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August 2023

## Nature Calls

### Why Not?

By Amy Buskey

Why not? The late great Doug Ross (1921-2012) of Norwood used to ask the same question, and by doing so, he and his friends got things done around town. Trivial things to some, but as often is the case, it is those little, personable things that can have a significant impact on people.

If you have lived in Norwood for any length of time, chances are you know a Ross. I certainly do, and remember well meeting Doug and getting to know him. As a former photojournalist for the Bulletin newspapers, it was inevitable I would cross paths with Doug eventually. Most notable was his appearance as Grand Marshal during the 2011 Norwood 4th of July parade. His reach extended far; through his love of square dancing and his time with the senior center. Add to that a lifelong member of the Norwood Elks, and there are many people who knew him.

Doug had many friends too,



and it was in his later years he formed the "Why Nots" with several of them. The "Why Nots" simply consisted of Doug and some old friends. He would make a few calls or leave a few messages to hold an impromptu meeting at a local donut spot,

and the group would meet up to brainstorm. I recently caught up with daughter Ellen (Ross) Rano of Norwood, who recalled one such Why Not idea.

**TEXT**

*continued on page 2*



## Who Rings Those Bells?

By Michele Taranto

For those new to Norwood, you have probably heard the bells coming from the Town Hall tower, but thought, 'It must a recording.' Absolutely not. Those beautiful notes are being played live, most of the time by Norwood resident Lee Leach, on Norwood's own Carillon.

The instrument was a gift to his fellow townspeople from the late Walter F. Tilton, a prominent local banker, and civic leader. It is a pitched, percussion, 50-bell instrument cast by Gillett and Johnston, Bellfounders, Croydon, England,

and, together with the Norwood Memorial Building and Tower, was dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1928.

How special is Norwood? According to Guild of Carillonners, there are less than 200 carillons in North America. As rare as the instrument is, however, how far does the town need to look for a skilled, experienced player? Not far at all! Norwood's own Lee Leach performs most of the concerts, along with a few guest musicians.

**BELLS**

*continued on page 3*

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NATURE

continued from page 1

“A lot of residents had either nonexistent or too small a number on their homes,” Ellen reminisced. “The Why Nots would go door to door and hand out large numbers to residents to better identify their homes.”

Because this was before modern technology, the mission was well received by the Norwood Police and Fire departments regarding locating a home during an emergency.

Another notable Why Not was Doug’s general observation of the police cruisers. He questioned why the cruisers were not backed into their parking spots for a quick out when a call comes in. An excellent question - it is simply good old fashioned common sense – heck I back my car in wherever I park.

“The police chief at the time wanted nothing to do with him,” Ellen recalled. “But Chief Brooks listened, and the cruisers are still backed into their spots to this day.”

That comes as no surprise to me. In my time in Norwood, I photographed Chief Brooks too, for his formal head shot. He struck me as an open-minded individual, and a great listener who made the path to his desk

VFW, local 5390 to be exact. My husband and I pass by it all the time, and as a gardener I could not help but notice the grounds were an eyesore. The areas that framed the building were devoid of any colorful plants, a look of

near abandonment really. I found it sad that our neighborhood veterans walk past such dismal grounds with nothing more than a sprinkling of cigarette butts to look at. As if Doug were working through me, I blurted out to my husband – why not donate a redo of the garden beds? Why not? A few texts and messages later, our offer was well received by the post commander, and brand-new gardens were installed just in time for the Memorial Day weekend. A fitting tribute for those who serve or have served,



a friendlier one. And speaking of paths, those walking trails at Hennessy Field? Yep, the Why Nots made their mark there as well getting some donated land developed into the trails many residents use every day.

While Doug and the Why Nots are sadly all gone now, their simple general observations and push to action really does live on. As I hit the fast forward button to 2023, I found myself asking the very same question that Doug used to – why not? The entrance to my neighborhood houses a

the entrance to the once barren 5390 is now framed with a colorful collection of biodiversity. Butterflies dance among the perennials, and people linger a bit longer. Birds and bees now fly where there once were none, and the spirit of Doug Ross (late WWII Coast Guard Veteran) and the Why Nots truly lives on, far beyond Norwood.

*Amy Buskey, formerly of Norwood is a wildlife rehabilitator (RI) and conservationist. She and her husband Rick reside in Rhode Island with their beagle, Doug.*

# Forget the Beach, the Cape, the Mountains; Summer in Norwood!

By MICHELE TARANTO

widely admired.

It is hard to be bored in Norwood in the summer. The Town provides many cost-effective, if not free, options each and every week through the warm season. For outdoors, there can be events held on the Town Common four times a week. The Norwood

On the Common, there are three weekly opportunities to listen to exceptional music under the stars. On Sundays, the Concerts on the Common series celebrates its 29th year of hosting big bands. Mondays, Norwood’s hidden gem, the carillon, fills the



Recreation Department offers a full school vacation schedule to keep the kids active and busy almost every day. Indoors, the Morrill Memorial Library and the Norwood Historical Society, boast many day and evening classes, book clubs, and speakers. To beat the heat and the hot kitchen, there are so many choices for indoor and outdoor dining throughout the Town is

air with soothing bells, and on Wednesdays, Summerfest keeps Norwood’s hub rocking. There is also the Norwood Farmers Market every Tuesday afternoon, 2-6 p.m., that not only offers fresh food choices and ingredients, but entertainment for the kids and many themed days activities.

SUMMER  
continued on page 5

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jenschofield@localtownpages.com

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**BELLS**

*continued from page 1*

Shortly after moving to Norwood in 1995, Leach attended a Carillon recital and as a musi-



**Lee Leach**

cian was excited to learn more this unique instrument. Through a recommendation from former Assistant Town Manager Bernie Cooper, he was introduced to carillon instructor Sally Slade out of Cohasset. Becoming a proficient Carillonneur, even for an already experienced instrumentalist, took dedication and many lessons to perfect this complicated instrument.

“It took a number of years to get my proficiency and a repertoire of music for an hour-long performance,” Leach said. You can’t play more than that as it can be a bit heavy and ponderous to play for long periods of time.” And hot. While Leach played to celebrate the country’s independence on the 4th of July this year, the temperature reached 84 degrees in the tower, which, you guessed it, it not air conditioned. Only a fan provides any heat relief to the Carillonneur.

Since 1997, Leach has been Norwood’s primary Carillonneur. If you are hearing the bells, more than likely it is Leach up in the tower. Throughout the Summer Carillon Concert Series, however, the town invites guest Carillonneurs to play on Monday evenings, at 6:30 p.m. These musicians come from throughout Massachusetts and

New England, including Boston, Somerville, Wellesley, Groton, and Cohasset, and as far as New York, Vermont, and California.

In turn, Leach has been invited as a guest recitalist on other carillons, primarily in New England,

The carillon is just one of many attributes that retain Norwood’s exceptional status (at least by its residents) as one of the most charming towns in Massachusetts. But residents are not limited to experiencing only carillon music from just down below. Listeners are invited to the tower any time they hear those magical sounds to view the bells and the man behind them! Inquiries for tours can also be done by contacting Norwood Town Hall, at 781-762-1240.

“It [the carillon] has always



been something I feel the community cherished,”

“I most often might play the carillon at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Cohasset, Massachusetts, which has 57 bells,” Leach said. “I am, also, very familiar with the carillon at Wellesley College but that instrument has 32 bells and some of the music I would play in Norwood and Cohasset would not work so well on the smaller carillons.”

