

Inside the September Issue

Summer B-ball Wraps	2
Good-bye Drop-in Art Club	3
National Night Out	4
Meet Our New Board Members	5
Submit a Neighborly	6
Coalition Calendar	7
nbCC staff	8

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

Coalition news

An update from



September 2025, Volume XL, Number 3

2025 Sizzlin' Summer Recap

It's so hard to say "goodbye" to summer, but we made the most of it while it was here. Here's a little recap of some of our favorite moments over the past few months. From summer basketball games and mini team field trips to National Night Out, Downtown Celebration, and Lanesborough Day, nbCC was everywhere, enjoying the warm summer days.

nbCC Packed the Van and Hit the Road!



The staff took mini field trips over the summer to a few of our northern Berkshire towns to take a little break from the office and enjoy some of the unique attractions they have to offer.

First stop was the town of Cheshire to learn about the Cheshire

Mammoth Cheese and Cheshire Cheese Press. Our Community Connections Coordinator and Cheshire resident, Gabby, made an excellent tour guide in her hometown.

We also visited Hancock, stopping at the farm store at Ioka Valley Farm for fresh vegetables, fruit, syrup, and meat. We didn't have time for the full tour, but we can't wait to visit again.

Our next stop will be Lanesborough in September, followed by Florida in October.



I Love My Community Because...

Folks Tell Us Why They Love Their Community at the Annual North Adams Downtown Celebration.





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 pbzine@nbccoalition.org.

Five Weeks of Summer Fun on Neighborhood Courts Comes to an End

The Summer Neighborhood Basketball League celebrated the end of another season with a final tournament, followed by a pizza party, with dozens of families on the sidelines cheering on their teams.

This year, teams included youth coaches assisting each team's coaches throughout practices and games. Youth coaches are teens who have aged out of the program and are not yet old enough to be lead coaches. We hope they had fun and come back next year.

Summer Basketball will be back next year! Free to all northern Berkshire youth aged nine to thirteen. Transportation is provided from the “team court” to games each week. Keep an eye out for details to be announced in June 2026.



Drop-In Art Club Ends Another Successful Season

This summer, nbCC partnered with our friends at MASS MoCA and the Clark Art Institute to bring back the popular Drop-in Art Club program. Over the course of 16 weeks, the weekly program welcomed over 60 participants, many of whom participated every week.

For the last project of the summer, the kids got to build museums using shoe boxes, inspired by their visits to MASS MoCA and the Clark.

Old shoe boxes were transformed into diorama-style mini museums. Each one is unique to the young artist who created it. One participant worked together with a summer intern from the Clark to create a cat museum.

When we asked the kids what their favorite things about Art Club were, besides making lots of cool art projects, participants said making new friends, eating snacks, and being able to play at the UNO park afterwards were all part of the fun!

We can't thank our partners at MASS MoCA and the Clark enough for their enthusiastic leadership week after week, bringing new, exciting projects to the community. Stay tuned for updates on when the Art Club will return. Hopefully, sooner than later!



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Board of Directors Fiscal Year 2026

THERESA DENETTE, President
BFAIR

BEN LAMB, Vice President
1Berkshire

MAUREEN BARAN, Treasurer
Resident

MEGAN CHILDERS, Clerk
Williams College

CRAIG BARD, Executive
Committee
Community Resident

JEN MEEHAN
Resident

ANNA FLYNN
Greylock Federal Credit Union

AJ COTE
Brien Center

HEATHER KING
GFCU

TIM CALLAHAN
North Adams Public School

ERIN SHEA
BFAIR

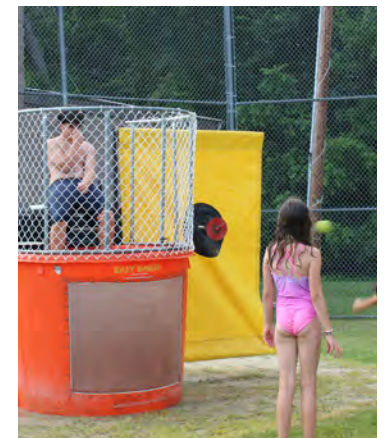
National Night Out Expands in North County

