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December 2020

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The Voice of Your Community

Fallen Soldiers Remembered with Wreaths Across America

By Bella Caggiano

Vol. 11 No. 5

Spending time with family and friends during the holidays is what

warms the heart. However, many people spend this time remembering those they have lost. Many of

WREATHS



Our Tireless Senior Center



By Donna Lane

The Norwood Senior Center had to close down programming on March 13th due to the pandemic, but the executive director and staff never stopped

coming to work at the Center every day. They never worked from home, and they never stopped their

SENIOR CENTER

continued on page 5





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WREATHS

continued from page 1

those loved ones were in America's armed forces, and what better way to truly embrace the seasonal spirit than to honor the heroes through Wreaths Across Amierica (WAA) who gave up their lives so Americans could continue to live in peace and harmony.

"For my family, sharing in the events organized by WAA is not only about paying our respects to the legacy fallen service members, it's also about carrying that legacy forward through my children in helping them understand all that has been sacrificed for the freedoms we have and enjoy," Tom Saumweber, Ecolab District Manager who volunteered in Norwood last year.

Norwood is paying tribute to those veterans for a third year with Wreaths Across America, a national movement to honor those who are often forgotten. The mission is to REMEM-BER fallen U.S. Veterans, HONOR those who serve, and TEACH your children the value

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of freedom by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies with Arlington National Cemetery. More than 1,600 locations in all 50 U.S. states participate.

Norwood donations have increased each year and local coordinator Andrea Reed is turning to the local community again to assist with funding to place wreaths of local service men and women's graves at Highland and Old Parish Cemeteries. In past years, there was a public ceremony for the dedication, however, due to COVID restrictions, participation unfortunately is limited. With these

constraints, the focus of this year's event is donations. Last year, 195 wreaths were delivered; 45 were donated by Ecolab (local coordinator Andrea Reed's employer), 35 were donated by Grace Baptist Church, and 115 were generous donations!

"We are going to try to live stream the event to include those who would have loved to volunteer so that they are able to participate at home, if they choose," Reed said. "The Colonial Pipers played bagpipes to start and end the event and John Mahoney (Boston Symphony Orchestra) played taps. The whole event was impactful and moving and we are inviting them to play again this year."

At the time of this writing, 19 wreaths have been donated and more are needed for the Dec. 19th ceremony. This program thrives on generous donations. Handmade wreaths are \$15, \$30 for two, \$75 for three, or \$150 for ten wreaths. To sponsor a wreath, visit www. wreathsacrossamerica.org, click on the red box that says sponsor wreaths, scroll to the bottom and choose monthly sponsorship, in honor or memory of, or you can

donate to a specific gravesite.

According to Reed, in addition to the generosity of Norwood residents, there are others whose efforts contribute greatly to the success of this event.

"I partner with Mark Ryan (DPW Director - Town of Norwood), Paul Ranalli (Cemetery Foreman), and Ted Mulvehill (Veterans Director - Town of Norwood)," Reed said. "They are amazing with all of their help and support."

For more information or to donate, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

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Will Your House be the Merriest & Brightest?

By Bella Caggiano

The holiday season may feel slightly different this year with COVID-19 health and group gathering restrictions and guidelines, however, there is a wonderful opportunity for families to get into the 2020 festive spirit!

The Norwood Recreation Department is again offering its Annual Home Christmas Decorating Contest! With families spending more time at home, why not use those extra hours decking the home! This is the year to pull out every decoration in the basement, garage, and attic and enter into this fun, community event. Norwood residents can make this the biggest year yet for outdoor home decorations!

All registered houses will be listed on the Norwood Recreation social media pages with themes and an interactive map. And that makes for a second new family tradition! Put the family into the car and drive throughout Norwood to take in approximately 30 decorated homes and vote online for the winner!

There will be two winners a week before Christmas. One from the judges and one for most internet likes. Gift cards to local businesses will be provided to each winner. To register your home or for more information, contact the Recreation Department at 781-762-0466 or email cseastedt@norwoodma.gov. Residents can nominate their home or their neighbor's home. Town employees will contact nominations before placing them on the map.

Those who cannot visit the homes in person can also view on the map. Thanks to the Kidd family for assisting with the implementation of the interactive map two years ago.

So, who in Norwood is up for the challenge for the most festive home in Norwood!!??







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136 Ellis Avenue

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58 Cameron Road

15 Franklin St

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94 Monroe St.

224 Richland Road

89 Neponset St

17 Second Street

102 Rosemary Street

161 Bond St

14 Cross St

7 Autumn Street

47 Norton Dr

26 Bruce Rd

31 Thompson Road

144 Rock Street

23 Mill Pond Lane

117 Walnut Ave

217 Rock Street U:H8

219 Rock Street U:H8

219 Rock Street U:G9

862 Washington St U:1

862 Washington St U:1

862 Washington St U:101

140 Railroad Avenue U:B310

70 Endicott Street U:1208

878 Washington St U:101

140 Railroad Avenue U:B78

70 Endicott Street U:1208

878 Washington St U:101

862 Washington St U:101

140 Railroad Avenue U:B38

70 Endicott Street U:1210

862 Washington St U:101

140 Railroad Avenue U:B78

70 Endicott Street U:1208

878 Washington St U:101

862 Washington St U:101

140 Railroad Avenue U:B78

70 Endicott Street U:1208

878 Washington St U:101

862 Washington St U:101

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Save the Date!

Luminary Night Returns to the Town Common on Dec. 5

BY BELLA CAGGIANO

Luminary Night is a magical night in Norwood, and for residents new to this wonderful Town and unfamiliar with this inspirational event, the evening is an inspirational experience for the holiday calendar. The Circle of Hope Foundation's Enchanting Luminary Night will be held on Saturday, December 5, 4-6 p.m., on Norwood's Town Common. Visitors are welcome to stroll

through the walkways in search for their personal messages in memory of lost loved ones. Even residents who have not posted a luminary, visit the Common to share their sympathies and to take a moment to embrace the spirit of the season.

For the past 18 years, luminaries have lit up the Town Common walkways in remembrance of lost loves ones and in support of their neighbors who are bat-

tling a medical tragedy. The luminary bags are engraved with an individual name, message, prayer or date as a symbol of Life, Hope, the Season or in Remembrance of others.

"Every candle that is lit is helping someone in Norwood," Cofounder Lee Kennedy said. "You don't know when you light that candle who you are helping."

The Circle of Hope foundation was established in 1998 in memory of Kennedy's daughter, Norwood resident Michelle Kennedy, who suffered from leukemia. Local residents united during her battle, many who did not even know her personally. The Circle of Hope established in her memory preserves that community spirit by donating fundraising proceeds to Norwood families who need assistance due to a catastrophic medical illness. To date, the COH has provided

over \$885,000 Norwood residents

Unfortunately, due to health restrictions from COVID-19, luminary bags will not be available for purchase the night of the event. For those who would like to make a donation to the Circle of Hope, call 781-762-3549, or mail a check to, The Circle of Hope Foundation, 24 Myrtle Street, Norwood MA 02062.



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SENIOR CENTER

 $continued \ from \ page \ 1$

essential transportation service, managed by their senior bus driver Ellen Rano.

While other senior centers shut their doors and were able to do some nice virtual programming, ours chose to take a different tac and said, "What can we do to get out into the community."

At the beginning of the pandemic the Center delivered 150 little pansies to seniors. And they continued their practice of randomly calling folks to check on them.

"We still struggle with not finding every senior in town because some seniors still think they're too young to come here, but we're working on it," [Guilty], Executive Director of Norwood's Council on Aging and the Senior Center Kerri McCarthy said.

Her answer was concerning when asked what she thought seniors were missing most during this pandemic.

