



# 2008 Annual Meeting Celebrates 22 Years of nbCC

## Commissioner of Massachusetts Department of Public Health John Auerbach Speaks About Priorities for Improvement

The ballroom at the Williams Inn was filled to capacity on Friday, June 6 as we celebrated the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. The buffet-style luncheon was filling and delicious, and the meal was perfectly completed by a decadent vanilla-lemon cake. The main focus for the 196-member crowd was clearly directed to the podium at the front of the room, where speakers, entertainers, and the 2008 Northern Berkshire Heroes award winners addressed the audience.



As has become tradition, State Senator Ben Downing opened the meeting, followed by words from the Coalition Board President Debbie Rosselli. Both spoke highly of the Coalition's accomplishments over the past year, and emphasized the impact of our work on the Northern Berkshire community. Rosselli then introduced Executive Director Al Bashevkin, who offered to the audience his traditional Year in Review comments, as well as commendations for community involvement in Coalition work. Performers included the Experience Dance ensemble with their rendition of Motown Philly, and a teen address from Lauren Marceau, a member of the Teen Writer's Workshop and the Youth Leadership Program of UNITY.

A special feature of the coalition Annual Meeting is the presentation of the Northern Berkshire Heroes Awards. This year the awards were presented to North Adams resident Dick Alcombright and Florida resident Stan Brown. Each recipient of the Northern Berkshire Heroes award was celebrated for their contributions to making the Northern Berkshire community a wonderful place to live.

We were fortunate to have the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health John Auerbach with us to give the keynote address. He spoke pointedly about his top five priorities for improving health conditions in our community, and in the state of Massachusetts. Auerbach stated a need for health care reform, and for requiring health insurance for everyone. He will work to eliminate health care disparities, including race, ethnicity, poverty, and the correlation between health and income. He believes we should more actively promote wellness, as he mentioned "more than 50% of the adult population in MA is overweight, amounting to a 10% increase every ten years." Auerbach discussed chronic disease, and his concern that the incidence of diabetes has doubled in the last ten years, 11% of school-aged children in MA have asthma, and 1/5 of students by the time they reach high school. He urged the audience members to support local public health initiatives, as change begins with regional approaches and local resources. The Commissioner applauded the Coalition as a leader in connecting these resources, and creating a network of key community members who support public health initiatives.

Our Coalition staff members came away from the Annual Meeting with a renewed sense of pride for the work we do, and strong appreciation for the relationship we have with members of our community.

--Jenna Cece

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## NEXT COALITION MEETING:

**Emerging Issues in our Community:  
Setting our agenda for the year ahead**

**Friday  
September 12**

10:00 a.m. to noon  
First Baptist Church  
North Adams  
Eagle Street entrance



## Our Mission

“Dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.”

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

- Strengthening neighborhoods and community life
- Preventing alcohol and substance abuse
- Fostering economic development
- Mitigating poverty
- Supporting positive youth development
- Building bridges between residents and service agencies

## Coalition Supporters

### Public Sources

- MA Department of Social Services
- MA Cultural Council
- US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- MA Department of Public Health
- MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### Foundation Supporters

- Fund for North Adams
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development

### Local Support

- North Adams Human Services
- 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 News*:

The *Coalition News* is a publication of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. We encourage submissions of announcements from local organizations.

### October Newsletter Deadline September 19, 2008

Please submit announcements (100 words in paragraph form) via e-mail to: [jcece@nbccoalition.org](mailto:jcece@nbccoalition.org) or [abashevkin@nbccoalition.org](mailto:abashevkin@nbccoalition.org). If necessary, announcements may also be faxed to **413-663-9877**. Thank you!

## September Coalition Meeting:

### Emerging Issues in Our Community: Setting Our Agenda for the Year Ahead

Please join us on Friday, September 12 as we continue our tradition of beginning the new Coalition year with a kick-off forum. This is our chance to talk about which aspects of life in our region we might focus our attention on in the year ahead. While we all share a common community, in a sense each of us experiences things differently within that same community. Come to the September forum and discuss with us what has been happening, and what you think needs to happen, in your Northern Berkshire community. You may want to report about emerging issues in your neighborhood, or concerns you've developed in your professional environment, for your school or service agency. We want to hear from you, as you are the experts within our community. With your input, we'll get a better idea of how the Coalition should focus our agenda for the year ahead.

We will begin, as always, with a round of introductions, followed by brief announcements of your upcoming events or new projects. Please don't forget to bring flyers about announcements also, as there will be a display table for them in the middle of the room.

We hope to see you on **Friday, September 12, 10 a.m. to noon, at the First Baptist Church in North Adams.**

*-- Jenna Cece*

## Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative: Looking Ahead

The Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative, a monthly gathering of staff from youth-serving organizations in our community, will hold its first meeting of the coming school year on **Wednesday, September 10th**. Meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month, **11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, at the nbCC offices (the September meeting is pushed back by one week, but subsequent meetings follow this schedule). Please join the group as we reflect on our summer work, share information about our 2008-2009 program offerings, and create an agenda for meeting topics for the year to come. A light lunch is provided. For more information, please call Kate at 663-7588.