One of the many unique aspects of a carillon is that they can vary in size, thus creating different sounds. Norwood’s carillon is on the larger side of traditional carillons. It is much easier to let the expert describe the difference in the instruments.

“Officially, a traditional carillon consists of a series of at least 23 tuned bells played from a keyboard that allows expressiveness through variation in touch,” Leach explained. “Most of the approximately 175 carillons in the US are comprised of between 47 to 60 bells; Norwood’s has 50. No two carillons are alike and so it is difficult to compare or rate them, but Norwood’s is known to have exceptional harmonic sounds and great timbre across the entire set of bells and has great ability for a wide range of expression. It is played from a keyboard that allows expression through variation of touch.”

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# Senior Corner

## Senior Fostering

Seniors, are entering the world of foster parenting. Their homes, however, are not being open to people, but to animals in need.

In a recent AARP article, Beth Ostrosky Stern, a big animal advocate and wife of satellite radio

host Howard Stern, describes how she brought in a litter of kittens to take her mind off losing their beloved bulldog, Bianca. Since then, she said she has cared for more than 2,000 cats at her home. Those without children, like the Sterns, empty nesters, widows, or

widowers are just a few examples of potential senior fosters.

Shelters often become full and are unable to accommodate more animals, thus leaving euthanasian as the only alternative. Also, many seniors may opt to foster senior animals as they are not as easily adoptable and often do not need the exercise a younger animal might need. Fostering also does not require as much commitment as full ownership which could be helpful, for example, for those who live alone but like to travel.

The hardest part of fostering is knowing this pet who is desperately in need may leave for another family one day. The best way to deal with that is to remember, you are a pit stop in this animal's life to their forever home. Of course, there are what shelters call 'foster fails,' where foster families keep their foster pet, however, it is also good to remember that sometimes foster families are providing the ultimate sacrifice and are clearing the way for another needy homeless animal down the road.

work, including one with other pets, as long as there is a separate space in which the fostered animal can adjust. Seniors can make excellent fosters, as their schedules may be more flexible and they may have more time to spend with the animal and evaluate its behavior for future placement. The length of time an animal spends in foster care can vary based on many factors.

Humane societies typically cover the cost of medical care, as well as other food and supplies if needed, during the foster period, an additional advantage, especially for seniors. Similar to the adoption process, individuals interested in fostering must fill out an application and be screened.

It should also be noted that many humane societies give special consideration to seniors looking to adopt an animal, especially a senior animal, which is an ideal situation for both the senior and the pet. This can range from reduced or waived fees for adoption to special programs that provide ongoing support to senior adopters of senior animals.

For more information on the Neponset Valley Humane Society Seniors for Seniors Program, contact Lisa Crowley, at Lisa Crowley, Seniors for Seniors Program Coordinator

Neponset Valley Humane Society

## Norwood Senior Center Hours

Did you know the Norwood Senior Center is open late on Tuesdays during the summer? During July and August, their hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Farmers Market Information

**Coupons**  
The Senior Center received farmers market coupons in July. This year the coupon books contain \$50 worth of coupons which is twice as much as last year! For more information or to inquire if any are left, call Kathleen Rooney 781-762-1201.

## SNAP HIP Benefit

If you use your EBT card at a participating HIP vendor (should be a sign displayed) at a farmers market, farmstand, mobile market or community garden, you will be reimbursed for your purchase up to \$40 per month for a 1-2 person household. If you aren't familiar with this benefit, call Kathleen Rooney, 781-762-1201.

## FREE Concerts

Don't forget about Norwood's FREE concerts on the common during the summer! There are a few more left in August to enjoy! Bring chairs and enjoy an evening of big bands or Norwood's own Carillon sounds.

## Big Bands Concerts on the Common Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- Aug 6: Westwood Swing band
- Aug. 13: SOS Big Band
- Aug. 20: Oberleandler Hofbrau Band
- Aug. 27: Dan Gabel & the Abl- etones

## Carillon Concerts Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

- August 7: Simone Browne, New York, NY
- August 14: Margaret Pan, Somerville
- August 21: Jennifer Herrmann, Boston
- August 28: John Whiteside, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Cohasset

## On the Lighter Side Summerfest Concerts Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- August 2nd - Pan Neubean Steel
- August 9th - Southern Rail
- August 16th - Hipshot Band

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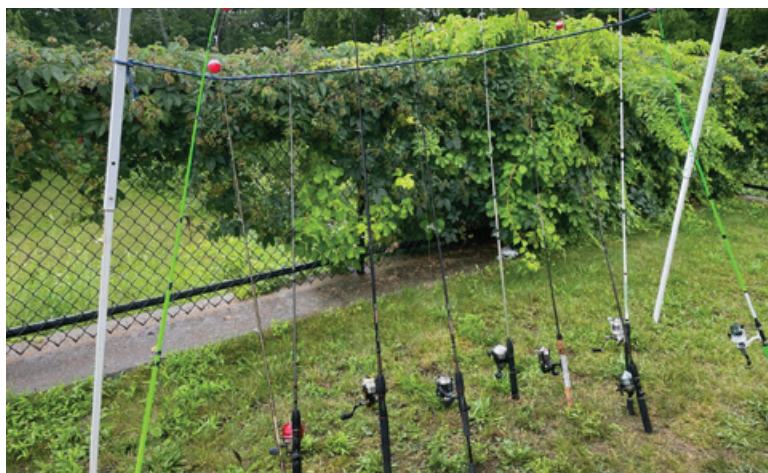
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**SUMMER**

*continued from page 2*

Within the Norwood Recreation Department, kids can join many summer playground camps, sign up for field trips, learn a new sport, or find a new interest or hobby. Of course, there are two pools to cool off, learn to swim, or exercise. Throughout the Town, there are many playgrounds, tot lots, and fields to use daily or on join a team.



With Norwood having its own airport, Norwood Memorial Airport, what better way to enjoy morning coffee or bring a picnic

lunch and watch the planes take off and land! Again, free! Maybe hiking or exploring trails is in your future. Learn more about Norwood's many trail options

through the Trails Advisory Committee, at the Town of Norwood website, [www.norwoodma.gov](http://www.norwoodma.gov), hit government, then boards/committees. While you are there, many browse around; there may be an adult committee that fits your background and interests!

If you are a senior, the Norwood Senior Center is the place to check out! Not only does this valuable resource provide a cool environment during those scorch-

ing days, it is the place to visit to meet new friends, learn a craft, listen to a lecture, dance, and many more activities! To view their newsletter, visit [www.norwoodma.gov/residents/senior\\_center](http://www.norwoodma.gov/residents/senior_center). The Norwood Senior Center is located at 275 Prospect St., and is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, and until 8 p.m.,

on Tuesdays during July and August.

Most of these summer activities are free or have very reasonable costs. The most important thing to take away, however, is that Norwood can be an interesting, educational, and entertaining summer resort within its own town borders!

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# Scholarships

The Norwood League of Women Voters (NWV) Margery McKenna Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is awarded in recognition of a student who has shown interest or participation in the civic process and environmental studies. The Norwood LWV review committee selected Norwood High School graduate, Patrick Brady, for the scholarship. With several league

members present to congratulate him, Patrick was presented his award and certificate at the Town Common gazebo on June 22, 2023. Patrick, son of Ellie Brady of Norwood, will be attending Wesleyan University in Connecticut, in the fall and looks forward to exploring several opportunities while there.

