



Remember, Honor, Teach

BY MICHELE TARANTO

Wreaths Across America began a long time ago in the eyes of a 12-year-old paper boy who visited the Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. As an adult, Morrill Worcester remembered how moved he was during that Washington DC trip and the placeholders of the brave men and women

who fought for his country.

In 1992, Morrill, now an adult and the owner of Worcester Wreath, thought back to that to that memorable scene at America's cemetery, and made arrangements to place a surplus of wreaths in an older section of the graveyard. Through the efforts of generous volunteers, those wreaths were decorated, transported. Those wreaths

were decorated, transported, and laid on those graves of fallen soldiers. This tribute went on quietly for over a decade, until 2005 when pictures of the Arlington stones adorned with wreaths circulated the internet, and not only did requests come in with donors wanting to help,

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It All Comes Back to Norwood

BY AMY BUSKEY

When it comes to enjoying nature, we have a lot of choices here in New England. We truly are blessed to have it all nearby: mountains, lakes, beaches, the choices really are unlimited. For some, a hike through the woods with a beloved dog is a regular part of the day. For others, hitting a bike path along a beautiful route may fit the bill. For Norwood resident Meg Luizzo, a Cape Cod beach day is her slice of heaven. For the better part of our short New England summers, she and husband Ed King hit the road and head to their beloved beach house, fondly named Double Over-Thyme. A regular summer day includes a short jaunt to nearby South Village Beach in Dennis to take in the sights and soak up the sun. Also, part of a typical summer day's end includes Ed hitting the kitchen and preparing an amazing meal for family and friends. Anyone who knows Ed King can attest – the man can cook. One could say our New England summers are the most wonderful time of the year, giving many of us much needed rest and relaxation. For this Norwood couple, their beach routine has played out the same way many,



many times.

But one recent summer day stands out for Meg, in a very touching and personal way. While soaking up the sun recently at her beloved South Village Beach, she overheard a couple nearby chatting about the well-known Market Basket grocery store. The couple, Scott Spiro and wife Michele of Weymouth, also make South Village Beach a part of their summer tradition. It was not long after Meg joined the conversation that the group realized Norwood was a common thread. As it turns out, Scott grew up in Norwood, but

NATURE

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WREATHS

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but thousands more wanted to emulate the event at national and state cemeteries.

Worcester began sending seven wreaths to each state, one for each branch of the military and an additional in tribute to POW/MIAs. Just a year later, wreath ceremonies were being held at over 150 locations across the country.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veteran organizations, groups, and individuals who had assisted with the wreath ceremonies in Arlington formed Wreaths Across America, a 501 (3) (c), non-profit organization to expand the effort, with a simple, yet powerful mission: REMEMBER. HONOR. TEACH. Remember fallen U.S. veterans, Honor those who serve, and Teach children the value of freedom.

In 2022, 2.7 million sponsored veterans' wreaths were placed on headstones at 3,702 locations in honor of the nation's service members.

This is Norwood's sixth season in participating in Wreaths Across America where wreaths will be placed on local service men and women's graves at Highland and Old Parish Cemeteries. This expression is in coordination with wreath-laying ceremonies with Arlington National Cemetery and more than 1,600 locations across 50 states in the United States.

The event will take place on Saturday, Dec, 16, 12 noon,



Highland Cemetery. Volunteers and visitors are encouraged to arrive between 11:30 and 11:45 a.m., as the minute of silence across Norwood America and islands begins at 12 noon. In addition to Norwood Veterans Di-

rector Ted Mulvehill and other guest speakers, the name of each local veteran will be read aloud.

Norwood donations have steadily supported this event the past five years, however, more supporters are needed to purchase wreaths and volunteers to lay the wreaths on the graves. Wreaths are 100% donation based and can be purchased by visiting www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/158150/overview/?relatedId=0, click on the Red sponsor button.

This program thrives on generosity. There is still time left to donate. At press time, only 347 wreaths, 8.3% of the goal, were

purchased for Norwood. For the price of a few cups of coffee, a fallen local veteran will be honored this holiday season. An individual wreath sponsorship is \$15, 2 for \$30, 5 for \$75, or 10 for \$150.

Wreaths Across America is a venue to not only pay tribute to this country's military but an opportunity to pause and reflect on the meaning of holidays, and honoring those who have sacrificed so U.S. citizens can celebrate with family and friends.