"Without a doubt, social interaction is what's missing most," McCarthy explained. "Some people have not left their homes since March 10th. They left our St. Patrick's Day party on March 10th and they have not been out the door since, except, perhaps, in their yards. They have not gone to a grocery store, nor have they gone to their childrens' homes. The mental health crisis that we are going to be entering is going to be huge. This is not the way older adults should live the rest of their years. This is a time of life when a lot of seniors are financially secure, their kids are on their own, their grandchildren are grown and this is when they should be enjoying life. This pandemic has caused everything to be shut down for them and it's just devastating. It's so sad. We're just going to try to bring the community together and we'll continue to do that any way we can."

Because the Senior Center closed programming and with the uncertainty of the pandemic, the staff immediately switched to more of a social service model than a senior center activity model in March. They have helped people with unemployment claims, emergency SNAP (food stamps) benefits, done grocery shopping for people who are quarantined, picked up medications for them and whatever else was needed.

"It was all-hands-on-deck at the Senior Center," McCarthy said. "While my program coordinator was shopping for people, my driver was picking up medicine. We were delivering lunches ... we were delivering meals on wheels ... we just all came together and did what we needed to do."

The Senior Center continued with their lunch program even though the students, who are part of their intergenerational program, were not in the classroom; they were learning their culinary skills virtually. The chef was still able to continue the program with them and they arranged a "grab and go" lunch. The seniors would line up in their cars to pick up their meals. That continues today.

They were able to continue the lunch program through the summer twice a week; now they are back to four times a week. The only change is that they can't eat inside; but, arrangements can be made for lunch delivery. A group of volunteers from the community will deliver them.

"The lunch program has been steady and extremely beneficial," McCarthy said. "As of October, the Senior Center has served over 5,000 meals since the pandemic started!

In our outreach, we try to pick what's most important to people. We need to keep them fed. We need to make sure they get their prescriptions. And they need to exercise. The saying at the Senior Center is 'If you rest you rot.' We need to keep people moving; otherwise, how do they get back on the bus when it's time?"

One of the things to help with exercise is looking towards Norwood Community Media to come and film all of their exercise classes. From March through August, seniors could go on U-tube or Norwood Community Media and get their exercise classes. They also aired a zoom yoga class.

Seniors were worried about filing their tax returns this year. The AARP volunteer who helped last year returned and scheduled 100 tax appointments. All tax returns were filed by the deadline.

On August 3rd, the Senior Center reopened in-house programming. They brought back their exercise classes, the fitness room and the computer lab. Everything is now is pre-registered. Classes that used to have 50 or 60 people can now only have 15. Not ideal, but they continue to do outreach.

The Town was scheduled to pave the Senior Center parking lot. Someone had the idea to block off a section and make a Parking Lot Park for outdoor programs. The Town was happy to oblige, and the Park was created. Line dancing, anyone? Coffee?

"Whenever folks are in the Park, we roll out the coffee cart and serve them coffee and a little treat," McCarthy said.

They have had the Whoppie Pie Wagon, the Cookie Monster Truck, DJ Dogs – all with the guidance of the Health Department.

McCarthy said that everything she does is cleared by the Health Department first and everybody follows the social distancing rules. The Center has purchased heaters for use outside to keep people warm as the season changes.

Since March, the Senior Center has participated in community food drives, had a few pop-up farmers markets, assisted with a secondary food pantry with a group of volunteers from town hall, and given out gift cards to seniors to try to offset increased food costs the seniors encountered.

"We've been very fortunate that people have been very gracious with their donations to enable us to do this [gift cards]." For the past 49 years, Lombardo's has welcomed people who don't have family or are living alone to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner at their site. This year, they will deliver the dinner to the Senior Center for distribution. As of the date of this interview, 150 people had already signed up. Thanksgiving morning, volunteers will deliver dinner to all of the people who are on the list.

Now that the weather is turning colder, the staff will be working on creating more virtual meetings since nothing can be done indoors. Outreach Coordinator, Trish Monahan will conduct Zoom meetings two times a month to answer questions

about fuel assistance, Medicare referrals, and whatever questions seniors may have. The staff is hoping to have the Telephone Bingo game set up soon.

We can't tell you what the December events will include because they are a surprise!!

Things have not stopped at the Senior Center for even a minute! The big functions, the large parties and the group gatherings in the cafe are, out of necessity, now on hold for quite some time, but McCarthy and her staff have never stopped their mission at the Senior Center. We owe them a huge thank you for all they do on behalf of our seniors!

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How to Discuss Estate Planning with Your Family during the Holidays

The holidays are going to look different this year due to COVID, but even though families may not have large in-person gatherings, they are still a time for family togetherness. The holidays are a time for celebration, spending quality time with loved ones, and exchanging meaningful gifts. We know that when it comes to your children, one of the greatest gifts you can give them is a legacy to continue when you are no longer around. In our practice, we work with families each day on matters just like this.

Despite the many benefits of creating a legacy for your family, it can be a challenging discussion, especially during the holiday season. Here are some tips on discussing estate planning with your family.

1. Plan ahead. Preparation is important. Set time before talking with your loved ones over the holidays to seek the advice of an estate planning attorney. Schedule time for all parties to have the conver-

sation, keeping in mind that the holidays can be a busy time. Think about what you are going to say, what your wishes are, and what you hope to achieve through the discussion. You may consider how you would like to structure the conversation, for example, whether you will bring any planning documents with you to show your children or supplement the discussion.

2. Be prepared to answer questions. Your family will likely have many questions, some of which you may not be prepared to answer. Try to think of questions your children may have. If questions arise that you are not equipped to answer, let them know that you hear their questions and concerns and will address them as soon as you have answers for them. This conversation may be overwhelming for your family if you have not brought up the topic before. Be prepared for

a variety of emotions from your family. It is important that you validate their feelings, but stick to your wishes, and do not let those emotions sway you from your plan.

3. Do not hesitate to follow **up.** Whether your time with family is virtual or in person this holiday season, do not wait too long to check-in with your family after your conversation and follow up with questions you left unanswered. It is important to allow your family some breathing room to enjoy the remainder of the holiday season, process the information you gave them, and take time to think of additional questions they may have for you.

We know this can be a difficult conversation to have with your family. If you questions or need some more advice about how to get started, do not hesitate to contact our office to set up a meeting or attend a webinar. At Dennis

Sullivan and Associates, we help clients meet their goals and objectives through a unique process that combines both education and counseling. We hope you and your family have a happy and healthy holiday

This is a paid advertisement by Dennis Sullivan & Associates



The Norwood Woman's Club recently made a generous donation to Norwood Veterans Agent Ted Mulvehill.

This is one of the many annual donations made by the Norwood woman's Club.

Pictured left to right: Phyllis Spiro, President, Ted Mulvehill, Pat Cavanaugh, VP.



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Keep Organized in 2021 and Support Local Non Profits!

By Bella Caggiano

It's one of the most popular New Year's resolutions; start the year off with organization in mind. Why not keep that schedule pinned up for useful reminders, and support one of two local non profit organizations? Oh, and the monthly pictures are both beautiful and inspiring!

Friends of Norwood Center

The Friends of Norwood Center (FNC) is launching their first Norwood calendar this year. It will include 13 pictures submitted by Norwood photographers.

More than 200 photographs capturing scenes throughout Norwood were submitted by 25

local photographers, so one can only imagine how difficult it was to whittle that down to 13. Once those were selected, the FNC hosted an event on their Facebook page to award the Fan Favorite which is on the front cover.