Margery McKenna was a longtime, active member of the Norwood League. She served in

numerous leadership capacities including president. She was an advocate for public education and served as a member of Norwood's School Committee for many years, and as a town meeting member for decades. Her interest in climate change and the environment was deeply rooted in her science major background in physics from Smith College.

As a valued league member,



**Pictured left to right with Patrick in the center: Eileen Hannon, Toni Eosco, Patrick Brady -scholarship winner, Linda Renzi and Sheri McLeish.**

she earned a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts League of Women Voters in recognition of over 50 years of service to the league. While she is still sorely missed by those who knew her, the Norwood League is honored to respect her past service and volunteerism through the selection of Patrick Brady for the Margery McKenna Memorial Scholarship. Patrick's essay clearly expressed his belief in the responsible citizen when he stated, "In the modern world, where you get your information has become a big deal but from a personal standpoint, I believe that looking at multiple sources

and sites is the best way to get information. Even though it takes a little bit more effort, if we as citizens put in the extra effort we could make great changes in our town, state, and country." The Norwood League of Women Voters extends our best wishes to Patrick. We know he will make a positive difference in the world.

For more information about the league or to contact the Norwood League, email [lwvnorwoodma@gmail.com](mailto:lwvnorwoodma@gmail.com) or visit them on Facebook at League of Women Voters Norwood MA, or at their website: [my.lwv.org/massachusetts/norwood](http://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/norwood)

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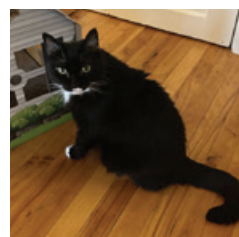
One very frigid night she was let inside an animal lover's home and the rest is history. She was pregnant and had her kittens recently.

Jess is now spayed, vaccinated, tested for feline diseases and microchipped...yeahhhh!!!

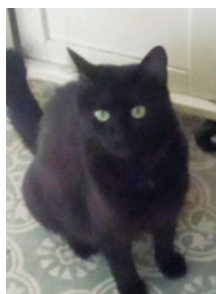
If you want to adopt Jess you can complete a non-commitment application on our website: [www.baystateanimals.org](http://www.baystateanimals.org)

### Meet Gabby

Gabby is an 11-year-old independent kitty whose human has moved to a nursing home. Gabby takes her sweet time to adjust to new folks and reacts cautiously.



taken in just a few weeks ago. Gabby is exploring, rubbing against my legs, and purring up a storm. It's clear that it takes her



some time to feel comfortable. Can you give Gabby her new lease on life with a new human? She's so deserving. Pick Gabby if you are patient, have no other cats (as we are unsure how that might affect her), best in a home without young children. A compassionate soul is what Gabby seeks.

### Meet Sophie

Sophie is 11 years old and has lived happily with her current family since she was adopted at 6 weeks. She came into the family a nervous kitten, but over time she learned to settle down but still finds anything new (people or items) quite stressful. Unfortunately, as this family introduces more and more grandchildren, Sophie has become more and more unhappy. She gets very nervous when the kids are around or when new



people come into her life; this can sometimes turn into aggression. She would love someone who has experience with cats and will understand the time it will take for her to get comfortable and bond with them. Once this happens, she will show that she craves attention and loves to sit on your lap (with a blanket!). Sophie loves to sit and look out the window however she can get a little territorial if another cat walks by. Just let her chill out until she calms herself. Sophie doesn't jump on counters or scratch furniture. Her favor-

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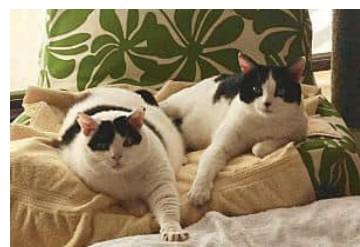


ite spot is a corner of the couch where there is a blanket for her to curl up for napping. She uses her litter box at all times. She does not eat excessively, but she is a little overweight. She has maintained her present weight for the last 5 years or so. She is large but healthy as of this adoption posting. Her family is heartbroken that she has to leave but it will be for the best if she can be loved in a home that does not stress her out and that would be one without children or other animals.

### Meet Ollie & Earl; A Truly Bonded Pair!

They are not brothers, but they look alike. Earl is almost 12 and has a pink nose. Oliver (Ollie) is almost 7 and has a black nose. Earl enjoys pats but does not like to be held.

Ollie is a lover, loves attention and will intervene if Earl is getting attention but will hide when he hears a strange voice. Once



Ollie knows you, he will want to sit near you and cuddle.

Young children would be fine for Earl, but Ollie would be afraid initially as kids can scream and run quickly. Older children would be fine for both. Earl and Ollie could probably live with other cats but it's unclear if they would

tolerate dogs.

Though not related, but they are like brothers. They play and sleep together.

\$175 adoption fee includes; spay or neuter, age appropriate vaccines, feline leukemia test, FIV test if over 6 months of age, microchip, flea treatment and roundworm treatment as needed, additional treatments as deemed necessary.

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dressed visual and neurodevelopmental anomalies can greatly affect that child’s life and educational outcomes.

A common misconception is that visual issues are limited to visual correction (glasses and contacts). However, vision is much more complicated, involving many systems in the brain

to control and coordinate eye movements and convergence (pointing the eyes at an object up close), accommodation (focusing), and perception. Dysfunction in these areas is referred to as neurodevelopmental anomalies because the problem lies in the brain, not in the eye itself. Other conditions, like strabismus (misalign-

ment of the eyes) and amblyopia (sometimes known as lazy eye) also greatly affect vision and learning.

Unaddressed, these conditions can cause permanently reduced visual acuity, double vision, and difficulties with near and/or distance tasks. Neurodevelopmental anomalies can also cause a lack of coordination, inaccurate eye movements, and difficulty interpreting visual information.

The challenge for parents with young children is that few of these conditions have visible signs except strabismus. In addition, children with these conditions do not know what “normal” is so they are usually unaware of any problems or, if they are, they may not have the language skills to explain the problems they are having. In fact, many children with the disorders mentioned here are misdiagnosed with conditions like ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning and behavioral challenges. Unfortunately, the treatments for

ADHD, dyslexia, etc. do absolutely nothing to assess or address the visual condition that may be causing the behavior that is causing the misdiagnosis.

Parents and teachers should also keep an eye out for behaviors that can indicate a problem with the visual system such as squinting, eye rubbing, poor attention with visual tasks, and closing one eye. Early diagnosis and intervention are critical in these conditions. The only method to diagnose these dysfunctions is through a comprehensive eye examination with an eyecare provider experienced with neurodevelopmental anomalies. More information can be found at [moderneyesnorwood.com](http://moderneyesnorwood.com).

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Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

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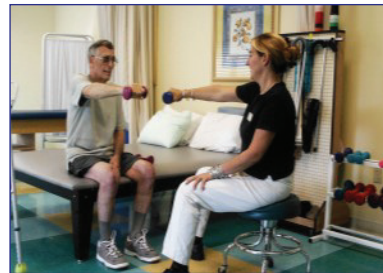
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There are several prizes so multiple opportunities to win!

The event runs July 1 through September 10. All cards must be submitted before the end of the day on September 10. One card per person, for readers high school-aged and older. Book titles may be used up to twice per card.