*-- Kate Merrigan*

## "A Life-Changing Experience..."

...Is how one UNITY teen described the New Hampshire Teen Institute Summer Leadership Program (or "TI," as participants affectionately refer to it). This summer, we sent 12 Berkshire County youth to TI's 5-day camp, held at Geneva Point Center in New Hampshire. I've been volunteering as a staff member at this camp for years and was deeply excited to have an opportunity (made possible by DPH funding secured by our local legislative delegation) to share this experience with so many youth from our area. The program teaches teenagers traditional leadership skills while also encouraging significant self-discovery and resilience from negative experiences/influences/decisions that may have previously prevented participants from reaching their full potential. We also find time for fun, traditional camp activities like swimming and field games. Most participants leave feeling inspired to lead healthy, positive lives and also to affect their friends and communities by sharing what they've learned. One of the participants who went this summer, Lauren Marceau, sums up the impact of the program nicely: "I think every teenager should have a chance to go and experience the Teen Institute. TI made me so much more capable of growing into not only the person I want to be, but the person I need to be. TI made me want more in my future than I ever have."

*-- Kate Merrigan*

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## Safe Homes Kicks Off New Season

The Safe Homes of North Berkshire initiative is entering its 7<sup>th</sup> year and going strong! Begun in 2002 by members and friends of NBCC, the Safe Homes network is a group of parents, law enforcement, school administrators, and concerned citizens who urge parents of middle and high school students to take The Pledge:

- I will not allow teen parties in my home or on my property when I am not present.
- I will not allow the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by teens in my home or on my property.

Safe Homes is once again collecting pledges for the 2008-2009 season. We connected with the community at National Nite Out and the North Adams Downtown Celebration. Pledges will also be distributed at the beginning of the school year to middle and high school families in North County with the help of the public schools. Contact us at the Coalition if you didn't receive a pledge or you would like to support our efforts in your community. Parents and grandparents are needed to spread the word!

A copy of the Safe Homes of North Berkshire pledge is available on our website and we will be happy to mail information to anyone with interest in the program. Contact Lois Daunis or Jenna Cece at the Coalition for more information. Let's keep connected with our kids and network as adults to sponsor safe substance free events for our children.

-- Lois Daunis

## Summer SAY It Proud Awards

The summer SAY it Proud youth awards from the Youth Collaborative were presented during National Night Out 2008 on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> by Mayor John Barrett III and members of the Youth Collaborative. Receiving awards were:

- **Matt Rodriquez** for his hard work and responsibility at the COTY Youth Center and the help he provides for others.

- **Kelsey Ryan** for maintaining honor role status for three years at Conte; willingness to help other students; student council work; Conte Dance team member; school yearbook staff; science fair work; GROOOVE committee; being Candy Striper at the hospital and for what she does to make a bright future for herself. (She was unable to attend – will receive actual award at later date).

- **Emily Rosse** for her consideration of others, positive schoolwork and for all she does for others.

- **Haley Smith** for all that she has done to turn herself in a positive direction including: improved grades – honor role and school attendance; getting lifeguard certificate and a job at a local pool.

-- Kathy Keeser



### Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Board of Directors

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

**DEBBIE ROSSELLI**, President  
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North Adams Public Schools

**JEFF GOLDWASSER**, Vice-President  
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Substance Abuse Therapist, Brien Center

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### Congressman John Olver

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Springfield, MA 01103  
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### Governor Deval Patrick

Statehouse, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133  
(888) 870-7770  
(617) 727-9725 (fax)  
www.mass.gov/governor

### President George Bush

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
(202)456-1414  
(202) 456-2461 (fax)  
president@whitehouse.gov

## Join the 2008 Friends of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

Twenty-two years ago the people of Northern Berkshire first came together to face the challenges in our community. We've come a long way, but we need to do more, and we need your help. Please become a financial supporter by joining the Friends of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition listed below. We understand that not everyone is able to make a financial contribution, but we also want you to know that no amount is too small to be helpful. You'll find a convenient envelope included with this issue of the *Coalition News*.

## The 2008 Friends of the Coalition

(as of August 15, 2008)

### Leaders

Alice Shaver Foundation

### Guardians

Ellen Bernstein  
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### Benefactors

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Debbie Rosselli  
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### Associates

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George Turcotte  
Eugene Wein  
Julia Wolfrum  
Marcia Wright

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## National Night Out Fights Against Crime!

The 2008 National Night Out Celebration on the sprawling grounds of the Masonic Temple in North Adams on August 5 was amazing. The luxuriant green grass provided the perfect space for games, displays, children's activities and picnicking together under a clear blue sky. Over 350 people of all ages visited tables where local agencies, police departments and other groups shared information about ways to keep ourselves, our families, our homes, neighborhoods and communities safe. There were tables to learn about voting, bicycle safety, energy saving, safe homes and programs for youth. Fire trucks, police cruisers, and police dogs added to the mix amidst music and laughter. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the "Say it Proud Award" to four Northern Berkshire youth. As the evening drew to a close each child's name was called to come and choose a gift provided by Target Stores, or a bicycle helmet provided by a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. Raffles for adults included gifts donated locally by Big Y, Price Chopper, Jack's Hot Dogs, Subway, Wal-Mart, McDonalds, McClelland Gifts, Persnickety Toys, and Papyri Books. The Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Village Pizza and Burger King provided food which was served by volunteers and grilled by the Masons of Lafayette-Greylock Lodge. Much appreciation goes to the many people who helped to make this a meaningful and enjoyable evening for the community.