Calendars are \$25 (including shipping), and online sales have begun. All proceeds will support the Friends of Norwood Center. To order, visit www.norwoodcen-

To learn more about the Friends of Norwood Center, visit their website at www.norwoodcenter.org, Facebook, Twitter (@ NorwoodCenter), and Instagram (@FriendsofNorwoodCenter.) For more information, email norwoodcenter@gmail.com

Friends of Norwood Center connects local businesses, town leadership, and residents to energize the downtown experience for everyone. Our goal is to empower the people, places, culture, and experiences unique to Norwood to support a vibrant community and a thriving local economy. We believe when we choose to live locally, we make the heart of our town a welcoming destination for everyone.

Bay State Animal Cooperative

The yearly calendar provided by The Bay State Animal Cooperative (BSAC) is a favorite for all animal lovers in Town. Each year, BSAC compiles photos of cats they have rescued, adopted, or fostered within a beautiful and heartwarming wall calendar.

Throughout the year, families who have added these homeless felines to their families through adoption or foster care submit their favorite pictures which makes the BSAC volunteers' job so difficult....how do you choose? Each picture demonstrates the continuing need to end the homeless cat population, but thanks to this admirable organization and the people who devote their time,

sonal Norwood delivery, and \$18 for shipping outside of Norwood.



To purchase a calendar, mail a check to BSAC, 47 Windsor Rd., Norwood, Ma 02062. Be sure to include your name and address. To purchase online, visit www. baystateanimals.org.

What better gift for the animal lover than a calendar with pictures each month of homeless cats that have been rescued by tireless and dedicated volunteers!

And by the way, The BSAC is always looking for more helpers in their quest to help cats find a new home by way of living on the streets or through surrenders.

No matter their condition, the BSAC cares and keeps all their rescues until they find their furrever home, and pay medical treatments as needed through donations and fundraisers such as their yearly calendar.

BSAC is a 501(c)3 charitable/ non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information on the Bay State Animal Cooperative, visit www.baystateanimals.org.







Living Healthy

Holistic Answers for Reflux

Disease (GERD) is a common disorder that affects the lower esophageal sphincter, which is the ring of muscles that lies between the esophagus and the stomach. The most common symptoms of GERD are heartburn or acid indigestion. These occur when the lower esophageal sphincter is weak, and even though it opens to allow food to pass into the stomach, it doesn't

Gastroesophageal Reflux close properly so food and acidic juices reflux or return back up into the esophagus.

> The most common symptoms associated with GERD are dyspepsia (indigestion), gas and bloating, sore throat from acid reflux, chronic dry cough, hoarse voice, breathing issues, and vomiting; all occurring principally after eating.

Dorothy M. visited The Holis-

tic Center at Bristol Square complaining of chronic indigestion, gas, bloating after meals, and headaches. She was diagnosed with GERD by her primary care doctor but did not want to go on the suggestion prescription, Omeprazole. She had heard through a friend that symptoms of GERD could be managed holistically and wanted to explore that route before going on medication.

Dorothy was put on a therapeutic diet, which removed the stressors that were aggravating her situation. Digestive enzymes were added with each meal to help rest the stomach so it could heal, and specific manual adjustments were performed to aide in closing the valve. After several weeks, Dorothy was already seeing significant results and noticed

that her symptoms had decreased in frequency and intensity.

If you are experiencing the symptoms from GERD and are looking for a holistic approach and solution, call The Holistic Center at Bristol Square, (508) 660-2722, 1426 Main St., Walpole, and make an appointment with Dr. Michael Goldstein or Dr. Rochelle Bien today.









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Living Healthy

Andrew and Ernest J. Boch Memorial Fund

2020-Application

Please complete the w application and return by 4 p.m. Thursday, December 3, 2020

Mail to:

Christina Mulvehill Norwood Board of Selectmen PO Box 40 Norwood, MA 02062

Deliver to:

Christina Mulvehill Norwood Board of Selectmen's Office Second Floor, Room 34 566 Washington Street Norwood, MA 02062

Fmail to:

selectmen@norwoodma.gov

Please contact me with any questions: 781-762-1240 x 6025



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ANDREW AND ERNEST J. BOCH MEMORIAL FUND 2020 Application

Award requests are to be returned to the Board of Selectmen no later than Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 4 p.m. Awards will be announced on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 during the Selectmen's Meeting

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How Did Norwood Vote in the 2020 Primary Election?

The following information is solely the tallied votes for the Town of Norwood in the Primary Election held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020. For a complete compilation of state results, visit https://www.boston.gov/departments/elections/unofficial-election-results.

Registered Norwood Voters: 20,611

Ballets Cast: 17,151 (83.21%)

Electors of President and Vice President

Biden & Harris	10,941
Hawkins & Walker	81
Jorgensen & Cohen	219
Trump & Pence	5,721
Unresolved Write-Ins	93
Blanks	96

Senator in Congress

Edward J. Markey	10,883
Kevin J. O'Connor	5,708
Unresolved Write-Ins	98
Blanks	462

Representative in Congress Eighth District

Stephen F. Lynch	12,631
Jonathan D. Lott	2,580
Unresolved Write-Ins	71
Blanks	1,869

Councillor Second District

Robert L Jubinville	11,715
Unresolved Write-Ins	152
Blanks	5,284

Senator in General Court Norfolk & Suffolk District

Michael F. Rush	12,182
Unresolved Write-Ins	152
Blanks	4,817

Representative in General Court Twelfth Norfolk District

John H. Rogers	12,615
Unresolved Write-Ins	197
Blanks	4,339

Register of Probate Norfolk County

Colleen Marie Brierley	12,391
Unresolved Write-Ins	118
Blanks	4,642

County Commissioner Norfolk County

Joseph P. Shea	8,421
Richard R. Staiti	5,967
Heather Hamilton	4,227
Unresolved Write-Ins	64
Blanks	15,623

County Treasurer Norfolk County

Michael G. Bellotti	12,040
Unresolved Write-Ins	115
Blanks	4,996

Sheriff Norfolk County

Jerry P. McDermott	6,845
Patrick W. McDermott	8,546
Unresolved Write-Ins	28
Blanks	1,732



Regional School Committee Blue Hills

Norwood	
Kevin L. Connolly	10,769
Unresolved Write-Ins	60
Blanks	6,322

Question 1

The proposed law would require motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair

Yes	12,446
No	3,819
Unresolved Write-Ins	0
Blanks	886

Question 2

The proposed law would implement a voting system known as "ranked-choice voting," in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Statewide Massachusetts offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Rankschoice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Yes	6,649
No	9,404
Unresolved Write-ins	0
Blanks	1,098

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Beware: Recent Phone Scam!

The Norwood Police Department if alerting residents of a phone scam going around in which someone is pretending to be a town hall employee and asking residents for their social security number. Do not provide that information. Should you receive a phone call, hang up.





Curbside Pickup at the Library!

The Morrill Memorial Library (MML) continues to offer curbside pickup of hold publications. Delivery between libraries has now resumed; place all requests through the online library catalog. Curbside hours are Monday through Saturday, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

The steps for curbside pickup are listed below. If you have any questions or would like assistance scheduling a curbside pickup time, call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2. If no answer, leave a message as messages are checked frequently during business hours.

MML Curbside Holds Pickup

Step 1

Place a hold on an item using the library's online catalog. Call 781-769-0200, x2; to place holds over the phone or use the Chat feature on the library website for assistance.

Step 2

If we have your email address on file, you will receive an email that your items are "READY FOR PICKUP," including a link for scheduling a pickup time.

If we do not have your email address on file, a librarian staff member will call you at the number on your account to schedule a pickup time.

Step 3

Use the link in the notification email to schedule a pickup time. You can also book a Curbside Pickup time by logging into your account but only do so if you've already been notified that an item is Ready for Pickup.

There are four Curbside Tables outside the parking lot doorway, numbered Table 1, Table 2, Table 3, Table 4. Make note of which table you're booking, since your items will be placed on that table.