For more information, Call 781-769-0200, ext. 2. Clip your Bingo Card here, download from the library Adult SRP webpage ([norwoodlibrary.org/adult\\_summer\\_read](http://norwoodlibrary.org/adult_summer_read)), pick one up in-person at the reference desk, or log your progress online via Beanstack ([norwoodlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365](http://norwoodlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365)).

Good luck and have fun! This program was funded by the Friends of the Library.

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# Norwood Sports

## Caleigh Brown, Norwood LAX

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Growing up, Caleigh Brown was like any other normal kid; she was very athletic and enjoyed playing sports, especially when she was winning. Up until the sixth grade, she was actively involved in soccer and swimming on a regular basis.

When she was 12 years old and in the sixth grade, however the young athletic girl suddenly found out she'd be entering a very different monumental battle. She was diagnosed with Leukemia and found herself going through treatment into the seventh grade, and with the diagnosis, the Norwood resident was going out of her mind.

"I suddenly found myself in outpatient every day for six months going through treatment," Brown said. "Not only was I fighting the disease, but it also prevented me from doing the sports that I really enjoyed and that was tough, especially someone who loved being active."

After six months of treatment and no sports, Brown was told she was cancer free, but while that was a big sigh of relief, the young athlete was about to endure another setback, one that would lead to a serious love of another sport.

Following her treatment, Brown was not allowed to go back to her swimming right away, so the youngster started to search for something to take its place.

"I was just looking for another sport to get involved in and lacrosse was an up-and-coming sport in Norwood, so I gave it

a try and found that I loved it," Brown said. "Being a competitive person, the nature of the game is one in which you can't do much without your teammates and that really drew me in."

Lacrosse not only became a sport which Brown loved with passion, her younger siblings Mi-caela and Quinlan also began playing the sport, and eventually the youngest Brown sibling (Caitlin) would join her sisters on the field.

Although she was able to return to the sports, things were very different from when she left. Despite not being able to be on the field with her teammates, Brown was not only on the sidelines cheering her team on, but she was also pushing herself harder, not just for herself but everyone around her.

"Coming back was very tough; I thought that I was going to get right back into sports and do the things that I was used to, but I didn't realize that's not the way things worked," Brown said. "Sports are a big part of who I am, and I was struggling to get back. I wanted to jump back into the game and be myself, but I couldn't and that was driving me insane."

It may have taken her a few months to fully get back to the point she once was, but the Norwood native said all the sweat and tears were well worth it. It was a hard reality, but one she eventually overcame.

"Prior to the diagnosis, I was a good swimmer and a very athletic individual so not being able

to take part in the sports that I loved really did a number on my body," Brown said "I didn't have the concept that being that sick would interfere that much with my sports. It was very frustrating as I couldn't do what I wanted to do right away."

It was the spring of seventh grade when Brown and her siblings came across lacrosse. During the early years of playing the sport, the eventual high school superstar would play the majority of her time in the field, but would occasionally slide into the goalie position; a position that would eventually come back to her in her later high school years.

Having missed her freshman year because of Covid, Brown took to the field in her sophomore campaign trying to get the Norwood lacrosse program established. According to Mustang Coach Mike Lodge, the sophomore had herself a good first year, but it would be her junior season that changed everything.

"That year (her junior season), we had no goalie and Caleigh came to me saying that she could take on the role," the Norwood Coach said. "After seeing all the work that she had put into becoming a field player, I told her to take the weekend to think about it. I'm not sure how much she thought about it, but she returned on Monday and told me that she'd be playing goalie."

Brown was not worried about her status or what she could do on the field. She was only interested in helping the team out and accomplishing their dreams.

"It wasn't like I didn't know the position at all," Brown said. "I felt that I had the experience to play the position and I didn't mind doing it to help the team out. Having played the position before, I was confident that I

could step in and fill the void for the team."

The junior took over the position for the better of the team; having a steady individual in net game after game was better for the team instead of rotating girls in and out of the position. She also really didn't think that it would last more than that one year.

time her senior season in hope that the team could once again get into the tournament. Norwood would once again make it to the tournament, but this time fell to Grafton in the Round of 32.

"As a freshman, I never thought about this team making the tournament," Brown said. "Lacrosse was not a big thing in Norwood at the time. We just wanted to go out and play the game. Making the program's first tournament appearance was thrilling and I am so proud of that team and what they accomplished that year. Getting back there the next year was even better."

After earning that spot in the tournament as a junior, Brown was confident that the team could get back there again in her senior season as the girls had all been playing together for a long time and they were beginning to gel with one another.

Earning back-to-back Division 2 State Tournament appearances is nothing but remarkable to Lodge.

"Caleigh was a good player, but a better goalie; especially for someone who only began playing the position only two years ago," Lodge said. "It took her some time to gain her confidence in goal, but once she did she was phenomenal and was a leader on the team. What's even more amazing is that she had cancer and didn't know if she'd survive and here she is today."

As Brown heads off to college, she is unsure if lacrosse will be in her future. She is hoping to play on a club team but is undecided if it will be lacrosse or swimming.

"We'll have to wait and see how things go once I get to college, but either way lacrosse will hold a place in my heart so its going to be a tough decision," Brown said.



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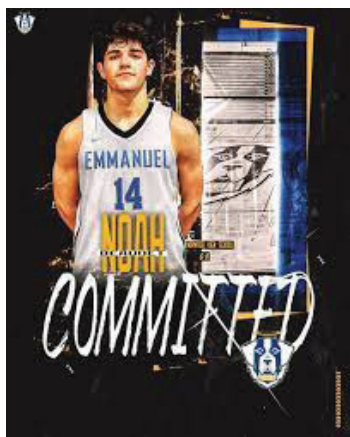


# Norwood Sports

## Norwood Year In Review

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

The 2021-22 school year brought Norwood High School one of its best years in terms of athletics with 4 Tri-Vally League Championships and 12 tourna-



ment qualifying teams. The winter season was the most successful with four teams gaining entry into the State Tournament with both the boys and girls basketball teams playing in the Division 2 State Championship game.

Although the previous school year was incredible, the Mustangs put together another rather successful athletic year in 2022-23. Norwood had nine teams qualify for the State Tournament with those teams going 8-8.

Once again, the winter season had the best performance as all four teams once again qualifying for the post-season. Last year, it was the basketball teams that went the furthest in the tournament, but this winter the boys ice hockey team held that distinguishing honor. The Mustang skaters went 12-6-2 during the regular season and managed to make it to the Elite 8 for the second year in a row with its biggest win coming against number one seed Tewksbury Memorial, 5-2.

“The boy’s hockey has been competitive over the past few years and this year they continue to play at the top of their game,” Norwood Athletic Director Jon Longley said. “The program has definitely taken another step and over the last three years has been one of our better teams.”

The girls ice hockey team went 10-6-5, and was able to upset Martha’s Vineyard en route to their eventual loss in the Round of 16 to Duxbury. Morgan Roach

once again showcased her scoring ability on the ice as one of the team’s outstanding goal scorers throughout her Norwood career.

Coach Kristen McDonnell moved over from the boy’s team to take control of the girls squad, where she helped propel the Mustangs to a 13-7 record keeping the team on the right path. With only one senior gracing the court, Norwood was able to make it to the Round of 16 before they were edged out 67-64 by Pentucket Regional. According to the Mustang AD, the girls basketball team has been the most successful program over the last five years.

