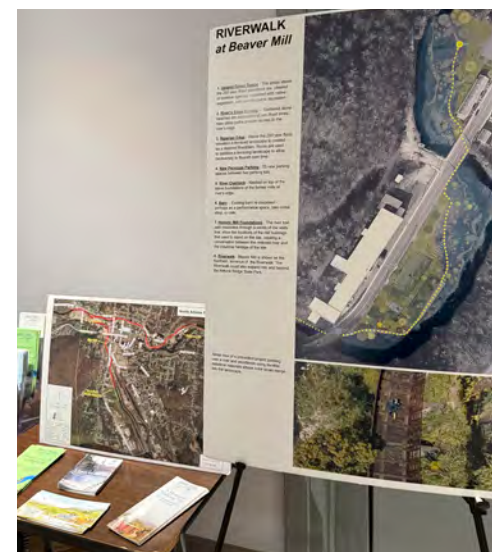
North Adams Mayor, Jennifer Macksey, followed Barrett with municipal updates, including news that the Brown Street bridge repair is about 2 months behind schedule.

Additionally, CDBG funds will be used towards street and sidewalk projects, including replacing fire hydrants, an engineering study will assess how to better direct water coming out of Clarksburg so it has less negative impact, \$800k grant to evaluate dams in the city (a step towards funding for construction), and a State paving project on the main thoroughfares throughout the city. Community Development Director Marya Kozik announced that the Route 2 Overpass Study, now complete, is moving into the review phase. We look forward to a "restitch" report that will explain different scenarios on how traffic could successfully be reconfigured through that area. She stressed that this is just a report, not a final decision.

Newly appointed North Adams Public Schools Superintendent, Tim Callahan, brought renderings of the new Greylock School Project, which is moving forward on schedule and under budget. He was also happy to report that the first year of grade span school configuration is already paying off. Incoming 7th graders are doing better and are more prepared, and scores coming out of Colegrove Park Elementary School are already improving.

Jenny Wright of the North Adams Partnership challenged everyone to "invest in North Adams" with three simple actions: Leave a 5-star Google review on a business you love, move a meeting off Zoom and to a downtown location, and visit a business you haven't been to before. She also highlighted an AARP grant-funded ADU design competition the partnership is hosting. The ADU Design Challenge invites students, designers, builders, and creative professionals to submit small, efficient, and code-compliant ADU concepts that address the unique needs of older residents. Be on the lookout for winner announcements in November.

(Continued on page 2)





Our Mission

"Empowering the Northern Berkshire region to enhance the quality of life through our efforts at connecting, convening, and supporting all facets of the community."

In pursuit of this mission, we place particular emphasis on the following:

- Strengthening neighborhoods and community life
- Preventing alcohol/substance abuse and supporting recovery
- Promoting health and wellness
- Helping families to be strong and resilient
- Supporting positive youth development
- Building bridges between residents and service agencies

Coalition Supporters

Public Sources

- MA Dept. of Children & Families/EOHHS
- MA Cultural Council
- MA Department of Public Health
- MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

Local Support

- Contributions from our many individual supporters

The Coalition is a member agency of the Northern Berkshire United Way and the Williamstown Community Chest.



To submit announcements to the Coalition E-zine:

The **Coalition E-zine** is a weekly e-blast, published every Thursday, with news and announcements from Northern Berkshire agencies and organizations. Submissions must be received by 9:00 am Tuesday morning to be considered for inclusion in that week's issue. All submissions are subject to editing and should be 50 words or less. All events related to Northern Berkshire community public health will be considered for publication. Banner ads are available. For more information, please call 413-663-7588, or to submit an announcement, please email phzine@nbccoalition.org.

(Continued from Cover)

BRPC talked about the safe removal of the Beaver Mill dam and an ongoing "Grey to Green" Initiative that is currently activating residents in conducting walking audits of their neighborhoods to assess issues like safety and accessibility. They also touched on the progress on the plans to finally connect the bike trails in Williamstown and Adams to a route through North Adams.

Morgan Everett of MASS MoCA, also involved in the bike trail efforts, asked us to think of the project differently. What is the economic impact of not building the path? Studies estimate there is \$75k a day in economic opportunities not being captured due to the lack of this connection. Morgan also quelled some community concerns about MASS MoCA's plans to rehab the former Sullivan school. He assured everyone that this project would bring the community a dynamic space offering a residential community for artists and others with creative development space, while preserving the public access to the surrounding grounds and trails. Spread the word!

