



Food Access Collaborative



IDEA:

Sticker Shock!

Instead of pamphlets and flyers, which people have a tendency to overlook and throw away, stickers are a little harder to get rid of. The idea stems from the "nb21" Sticker Shock from a few years ago. We would partner with local businesses and stores to sticker items and post signage in aisles with WIC/SNAP/HIP info, health and nutrition facts, even short recipes for those "odd" items in the store people may stray away from.

Please take the quick survey to let me know your thoughts.
Copy and paste the link below, or find the survey included in the email.

<https://forms.gle/wiLzs8Y98h2J5TW26>



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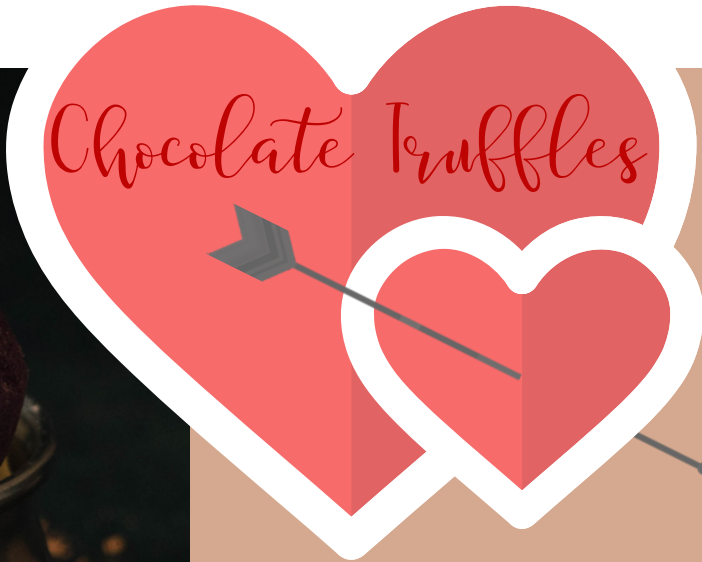
In the Spotlight: Food Security Grant

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to administer the CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) Food Security Program in Berkshire County.

BTCF is one of more than a dozen community foundations across the state that will re-grant funds to local or regional community-based organizations with the capacity to efficiently provide immediate relief and support for individuals and families.

Qualified 501(c)(3) organizations working on food security in Berkshire County are eligible to apply for these grants. This could include, but is not limited to, food banks or pantries; food delivery and/or pickup programs; food suppliers and other food access programs; or other services to provide food to income-eligible individuals and households.

Follow the link to learn more. <https://www.berkshiretaconic.org/CDBG>



INGREDIENTS:

8oz cream cheese
3C confectionary sugar
3C chocolate chips - melted
1 1/2tsp Vanilla Extract

Coating:
finely ground nuts
sifted cocoa powder
coconut flakes
sprinkles

DIRECTIONS:

- In a large bowl or food processor, beat cream cheese until smooth.
- Add confectioner's sugar 1C at a time until well blended.
- Add melted chocolate and vanilla. Stir until thoroughly combined.
- Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour to overnight. The longer the batter sits, the easier to shape into balls.
- Use a spoon or melon baller to shape into desired size.
- Roll and cover with desired coating and place back in the fridge to set.
- ENJOY!

Job Listings

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

<https://berkshireplanning.org/brpc-public-health-program-open-positions/>

HEALTHY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (HIP) SUPPORT SPECIALIST

https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=220000EJ&tz=GMT-05%3A00&tzname=America%2FNew_York

ORGANIZER FOR MASSACHUSETTS FOOD SYSTEM COLLABORATIVE

<https://mafoodsystem.org/news/mfsc-is-hiring-an-organizer/>

SKILLS TRAINER

Adlibcil.org

POSITIONS AT NBCC

<https://www.berkshirejobs.com/public/employer/jobs/216/North-Adams-MA/Northern-Berkshire-Community-Coalition.html>

Community Happenings

2/5 INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

- 9am – 1pm; Terra Nova, 85 Main St. North Adams
- The North Adams Farmers Market accepts SNAP and doubles SNAP benefits up to \$20/ market.

2/10 DRINK + DISH: A NIGHT BUILDING SUCCULENTS

- 7pm; The Plant Connector

2/11 COMMUNITY FORUM

- 10 – Noon; Terra Nova Church, 85 Main Street, North Adams

2/12 MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE VALENTINE'S SWIM

- 12 – 1:30; YMCA North Adams

2/15 WOW WORKSHOP

- 5 – 7pm; UNO Community Center

WINTER FOOD SYSTEM SERIES

- <https://foodsolutionsne.org/winter-series-2022/>
- The free series is open to everyone doing food system work anywhere in the six-state New England region.



Pin Board



This Newsletter is brought to you by:



Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Community Empowerment • Prevention & Wellness



FEBRUARY FORUM

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & OPPORTUNITIES

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    graph TD
      REWARD --> PM[PEOPLE MANAGEMENT]
      EDUCATE --> PM
      EMPOWER --> PM
      TRAIN --> PM
      MOTIVATE --> PM
      ATTRACT --> PM
  
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Friday, February 11, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

SNAP households that have lost power for more than 4 hours have 10 days from the outage to request replacement benefits.
Families that only get SNAP can call 1-877-382-2363. Families that get SNAP and cash assistance should contact their case manager.