Every first Tuesday in August, towns and cities all across the United States celebrate National Night Out (NNO) to strengthen relationships between the residents of their communities and first responders like the police, firefighters, and EMS. Nationally, this event has been going on for over forty years, and locally, the Coalition has been supporting northern Berkshire communities in organizing and celebrating this event for almost as long.

In the northern Berkshires, NNO was first celebrated in the UNO neighborhood of North Adams, but throughout the years, the towns of Adams and Williamstown began hosting their own NNO celebrations. Cheshire has recently joined in the fun, while Lanesborough opted for its own version of NNO that they call “Lanesborough Day”, now in its second year.

The annual celebration has also brought out friendly competition between the communities. Who can draw out the biggest crowd? Who has the best activities and food? This year, Cheshire’s fire department offered a demonstration of the tools they use in emergency rescue operations for vehicular accidents. A crowd gathered on bleachers to watch as volunteer firefighters used large tools like the “jaws of life” to gain access to vehicles and the potential victims inside.

Cheshire, Adams, and Williamstown kept the vibe festive with live music at their events, while North Adams opted to bring back DJ Pup Daddy to get the community grooving. Attendance numbers were down across all events, possibly due to the poor air quality from wildfires to the north. Regardless, everyone who did attend appeared to have a great time. Join the fun next year in your community on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.



Lanesborough Celebrates the 2nd Annual Lanesborough Day

We spent a windy, but wonderful day with our friends in Lanesborough at their second annual Lanesborough Day. We learned a lot from our neighboring vendors about their organizations, met a lot of new friends, and gave away so much fun swag. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our tent and spun our game wheel to get swag, answered questions about what they like best about living in Lanesborough, and filled out our Neighborly Award recognitions. We even had the added treat of meeting a former UNiTY youth program member, who is now an EMS in Lanesborough. How cool is that?



Meet Some More New Members of the Team!



nbCC Board Member **Tim Callahan**

1) In a few sentences, tell the community a little bit about yourself. I'm a lifelong educator with a deep commitment to Berkshire County. I was raised

in Lanesborough, and grew up as a BMX and skateboard kid, traveling all over the Pittsfield area to try to find the best places to shred. (Reader, in those olden times, we did not find as many places to shred as we would have liked.) After finishing my Bachelor of Arts in English Literature at Hamilton College, I moved back to the Berkshires, working at Kay-Bee Toys before landing a regular role as a long-term substitute teacher at Drury High School. I have been with the North Adams Public Schools ever since in a variety of teaching and leadership roles, working through my Master's in Education at Cambridge College and my Doctor of Education degree from the Sage Colleges. In the summer of 2025, I had the great honor of being appointed as superintendent of the North Adams Public Schools. I should also mention that I have two super-kind college-age kids, and an amazing wife who has taught 5th grade for 30 years. They deserve much of the credit for helping me develop into the leader I am today.

2) What is your favorite thing about living in the Berkshires? I love that we can find peace in comfort in our community and our natural surroundings. When relatives who live in urban areas visit the Berkshires, I am able to see our community through their eyes, and further appreciate how we often take for granted the tranquil beauty that surrounds us. I have found the Berkshires a great place to raise a family, with excellent schools and opportunities for youth leadership, and I have great optimism for the future of our community.