In other updates, Hoosic River Revival continues its series of River Walks, each taking curious residents and nature lovers on walks of different sections of the river. Group founder, Judy Grinnell, reminded attendees that the Hoosic River is so much more than just what you see contained by the flood chutes downtown. The proposed paths stretch well beyond the confines of the downtown area. They encourage the public to take advantage of the information and resources on their website.

Finally, Joshua Mendel, MCLA Chief of Staff, spoke about recent news from the college. He thanked the community at large for the warm welcome the students were given as they began their year. He said the students who participated in the annual Fall Foliage Parade spoke to the positive impact that the event had on them, making them feel immediately like part of the community. Many want to stay beyond graduation, so the college is looking to expand its career opportunities. Joshua highlighted the college's partnership with Berkshire Health Systems for their nursing and radiology programs. This Pathways program allows students to earn college credits while earning income working and learning at BHS facilities.

At the time of this forum, they were about to break ground on the Campagna Kleefeld Center for Creativity in the Arts. The center's construction is funded by Carolyn Kleefeld, a California-based artist and self-help author, and the center's namesake. Her donation will also support three years of operation.

We covered so much ground during the forum; two hours really wasn't enough time to fit it all in. To learn more about any of the updates, please use the following resources:

NAPS: napsk12.org / tcallahan@napsk12.org

NAP: jenny@northadamspartnership.org

HRR: hoosicriverrevival.org / info@hoosicriverrevival.org

MASS MoCA: info@massmoca.org
northadams-ma.gov /

City of N. Adams:

mkozik@northadams-ma.gov

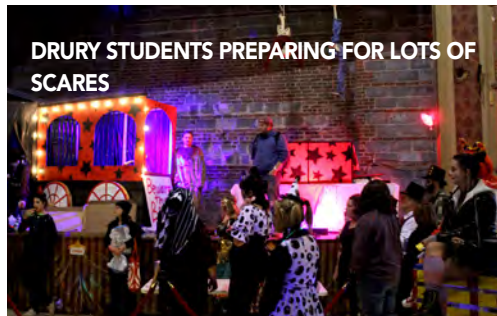
BRPC: <https://berkshireplanning.org>

State Rep.: john.barrett@mahouse.gov

Snapshots from the 6th Annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat

Friday, October 24th marked nbCC's 6th Annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat event, a coordinated effort organized by nbCC with local organizations and downtown businesses. This year, over 1,200 people participated in the event, despite a slow start due to some rain showers. Thank you to all the businesses and organizations that helped create another successful year of spooky fun! We can't wait to do it again next year.

The City's haunted house at the Mohawk Theater was even bigger and better for its second year. Volunteers from Drury High School, nbCC, the NAPD, NAFD, DPW, and more spent weeks getting ready to open this spooky big top experience to the public. The line for the event stretched halfway down Eagle Street, but everyone who waited made it in this year. The City even arranged for some fun carnival games to keep the kids entertained while they waited.



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Board of Directors Fiscal Year 2026

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As nbCC celebrates our 40th year serving the northern Berkshire community, we thought it would be fun to share excerpts from the archives. The following are excerpts from 1990, and 1992. As we approach November's Neighborly Awards Celebration it is fun to see how the event has changed through the years. It used to be called Peer Recognition Awards and they were presented during the annual meeting. Originally, the awardees were just a small number of individuals selected from the submissions.

SECOND ANNUAL COALITION PEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Send to: Thorman Hulse Worker's Assistance Center 85 Main St
No Adams, MA 01247

RULES :

- *All area employees in health and human services are eligible
- *Nominees must not be members of management.
- *We are looking for area workers who best exemplify the ideas of "working together"
- *Winners awarded at Spring Fling and win free area dinners and entertainment.

Nominee _____ Agency they work for _____

Your Name _____

Reason for Nomination : (attach sheet if necessary)

Coalition Coordinator : Al Bashevkin 664-4511 x519; 802 442-5200.
The Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition is supported by the Berkshire Area Health Education Center with funding from UMASS Medical School. The Coalition is hosted by North Adams State College.

June 1990

Coalition's 4th Annual Meeting :

A Medieval Moral Murder Mystery Play in Modern Dress

Date :	Friday	June 15, 1990
Time :	Noon (sharp) to 2 PM	
Place :	North Adams State College,	"The Pub"
Cost :	\$10	
Catering :	Hot meal catered by ARA Food Services	
Program :	Peer Recognition Awards	
	Coalition Year in Review	
	"The Life and Death Struggle of Human Services" -Starring many of the public and private forces within our society today Directed By StageStruck: Murder for Hire	

Guaranteed to be the Most Memorable Annual Meeting Yet !