Tuesday, February 15th; 5-7pm
UNO Community Center

WBW

WORKSHOP

RESOLUTION NUTRITION
+
BEGINNER YOGA

VETERAN SERVICES OF NORTHERN BERKSHIRE

VETERANS PANTRY FOOD DRIVE

February 1st- February 28th

Donations Requested:

- Coffee, Tea
- Taco kits
- Knorr Sides, Mac & Cheese
- Jams
- Salad Dressing, Vegetable oil
- Breakfast bars, Assorted cold cereals
- Pop tarts
- Ketchup, Mustard
- boxed soups, Raman noodles
- Nuts
- Canned gravies, Alfredo sauce

Pasta, Pasta sauces, Pickles, Beets, bread crumbs, canned meats, cases of water, salsas, perishable dips, Jello, puddings, assorted Juices or V-8

Donations can be dropped of at the Veterans Office, North Adams City Hall.

Thank you!

FREE Tax Prep in Berkshire County!




The BCAC Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides **FREE** federal and state tax return preparation for:

- individuals who make \$57,000 or less
- persons with disabilities
- persons who are 60 years or older
- limited English speaking taxpayers

Our VITA season runs from January 31 - April 15, 2022.
Due to COVID-19, BCAC is offering two options for tax preparation:

Pin Board

THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER'S 2022 Basic Mediation Training

 March 3, 4, 9, 10, 11	 Common Room @ Zion Lutheran Church 74 First St. Pittsfield, MA 01201	 9:00-4:30
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Cost: \$750* (If, after the training, you can commit to one year of voluntary mediation services with our Center, the cost will be \$400)
*Payment plans and financial assistance available by request

REGISTER NOW AT:
WWW.BCRHA.COM

NORTH ADAMS MOBILE FOOD BANK

FEBRUARY 4TH
10-11 AM

BRIEN CENTER PARKING LOT (AMERICAN LEGION DRIVE)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FREE PRODUCE AND GROCERIES PROVIDED BY THE FOOD BANK OF WESTERN MA



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE SWIM DATE

SAT., FEB 12
12:00-1:30PM
30-MIN SLOTS

PARENT/CHILD

VALENTINE'S DAY SWIM

BERKSHIRE FAMILY YMCA - NORTHERN BERKSHIRE BRANCH



Double your SNAP \$\$

at the Winter Farmers Markets

NOV 20	FEB 19
DEC 18	MAR 19
JAN 15	APR 16

Saturdays 10am - 2pm
Housy Dome
1084 Main St. Housatonic
For more info, go to berkshiregrown.org



WHAT IS LIVING IN THE BERKSHIRES LIKE FOR YOU?

Berkshire Benchmarks is conducting a survey to better understand the issues that affect county residents. Participants will be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$50 gift cards.

The survey closes on February 15, 2022.

Learn more and participate at www.surveymonkey.com/tr/Berkshire22

Please take the survey!



SCAN HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY



Para la versión en español
www.surveymonkey.com/tr/Berkshire22_Spanish

Berkshire Benchmarks is a program of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

INDOOR SOCCER

February 26 - April 16, 2022 | Saturdays
Ages: Pre-K - Grade 8

Northern Berkshire Branch, 22 Brickyard Ct., North Adams

INFO, FEES, REGISTER

bfymca.org/soccer or scan QR code

BERKSHIRE FAMILY YMCA | BFYMCA.ORG



BUILDING YOUR VILLAGE

BABY & ME PLAYTIME @ THE Y

Berkshire Family YMCA
Northern Berkshire Branch



Baby & Me Playtime @ the Y is a program for children ages 6-18 months and their parents. Meet friendly local moms and dads to talk about your kids and have fun. Baby & Me Playtime @ the Y is a great time to share experiences, find advice, give support, and make new friends. All parents are welcome! A dedicated playroom for kids to learn, explore, and play with others. Playtime ends with 30-minutes of optional swim time in a dedicated pool space with you, your child, and other playtime members!

FAQ:

- Weekly on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 AM (Optional pool time during last half hour)
- Active BFYMCA Membership required. Note: Minimum youth membership required. Parent with inactive BFYMCA membership may accompany the child.
- No program cost. Registration required.
- For those participating in the pool portion, pool toys and flotation devices will be available. Participants must bring their own bathing suits, swim diapers, and towels.
- Masks are recommended for all adults but are required for unvaccinated adults.



AGES: Child 6-18 Months + Parent
WHEN: Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
COST: Members = FREE, Must Register
CONTACT: Brandon, 413-663-6529,
brousseau@bfymca.org
LOCATION: Northern Berkshire Branch,
22 Brickyard Ct., North Adams, MA

BERKSHIRE FAMILY YMCA | BFYMCA.ORG