On the other side, Chris Fraioli came in to take over for McDonnell and lead the boy’s team to one of the two TVL Championships captured by Norwood this school year. The boys went 18-4, and made it to the Round of 16 before losing to Leominster. Noah Beaudet was named an all-scholastic player for the Mustangs in addition to picking up his second league MVP. The senior, who is headed to Emmanuel to play basketball, also eclipsed the 1,000 point plateau at Norwood scoring 1,329 points for the Mustangs.

Although Norwood had a number of athletes qualify for individual state tournament appearances, it was wrestler Nate Hsu who took home top honors capturing his second straight Sectional Championship.

In addition to the four teams that qualified for the tournament during the winter season, Norwood’s other programs to advance into the post-season were field hockey and golf during the fall season, and baseball, softball, and girls lacrosse during the spring.

“Field Hockey Coach Alison Doliner has been here for 11 years, and she continues to push the team,” Longley said. “She has built a program that we continuously expect big things from and that will continue next fall. The team will have a big junior class returning next year with a lot of experience, as well as Shae Larkee, who will be back after coming back from an injury this year to give the team a boost.”

While the Mustangs had nine



teams make it to the State Tournament, girls soccer was not one of them. However, the AD likes what he has seen this past year and what the future holds.

“(Coach) Kim Brinklow has really molded this team to be competitive and they should be as good as ever next year,” Longley said. “Goalie Trish Wladkowski has played phenomenal for the team,”

This spring, baseball player Jack Cropper was not only named to the All-Scholastic team, but the Norwood pitcher will be taking his talents to Northeastern next year.

The other TVL Champion this past school year was the softball team under the guidance of long-time coach Carol Savino. Under Savino the softball team went 10-8 this season but fell in the first round of the tournament. Savino, who has been coaching for 14 years, has been the most successful team at Norwood overall with eight league titles in the Bay State Conference and Tri-Valley League while qualifying for the tournament every single season.

“Carol has really had an incredible career here at Norwood,” the AD said. “I’ve worked with a lot of experienced coaches through the years, but I’d have to say she is by far the most passionate person I’ve ever met in regard to her sport.”

On the softball field, senior Sam Rose, who was the TVL MVP last year as a shortstop, gave up her position this spring to fill the vacancy the Mustangs had behind the plate to help the team.

“Rose sacrificed her senior season and individual success for the better of the team” Longley said. “That says a lot about her character.”

Under Coach Mike Lodge, the girls lacrosse team has improved drastically over the last three years, and this spring qualified for the tournament for the second straight season. According to Longley, Lodge, who is in his third season as the Mustang lacrosse coach, has really established the program to be competitive on the field at all times. The girls lacrosse team made the

tournament for the first time last year in school history, but as a 32 seed was eliminated in the preliminary round. This year, Norwood was ranked 25 with a 9-9 record and lost in the Round of 32 to Grafton.

Last, but certainly not least, the boys 4x800 relay team made up of Dylan O’Brien, Dylan Hamwey, Cam LoPiccoli and Ryan Murray, finished second in the Division 3 State meet this spring. The foursome crossed the finish line with a time of 18:18.49 behind Oliver Ames.



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# Calendar of Events

**Aug. 3**

**Thursday Fun Club - Minecraft!  
Morrill Memorial Library  
3 p.m.**

Thursday Fun Club is a space for kids to come to the library and do activities around a theme they enjoy! Don't be a creeper, join in for a Minecraft party! There will be crafts and activities to celebrate your favorite square shaped guys! For ages 5+. Register at [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200.

**Aug. 5**

**Cool Movies for Hot Summer Days  
Marathon  
Morrill Memorial Library  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Keep cool at the library this summer at our weekend movie marathon! We'll have a selection of family-friendly movies playing all day. Come in and take a break from the heat! For all ages. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. 9:15 -11 a.m.: Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG); 11:15 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.: The Super Mario Bros Movie (PG); 1:00-4:30 p.m.: Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13). No registration required.

**Aug. 6**

**Concerts on the Common  
Town Common  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

A Norwood favorite, the Westwood Swing Band brings back the big band era to the Town Common! For more information about each individual concert on our Facebook page @TownofNorwoodMA. Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic and enjoy!

**Aug. 7**

**Carillon Concert  
Town Common  
6:30-7:30 p.m. Rain or shine**

Simone Browne, travels from New York to perform on Norwood's carillon. Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts.

**Aug. 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](mailto:wbnofnorwood@gmail.com).

**Celebrate National Farmers  
Market Day!  
Town Common  
2-6 p.m.**

Help the vendors and market staff celebrate National Farmers Week! There will be even more games and special guest stars visiting the market! Visit the Town Common to check out a variety of vendors, including farm stands, bakeries, fish, baseball cards, non-profit organizations, specialty foods, and more! There will be games for the kids and music. It's all happening on Tuesdays on the town common!

**Norwood Toastmasters Club  
Virtual (Zoom)  
6:45 p.m.**

The Norwood Toastmasters Club, now in its 25th year, helps develop communication and leadership skills for members and the community at every level. Guests are always welcome. Visit [norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/](http://norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/).

**Book Buzz: Sneak Peeks at New &  
Upcoming Fall Titles  
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)  
7 p.m.**

The Morrill Memorial Library is hosting Annie Mazes, Associate Director of Library Marketing, at Hachette Book Group, for a "Book Buzz" session. Enjoy a fun sneak peek of some exciting new adult titles coming this fall! Attendees will leave with a handout of great books to add to their "to be read" piles. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Starting the Conversation: Elder  
Care  
Morrill Memorial Library  
7 p.m.**

Morrill Memorial Library is partnering with Home Helpers to bring an information session on elder care and 'Starting the Conversation.' Now is the time to engage your loved one in a discussion about what happens if, and realistically WHEN, a little more help is needed. What do they want for their golden years, what do they expect from you and other family members, and what can you reasonably

do? Learn eight ways to start the conversation that will empower you to help your loved one live life to their fullest. Open for ages 18 and up. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 9**

**Summerfest Concert  
Town Common  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Southern Rail brings its own style of music to the Norwood Town Common. For more information about each individual concert on our Facebook page @TownofNorwoodMA. Musical Wednesday nights should be on everyone's summer schedule!

**The Psychology of America's  
Culture War  
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)  
7 p.m.**

This is a virtual author talk with Gail Sahar, about her book, *Blame and Political Attitudes: The Psychology of America's Culture War*. Have you been asking yourself, "What does 'culture war' even mean?" and "What does it mean to be 'woke'?" and how these questions contribute to the current divide in America? Questions about the causes of events, from terrorist attacks, to mass shootings, to economic and public health crises, and dominate conversations across the U.S. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 10**

**Thursday Fun Club - Sanrio  
Universe!  
Morrill Memorial Library  
3 p.m.**

Thursday Fun Club is just a space for kids to come to the library and do activities around a theme they enjoy! This week's theme celebrates the super cuties of the Sanrio Universe! Hello Kitty, Chococat, Keroppi, or Badtz-Maru - it's too hard to pick a favorite! 5+ Register at [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Seasonal Baking with Local  
Ingredients w/ Tammy Donroe  
Inman  
Morrill Memorial Library  
7 p.m.**

The Morrill Memorial Library is hosting local author and chef Tammy Donroe Inman to present "Seasonal Baking with Local Ingredients." August is Eat Local Month. Join Tammy Donroe Inman, award-winning au-

thor of New England Desserts: Classic and Creative Recipes for All Seasons, who will discuss the history and pleasure of seasonal baking with locally grown ingredients. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**August 11**

**Teen Book Tasting Café  
Morrill Memorial Library  
3 p.m.**

Tired of seeing recommendations for the same old books? Not sure what to read next? Come to the Teen Book Tasting Café! There will have a variety of new and selected Young Adult titles on display, and teens will get a chance to sample these books and get some new reading inspiration! Snacks and light refreshments will be provided, along with tasting menus for the teens to take home with them. For ages 13 and up. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 12**

**Blessing Boutique Thrift Shop  
First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.  
10 a.m.-noon**

There will be lots of clothing choices, from infants right through to teens, all in great condition. Fabulous clothes for mom and dad, too! Summer clothes, shoes and jewelry are on sale. Also browse through the great selection of kitchen items, tableware, books for all ages, purses, linens and so much more.