*-- Kathy Keeser*

## "Unnatural Causes: ...Is Inequality Making Us Sick?"

On Tuesday, June 24, 2008, health care providers, business leaders, members of human services organizations and community members gathered at the MASS MoCA campus, in North Adams, MA to view the first part of a four part series, "Unnatural Causes;...Is Inequality Making Us Sick?"- a documentary film exploring disparities in health. After the screening, a panel featuring Lauren Smith, MD, of MA Department of Public Health Medical Director, with Douglas Karrel, MD, of Adams Internists, Al Bashevkin of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Deborah Simmons of the Northern Berkshire Healthcare REACH Community Health Foundation, and Maria Basescu of Northern Berkshire Healthcare facilitated a discussion about the local picture.

The film, panelists, and the discussion that ensued inspired the following thoughts and suggestions about the linkages between health and economic status in Northern Berkshire:

- In order to close income gaps that contribute to poor health, it was suggested, that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health organize a Berkshire County gathering to discuss the creation of a new regional economic engine. Bringing together local economic leaders, healthcare organizations, and human service agencies to begin to retool entry-level job opportunities across sectors, must be a priority.

- Stress builds across economic lines, contributing to a myriad of health problems, however unrelenting stress plagues populations who are struggling to obtain and provide basic needs. Housing instability in the Northern Berkshires is one of the leading social factors causing stress- especially for young populations- limiting positive development in education and health. Can the Department of Public Health look into altering these housing inequities?

- The implementation of programs in place through REACH Community Health Foundation, like Quitlinks, a smoking cessation program specifically targeting pregnant women, is often met with obstacles when treating the local population. In many cases, mothers-to-be are preoccupied with finding basic needs for themselves and children leading to tremendous levels of stress, which continues the cyclical dependence on nicotine. This is also seen across population sets and with other substance use. How can we better introduce more holistic actions to reduce these levels of stress while implementing similar cessation and prevention programs?

- With the tremendous levels of stress pregnant women face, especially economically disadvantaged women, it is a concern that unrelenting stress can also affect the development of a fetus's brain. Ensuring a confident and comfortable financial state for a pregnant woman, among other healthy circumstances is arguably vital for the foundation of life.

- In the film, Louisville, Kentucky's new Center for Health Equity was highlighted. As an original model, it's a center where the collaboration between community members, local government, private business and health care organizations focus on the social conditions that underlie opportunities for health and wellbeing. Can this model be appropriated and applied to Berkshire County?

*-- Alison Basdekis*

## Teen Writing Workshop Changes

It is with great fondness, profound thanks, and significant sadness that the Teen Writing Workshop bids farewell to Robin Lehlleitner, our facilitator of the past 9 years. Robin announced this summer that she will be leaving the area temporarily for extended travel and, for this reason, needs to resign from her role with the workshop. Having had the truly wonderful experience of being part of this workshop with Robin for the past 3 years, I want to personally and publicly thank her for being not just a warm and generous instructor in the craft of writing, but also one of the most courageous, open-minded, and tireless advocates for teenagers whom I've had the pleasure of knowing.

We are currently searching for a new facilitator for this creative writing workshop, which meets after-school, November to May, on a day of the week to be determined by UNITY staff and the facilitator. Please visit the nbCC website for more information about this paid position.

-- Kate Merrigan

## After a Hiatus in June and July, Groovers Pulled Off Two Concerts in August

On August 6th MASS MoCA graciously hosted a line up of three bands, Armory, Reason 837 and Between Now and Forever in Club B-10 for Grooove's 11th Birthday Party. In true birthday party form, over sixty area youth came out for great music, dancing and games- including the breaking of a piñata filled with Grooove gear, candy and other treats. The Grooove sends out a huge thank you to MASS MoCA staff, summer interns, and chaperones for helping produce a memorable evening. Also, thanks to the support of the City of North Adams, the 2008 Grooovefest rocked Heritage State Park on Monday, August 18th with an extensive line up of local bands and plenty of festival fun. Music by Crossfire, Mission 13, Armory, and Art Decade dynamically infiltrated North Adams, on an otherwise typical Monday.

Grooove is a substance-free concert series that operates for teens by teens. If you are a teen or know one who may be interested in helping to plan upcoming shows, please contact Kate or Alison at 663.7588. To learn more about Grooove and future concerts go to [www.myspace.com/thegroovecafe](http://www.myspace.com/thegroovecafe).



*North Adams based band Reason 837 plays at MASS MoCA*

--Alison Basdekis

## Attention All Middle School Students!

nBEAT (Northern Berkshire Exploratory Arts Troop) will resume its programming this fall. Cynthia Saunders, local poet and Director of Education at Barrington Stage, will facilitate the program with the support of Alison Basdekis, UNITY Program Associate and Education Coordinator at MASS MoCA. On the horizon this year: loads of trips to local galleries, natural areas, museums, and studios followed by workshops to explore a number of creative avenues (writing, drawing, painting, collage making, book making etc...). All programs run Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and are FREE to middle school students, ages 11-14. Some transportation is available. Call or email Alison to register or for more information at 663-7588 or [abasdekis@nbccoalition.org](mailto:abasdekis@nbccoalition.org).