Step 4

Arrive at your scheduled time, and if you're driving you can park in any space. Find the table you booked (either 1, 2, 3, or 4) and take the bag with your name on it. Enjoy!

In the case of rain we will move the tables into the doorway vestibule. Please remember to social distance at all times.

Step 5

Please return all items to the book drop at the back of the building. All returned items will be quarantined for at least 24 hours before they're checked in, though due to the high volume of returns we may not check in your items for several days. Staff will not be able to take items from you during curbside pickup. If you have unusually large or fragile items to return, please call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

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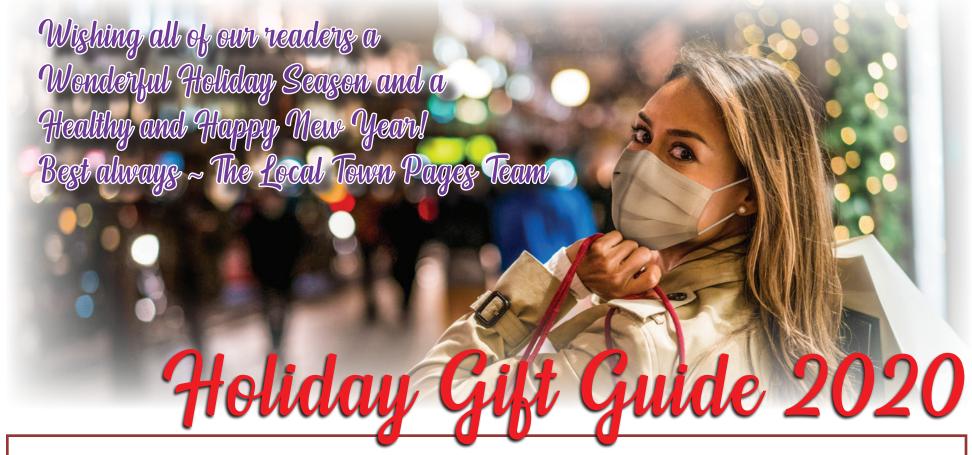
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Make the Holidays a Little Sweeter

What would the holidays be without platters full of homemade cookies? It's that time of year for pulling out favorite recipes and filling the house with delicious aromas and delectable treats.

This recipe for "Stareos" from "Classic Stars Desserts" (Chronicle Books) by Emily Luchetti adds a gourmet spin to a popular chocolate sandwich cookie.

Stareos

Chocolate Sandwich Cookies

Makes 18 cookies

CHOCOLATE SHORTBREAD

11/2 cups all-purpose flour

Pinch of kosher salt

1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted

8 ounces (16 tablespoons) unsalted butter, chilled, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

1/2 cup granulated sugar

FILLING

1 cup mascarpone cheese

1 tablespoon granulated sugar

1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

To make the chocolate shortbread: In a bowl, stir together the flour, salt, and cocoa powder and set aside. Combine the butter and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and beat on low speed until the butter and sugar begin to incorporate, about 15 seconds. Add the dry ingredients and continue to mix until the dough comes together, about 3 minutes. It will look dry just before it comes together.

Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out the dough 1/4 inch thick. Using a 2-inch star cutter, cut out as many cookies as possible. Gather together the scraps, reroll, and continuing cutting out cookies until you have 36 cookies. Place the cookies on the prepared baking sheets, spacing them 1 inch apart. Refrigerate until firm, at least 1 hour.



Preheat the oven to 300 F: Bake the shortbread until firm, about 35 minutes. At the midway point, switch the pans between the racks and rotate them 180 degrees to ensure even baking. Let cool on the pans to room temperature.

To make the filling: In a small bowl, stir together the mascarpone, sugar and vanilla until smooth.

To assemble the cookies: Turn 18 of the cookies bottom-side up on a work surface. Using a table knife or a small icing spatula, spread about 1 tablespoon of the filling on the bottom of each cookie. Top with the remaining cookies, bottom-side down.

Planning ahead:The shortbread dough may be made and cut out a week in advance. Wrap tightly and refrigerate or freeze. The cookies may be baked 2 days in advance. Store in an airtight container at room temperature. The mascarpone cream may also be made 2 days ahead. Cover and refrigerate, but bring to room temperature before assembling the sandwiches. The cookies should be assembled the day you are going to serve them and covered and refrigerated until serving.

Holiday

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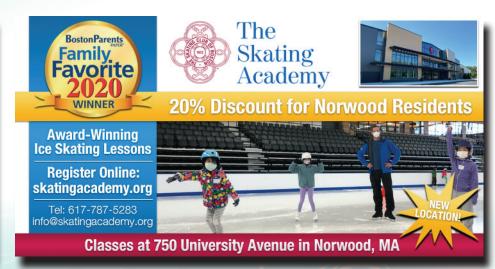
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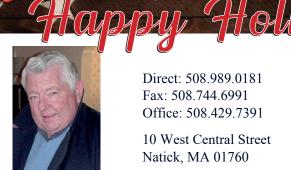
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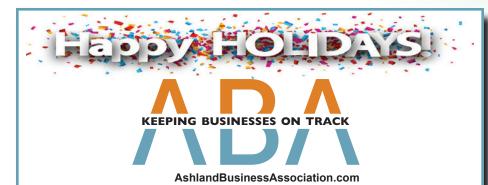
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Holiday Gifts for Four Legged Family Members

Holiday shoppers who are busy making lists and checking them twice should make sure they don't overlook the family pet. Christmas has gone to the cats and dogs, as a greater number of people include their companion animals when selecting gifts each year.

A study by OnePoll conducted by Rover.com, the nation's largest network of dog sitters and walkers, found that 95 percent of pet owners have bought holiday gifts for their pets. Gifts can range from everyday needs, like food and treats, to more lavish extravagances like spa treatments.

Pet owners who plan to get their pets gifts this year may want to consider some of the emerging pet trends as they browse wares and services. The Balance, a business, career and industry information site, says pet industry trends point toward these segments seeing growth.

Natural pet products

Just as people are interested in protecting the health of the planet and their own personal health, so, too, are they extending this concern to companion animals. Natural pet products, which can include natural flea and tick remedies, holistic foods, organic items, and all-natural grooming products, can make great gifts.

Specialty pet services

The American Pet Products Association says the demand for high-end pet grooming and other services is substantial. In addition, personalized training, behavioral consulting, portrait photography, dog sitting, and upscale spa treatments like pet Reiki and massage are booming.

Mobile pet grooming

Mobile pet grooming has become the norm in many areas. Mobile pet grooming can reduce the potential stress on animals, and tends to be very convenient for customers, particularly seniors and others who have mobility issues.

Beyond these growing trends, pet owners have a bevy of other ideas from which to choose. Here are just a few different suggestions:

• tests to detect pets' DNA and trace breed and ancestry,

- interactive puzzles to keep pets engaged and banish boredom,
- stylish storage baskets for pet
- hidden cat litter or dog crate items that camouflage commonly used pet items,
- heated pet bed for cozy nights and mornings, and
- signature vests, coats and sweaters to look good and remain comfortable.

Pet gifts are popular this time of year, ensuring all members of the family have a treat to open.







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Norwood's Snow & Ice Policy

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, many local residents may be wondering about the Town's winter street policies. The information below provides a general overview of Norwood's snow and ice program, frequently asked questions, winter tips and also seeks your support in providing safe streets and sidewalks during snow and ice emergencies.

The Town of Norwood's Public Works Department is responsible for removing snow from and de-icing 110 miles of roadway and 6 municipal parking lots in the winter season. The Town also plows 31 miles of sidewalk to ensure safe passage for pedestrians.

The Public Works Department uses 5 large salt (de-icing) trucks to de-ice roadways. When conditions warrant the plowing of roadways to make them safe, the Town uses 26 municipal vehicles and up to 30 contracted pieces of equipment on 32 plow routes.