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER.
DON'T DELAY, REGISTER TODAY !!!!!

(1990)

What's Happening ! - Summer's Events

Annual Meeting

June was host to the Coalition's Fourth Annual Meeting and Medieval Moral Murder Mystery Play in Modern Dress. It was quite an engaging afternoon, with all in attendance participating in the play. A special thanks to Thorman Hulse of Stage Struck : Murder for Hire for his direction in producing our own experiential play. To those who participated, kudos, and to those who were not able to make the annual meeting, you'll have to wait to see this play at the theater festival. Coalition Peer Recognition Awards were given out to organizations and persons who best represent the ideals of Coalitioning. Congratulations to the 1990 award winners : Bill Hoke and Cindy Pecor-Maxwell of the Berkshire Food Project, Crystal Scholtz of Parent's Anonymous, Bob Ronnow of the Family Life Support Center, and Al Groves of the Transcript. A special plaque of recognition was awarded to retiring Senator Peter Webber whose vision helped create the Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition.

1992

Practice Random Acts of Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty

It's a crisp winter day in San Francisco. A woman in a red Honda, Christmas presents piled in the back, drives up to the Bay Bridge tollbooth. "I'm paying for myself, and the six cars behind me," she says with a smile, handing over seven commuter tickets.

One after another, the next six drivers arrive at the tollbooth, dollars in hand only to be told, "some lady up ahead already paid your fare. Have a nice day."

The woman in the Honda, it turned out, had read something on an index card taped to a friend's refrigerator: Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty. The phrase seemed to leap out at her, and

she copied it down.

In North Adams, a man might plunk a coin into a stranger's meter just in time. In Adams, a dozen people with pails and mops and tulip bulbs might descend on run-down house and clean it from top to bottom while the frail elderly owners look on, dazed and smiling.

It's positive anarchy, disorder, a sweet disturbance. Senseless acts of beauty can spread. A person can plant daffodils along the roadway, their shirt billowing in the breeze from passing cars.

They say you can't smile without cheering yourself up a little - likewise, you can't commit a random act of kindness

without feeling as if your own troubles have been lightened if only because the world has become a slightly better place.

And you can't be a recipient without feeling a shock, a pleasant jolt. Wave someone on in in an intersection? Smile at a tired clerk? Or something greater? Like all revolutions, guerrilla goodness begins slowly, with a single act. Let it be yours.

**CHEER SOMEONE UP :
NOMINATE FOR
PEER RECOGNITION**

DUE MAY 12

MEET US AT THE NEIGHBORLIES!

Whether you submitted someone to receive an award, are receiving an award, or just want to support and celebrate your friends and neighbors, we encourage you to join us on Wednesday, November 19th, for this year's Neighborlies!

The event is free to attend and we welcome everyone. The Neighborlies are held at MCLA's Church Street Center, located on Church Street and Elmwood Ave, North Adams. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the ceremony will begin around 5:30 p.m.

There are roughly 150 individuals receiving awards this year. We hope you are able to join us to celebrate the many ways they have made a positive impact on their community. Bring your family and friends! Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about the Neighborlies give us a call at 413-663-7488 or email us at info@nbccoalition.org

THE NEIGHBORLIES

**WEDNESDAY
11/19
5-7 PM**

**MCLA Church
Street Center**

Free to attend.
Light refreshments
will be served.

**Celebrate someone who has made a positive impact
in your life or community with a Neighborly Award!**
SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 7, 2025.

**All are welcome! Please join us
in celebrating your friends and
neighbors on Nov. 19, 2025!**



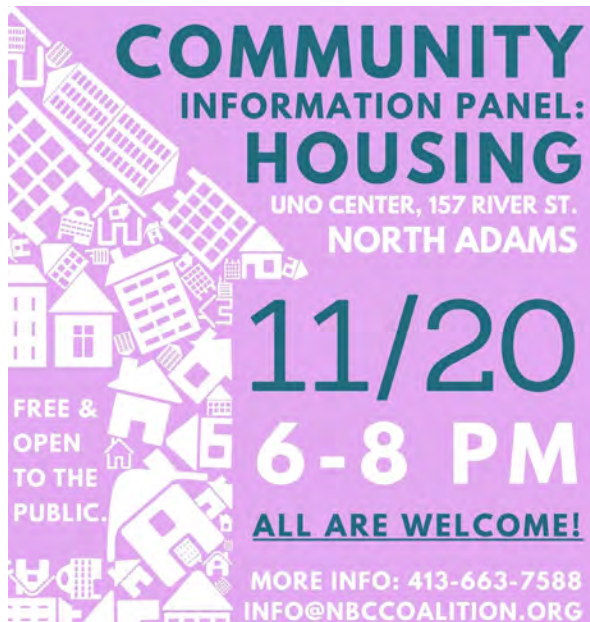
For more information, call the nbCC at (413) 663-7588.