## Applications Now Available for UNITY's Youth Leadership Program

UNITY is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 Youth Leadership Program (YLP). The program gathers area high school students to discuss community needs and devise service-learning projects to encourage community change, all while enhancing individual leadership skills. No previous leadership skills needed; just a willingness to engage and try new things. If you are interested in joining this program, applications are available via the internet at [nbccoalition.org](http://nbccoalition.org); follow the link to Youth Programs. You can also call 663-7588 or look for Kate and Alison, YLP program facilitators, in your respective high school's lunchroom during the first few weeks of September!

**“The mission of NBN is to connect and support residents within neighborhoods to build community, create stronger neighborhoods, and make linkages to groups, institutions and other resources.”**

NORTHERN  BERKSHIRE  
**NEIGHBORS**

### Clark Art Welcomes Neighborhood Families

Thanks to a special program for families this July at the Clark Art Institute, a group of 13 adults and children enjoyed a day of learning about and creating portraits. We were warmly greeted at the door and then given a special tour where we learned secrets about five particular paintings. Next we went outside where we had the opportunity to create our own portraits with special teachers. We were given sketchpads and pastels to continue practicing at home. After a wonderful picnic lunch, some went on a hike on the trail behind the museum where we saw gorgeous views. As we left, all were given a gift of a special print and free passes to return to the Clark. We thank Ronna at the Clark Art for all she did to make this possible.

### Neighborhood Baseball Finishes Sixth Summer Season!

This summer was our sixth summer of Neighborhood Baseball. Six teams participated this year: two Brayton Hill teams (one older, one younger children)- both Diamondbacks; the Greylock Sluggers; the Heat (mostly Mohawk with a few from UNO); Florida Mountaineers; and a new team this year from Clarksburg. Even with a rainy summer, we managed to play 16 games over a month. The games were fun, and included both boys and girls ages 7-17. The coaches and volunteers were great and we appreciated all of their work with the youth, staying organized, and/or umpiring. A big thank you to our coaches and team assistants: Cassie Joy, Lakarra Williams, Heather Albee, Jesette Joy, Jazmyne Joy, and Rebecca Witek - for the older Diamondback team; Rick LaCosse, Brian Neff, Keith Maynard, - for the younger Diamondbacks; David Duprea, Bryan Zatorski (House), and Ray Labombard - for The Heat; Josh Hartman, Chris McDonald, Hank Greenleaf, Chris Horsfall, Ken Aubin - for the Sluggers; Ted Field for Florida; Melanie Rancourt, David Rancourt and Alex Daugherty for Clarksburg. Thanks to Andrea Peters for her all-around assistance. Thank you to the Field crew: Bruce Field for umpiring ALL the games; April Field for being my right hand by setting up, cleaning up and keeping “official” score; Lynda Field for selling snacks and helping with many other tasks; Kayla Field for helping to announce and for other tasks; and our newest announcer in training – Michael Field! Thanks to all the friends and family who came out for games – even on those rainy evenings as we waited to see if we would play. Finally, thanks to Berkshire Bank for sponsoring Neighborhood Baseball. It was a fun summer!

-- Kathy Keeser



### Steeple Cats Welcome Special Groups

This summer, Northern Berkshire Neighbors is thankful to the Steeple Cats for providing families the opportunity to attend three different games. Northern Berkshire Foster Families were invited to enjoy a double-header evening with the Steeple Cats in July. Those who took advantage of the rain check were delighted to see the fire truck and helicopter festivities on another evening in August. Youth and adult coaches or volunteers for the Brayton Diamondbacks enjoyed being “buddies” to the players and bat boys/girls as they watched a game. The Greylock Sluggers also enjoyed a night with the Cats and buddy tasks at a game for Berkshire Bank, which sponsored Neighborhood Baseball this year.

### UNO Neighborhood Celebrates with a Garden Picnic

Over eighty residents from the UNO neighborhood attended the Neighborhood Garden Picnic on Saturday, July 26. The event was held at the Bracewell Ave. playground under a sunny sky. UNO committee member Pete Wheeler manned the grill cooking hot dogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers for the crowd. There were macaroni and potato salads, baked beans, chips, soda and a variety of desserts including a beautifully decorated UNO sheet cake. No one went home hungry. Jennifer Munoz from the REACH Community Health Foundation was on hand passing out vegetables from the UNO community garden. Andrea Peters led the children’s games and gave out prizes. Guests in attendance were Kathy Keeser from Northern Berkshire Neighbors, Mike Garland from WNAW and Becky Duprat, Tammy and Amanda Moon from Blackington Neighborhood Association, and Sandy Talora, our UNO “mail lady.” UNO committee members who planned this event along with Pete and Andrea were Gail Nelson, Kay Clark, Edna Rudnick, Joan Preite, Kayla Cutting, William Sweet, Darlene Ellis, and yours truly, Shirley Davis. It was a wonderful day with neighbors getting to know each other. Thanks to everyone who supports our fundraisers, such as our annual Spring Fling which allows us do events like our picnic, and other things we do, especially for our youth. For more information about UNO, please call **Shirley at 663-5516**.