**Aug. 13**

**Concerts on the Common  
Town Common  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

A Norwood favorite, the Westwood Swing Band brings back the big band era to the Town Common! For more information about each individual concert on our Facebook page @TownofNorwoodMA. Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic and enjoy!

**Aug. 14**

**Carillon Concert  
Town Common  
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Margaret Pan, from Somerville, returns to Norwood to display her talents. Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts.

Rain or shine.

**Aug. 15**

**Norwood Farmers Market  
Town Common  
2-6 p.m.**

Welcoming our four-legged friends to the Norwood Farmers Market! There will be nail cutting (cats must be in carriers), Morgan, a dog who loves when children read to her, non-profit organizations, a dog trainer, and more! Also, visit the Town Common to check out a variety of vendors, including farm stands, bakeries, fish, baseball cards, non-profit organizations, specialty foods, and more! There will be games for the kids and music. It's all happening on Tuesdays on the town common!

**Aug. 16**

**Summerfest Concert  
Town Common  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Hipshot Band closes out the 2023 Summerfest Concert Series! For more information about each individual concert on our Facebook page

@TownofNorwoodMA. Musical Wednesday nights should be on everyone's summer schedule!

**Norwood Family Flick  
Dusk**

**Norwood High School Front Lawn**

Bring chairs, blankets, and maybe a picnic and enjoy a fun, family movie under the stars! Parking available at the high school.

**Turn the Page: 'The Maid'  
Morrill Memorial Library  
10 a.m.**

The group will be discussing *The Maid*, a mystery written by Nita Prose. Email Patty Bailey if you have any questions at [pbailey@minlib.net](mailto:pbailey@minlib.net) or call 781-443-8864. Register at [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Turn the Page: 'The Maid'  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6:30 p.m.**

The group will be discussing *The Maid*, a mystery written by Nita Prose. Email Patty Bailey if you have any questions at [pbailey@minlib.net](mailto:pbailey@minlib.net) or call 781-443-8864. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 17**

**Bay State Animal Cooperative  
Chateau Fundraiser**

**CALENDAR**

*continued on page 15*



**CALENDAR**

*continued from page 14*

**Chateau Restaurant, Norwood  
All day/evening**

Enjoy a meal at The Chateau in Norwood and help BSAC care for cats, kittens, and the occasional dog! All day, eat in, or take out, the restaurant will kindly donate 20% to help us provide for animals in need. When you order, be sure to ask to flag your check for the fundraiser. Ordering online? Remember to scroll to the bottom and click, "Fundraiser" and enter "BSAC" as a special instruction. [www.chateaurrestaurant.com/locations/norwood](http://www.chateaurrestaurant.com/locations/norwood).

**Thursday Fun Club - Our Favorite Characters!  
Morrill Memorial Library  
4 p.m.**

Thursday Fun Club is just a space for kids to come to the library and do activities around a theme they enjoy! This week's theme features favorite characters from well-known picture books and graphic novels. Come celebrate your favorites - like Pete the Cat, Dog Man, Pigeon, Elephant and Piggie - with activities and games. For pre-school and up. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar> or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 18**

**Senior Monthly Ballroom Dance  
Norwood Senior Center, 275  
Prospect St.,  
7 p.m.**

This month's theme is Hawaiian! Music will be provided by Dave Valerio. Cost is \$12 per person. Coffee, tea, desserts, and water will be served; don't miss the door prizes! To stay updated on the Friends of the Norwood Council on aging, visit their Facebook site at: Friends Of the Norwood Council on Aging | Facebook.

**Aug. 20**

**Concerts on the Common  
Town Common  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Germany comes to Norwood with the performance of the Oberlaendler Hofbrau Band! For more information about each individual concert on our Facebook page @TownofNorwoodMA. Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic and enjoy!

**Aug. 21**

**American Red Cross Blood Drive  
Knights of Columbus, 572 Nichols  
St.  
1-6 p.m.**

**Carillon Concert  
Town Common  
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Jennifer Herrmann, from Boston, will perform this evening. Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts. Rain or shine.

**Trivia Night at the Library  
Morrill Memorial Library  
7 p.m.**

The Morrill Memorial Library is excited to challenge you to a fun night of trivia! Register as a team of up to 4 people, or really test your mettle and play solo. Questions will range widely in subject and increase in difficulty with each new round. Trivia questions are geared toward adults in content and challenge rating; this event is recommended for players 16 and older. They will keep score over the course of the evening, but please note that playing is for bragging rights only. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2. If playing as part of a team, register all together.

**Teen Anime Night  
Morrill Memorial Library  
7 p.m.**

Calling all anime fans! Join at the library for a Teen Anime Night! There will be a selection of manga, snacks, and a themed craft to work on. The event will include an episode of a selected anime title as well. For ages 13 and up. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 22**

**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](mailto:wbnofnorwood@gmail.com).

**Norwood Farmers Market  
Town Common  
2-6 p.m.**

Welcoming our four-legged friends to the Norwood Farmers Market! There will be nail cutting (cats must be in carriers), Morgan, a dog who loves when children read to her, non-profit

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organizations, a dog trainer, and more! Also, visit the Town Common to check out a variety of vendors, including farm stands, bakeries, fish, baseball cards, non-profit organizations, specialty foods, and more! There will be games for the kids and music. It's all happening on Tuesdays on the town common!

**Norwood Toastmasters Club  
Virtual (Zoom)  
6:45 p.m.**

The Norwood Toastmasters Club, now in its 25th year, helps develop communication and leadership skills for members and the community at every level. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit [norwood-toastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/](http://norwood-toastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/).

**Evening with FBI Special Agent  
Julia Cowley, Lead Profiler on the  
Golden State Killer Case  
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)  
7 p.m.**

Special Agent Julia Cowley will offer a look inside the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit. Cowley will discuss how and why she became an FBI profiler, what profiling is (and isn't), and some of the most memorable cases in her career. Cowley is currently an adjunct professor at Bay Path University and serves as co-host on the podcast The Consult. Register at [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Titles on Tap Book Group - Squire  
Napper Tandy's  
7:30 p.m.**

The Morrill Memorial Library hosts us Titles on Tap, at Napper Tandy's in Norwood, in the left-hand-side bar. The August title will be the graphic novel Squire, by Sara Alfageeh and Nadia Shammam. Titles on Tap is a social book group for readers in their 20s and 30s and for the young at heart. We go in

for stories that are shaken, not stirred, and we don't mind taking our love of lit outside the library walls. Titles on Tap meets once a month in the left-hand bar of Napper Tandy's to eat, drink, be merry, and discuss the latest reading selection.