For more information on Wreaths Across America or to donate, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Norfolk Probate and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA 02021
781-830-1200

Docket No. N023C0318CA

In the matter of: **Soliyana Fitsum Temesgen**

A **Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by **Soliyana Fitsum Temesgen of Norwood, MA** requesting that the Court enter a Decree changing their name to **Soliyana Fitsum**

Important Notice
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Norfolk Probate and Family Court** before **10:00 a.m.** on the **return day of 10/25/2023**. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of this Court

Date: September 20, 2023
Coleen M. Brierley, Register of Probate

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NATURE

continued from page 1

originally hailed from Walpole. The circumstances that led the family to move from Walpole were born of extreme sadness. The Spiros were a family of six, four boys, when the family tragically lost son Jimmy to cancer as a toddler. "My Mom and Dad wanted to leave the house," Scott recalled, "So we moved to Norwood."

The unbearable pain drove the family just across the pond, Willett Pond to be exact. Scott entered Willett School, and like many other students, moved on to Junior High North. This beachside conversation continued like many often do; with the who knows who and all the small world connections. But one question from Spiro's wife changed the trajectory of the conversation. When asked Meg's maiden name, Scott recognized the name Luizzo immediately. Rewinding to the year 1973, Meg's family had



their own unthinkable tragedy – the loss of older brother Paul. Struck and killed by a car on route one in Norwood, Paul was just 13 years old at the time of his death. Following his death, Paul's circle of friends worked with the town on a dedication. The Paul L. Luizzo Scholarship was established, along with naming the ball field at the John P. Oldham Elementary School in his memory. As it turns out, a ninth grader at Junior

High North was awarded the Paul L. Luizzo Scholarship – and that 9th grader was Scott Spiro.

"I remember sitting in the auditorium when my name was called and I couldn't believe it," Scott recalled. "I was a very average student, but I played three sports and was on the yearbook staff."

As explained by Meg.

"The award was for someone whose qualities were like Paul's; smart, popular, well liked, and well respected by both students and teachers."

Back to the beach, and realiz-

ing the immediate connection the two now had, Meg simply said to Scott, "Bring it in." A warm embrace ensued, and right then and there on her favorite beach a new friendship was born. "It's almost a cosmic thing," Scott laughed. "She calls me her soul brother. Our lives are intertwined in so many ways." Since meeting, Meg and Scott's friendship has grown along with discovering the countless ways their lives are connected. "I was overjoyed finding out that Scott had won the scholarship," Meg exclaimed. "I felt my brother gave me a nudge from heaven that

day, to let me know he is watching over me."

When asked to describe her brother, Meg readily recalled his personality.

"Paul was always on the move and always mischievous," Meg recalled. "He was so well loved and had a very charming personality at such an early age. He was such a prankster, thanks to his grandfather. Beyond loyal, a daredevil always betting they he could do

NATURE

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Town of Norwood Snow & Ice Policy

A message from the Norwood Public Works Department

This information provides a general overview of our snow and ice program, 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;
- 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 vehicle'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

SNOW & ICE
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SNOW & ICE

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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 Resident

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 con-

tainer (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.

Please keep nearby catch basins clear of snow or ice to prevent street flooding during heavy rains or snow melting periods.

Pet Photos with Santa!

By MICHELE TARANTO

No need for Fido, or any pet, to feel left out on a picture with Santa! This year, the Dirty Dawg Wash, in Norwood, has all animals covered with their Pet Pictures with Santa Day! This event does more, however, than make beloved companions and their family feel included, it is also a fundraiser for Charley's Angels Pet Initiative (CAPI).

CAPI, a local non-profit organization launched in July, focuses its efforts in assisting own-

ers who may find themselves struggling with the costs of pet ownership. They can provide essentials, such as food, litter, pre-

ventatives, toys, and enrichment, as well as financial veterinary assistance for those not able to pay for critical care.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Santa will be available to commemorate the season with a keepsake photo! For a \$15 donation, families will receive a 4 x 6 photo, and just in case a holiday manicure is needed, dog nail trimming will be available for an additional \$15 donation.

As mentioned, all proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Charley's Angels Pet Initiative. The Dirty Dawg Wash is located at 1 Wilson St., (corner of Wilson and Walpole Sts.). For more information, call 781-762-8822.