# TAKE CHARGE CAMPAIGN

*Improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.*

## **Resolution in support of the Take Charge Project of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition:**

WHEREAS, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition is an organization which brings together residents and resources which are dedicated to improving the quality of life in the City of North Adams and our neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of a community forum, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition identified energy as an important and urgent topic; sighting its rising prices, the need for energy efficiency implementation education and environmental challenges as pressing community issues; and

WHEREAS, the Take Charge Project was formed to educate homeowners, apartment dwellers, and businesses through the use of basic energy efficiency products and services which will help them to save money and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Take Charge Project was also formed to educate homeowners, apartment dwellers, and businesses of the various state and federal incentives available to assist them in their energy efficiency efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Take Charge Project recognizes that our local government can greatly influence our community's energy usage and costs by promoting basic energy efficiency measures and the Take Charge Project seeks to partner with them

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of North Adams supports the efforts of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and its Take Charge Project and urges the citizens of North Adams to take charge of their energy cost while maintaining a quality lifestyle.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition.

## **Take Charge Success**

In a month over 350 people have pledged to Take Charge. We have given out almost that many energy saving light bulbs and had hundreds of conversations about the possibilities for saving on electric and heat.

Take Charge saw its first public endorsement with debate and an ensuing resolution introduced by Counselor Gail Cariddi and passed by the North Adams City Council on August 14th. This event was aired live on local cable access TV and received media attention as well. See sidebar for the text of the NA City Council Resolution.

Take Charge kicked off in style with a press conference at the library. All the major media outlets were there. We were on the front page of the Transcript and Eagle, as well as channel 13 nightly news. WAMC carried announcements, as well as WNAW and other publications. Mayor John Barrett spoke about the importance of saving energy, and then others filled in the details. The launch event was funded by a grant that Take Charge was awarded from the Attorney General's office. This grant allowed us to purchase 1000 energy saving light bulbs, print 6,000 brochures, and fund other outreach activities of the campaign.

During the fall, students will be involved in a number of ways. We are seeking a student intern to take over some of the responsibilities that I have been filling for the summer. In addition, we hope to engage lots of students in expanding the existing weatherization program. That program engages Williams and MCLA students in visiting the homes of people on fuel assistance and doing basic weatherization like caulking, covering windows with plastic and other small steps. We'll add additional training and generate a lot more student interest in the program to reach a much greater number of families.

### **Ongoing Presence**

The North Adams Public Library continues to be a strong partner in Take Charge. Stop by to see their energy saving display, take out books on energy and global warming, and of course, to take the pledge and receive a free light bulb. In addition, Hoosac Bank placed a Take Charge display in the lobby. They are organizing a raffle for anyone who takes the pledge at the bank, and also distributing light bulbs. Berkshire Community Action Council is the newest partner organization. BCAC manages the fuel assistance program and is sending the Take Charge pledge to thousands of people in north county who received fuel assistance last year. They really are taking to heart the adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

### **Group Status/Joining**

Take Charge is a community effort. The group, as yet unnamed, has met since May to find ways to meet our communities energy needs and environmental concerns. Take Charge is the first campaign, responding to the home heating crisis. Future projects may include purchasing wind power, installing green roofs, vastly improving city recycling and more. The group typically meets at the North Adams Library on the 4th Thursday of the month. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 25th at 4:00 p.m.

### **Upcoming Events**

Take Charge and the North Adams Public Library will be organizing a series of workshops on energy in the home. At this point they still need to be scheduled, but stay tuned for afternoon sessions to come and hear experts discuss electricity, heating and various methods for reducing energy use.

For those more serious about energy and who'd like to teach others, we're going to organize a 'energy councilor' training on September 6th. The training will be about 4 hours long. It will go in depth about how electric and heating systems work in the home, and give attendees an opportunity to speak to folks about the how's and why's of energy savings. It will also spend time covering the various assistance, rebate and incentive programs available so that we can all guide people to the right place for help. This training will be relevant for community leaders, students interested in community service, staff of related service organizations, as well as anyone interested in really getting into the details of home energy. Stay tuned for further details.

*-- Morgan Goodwin*

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## Paul W. Marino Historical Walks Schedule

Local historian Paul Marino has announced the schedule of remaining guided walks for the year. Except where noted, all walks are on **Saturday** afternoons, beginning at **2:30 p.m.** Rain, high winds, and illness cancel, but nothing else. Walkers should be advised to wear comfortable shoes, appropriate clothing, sun block, carry along a bottle of water, bring children, and have your ears talked off! The schedule is as follows: September 6, Hillside Cemetery second tour; September 20, Main Street second walk; October 4, Southview Cemetery beginning at entrance opposite the Drury High School driveway; and October 25, Hillside Cemetery third tour. For information, please contact **Paul Marino** at **413-207-1344** or email [historyman@copper.net](mailto:historyman@copper.net).