Many factors can determine the Town's response to a snow event, some of which may include:

- the temperatures before, during and after a storm;
- the amount of accumulated snow;
- the duration of the storm;
- $\bullet \ \ the \ road \ surface \ temperature;$
- the weather forecast for the following days

Plan of Operations:

- When the snow starts falling, salt trucks are dispatched to apply de-icing materials such as road salt and liquid magnesium chloride to keep the roads safe.
- When 2-3 inches of snow has accumulated on the streets, the snow plowing operation usually begins.
- Once the snow stops falling and the roads have been plowed, the streets will again be treated with de-icing materials to prevent a freeze-up of the road surface.
- Department personnel will then clear intersections and plow sidewalks and parking lots

Black Road Policy:

Within four hours after the storm has ended it is the policy of the Norwood Public Works Department to have a bare (black) road surface on all main streets and arterial collectors. Residential side streets and cul-de-sacs will also receive similar treatment but may take longer to have a bare (black) road surface.

Parking Bans:

Norwood Town By-law (Article XII, Section 30) prohibits parking a vehicle on a street so as to interfere with the snow plowing or removal of snow or ice. Such vehicles will be subject to towing at the expense of the ve-

hicle's owner. Norwood's Parking Regulations also prohibit parking of vehicles for longer than 2 hours, 12 a.m. - 6 a.m., on any street or Town owned parking facility from November 15th through April 1st.

Plow Damage:

The Town is not responsible for damaged lawns, sprinkler heads, fences, steps, trees or shrubs that are located within the public way.

The Town will be responsible for mailboxes that are physically hit by a plow. However, mailboxes will not be repaired if they are in a deteriorated condition or are damaged by snow pushback. Mailboxes and posts damaged by a snowplow will be fixed and/or replaced by the Town with a standard wooden post and black box. The Town will provide a check in the amount of \$50.00 for homeowner's use for any specialty mailbox and/or post that cannot be repaired.

All plow damage must be reported to the Public Works Department by May 1st of the

current snow and ice season. Damage reported after May 1st will not be considered for repairs or reimbursement by the Town of Norwood.

Residents are urged to place stakes with reflectors along the edge of lawns and the corner of driveways / walkways.

Plow vehicles, while employed by the Town, cannot be hired or requested to clear private driveways or walks.

Sand / Salt Mixture for Residents

Norwood residents can pick up a sand/salt mixture in the following locations:

- Babel's Paint Store Parking Lot (Cottage Street / Nahatan Street)
- 370 Winter Street (on Winter Street at entrance to Landfill).
- Hawes Pool Parking Lot (Washington Street)
- Norwood Memorial Airport Parking Lot (Access Road)

Please bring your own container (limit 5 gallons) and shovel. Commercial and/or private contractors not allowed.

By-law - No Snow Deposited in Public Way

Norwood Town By-law (Article XII, Section 32) prohibits the depositing of snow or ice onto or across any public way, including sidewalks or public property. This by-law addresses the ongoing problem of private contractors plowing snow from private driveways into the public way. This causes unsafe road conditions which must then be corrected by the Public Works Department.

Any such owner or agent violating this by-law shall be punished by a fine as well as any cost incurred by the Public Works Department to correct the condition.

Good Neighbor Policy:

In the interest of you and your neighbor's personal safety, please shovel out nearby fire hydrants.





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The calendar was prepared a few weeks before the December 1 publish date. In consideration with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and state and federal guidelines regarding public gatherings, some of these events may have been postponed or cancelled. It is recommended to call to confirm the event status before attending.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 1

Inexpensive & Fun Things to Do In and Around Boston

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual Tour

7 p.m

Join popular Boston tour guide Jay Bazzinotti for his latest virtual tour, "Inexpensive & Fun Things to Do In and Around Boston." In this illustrated presentation, Jay will share some ideas for activities in the Boston area you may not be aware of that are entertaining, even educational, but fortunately not expensive. Registration is required. To sign up, To sign up, visit norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar, or call 781-769-0200, X2or call 781-769-0200, X2.

Dec. 2

Take and Make: Crafts for Kids At Your Own Pace

Morrill Memorial Library-Video

Sign up to get your weekly craft kit for kids! You can follow print instructions to create this craft at your own pace or wait for the library's video instructions to be released on Wednesdays. This is NOT a live program. Videos will be available on the library's YouTube channel every Wednesday. Supplies are limited and will only be given out to families who reserve a kit each week. For more information, visit www. norwoodlibrary.org.

Dec. 3

Zoom Family Story Time

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual

4 p.m.

Join Miss Kate for an afternoon story time! Join in reading stories, singing songs and try a few unique activities. This program is geared to ages 0-5, but all ages are welcome. Register each week and the library staff will email you the unique Zoom link on Thursdays. For more information, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org, or call 781-769-0200, X2.

Virtual Craft Connection

Morrill Memorial Library-Zoom

7 p.m.

The Virtual Craft Connection now meets twice per month, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Get together to video chat while crafting and show off your latest projects and stay in touch. For more information, email Liz at lreed@minlib. net, or call 781-769-0200, X2.

Dec. 5

Blessings Boutique

First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

It's a wonderland of all kinds of great things! There are winter clothes in excellent condition, tableware, Christmas decorations, gifts, collectibles, handmade items, books, and so much more. It's a great place to find your treasures.

Luminary Night

Norwood Town Common

4-6 p.m.

On this evening, the Common is lined with luminaries engraved with message and prayers for lost loved ones. The event is a fundraiser for the Norwood Circle of Hope. All residents are invited to stroll the walkways and take a moment in the holiday season to reflect on the spirit of the season in remembrance of those who have passed through their lives.

Dec. 7

5 Alive!: Toddler Take-Home Sensory Activities

Morrill Memorial Library

All Day

Register each week to reserve an activity bag design to help toddler develop their senses and motor skills! Every week, you can pick up a new bag with 2 sensory activities geared toward toddlers. Materials are very limited and you will have to register each week to reserve a bag. All materials in each bag are designed for children to use with adult supervision. For ages 18 months-3 years old. For more information, email ktigue@minlib.net

Alphabits

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual

10 a.m

Join Miss Nicole for this weekly program focused on learning the letters of the alphabet! Kids will listen to stories and do activities based on a new letter each week. Register for each week and pick up your Alphabits craft kit by Friday so you can follow along every Monday! Register each week and pick up your kit in the Children's Room. Geared towards preschoolers. For more information, email norchild@minlib. net for call 781-769-0200, X2.

Dec. 8

Women's Business Networking Meeting

8 a.m

The Women's Business Networking (WBN) group is a non-profit organization for women in business or residents of Norwood and surrounding towns. The group meet two mornings per month and in addition to providing referral business, the women share and support business ideas and community events/fundraisers. If you would like more information about the organization, call 781-799-7068, or email wbnofnorwood@gmail.com.

Ted Reinstein presents "The New Normal New England Road Trip"

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual

7 p.m.

With most of us limiting our travel during this challenging time, Ted will take you on a rollicking, hour-long ride all around New England from the comfort of your own home. Longtime "Chronicle" reporter and author of three books about New England, Ted will be your tour guide as you travel from Maine to Rhode Island, Mt. Washington to Mt. Mansfield, experiencing the best of New England from the Berkshire foliage to Fenway Park. Registration is required. To sign up, visit norwood-library.org/morrillcalendar or call 781-769-0200, X2.

Norwood Toastmasters

Zoom Meeting

6:45 p.m.

The Norwood Toastmasters is dedicated to improving public speaking and leadership skills. They are currently meeting online via ZOOM. For log in, contact-3926@ toastmastersclubs.org. For more information, visit www.norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org.