**Aug. 25**

**Sensory-Friendly Friday Movie at  
the Library  
Morrill Memorial Library  
1 p.m.**

Visit the Morrill Memorial Library for their Sensory-friendly Friday movie at the Library, a program specially designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The August movie is Disney's Luca, rated PG. For ages 18 and up. Register at [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 26**

**Blessings Boutique Thrift Shop  
First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.**

Newcomers to the boutique can hardly wait to come back! There are beautiful items at absolutely great prices. Summer clothes for the whole family, shoes and jewelry are on sale. There are books for all ages, necessary items for the kitchen, tableware, linens, purses, and so many more treasures.

**Aug. 27**

**Concerts on the Common  
Town Common  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Dan Gabel and the Abletones close out the 2023 Concerts on the Common Series! For more information about each individual concert on our Facebook page @TownofNorwoodMA. Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic and enjoy!

**Aug. 28**

**Carillon Concert  
Town Common**

**6:30-7:30 p.m.**  
John Whiteside, from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, in Cohasset, closes out the 2023 Carillon Concert Series. Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts. Rain or shine.

**Sisters in Crime New England:  
Mystery Making in Norwood  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6:30 p.m.**

Do you love reading mysteries? Does it feel good to exercise those 'little gray cells'? Then this program is for you! Morrill Memorial Library, partnering with the Norwood Senior Center is excited to bring together four mystery authors for an interactive workshop called Sisters in Crime New England: Mystery Making in Norwood. Panelists on this fun, fast-paced improv game will brainstorm on their feet to create a brand new mystery using suggestions from the audience. Your authors for the evening are: Katherine Fast, Kate Flora, Leslie Meier, and Sharon Healy-Yang. 18+. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 29**

**Norwood Farmers Market  
Town Common  
2-6 p.m.**

Welcoming our four-legged friends to the Norwood Farmers Market! There will be nail cutting (cats must be in carriers), Morgan, a dog who loves when children read to her, non-profit organizations, a dog trainer, and more! Also, visit the Town Common to check out a variety of vendors, including farm stands, bakeries,



**CALENDAR**

*continued from page 15*

fish, baseball cards, non-profit organizations, specialty foods, and more! There will be games for the kids and music. It's all happening on Tuesdays on the town common!

**Indian Spices and Herbs Wall Art Workshop  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6 p.m.**

Spices have a significant role in culinary traditions across the globe. They not only add flavor and aroma to the food, but have cultural and historical significance. India is considered the "Land of Spices." The spices and herbs such as saffron, turmeric, black pepper, cardamom, and bay leaves have been used for thousands of years in culinary traditions of Indian cooking. They are believed to have healing properties, and play an important role in traditional medicines. In this workshop, the instructor will share information about different Indian spices and their unique benefits, the art of

mixing spices together, and creating a beautiful wall art with Indian spices for your home. The instructor, Arati Paranjpe, is a Norwood resident, an interior designer, blogger, and a computer engineer. She is also an active member of the Norwood Cultural Council. Visit her website <https://dhimahi.info/> for more information. For ages 18 and up. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar> or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Aug. 31  
Sensory-friendly Lego Club for Adults  
Morrill Memorial Library  
2:30 p.m.**

Join in on a creative Lego adventure. Just bring your imagination, the library will provide the Legos! The Club is free, inclusive, and open to anyone ages 18+. It is specially designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar> or call 781-769-0200, x2.

# Real Estate Corner

## Good Deeds: Getting Laws Passed and You

BY WILLIAM P. O'DONNELL

There are a number of documents recorded at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds that pertain to the four United States Presidents born in Norfolk County.

"We are a government of laws, and not of men," President John Adams stated.

In my tenure as Norfolk Register of Deeds, I have gotten to experience firsthand the making of laws. Laws govern our daily lives and have significant impacts. Not that long ago, the Homestead Protection for your home was \$300,000. The legislative process here in Massachusetts increased the Homestead Protection you can put on your home to \$500,000. This change in a law benefited each of you as a consumer who owns a house or condominium as your principal residence.

A Mortgage Discharge Bill was passed into law, giving you, as real estate borrowers, assistance in getting your mortgage discharge document. This is impactful, as a mortgage discharge once recorded at the Registry of Deeds, tells the world that your loan has been paid off. The Community Preservation Act, which so many of our local communities have implemented, started as an idea in a bill that later became state law here in Massachusetts.

How do bills become laws?

A bill becomes a law once it has been passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor. Once a bill is introduced in either the State House of Representatives or the State Senate, it goes through a series of committee hearings before it is voted on. Members of the committee can ask questions, suggest changes, and vote on whether or not the bill should be sent to the full House or Senate for consideration.

Understanding the legislative process can empower you to engage in advocacy and allow you to see how your elected officials are or are not working on issues that matter to you. Committee hearings are an essential part of the legislative process as

they provide an opportunity for lawmakers to fully understand the potential impact of a bill and make informed decisions.

As Register of Deeds, I was very involved in getting a law passed that paved the way for registered land documents to be remotely submitted electronically via the internet for recording at the Registry of Deeds. On January 11, 2017, a filed bill, House Bill 3862, An Act Modernizing the Registries of Deeds, became Chapter 404 of the Acts of 2016. What went into the

Committee on Bills in the Third Reading for their legal review and approval.

House Bill 3862, once receiving approval from all these committees, went to the full floor of the State House of Representatives, where it received a favorable vote. In the State Senate, a similar process occurred with the legislation getting favorable reviews and votes from that branch's Ways and Means as well as Third Reading Committees before hitting the Senate Floor for a favorable vote.



Norfolk County Register of Deeds along with Plymouth County Register of Deeds John R. Buckley testify in support of House Bill 3862, An Act Modernizing the Registries of Deeds.

passing of this law?

A draft of the legislation, accompanied by a fact sheet, was sent to each one of the 200 members of the State Legislature. Calls and emails were made in order to get this bill passed into law. When the bill had its hearing before the Joint Committee on Judiciary, I, along with other Registers, appeared before the committee to provide testimony.

The effect of this bill was to pave the way for electronic recording of Land Court documents. What is now seen as commonplace today only came about because House Bill 3862 received a favorable vote from the Judiciary Committee. Once this favorable vote occurred, the bill is sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means which reviews every bill for its fiscal impact. From there, this piece of legislation, like all bills that become law, went to the House

After clearing both chambers, the legislation was sent to the Governor's Office, where the executive staff did their own fiscal and legal analysis. The Governor signed this bill into law becoming effective 90 days later. On that day, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds became the first Registry of Deeds in Massachusetts to record a land court/registered land document electronically.

For the current legislative session, a notable piece of legislation is an Act to Increase Transparency in the Massachusetts Land Record Systems to Protect the Property Rights of Homeowners and Businesses. Senator Michael D. Brady filed legislation in the Massachusetts State Senate, which was given Senate Docket #194 and referred to the Joint Judiciary Committee as Sen-

**GOOD DEEDS**  
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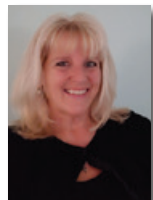
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# Real Estate Corner

## June 2023 Norfolk County Real Estate Activity

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings for the month of June, 2023 indicate a continued decrease in overall real estate activity, with significant drops in average property sale prices and the total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales as compared to June, 2022.

