

My name is Ethan Stone, I'm an independent recording and performing artist from Athol, MA. I'm also the director of Athol's "Tool Town Live" concert series and the chairman of the Memorial Hall Revitalization Fund. Over the past three years, I've had the immense pleasure of knowing and working with the people at 97.3FM WJDF in Orange MA. While operating on a level of general professionalism that easily exceeds any other station within a 50 mile radius, this community-minded radio station has donated more to my community, and those that neighbor us, than I could begin to explain here. Due in large part to WJDF's help, as a sponsor of the heavy-metal Rockathon concert series, and other fundraising events, including the jazz big band Swingathon, we've been able to raise over \$14,000 for the revitalization of Memorial Hall, our own 1200 seat auditorium here in Athol.

They've also been the biggest sponsor of the Tool Town Live series, which helps draw a regional audience to a local area, and brings the local audience together as a community. Tool Town Live also provides an opportunity for non-profit organizations such as the Public Library to raise funds through the sale of refreshments. I consider WJDF to be one of the main reasons why we've been able to consistently draw hundreds of attendees to each of our free outdoor concerts in Fish Park and at the Uptown Common bandstand since 2004. Recently, the Tool Town Live series was nominated for a Massachusetts Cultural Council Gold Star award, and this never would have happened without the help of WJDF.

Speaking of Gold Star Awards, WJDF has been a driving force behind Starry, Starry Night since the very beginning, the award winning first night celebration in Orange. Starry Starry Night brings us together as a community, to celebrate the New Year with a plethora of musical performances, ice sculptures, fireworks, a parade, and much more. Its a beacon of positive energy for the North Quabbin Region...just like WJDF.

But these are just a few examples from my own paradigm, a tiny slice of the pie that is what WJDF does for the communities of the North Quabbin Region and beyond. Anyone who has the pleasure of working with WJDF will tell you a story about the station's professionalism and genuine, relentless dedication to improving the quality of life for all residents in the region WJDF serves.

Look at the unprecedented FOOD-A-THON event, for example. The station goes commercial free, broadcasting live for 12 straight hours, and puts on the greatest food drive in the history of the North Quabbin Region, every year, just because its the right thing to do. The only other true media partner of the event is AOTV, an award winning non-profit public access television station.

Having the honor of being around that event, and so many of the other things that WJDF creates and/or supports inspires me to work to improve the quality of life in the North Quabbin Region, and has a far-reaching impact that resonates in ways and places that are well beyond our scope here in the Athol/Orange area. Our region is beautiful, but economically depressed. However, the area is rich in cultural spirit thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of WJDF. WJDF sets an example with their contributions, and for the FCC to revoke or even diminish WJDF's power of discretion in terms of their community contributions would be very unwise, and immediately detrimental to our community. We need WJDF to be able to continue to choose how it serves the community. WJDF is extremely involved with so many of the positive steps that are being taken to rejuvenate and revitalize the social

and economic climate in our region for the long term. They are a source of hope in an area that needs it more than most. WJDF leads with a positive vision for the future of our area, and the actions necessary to support that vision. Please do not destroy our great future before it is realized by limiting their ability to contribute and the power to choose how they do so.

Ethan Stone

Director, Tool Town Live concert series

Chairman, Memorial Hall Revitalization Fund

Board Member, Athol Cultural Council