Dec. 9

Take and Make: Crafts for Kids At Your Own Pace

Morrill Memorial Library-Video

Sign up to get your weekly craft kit for kids! You can follow print instructions to create this craft at your own pace or wait for the library's video instructions to be released on Wednesdays. This is NOT a live program. Videos will be available on the library's YouTube channel every Wednesday. Supplies are limited and will only be given out to families who reserve a kit each week. For more information, visit www. norwoodlibrary.org.

Dr. Hylander presents "The 19th Amendment"

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual

2 p.m.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of granting women the right to vote. Party bosses long opposed the idea of women's suffrage, which was associated with dangerous political reform and unwelcome social change. Besides, politics was considered the work of men. Suffragists endured years of public ridicule and were often imprisoned. By the turn of the century, however, with more women in the workforce and in light of their vital contributions during World War I, women were finally granted the right to vote in 1920. To sign up, visit norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar or call 781-769-0200, X2.

Dec. 10

Fall 2020 Sustainability series #2: Multicultural Celebrations

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual, Pre-Recorded Program

All Day

The December installment of the Fall Sustainability Series with TogetherYes and Progress Norwood will be a multicultural celebration of the winter holidays. Learn from your neighbors about traditions from around the world and right around the corner. In order to accommodate everyone's busy holiday schedule, this celebration of festivities from a variety of cultures will be pre-recorded by Norwood Community Media. The video on the library's YouTube channel on Thursday, December 10.

Zoom Family Story Time

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual

4 p.m.

Join Miss Kate for an afternoon story time! Join in reading stories, singing songs and try a few unique activities. This program is geared to ages 0-5, but all ages are welcome. Register each week and the library staff will email you the unique Zoom link on Thursdays. For more information, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org, or call 781-769-0200, X2.

Dec. 12

Blessings Boutique

First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Last chance to pick up some great bargains before Christmas! Don't miss out!!

Dec. 14

5 Alive!: Toddler Take-Home Sensory Activities

Morrill Memorial Library

All Day

Register each week to reserve an activity bag design to help toddler develop their senses and motor skills! Every week, you can pick up a new bag with 2 sensory activities geared toward toddlers. Materials are very limited and you will have to register each week to reserve a bag. All materials in each bag are designed for children to use with adult supervision. For ages 18 months-3 years old. For more information, email ktigue@minlib.net.

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Dec. 16

Take and Make: Crafts for Kids At Your Own Pace

Morrill Memorial Library-Video

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Turn the Page Book Group: "The Dutch House"

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual

6:30 p.m.

Copies of the book in regular print and large print are available to pick up at the Circulation Desk. The audiobook can be borrowed instantly via hoopla. To sign up, or find the discussion questions, visit norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar or call 781-769-0200, X2. For more information, email Patty Bailey at pbailey@minlib.net.

Dec. 17

Zoom Family Story Time

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual

4 p.m

Join Miss Kate for an afternoon story time! Join in reading stories, singing songs and try a few unique activities. This program is geared to ages 0-5, but all ages are welcome. Register each week and the library staff will email you the unique Zoom link on Thursdays. For more information, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org, or call 781-769-0200, X2.

Virtual Craft Connection

Morrill Memorial Library-Zoom

7 p.m.

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Dec. 21

5 Alive! : Toddler Take-Home Sensory Activities

Morrill Memorial Library

All Day

Ages 18 months - 3 years old

Register each week to reserve an activity bag design to help toddler develop their senses and motor skills! Every week, you can pick up a new bag with 2 sensory activities geared toward toddlers. Materials are very limited and you will have to register each week to reserve a bag. All materials in each bag are designed for children to use with adult supervision. For ages 18 months-3 years old. For more information, email ktigue@minlib.net

NI

Norwood Sports

Norwood Golf Team Returns to the Green

By Christopher Tremblay

The Covid-19 Pandemic has certainly changed the world in which we currently live in, and although it has taken away many important parts of our lives, high school athletes were more than thrilled to get back onto the field and participate in their respective fall sports. After losing many of the winter championships games and all of the spring season, sports came back this fall in a modified version.

The Norwood golf team took to the Norwood Country Club with enthusiasm despite all changes. Instead of its normal 15 game season, golfers participated in 10 matches this year and instead of going out in foursomes with two golfers from each team, the groups would consist of only members from their school while the pins would not be removed from the holes.

"With Covid, it definitely was a different type of year on the golf course, but the kids were just glad to be playing," Norwood Golf Coach Chuck Allen said. "Social distancing made it unusual, but we got through it as did everyone else. The changes were tough, especially not knowing what your opponent was doing on the course, but the athletes made sure they wore their masks. We did see some lower scores than in the past years."

During their 10 matches this fall, the Mustangs were able to go 4-6 in their regular season. Norwood golfers posted their best ever score at the Norwood

Country Club (228) only to come up short and losing to Medfield.

Leading the Mustangs onto the greens were senior captains Jared Shea and Nick Spadorcia. Shea ended up shooting a 2.1 above par for the season and concluded the year's last match with a 3 under. Spadorcia played in only half the team's matches due to a fracture in his arm but still managed to average a 2.5 over

Sophomore Sean Dittimier started the season rough shooting a 12 over par in the team's first match of the season, but managed to regroup and over the last 7 matches shot 2 over to end up with a respectable 3.5 over par for the season.

With the football season being moved to February and nothing to do in the fall, a couple of gridiron athletes tried out for the golf team and were able to find themselves in a couple of matches this year. Seniors Jason Denehy and Rob Wladkowski left their shoulder pads and helmets in the locker room in exchange for their golf clubs.

"Having moved the football season to early next year, these guys were looking for something to do with their time," Allen said. "They made the team, showing they belonged, and both shot in the low 40's for us."

One other senior on the squad was Joe Demarais.

Although the Mustangs will be losing their top two golfers to graduation Allen is thrilled about what he has coming back in what he is hoping is a normal season next year. Those returning will be juniors Erin Sullivan, Bryan Connolly and Ethan Barrows as well as sophomores Kevin Sople, and Dominic Conidi. Norwood also had a handful of freshmen playing for the junior varsity squad that should make a run at securing a spot-on next year's varsity roster.

"Outside the seniors, we have a good core of athletes that will be coming back next year," Allen said. "I'm just hoping that we are back to normal by then. The biggest thing was that everyone was able to get back onto the course and have fun, especially the seniors. Jared really wanted to prove himself this year, unfortunately he really didn't get to do that with all that was going on."

While it may not have been the way he wanted to showcase his talents on the greens this year, Shea did earn notoriety from the other coaches in the league being name to the Tri Valley League All Star Team in addition to being the recipient of the Sportsmanship Award.



Jared Shea, Coach Allen, Nick Spadorcia



Norwood Golf Team

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Norwood Sports

Norwood Girls Soccer; Striving for Success

By Christopher Tremblay

Throughout the past few years, the Norwood girls soccer team has always found themselves on the short end of the stick when it came to goals, and more times than not, it weas usually a blowout. Needless to say, first-year coach Kim Brincklow was going to find her inaugural season a tough one.

In addition to taking the reins of the Mustang soccer team, Brincklow is also doing it during a year in which the country is involved in a pandemic. Although some of the fall sports got to actually take the field, they had to do so with readjusted rules. The teams still played 11-v-11, however, there were no throw-ins and the referees were the ones setting the ball up on the field thus allowing the defenses to set up and get ready while the offense loses out on the quick transition. The Covid season has also taken away contact amongst the players and no heading of the ball.

"Both those situations have been tough to adjust to," Brincklow said. "The no contact is called quiet a lot, so it slows the game down and the girls are so used to heading the ball, they've had to become creative. They're still attempting to head the ball then they realized what they're about to do and they have to adjust in mid-air." Six games into the abbreviated season of 10 contests, Norwood found themselves at 0-6, but the Coach is optimistic about the way the team played. In the six loses, Norwood lost five games by one goal, including four 1-0 games and one other game by two goals; a far cry from what the team has been used to in the past (Norwood gave up 107 goals last season).