"As compared to last year, we are still seeing a decrease in overall real estate activity, however, this month the decrease in document volume was less pronounced than in previous months," Register O'Donnell noted. "Despite the overall decline in activity throughout the county, there are still pockets of the market here in Norfolk County that are seeing growth and stability, particularly in certain neighborhoods and property types. Additionally, while overall real estate activity is down compared to 2022, the market continues to show steady seasonal fluctuations month over month."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded 10,552 documents in June, 2023, the highest one-month total of the year so far. This was 19% less than in June, 2022, but 15% more than in May, 2023.

"The decline in overall real estate activity can be attributed to a number of likely factors,

including rising interest rates, a slowdown in new construction projects, and a lack of existing inventory," Register O'Donnell explained. "The housing market has become increasingly competitive and difficult for consumers, especially first-time homebuyers, who may struggle to find affordable options in desirable areas."

Overall lending activity showed a continued downward trend for the month of June. A total of 1,543 mortgages were recorded this month, 33% less than a year ago at the same time, but up 8% from last month.

"So far this year, June has seen the largest monthly volume of deeds and mortgages," Register O'Donnell said. "This month also saw some of the smallest decreases from the previous year in terms of the number of deeds, mortgages, and average sale price. This may suggest that while some homeowners are hesitant to make moves with average mortgage interest rates above 6%, others are not dissuaded by current interest rates, but time will tell if this trend continues."

The number of deeds for June, 2023, which reflect real estate sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, was 1,721, a decrease of 12% from June, 2022, but an increase of 27% from the previous month of May.

"The decrease in the number of deeds is likely due to a lack of inventory of new and existing homes, which means fewer homes are listed, keeping costs above pre-pandemic prices," Register O'Donnell noted. "Higher prices also mean that some buyers may be struggling to find affordable homes within their budget, leading to a decrease in the number of potential buyers and further decreasing the number of home sales."

Sale prices for June appear to have dropped compared to June, 2022. The average sale price in June was \$1,039,792, a 12% decrease from June, 2022, but a 5% increase from May, 2023. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 29% from one year ago, but increasing 48% from last month.

"While prices have come down from a year ago, the demand to live and own a home in the communities that make up Norfolk County remains high," Register O'Donnell said. "This may suggest that the decrease in dollar volume may be due to a shortage of available properties and a decline in the number of individuals with the ability to buy."

Homestead recordings by owners of homes and condominiums decreased again this month at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. There was a 16% decrease in homestead recordings in June, 2023 compared to June, 2022.

"The reduction in recorded Declarations of Homestead is not too surprising where the sales

of homes continue to level off, but all homeowners, not just new purchasers, should keep in mind that a recorded Declaration of Homestead provides limited pro-

**RE ACTIVITY**  
continued on page 18

*Buying? Selling?*

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Coldwell Banker Canton  
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# Real Estate Corner

## GOOD DEEDS

*continued from page 16*

ate Bill #908 while in the State House of Representatives. Representative Gerard Cassidy filed legislation that was given House Docket #2461 and referred to the Joint Judiciary Committee as House Bill #1411.

If enacted, this legislation will eliminate the possibility that a homeowner may not know who the holder of their mortgage is because a mortgage assignment was not recorded at the Registry of Deeds. This legislation would make assignments of residential

mortgages more transparent for the consumer. ou, as a borrower, could just look up this information from your home computer via the internet on the Registry's land records website at www.norfolkdeeds.org or call the Norfolk Registry's Customer Service Center.

Also up for consideration is a bill requiring automatic external defibrillators in Norfolk County public buildings. Representative Denise Garlick filed legislation in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. This bill was given House Docket #1842 and referred to the Joint Committee

on Municipalities and Regional Government as House Bill #2051.

I was very proud back in 2010 to install and maintain automatic external defibrillators (AED) on all three floors of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds building. The Registry of Deeds also pays for the training of staff on the AED, which is a lightweight portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The American Red Cross states that there are better survival rates and outcomes if an AED is used on a person experiencing sudden cardiac arrest

in a timely manner. The American Red Cross has estimated that some 50,000 lives could be saved with improved training and access to an AED. Representative Denise Garlick wants to use Norfolk County as a pilot program. The more locations for the AED increases all our chances for a better health result. The difference between life and death may be the availability of a functioning AED unit.

You have learned about the law-making process. You have read about bills that have become laws and some bills that are being considered to become

law. Maybe some issues or matters you feel strongly about can be put into place by passing a law as we are a society as well as a government of laws.

If you would like to stay up to date on upcoming Registry of Deeds events, programs and real estate information, sign up for Registry email updates at www.norfolkdeeds.org, like them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/norfolkdeeds, or follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/norfolkdeeds. The Customer Service Center is also available at 781-461-6101.

## RE ACTIVITY

*continued from page 17*

tection against the forced sale of an individual's primary residence to satisfy unsecured debt up to \$500,000," Register O'Donnell noted. "We want to see folks protecting the biggest asset most of us have, our homes. I would urge anyone who has not availed themselves of this important con-

sumer protection tool to consider doing so.

The recording fee for a homestead is \$36. Visit the Registry website at www.norfolkdeeds.org to get more information on homesteads and obtain a homestead application form.

Register O'Donnell concluded, "We are seeing some significant increases month over month in the home buying sea-

son, the period where we typically see the most home sales, and despite recent declines in the market, driven by areas in Norfolk County that are seeing growth and stability, but it remains to be seen if this momentum will continue as we move into the second half of the year."

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, "like" us on

Facebook at facebook.com/norfolkdeeds. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @norfolkdeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities, and others with a need for secure, accurate, and ac-

cessible 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 at (781) 461-6101 or email us at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.



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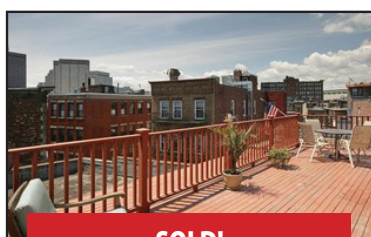
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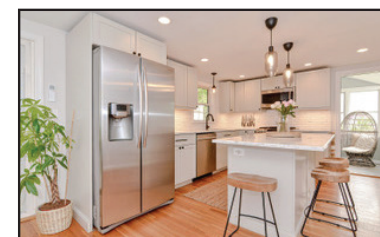
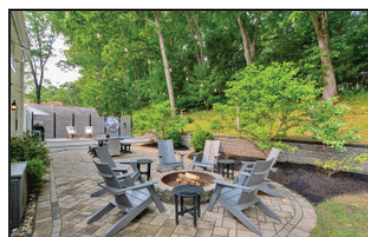


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## MARKET SNAPSHOT

NORWOOD, MA  
JUNE 2023

Single Family | Condominium

**\$647K** Avg. Sales Price ↑ 5%

**\$640K**  
Median List Price  
↑ 2%

**105.75%**  
Sales Price / List  
Price Ratio  
↑ 2%

**36**  
No. of Prop. Sold  
↑ 100%

**10**  
Avg. Days on Market  
↓ 27%

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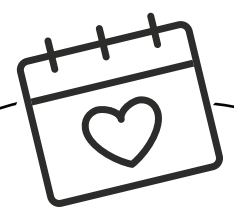
Based on data from MLSPIN Property Information Network, Inc. for property type(s) single family condominium in the price range \$0 - \$999,999 for the period March 2022 - June 2023. June 2023 stats are compared to previous 3 months' average. Source data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



# Save the date!

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