## Behavioral Health Disaster Response Training

A two-hour training on Behavioral Health Disaster Response: Overview and Basics of Psychological First Aid will take place on **Wednesday, September 10** from **9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at The Brien Center, 333 East Street, Pittsfield**. This free program is being offered by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and 2.0 CEU credits are being provided for various professions. For more information, contact **Tara McKay** at **The Brien Center (413) 398-1351**.

## Wordplay @ Papyri Books

Wordplay is co-sponsored by Inkberry and Papyri Books. It is held the **second Saturday** evening each month at Papyri Books at **7:00 p.m.** Wordplay hosts a guest author each month who reads from his or her work and answers questions at the conclusion of the reading. Refreshments, Open Mic, and a visit to Papyri Gallery to see the work of local artists follow. Our featured authors for September are contributors to Upstreet Number Four, a Berkshire County literary journal. The Open Mic is an opportunity for guests to share their work and five minutes is allotted for each reader, as there are many participants each month. Papyri Gallery will feature the work of Joanne Gabler for the months of September and October. Hope to see you **Saturday, September 13** at **7:00 p.m. at Papyri Books, 45 Eagle Street, North Adams**. For more information, please call **662-2099**.

## 5th Annual Berkshire County AIDS Walk & Rally

The 5th Annual Berkshire County AIDS Walk & Rally will take place on **Saturday, Sept. 13 on the First St. Common, Pittsfield**. **Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.** This is a joint venture of the Berkshire County Chapter of the American Red Cross' HIV/AIDS program and the Berkshire AIDS Coalition. This event is to promote awareness of HIV/AIDS in Berkshire County and to raise funds to provide assistance for Berkshire residents affected by HIV/AIDS. All monies raised remain here in Berkshire County. Light refreshments, entertainment & massages will be available. For more information or a signup sheet contact **Pat Wood** at the **American Red Cross, 413-442-1506**, [www.redcrossberkshirecounty.org](http://www.redcrossberkshirecounty.org) or **Nanciellen Poulin, Berkshire AIDS Coalition, 413-329-9306** or [berkshireaidscoalition@yahoo.com](mailto:berkshireaidscoalition@yahoo.com).

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Announces September Events

Big Brothers Big Sisters will be hosting their annual golf tournament on **Wednesday, September 17 at Wahconah Country Club**. All proceeds directly support Big Brothers Big Sisters programming throughout the county. For more information contact **Sarah Kline** at **663-7588** or email [bbbs@nbccoalition.org](mailto:bbbs@nbccoalition.org).

Big Brothers Big Sisters is also selling Macy's shopping passes for \$5 (BBBS gets to keep the proceeds from every ticket we sell!) The pass entitles you to many discounts on the day of the event, **Saturday September 20**. The best part is your pass gets you a chance to win a \$500.00 shopping spree at Macy's. Each store is doing its own drawing, so the more passes you buy the better your chance to win! Call or email **Sarah Kline** at **663-7588** or [bbbs@nbccoalition.org](mailto:bbbs@nbccoalition.org) for your pass! Thanks for your support!

## Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders

### Adams

First Baptist Church 15 Commercial Street  
Pastor Donald E. Gray  
First Congregational 42 Park Street 743-1677  
Rev. Mike Mullany  
Notre Dame Church 21 Maple Street 743-1767  
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle  
St. Mark's Episcopal P.O. Box 191 743-0947  
Rev. R. Ellen White  
St. Stanislaus Kostka 25 Hoosac St., 743-0041  
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle  
St. Thomas Church Columbia Street 743-0575  
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle

### Cheshire

Cheshire First Baptist Church 743-3649  
Pastor Rick Newton  
St. Mary of the Assum. 159 Church Street 743-2110  
Rev. David Raymond  
United Methodist Church 743-0133  
Pastor Warren Scamman

### Florida

Florida Baptist Church Road 664-6055  
Rev. Roy Burdick

### Hancock

Hancock Baptist Church Box 10A  
Rev. Angela Buchauer

### Lanesboro

Berkshire Union Chapel Route 8 445-4299  
Rev. William D. Furey  
St. Luke's Episcopal 20 S. Main Street 443-0165  
Rev. Mary Schreiber

### New Ashford

Christian Harvest Cntr 199 Mallery Rd 458-1083  
Pastor Joseph D. Slonski

### North Adams

Bethel Pentecostal 55 Harding Avenue 663-8998  
Rev. Robert Bellofatto  
Blackinton Union Massachusetts Avenue 458-8302  
Pastor Eugene Kemp  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Holiday  
Inn Annex of Amer. Legion Drive 802-694-1726  
President: Jim Law  
Congregation Beth Israel 53 Lois Street 663-5830  
Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser  
COTY Center 70 Marshall Street 663-3133  
Sister Eunice Tassone  
First Baptist 131 Main Street 663-3780  
Rev. David Anderson  
First Bible Baptist 35 Notch Road 662-2107  
Pastor Eric Malachuk  
First Congregational 134 Main Street 663-9940  
Rev. Steven Alspach  
First United Methodist 159 East Main 664-9655  
Rev. Dr. Pat. MacHugh  
Jehovah's Witness 984 Union Street 663-5030  
St. Andrews Episcopal 1438 Mass Avenue 662-2775  
Rev. Peter Pierson  
St. Anthony of Padua 68 Marshall 663-5316  
Rev. William Cyr  
St. Francis of Assisi 12 Union Street 663-5316  
Rev. William Cyr  
St. John's Episcopal 59 Summer Street 664-9656  
Rev. Edward King  
Salvation Army 393 River Street 663-7987  
Capts. Mary & James Eager

*(continued on page 10)*

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## Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders (Continued)

### Savoy

Sovereign Grace Baptist 664 Main Road 447-8127  
Pastor Kenneth Mick Jr.