"My daughter is a senior on the team this year and I've had two other girls go through the program prior, so I was aware that Norwood has not been all that competitive in girls soccer," Brincklow said. "Combined with the low numbers of girls



Tricia Wladkowski



Maren Giambanco Photos courtesy of Deb Giambanco

Cece Venditti

that came out for the team (33 for both JV and Varsity) and a program that has not done very well, why would girls want to play soccer when they can play field hockey or volleyball for a winning team."

Despite losing the first six games, Brinklow has seen a dramatic difference on the field from the team. The Mustangs have been playing competitive soccer each and every game at press time and the only real issue the first-year coach sees is that the team has had such a long history of losing that they just can't get over the hump and fall just short.

"The team has totally bought into the change and the attitudes of the girls has been extremely positive," Brincklow said. "The program is moving in the right direction and there is a lot of excitement and camaraderie."

Leading the team onto the field this season has been senior co-captains Taylor Brincklow and Maeve Glavin, both who patrol the defensive center midfield for the Mustangs. The coach is expecting her captains to provide that leadership in a positive way even though the team has struggled in the past. After being near the bottom of the league for so many years, the girls know they must start somewhere, and although they are not winning, they are making strides to becoming a better team.

In addition to the senior captains, Norwood has four other seniors who suited this fall. Erin McDermott is a starting attack, while Rose Donovan, Alison Trahon, and Maeve O'Connor all came off the bench this season.

Prior to the season, Brincklow had a meeting with her seniors and told them that they were not only the catalysts of this team, but one that would push the program into the future, although they wouldn't directly reap the benefits. The Coach firmly believes that the seniors have taken her talk to heart and have been keeping things positive for the rest of the team.

Moving forward, Norwood has four freshman who have already made an impact on this year's performance. Leading that group is Trisha Wladkowski, who has been playing net for the Mustangs; defensive back Alexa Coras, striker Michaela Reen and midfield/forward Paige Barnett. Defensively, Coras is paired with Vendetti while juniors Sam Reen and Alannah Evans make up the other defensive duo. Along with Wladkowski, the defensive line has played phenomenally this year allowing the Mustangs to be competitive on the field.

Roaming the Norwood midfield has been junior Maren Giambanco and sophomore Emily Fhen. Rounding out the team are juniors Reese Barnett (midfield/ orward), Caroline Glavin (defense/midfield), and Ally Steeves (midfield/forward).

At the time of this writing, Norwood had four games (two each against Medfield and Westwood) on their schedule. Brincklow is hoping that her girls continue to play competitive soccer and possibly surprise their foes.



Town of Norwood to Run Weekly Family Meals Program Once Again

Meals to be Distributed to Families on Select Wednesdays During November and December General Manager Tony Mazzucco and Superintendent David Thomson are pleased to share that the Town of Norwood will provide meals to families once again through the Norwood Family Meals Program, beginning next month.

The program, run through the Norwood Public Schools in partnership with the town and Norwood Food Service, was an idea that started with the members of Norwood's Incident Command Team in the spring. The program first ran during May and June and served weekly dinners to over 400 families.

The program will provide free grab-and-go dinner meals for Norwood families who have students in the Norwood Public Schools or who are homeschooled, or Norwood families of other schools with children under 18 years of age.

"The Family Meals Program was incredibly successful in the spring, and we are pleased to be able to fund the program once again," General Manager Mazzucco said. "We will continue to assist the Norwood community through these difficult times however we can, and we thank the Norwood Public Schools and Norwood Food

Service for their continued partnership and efforts to coordinate this valuable program."

The December meal distribution dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, Dec. 2
- Wednesday, Dec. 9
- Wednesday, Dec. 16

The schedule excludes the weeks that schools will be on holiday break, during which meals will not be served.

Families are asked to fill out a Google form to indicate their request for grab-and-go dinners. All meal requests should be submitted by 10 a.m. on Tuesdays through the months of November and December. The meals will be available for pick up from Balch Elementary School or Norwood High School on Wednesdays.

All meals will be prepared and packaged "family-style" and distributed cold, with heating and cooling instructions provided. Meals contain 8-10 servings so that they may last more than one day for a family. Different meals will be prepared each week with two options to choose from.

'We aim to provide easy meals each week that provide dinner for the whole family, which is what makes this program unique," said Elijah Norris, Food Service Director, Chartwells at Norwood Public Schools. "The Norwood Public Schools cafeteria staff were crucial to the success of the program in the spring, and we thank them for their continued work to feed Norwood children and families during these unprecedented times. We urge anyone who is interested in a meal to fill out the form so we can accurately plan for distribution."

Anyone with food allergies should contact food services at enorris@norwood.k12.ma.us or call 781-762-6804, ext. FOOD, to discuss alternative options.

To order meals through the program, visit www.norwoodma. gov

All requests are kept confidential and are used for planning purposes only.

The initiative is being funded by donations received through the Norwood Fund and from Norwood Bank.

The USDA has also extended waivers that allow free breakfast and lunch for all kids, 18 and under. Click here for more info on the school's free remote and in-school meal programs.



Holiday Sharing Tree Reimagined

Local families need your help more than ever. Donate a Gift Card Today!

For everyone's safety we are requesting Gift Cards in place of mitten tags and wrapped gifts. Any card amount would help a needy family buy toys, food and clothing. Gift Card suggestions include Target, Walmart and Amazon.

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125th Anniversary Patches For Sale

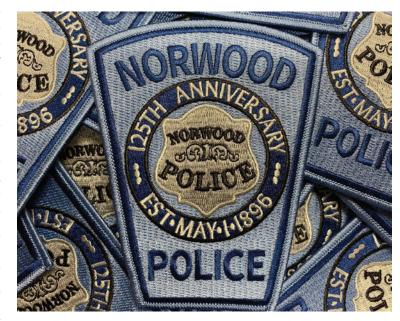
The Norwood Police Department (NPD) recently announced the release of their commemorative patch celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Norwood Police Department. The NPD was established on May 1, 1896, when special officer Warren Rhodes was appointed Chief of Police and special officer Michael Creed was appointed its first patrolman. The men wore simple silver-colored shields. Embroidered patches did not begin to adorn the sleeves of officers until around 1950 and the first patch was a simple one with the word NORWOOD in an arc above the word POLICE. It had a light blue background with a darker blue lettering and edge, and it was worn on the right upper sleeve of

the uniform shirt (not the jacket) through 1970.

In 1971, the Department adopted a patch of the shape and design currently worn by officers with the word NORWOOD above the Town Seal, and the word POLICE beneath it. The words and edging were gold and the background was black. For some reason, the patch was moved from the right sleeve to the left, and it was also worn on the left sleeve of all coats and jackets.

Around the year 2000, a slight controversy arose in the Town over what color coat Revolutionary War soldier Aaron Guild, depicted in the Town Seal, would have worn. To resolve the issue, the color of the coat in the Town Seal was changed from red to brown, and so new patches depicting the change were issued to officers of the Norwood Policer Department. In 2012, a change in the Department's uniform code required that the patch be worn on both sleeves of all shirts and outer garments.

Where May 1, 2021 is the 125th birthday of Norwood Police Department, the Department has commissioned this commemorative patch. Its shape and general design are that of the current patch, but it has been made in the two shades of blue of the patch worn in the 1950's and 1960's. The Town Seal has been replaced with a depiction of that first shield worn by officers 125 years ago.



Commemorative patches may be purchased at Police Head-quarters for \$5 each. Proceeds go to the Norwood Police Association and will be used to fund other initiatives that celebrate the 125th birthday.