Calling all Teens

Youth Leadership Program is an awesome opportunity to get your young people connected with youth from other North Berkshire schools, as well as engaging directly in the community and working on leadership and social skills. There will be group games, snacks and exciting conversations on they can be change makers in their communities!!

~Carrisa Sacherski, Youth Support Worker



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

TUESDAYS | 5-7PM

(14-19 Yrs. Old) Make positive changes in yourself and the world around you by developing leadership skills, engaging in important discussions about what drives you, meeting other young leaders, and planning projects in your community. Young people are changing the world, and you can too.

FREE! SNACKS & TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED.

Tuesdays: Oct. 21, 2025 thru Spring 2026

QUESTIONS? 413.663.7588 OR
INFO@NBCCOALITION.ORG



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Community Empowerment • Prevention & Wellness

REGISTER HERE



We're Hiring! Open Positions at nbCC

Apply via mail to Amber Besaw at 61 Main Street, Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247 or email jobs@nbccoalition.org.

Please include a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references. For more details about our open positions please visit our website at bit.ly/WorkAtNBCC for more information about these positions.

Family Resource Center Clinician: Rate: \$29-30/hr, PLUS a \$5,000 sign-on bonus after completion of 1 year
The Family Resource Center (FRC) Clinician will provide Comprehensive Mental Health Assessments, including the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA) assessment; short term treatment; and Care Planning to Youth and Families of the FRC.

Family Support Worker: Salary: \$40-43k/annually

The Family Support Worker is responsible for providing support to families who have engaged with nbCC. They will provide services at The Family Resource Center site, in schools, in the community, and in the homes of families, when applicable.

Coalition Events

Community Summit: Information, Resources & Updates

Friday, Nov. 14, 9:00AM-11:00AM, at MCLA Church Street Center, lower level, 375 Church Street, N. Adams

Williamstown Community Chest, Northern Berkshire United Way, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition invite the community to learn more about how local resources are being affected by the shutdown and funding cuts, as well as what is being done about it and how we can best support each other.

Light refreshments will be served. FREE & open to the public. Please, RSVP at 413-663-7588.

Learn Through Play: Construction

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10:00 - 11:00 AM, UNO Center, 157 River Street, North Adams

In collaboration with Child Care of the Berkshires. Activities and circle time with sensory activities. Best for ages 0-5 years. No registration required. Contact us at 413-663-7588 or nkennedy@nbcccoalition.org

nbCC's Annual Neighborly Awards Celebration

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 5:00-7:00 PM, MCKA Church Street Center, North Adams.

Celebrate someone who has made a positive impact in your life or community! Celebrate someone today with a Neighborly Award and be sure to join us on Wednesday, November 19th, at the MCLA Church Street Center to honor all of our local heroes! 5-7PM. Free to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

https://bit.ly/the_nbcc_neighborhoods

Submission deadline is November 7, 2025. More info: 413-663-7588 or ggiasier@nbcccoalition.org

nbCC Community Panel Discussions: Housing

Thursday, Nov. 20, 6:00PM-8:00PM, at UNO Community Center, 157 River Street

All are welcome! Join us for this community panel discussion. This month the topic will be housing. The Housing Panel discussion will have representatives from Upside 413, the Louison House, the North Adams Community Housing Organization (NACHO), and Hearthway! Please join us!

The presentation will be preceded with a round of introductions, and opportunity for everyone to share announcements. Space is limited. Please register. For questions or to register for the event, give us a call at 413-663-7588.

nbCC Youth Empowerment Program

Mondays, 5:00-6:30 PM, 61 Main Street, #218, North Adams

STARTING OCT. 20: Free and open to youth, 6-8th grade, who live in or attend school in North Berkshire. A weekly group to talk about school, emotions, navigating teen years, making friends and more. Snacks provided; transportation available. Register: call 413-663-7588

Youth Leadership Program

Tuesdays, 5:00 - 7:00PM, 61 Main Street, Rm. 213, North Adams

STARTING OCT. 21: Free and open to youth ages 14-19 who live in or attend school in North Berkshire. Young people are changing the world and you can too. Make a positive change in yourself and the world around you. Develop leadership skills, discuss what drives you, meet other young leaders and plan projects in your community. Snacks provided; transportation available. Register: call 413-663-7588

FRC Parenting Together Group * NEW TIMES

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10AM - 12PM, UNO Community Center, 157 River Street, North Adams

A peer-driven/peer-supported group in a judgement-free, confidential space. Snacks provided. Children welcome.