### Stamford, VT

St. John Bosco Chapel Main Road 802-694-1950  
Father Joseph H. Tate  
Stamford Community Main Road 802-694-1533  
Rev. Bill Wilson

### Williamstown

Baha'i Faith Williams College 458-8092  
Sponsored by Williams College Baha'i Club  
Community Bible Ch. 160 Bridges Rd. 458-5556  
Rev. Douglas Duncan  
First Baptist 731 Main Street 458-4811  
Rev. Peter Daniels  
First Congregational 906 Main Street 458-4273  
Rev. Carrie Bail  
First United Methodist 777 Main Street 458-3183  
Rev. Dr. Pat MacHugh  
St. John's Episcopal 35 Park Street 458-8144  
Rev. Peter Elvin  
St. Patrick and Raphael 54 Southworth 458-5443  
Rev. Mark Burke  
Second Congregational 81 Hancock Rd. 458-3467  
Rev. Penny Rich Smith  
White Oaks Cong. 480 White Oaks Road 458-4633  
Rev. Ralph "Ty" Campbell  
Williams Coll. Chap. 39 Chapin Hall Dr. 597-2483  
Rev. Richard Spalding

## CORRECTIONS BOX:

No mistakes to report this month...please keep checking, and be sure to let me know of any corrections or updates in this and future issues!

## Berkshire Immigrant Center Celebrates Citizenship Day

The Berkshire Immigrant Center will hold an open house on **Wednesday, September 17** to commemorate our nation's "Citizenship Day." The event will be held at the Center's office on the second floor of **The First Baptist Church, 88 South Street, Pittsfield**. Staff members will answer questions about citizenship and immigration, and an experienced immigration attorney will provide free private consultations. The event is free and open to the public. Spanish speaking interpreters will be present and light refreshments will be served. The purpose of Citizenship Day is to celebrate the privileges, rights, and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, and to honor both native-born and naturalized citizens who contribute to our community. Citizenship Day was established by President Harry Truman in 1952. September 17th was chosen because it was the day on which the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. For more information about the Berkshire Immigrant Center or Citizenship Day, please call **(413) 445-4881** or email [info@berkshireic.com](mailto:info@berkshireic.com).

## Berkshire SHARE Offers September Delivery Day Activity

Beginning in September, Berkshire SHARE will hold activities during delivery days from **10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Delivery and activities take place at **St. John's Church** - enter from the municipal parking lot. Activities will be family friendly, but kids must be accompanied by an adult to participate! Events are free and open to the public. The **September 20** activity will include LIVE music for the whole family with Mike McMann. Dancing and singing along will be encouraged!

Berkshire SHARE/ Serve New England can help stretch your grocery money. The \$26 package contains lots of healthy food choices with delicious meat options, fruits and vegetables, and a surprise product. The Berkshire SHARE Co-op is open on **Thursdays 2-6 p.m.** through the red door on the parking lot side of **St. John's Church in North Adams**. Cash, checks, and EBT cards are accepted. This offer is open to all community members, regardless of income. For information, please call **664-7400**.

## Flu Care at Home Training

On **September 25** from **1:15 to 3:15 p.m.** the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will be offering training on Educating Communities on Flu Care at Home. Oriented toward both effective care for seasonal influenza and pandemic preparedness, this is a train-the-trainers program that will prepare staff and/or volunteers of community organizations to teach others. Elder Services is hosting this **free** program at **Providence Court, 379 East Street in Pittsfield**. CEUs are available. Pre-registration is required and is available at [www.masslocalinstitute.org](http://www.masslocalinstitute.org) (click on "Educating Communities on Flu Care at Home").

## Northern Berkshire Adult Basic Education Classes Begin

Enrollment is beginning at the Northern Berkshire Adult Basic Education Program. GED preparation at all levels, ESOL and Basic Skills classes are offered. Computer Skills, Workplace Education & Training and Project Health Readiness Workshops will also be available. All classes, books and materials are free for enrolled students. Classes begin in three locations on **September 8**; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Freel Library, Adams Memorial Middle School and Williamstown Public Library. To schedule an enrollment meeting or to get more information please call **662-5314**. Enrollment begins now and will continue throughout the school year.

## Child Care of the Berkshires

Calling all Parents, Grandparents, Foster Parents, and Guardians of children ages 18 months to 3 years: The Parent Child Home Program is ready for new enrollments for our fall registration. If you would like to enjoy free books and toys with a trained home visitor, please give us a call to start this great free adventure. Please call **Gretchen Wells or Jennifer Gauthier @ 664-4615** for more information. We are located in the **Haskins Building at Child Care of the Berkshires**. Look for our NEW sign.