3) What are you most interested in about the work the Coalition does? I greatly appreciate the Coalition's work with families in northern Berkshire County and the youth development work that is so important to our community. In my various leadership roles in the North Adams Public Schools, I have found NBCC a vital partner in our work to improve access and opportunity for our families and students, and to provide support to all of us when challenges

can seem insurmountable. What I appreciate most about NBCC is the spirit of collaboration and the commitment to working together to improve whatever we can. None of us can do this work alone.



nbCC Board Member **Heather King**

1) In a few sentences, tell the community a little bit about yourself. I am a life-long resident of Berkshire County and as an

adult have come to appreciate all that it has to offer and its beauty. I am a mother of five, grandmother of four and care deeply about the community I live in and the people within it. I have been in banking all my working career and am presently employed at Greylock Federal Credit Union.

2) What is your favorite thing about living in the Berkshires? I enjoy volunteering my time to help those that need assistance. Currently, I am an active volunteer at my church and Elder Service's Money Management Program. When not volunteering or working, you can find me enjoying the spectacular views of Berkshire County on the back of our motorcycle.

3) What are you most interested in about the work the Coalition does? I am excited to be joining the Board of NBCC with the impact that it has on the Northern Berkshire community.



nbCC Bike Collective

OPEN HOURS

3:30-5:30PM

1st Tuesdays

All are welcome.

Community volunteer bike mechanics can help you fix, earn or build a bike!

(By appt. 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays)

NA Armory, 206 Ashland St.

MORE INFO: 413-663-7588 or INFO@NBCCOALITION.ORG

Who Will You Celebrate with a Neighborly Recognition Award?

Is there anyone you would like to thank this year for going above and beyond in the community?

The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition has been collecting submissions throughout the year to recognize community members who have volunteered or supported their community in some way. Please consider recognizing an individual in one of the following categories:

Businesses & Groups Pulling Together- These groups have helped a neighborhood or the wider community by working together for the benefit of others.

Youth Taking the Lead- Young people are making positive change in their neighborhood or community.

Family Support- These individuals have advocated and/or supported family units in a variety of ways.

Community Health and Wellness- These individuals have contributed to making their community a healthier place to live.

Neighborly Acts - These individuals go above and beyond for their neighborhood or community, helping others in many different ways.

Everyone who is submitted will be recognized at the Celebration on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025.**



Here is a link to the nomination form, along with a physical copy which can be filled out and mailed or brought to our office at 61 Main Street, Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247.

Fill out a Neighborly here:

https://bit.ly/the_nbcc_neighborlies



THE NEIGHBORLIES

Community Recognition Form

Person/Group/Business you are recognizing (You must provide at least one form of contact for the awardee.):

NAME: _____

PHONE OR EMAIL: _____

Check the category:

☐ Neighborly Acts	☐ Community Health and Wellness
☐ Family Support	☐ Businesses & Groups Pulling Together
☐ Young People Taking The Lead	

I recognize this person/group/business for: (15 words or less, please!)

YOUR information (You must provide at least one form of contact!):

NAME: _____

PHONE OR EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Send or deliver completed form by November 7th to:

NEIGHBORLIES C/O NBCC
61 Main Street, Suite 218,
North Adams, MA 01247



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Community Empowerment • Prevention & Wellness

All those recognized will receive an award!
Recognition forms received after November 7th will be awarded in the coming year.

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@nbcccoalition.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

nbCC Monthly Forum: Community Needs Assessment

Friday, September 12, 10:00am-12:00pm, at Hotel Downstreet, 40 Main Street

All are welcome! Join us for our September forum and share your thoughts on what needs are most urgent in your community, and what you've seen happening that has improved. We'll compile everyone's thoughts and ideas and vote on the topics for this year's monthly forums. Please join us!

The presentation will be preceded with a round of introductions, and opportunity for everyone to share announcements. For questions or more information give us a call at 413-663-7588.

Learn Through Play: A,B,C's & 1,2,3's

Saturday, Sept. 13, 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@nbccoalition.org

W.o.W. Workshop: Create Better Health - Meal Planning & Grocery Shopping Tips

Thursday, Sept. 18, 1:30-2:30PM, UNO Community Center, 157 River Street, North Adams

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, in partnership with SNAP-Ed, offers free nutrition education programs to our member agencies. Explore MyPlate healthy eating guidelines, tips to add more exercise into your day, and learn to make a budget-friendly meals! Jo-Ann Ault, 413-663-7588. Reservations required.