Teen Writing Workshop

Wednesdays, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, held at nbCC, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams

STARTING OCT. 22: Free and open to youth ages 13-19 who live in or attend school in North Berkshire. Aspiring writers and poets! Join this incredibly supportive group and get 1-on-1 help with your writing and performance style. Opportunities to perform and be published. Snacks and supplies provided; transportation available. Register: 413-663-7588

Youth Health Collaborative

Thursdays, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, 61 Main Street, Rm. 213, North Adams.

STARTING OCT. 23: (14-19 Yrs. Old) This program is intended to engage young people in supporting the health of their peers in the region. The aim of this program is to benefit the community by directly engaging young people in the act of bettering their environments. This is the only program with a limit on attendance, as there are only ten spots available! Participants will receive a stipend for completing this program. **Please call or email to apply:** 413-663-7588 or info@nbcccoalition.org

*NEW LOCATIONS: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Coffee Time

1st Friday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Adams COA, 3 Hoosac St., Adams

3rd Friday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. North Adams COA/ Spitzer Center, 116 Ashland St., North Adams

This is a group for grandparents who are actively parenting their grandchildren giving them a safe and confidential space to share similar experiences with other grandparents. Coffee and snacks provided.



12/5
5 - 9 PM

SPACE IS LIMITED.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

HOLIDAY LIGHTS at LOOK PARK

Charter bus transportation will be provided to and from the event. The bus will pick up participants from the St. Anthony's Municipal Lot in North Adams.

A light dinner will be provided. Adults MUST be accompanied by a grandchild.

nbCC
Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Family Resource Centers
nationalgrid

MORE INFO: 413.663.7588
INFO@NBCCOALITION.ORG



FRIDAY 11/14 9-11 AM

PLEASE RSVP
413-663-7588 or
info@nbcccoalition.org

COMMUNITY SUMMIT

Information, Resources & Updates Presented By

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY CHEST **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE UNITED WAY** **MCLA** **nbCC**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Williamstown Community Chest, Northern Berkshire United Way, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition invite the community to learn more about how local resources are being affected by the shutdown and funding cuts, as well as what is being done about it and how we can best support each other.

Light refreshments will be served. FREE & open to the public.

**MCLA CHURCH STREET CENTER, 16-50 ELMWOOD AVE, NORTH ADAMS
COMMUNITY HALL ON THE LOWER LEVEL**



Open Late!
FIRST FRIDAYS
NORTH ADAMS, MA

11/7

GATHER

The fun starts at 5pm!

Dan Morgan Photography will be offering FREE holiday portraits at the Hatchlings on Eagle Street and free hot cocoa sponsored by the First Baptist Church. Gallery openings, crafts at Common Folk, shopping, restaurants, and more!

Coalition Staff

Executive Director

Amber Besaw: abesaw@nbccoalition.org

Business & Administrative Staff

Liz Boland: lboland@nbccoalition.org

Sara Keagle: skeagle@nbccoalition.org

Communications Coordinator

Suzy Helme: shelme@nbccoalition.org

Youth Development

Carrisa Sacherski: csacherski@nbccoalition.org

Merudjina Normil: mnormil@nbccoalition.org

Health & Wellness

Jo-Ann Ault: jault@nbccoalition.org

Youth Prevention

Meredith Starr: mstarr@nbccoalition.org

Family Resource Center

Nancy Kennedy: nkennedy@nbccoalition.org

Gabby Glasier: gglassier@nbccoalition.org

Andrew Rosenburg: arosenburg@nbccoalition.org

Sully Boland: sboland@nbccoalition.org

Tammy Martin-Bartlett: tmartinbartlett@nbccoalition.org

nbCC is
supported by:



FRIDAY
11/14

9-11 AM
PLEASE RSVP
413-663-7588 or
info@nbccoalition.org

COMMUNITY SUMMIT

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COMMUNITY HALL ON THE LOWER LEVEL**

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
61 Main Street, Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247

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online at www.nbccoalition.org



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