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**September 3, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

## Energy Forum

State Representative Dan Bosley will sponsor a community forum to talk about options for heating fuel this Winter. Please join in this discussion and share your thoughts with other concerned community members. The forum will be held at the MCLA Church Street Center. For more information, you may call the Coalition office at 663-7588 or contact Representative Bosley's office at 663-7486.

**September 6, 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

## TAKE CHARGE Energy Counselor Training

Are you interested in helping to promote energy efficiency in our community? The North Adams TAKE CHARGE Campaign to Save Energy will host a training for anyone who wants to be more informed on energy, who is interested in talking to groups about energy, or who wants to volunteer in the fall. This training will give you the information you need to help you and others save money on utility bills. We will discuss the facts of home heating systems and electric systems, how to get the most out of appliances and improvements, as well as information on the resources and assistance available. The training will be held at the offices of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, in the conference room. Light refreshments will be provided. Childcare and transportation are available as needed - please let us know. For more information or to register, please email **Morgan** at [morgan.goodwin@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.goodwin@gmail.com).

**September 10, 11:00 a.m.**

## Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative

The monthly meetings are held the **first Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 11:00 a.m.** at the Coalition, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams. At the September meeting, the group will form a list of topics to be discussed at the monthly meetings through the year. To get on the group's e-mail list, contact **Kate Merrigan** at [kmerrigan@nbccoalition.org](mailto:kmerrigan@nbccoalition.org).

**September 12, 10:00 a.m.**

## Coalition Monthly Forum

Join us for the September monthly forum of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. The discussion will be about "Emerging Issues in Our Community: Setting our agenda for the year ahead." Please join us, as the members of our community are the experts we need to hear from. Come share your thoughts and concerns with us, so we can best prepare the topics of our monthly forums to reflect your needs. The meeting is held at the **First Baptist Church in North Adams, at the corner of Eagle and Main streets.** Use the Eagle Street entrance.

**September 18, 7:45 a.m.**

## Northern Berkshire United Way Kick-off Breakfast

The Northern Berkshire United Way will host its Annual Kick-off Breakfast event at the Williams Inn in Williamstown. Please call the office of the Northern Berkshire United Way at 663-9062 for more information or to register.

**September 18, 6:30 p.m. (North Adams)**

## Energy Workshops

The Fall schedule has been set for local Energy Workshops. The workshop for September is titled "Home Energy Use Overview," and will be lead by Mike Tillou. There will be raffle drawings for energy-saving devices, and time to sign up for Take Charge and receive a free energy-saving light bulb. All workshops are at the Public Libraries in Williamstown and North Adams, as indicated by town. Light refreshments will be served.

**TBA in October, 7:00 p.m. (Mt. Greylock)**

**October 1, 5:30 p.m. (Adams)**

## CMCA Strategy Team Meetings

Adams Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (AMCA) and Mt. Greylock Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (MGMCA) are grassroots initiatives to reduce teenagers' access to alcohol. Strategy teams made up of local citizens meet monthly to guide project priorities and actions. To learn more about getting involved in the Mt. Greylock team, contact **Liz Shiner** by e-mail at [dzylyzy59@hotmail.com](mailto:dzylyzy59@hotmail.com) or leave a message for her at the Coalition office (663-7588). For the Adams team, contact **Sarah Kline** at 663-7588 or [bbbs@nbccoalition.org](mailto:bbbs@nbccoalition.org). For information about the CMCA program, please call or email **Jenna Cece**, Prevention Coordinator at the Coalition office, 663-7588 or [jcece@nbccoalition.org](mailto:jcece@nbccoalition.org).

September 2008

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## Final Thoughts . . .

In the blink of an eye, summer is over and once again we are preparing for our kick-off to the new Coalition year, our September forum. Come join us for the September 12<sup>th</sup> forum at the Baptist Church in North Adams (10 AM to noon) where we ask you: what's happening in our community that we should spend some time exploring?

Our world is a different place than it was a year ago. Who would have thought that energy prices would go as high as they have? If there is a silver lining to the current energy crisis we are facing, it's the numerous conversations that are all around us about how we can better use the energy we have. Our local initiative, "Take Charge," has succeeded beyond expectation; in part because the community is finally ready to think of ways to control our addiction to energy. Personally, I've followed many of the recommendations of the Take Charge pledge, and look forward to seeing the difference in our energy bill.

Much of our success for "Take Charge" can be attributed to the stewardship of North Adams City Counselors Dick Alcombright and Gail Cariddi, and Mayor John Barrett. Morgan Goodwin has exceeded expectations as the staff of the project, and sadly his internship will be ending in mid-September. We'll be looking for a way to fill Morgan's shoes, and with the support of faculty and staff at Williams and MCLA, we hope to find a solution. We're open to your ideas about how this transition may work, so if you have a thought, let me know.

In the world is a different place category, our offices have moved and we are now looking at larger quarters with increased capacity to host meetings. Thanks to David Carver and Ron King of Scarafoni Associates for making sure this new space works for us. It truly does, and I invite all to come out and take a peek. We'll be hosting an open house soon to officially open our community home to the broader Northern Berkshire community. And remember, our new address is 61 Main Street Suite 218, North Adams, 01247.

So, that's it for now. See you at the September forum!

--Al Bashevkin

61 Main Street, Suite 218  
North Adams, MA 01247

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition



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