Virtual Workshop: Active Parenting - the First Five Years

Thursday, Sept. 25, 12:00-1:30PM, via Zoom

This lunchtime virtual workshop will cover: identifying your child's strengths, your child's temperament, the power of choice, paying attention to feelings, every day little play, self-care and mindfulness. For Berkshire County families with children under 6 years old.

Attendees will receive a \$20 gift card. In collaboration with Child Care of the Berkshires. To register: 413-663-7588 or 413-664-4821.

nbCC Bike Collective Hours

*Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 PM, The Armory, 206 Ashland St., North Adams

1st Tuesdays - OPEN HOURS
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays BY APPT.

Bring your own bike or work on a bike at the bike collective. You'll have the opportunity to learn from other community members on basic bike fixes, or team up with more experienced bike mechanics to rebuild a bike. Tools and stands are provided. All NB residents are welcome! For more info, call us at 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.

*NEW LOCATION: 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.

**IT'S FARMERS MARKET
OUTDOOR SEASONS
BEGIN IN MAY!**

**5/17 - North Adams
Every Sat. on Main St.
9AM-1PM**

**DOUBLES SNAP UP TO \$30/WEEK
& HAS 2 HIP VENDORS, ACCEPTS
WIC & SENIOR COUPONS**

**Williamstown -Every
Sat at end Spring St.
9AM-1PM**

**DOUBLES SNAP UP TO \$30/WEEK
ACCEPTS WIC & SENIOR COUPONS**

**YOUTH PROGRAMMING RETURNS IN OCT.
REGISTER TODAY!**

We offer four different programs for teens, including one specifically for 6th - 8th graders.

FREE. Snacks & transportation provided.

**QUESTIONS? 413.663.7588 OR
CSACHERSKI@NBCCOALITION.ORG**



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE COALITION?

**Contributions can be mailed to: Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
61 Main Street, Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247**

Champion: \$5,000 & above	Benefactor: \$250 - \$499
Advocate: \$2,500 - \$4,999	Booster: \$100 - \$249
Leader: \$1,000 - \$2,499	Associate: \$50 - \$99
Guardian: \$500 - \$999	Supporter: \$1 - \$49



Coalition Staff

Executive Director

Amber Besaw: abesaw@nbcccoalition.org

Business & Administrative Staff

Liz Boland: lboland@nbcccoalition.org

Sara Keagle: skeagle@nbcccoalition.org

Communications Coordinator

Suzy Helme: shelme@nbcccoalition.org

Youth Development

Carrisa Sacherski: csacherski@nbcccoalition.org

Merudjina Normil: mnormil@nbcccoalition.org

Health & Wellness

Jo-Ann Ault: jault@nbcccoalition.org

Youth Prevention

Meredith Starr: mstarr@nbcccoalition.org

Family Resource Center

Nancy Kennedy: nkennedy@nbcccoalition.org

Gabby Glasier: gglasier@nbcccoalition.org

Andrew Rosenburg: arosenburg@nbcccoalition.org

Sully Boland: sboland@nbcccoalition.org

Tammy Martin-Bartlett: tmartinbartlett@nbcccoalition.org



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Monthly forums return.

Join us for a brainstorming session to talk about what you are seeing in your community.

What's going well & what needs to change?

We'll base this season of forums on the results.

10AM-12PM | Sept. 12

**HOTEL DOWNSTREET
40 MAIN ST., N. ADAMS**

413.663.7588 OR INFO@NBCCOALITION.ORG

nbCC is
supported by:



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

Find this newsletter
online at www.nbcccoalition.org

or Current Resident

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
Permit #35
North Adams, MA
01247