You can also purchase via Pay-Pal. Please include an additional 50 cents to cover postage and include your address when making payment.

paypal.me/norwoodpolice.

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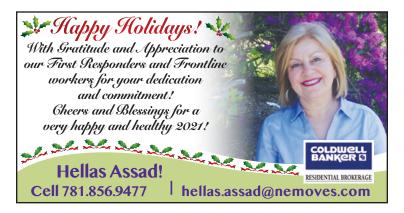
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Real Estate Corner

Register O'Donnell Reports Robust Real Estate Sales and Lending Numbers in Norfolk County

While the COVID-19 pan- demic continues to wreak havoc



Have a Safe and Healthy Holiday Season!



on the lives of many in our state and local communities, Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported Norfolk County experienced significant growth in both real estate sales and lending numbers during the month of October. 2020.

"I was pleasantly surprised to see October experience such a robust month of real estate sales activity throughout Norfolk County," Register O'Donnell stated. "A total of 1,874 properties, both residential and commercial, changed hands in October, a 14% increase compared to the previous year. Average sales price, again factoring in residential and commercial sales, topped the one million mark landing at \$1,015,958, a 16% increase compared to October, 2019. Total sales volume was \$1.2 billion, a significant 44% increase vear over vear. Despite COVID-19 and a limited inventory of available housing stock, the availability of low interest rates is encouraging individuals and families to buy property with the result being increased property sales prices throughout Norfolk County."

The Norfolk County lending market showed no signs of slowing down during October. Four thousand, five hundred and twenty-two mortgages were recorded, a 34% increase year over year. Total amount of money borrowed for mortgages countywide was \$2.2 billion, a 17% increase compared to October, 2019.

"Individuals and families are not only taking advantage of low interest rates to buy property, existing mortgages are being refinanced to reduce monthly payments and in other cases pay for high ticket capital expenses including home remodeling and education costs," Register O'Donnell said.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been ongoing, foreclosure activity has been drastically reduced due to the moratorium placed on foreclosures and evictions. However, the moratorium on foreclosures and evictions expired on October 17th.

"The Registry of Deeds is aware of important discussions taking place at the State House involving the Governor's office, legislative leadership, the courts, and other stakeholders trying to figure out if and when the moratorium on foreclosures and evictions will be put back in place," Register O'Donnell stated. "We at the Registry are sympathetic to those individuals and families who are facing a housing crisis through no fault of their own. It is our hope that the various financial and legal questions surrounding this issue can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction. Additionally, while we continue to closely track developments surrounding the foreclosure and eviction issue. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been working in lockstep with Attorney General Maura Healey's office monitoring protections afforded to homeowners affected by the COVID-19 state of emergency. Again, we at the Registry of Deeds are very sensitive to how this pandemic has caused upheaval in people's lives, and in some cases negatively impacted homeowners ability to pay their mortgage."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds continues to partner with Quincy Community Action Programs, 617-479-8181 x376, and NeighborWorks Housing Solutions, 508-587-0950, to help anyone facing challenges paying their mortgage. Another option for homeowners is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at 617-727-8400.

"If you are having an issue paying your mortgage, please consider contacting one of these agencies for help and guidance," Register O'Donnell stated. "Each of these agencies are staffed with professionals who can help."

Homestead recordings increased 24% during October.

"A Homestead provides limited protection against the forced sale of an individual's primary residence to satisfy unsecured debt up to \$500,000," Register O'Donnell explained. "I would urge anyone who has not availed themselves of this important consumer protection tool to consider doing so."

"By staying open for business during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Registry of Deeds has allowed the real estate market to thrive here in Norfolk County," Register O'Donnell concluded. "Despite fears expressed by many back in March and April, real estate sales numbers and lending activity have remained strong throughout the county. As evidenced by the figures seen in October, there is no sign this robust sales and lending activity will diminish anytime soon. As long as interest rates re-

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ROBUST

Real Estate Corner

ROBUST

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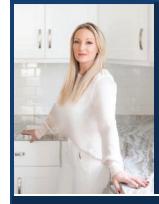
main low, Norfolk County should experience a strong and viable real estate market. One area of concern is whether we are effectively eliminating the possibility of many working men and women and young couples from being able to afford housing costs in Norfolk County. There are no easy answers to this question as sales prices are being driven by market forces including a lack of available housing stock.

While the Registry of Deeds building in Dedham remains closed to the general public, we at the Registry continue to serve our customers, the residents of Norfolk County and real estate

professionals alike. By listening

to health officials, we have practiced social distancing, made sure all staff is wearing masks and taken all other steps to ensure we remain open for business. Documents are being recorded electronically for many of our institutional users. We are also receiving documents via regular mail, Federal Express and from those placed in our drop-off box located just outside our main entrance at 649 High St., Dedham, MA. As your Norfolk County Register of Deeds, please know how much I appreciate the cooperation, patience and understanding you have shown myself and the Registry staff while this pandemic has been ongoing. Working together, we will all get through this. Be healthy. Be safe."

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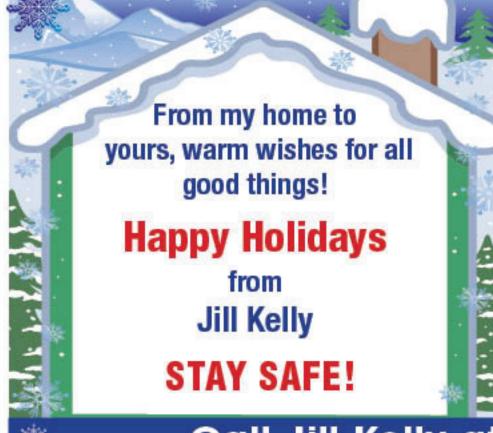
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Happy Holidays and a Festive New Year to you and your family!

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Thank you to my family, friends. clients & partners for your collaboration and support in 2020. I appreciate your trust and friendship! -Jill





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Real Estate Corner

Register O'Donnell Promotes Mortgage Transparency Legislation

In late October, Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell urged the Massachusetts House of Representatives to consider legislation, House Bill 1413 accompanied by Senate Bill 960, that would promote mortgage transparency for consumers.

"Clearly the Massachusetts State Legislature is working on critical issues addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, FY '21 State Budget, evictions and foreclosures, climate change and other matters of importance," Register O'Donnell stated. "With that said, H.1413, currently be-

fore the House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, is also important legislation that guarantees a homeowner would know when a third party has been assigned their residential mortgage (usually sold by one financial institution to another), since the legislation requires the mortgage assignment to be recorded at the appropriate Registry of Deeds office within 30 days of the transaction."

Additionally, consumers looking to record a mortgage discharge and those facing foreclosure would benefit as the legislation provides a permanent source of reference for the homeowner. They could even view the transaction online via the relevant Registry of Deeds website. Register O'Donnell has been a strong supporter of the legislation and has previously testified on its merits before the legislature's Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

"H.1413 levels the playing field as it requires the larger lending institutions who in the past have not recorded assignments to do so just as the smaller local community banks have been doing all along," Register O'Donnell concluded. "With the legislative session winding down, I am hopeful

the House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading will report the legislation favorably to the floor of the House of Representatives for its consideration. This legislation benefits homeowners across Massachusetts since it will eliminate uncertainty as to which lending institution is the mortgage holder of record."

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, like them at facebook/com/NorfolkDeeds or follow on twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High St., in Dedham. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities and others with a need for secure, accurate, accessible land record information. All land record research information can be found on the Registry's website www.norfolkdeeds. org. Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center via telephone at (781) 461-6101, or email us at registerodonnell@ norfolkdeeds.org.

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Wishing everyone a Wonderful Christmas Season and a Healthy & Happy New Year!

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