Our Town Publishing is currently seeking freelance writers local to the Metrowest area to cover stories for **Norwood**. If you're interested, please send a resume and two writing samples to editor@norwoodtownnews.com.

NATURE

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anything he was challenged to."

Meg also remembered Paul as being a very protective older brother.

"We got along great until it was time to watch tv," Meg reminisced. "Paul wanted to watch

The Three Stooges; I preferred watching The Brady Bunch."

To keep the peace, Meg's parents bought her a little pink tv.

And now, 50 years after his death, a new sense of peace now surrounds Meg. The Paul L. Luzzo Memorial Field sign has been given new life, half a century later. Beyond that, two individuals have found in each other a unique sibling bond that each lost

so long ago. The bond may have been formed right on the beautiful sands of South Village Beach, but at the end of the day, it all comes back to Norwood.

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

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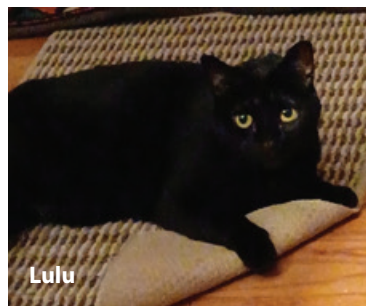
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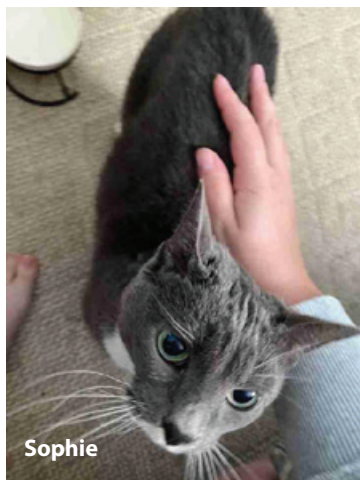
What "Cooperative" Really Means!



Hank



Lulu



Sophie

CAPI (Charley's Angels Pet Initiative) received a call from someone stating that her sister was in the hospital and was at the end of her life. The sister had 3 beautiful cats: Sophie, Lulu and Hank. These 3 kitties were cared for in the home while their human was in the hospital, not knowing she would not return.

Their owner, even though she knew she was terminal, thought about her fur babies and asked her sister to help rehome them.

This loving sister contacted CAPI, who, though not a shelter or a rescue, are so very caring and did everything they could exhausting every resource and connection they had to help.

Kandi, the president and founder of CAPI, made her first call to Marcia, president and founder of the Bay State Animal Cooperative and the collaboration began.

Throughout the process we all

had the same sense of urgency to find these furbabies loving homes.

BSAC rallied our team and within a day we had fosters lined up and CAPI had vet appointments made.

It takes a lot of logistics, money and time to coordinate the medical care needed to safely bring kitties into foster homes, and lots of volunteer energy to set up transport and care. It takes veterinary care too which was provided by Ashfield Cheyne Veterinary Services in Norwood. Thank you Dr Marks and the entire staff.

BSAC and CAPI each respect and thank one another for making this all happen so quickly. Compassion and dedication were very evident by both groups.

This story has a happy ending for these cats but sadly there are many animals out there who don't have fierce advocates like Bay State and CAPI to help. The owner's family is so grateful.

We all rely on donations and volunteers, without which we cannot help other animals and their owners who, for whatever reason, are in need.

Through a huge cooperative team effort, all 3 cats have been adopted and are now in loving homes.

All of this took about 2 weeks which is lightning speed.

We all look forward to growing the partnership between Bay State Animal Cooperative and Charley's Angels Pet Initiative to reach and help as many pets as we can.

To learn more about CAPI reach out www.charleysangelspetinitiative.org To learn more and get involved with BSAC reach out www.baystateanimals.org

put BSAC as a special instruction. Your support provides food and medical care for unadoptable cats like us because BSAC believes that ALL cats deserve care. Thank you, and meow!

Meemee and the boys ask: What are you doing Thursday, Dec. 7th?



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Living Healthy

Beyond Carrots

By GRAHAM R. STETSON, OD, MS

As the year draws to a close marking a time of celebration, gatherings with family and friends become more frequent. With food playing a significant role in these festivities, it's important to discuss nutrition and its impact on your ocular and overall health.

The connection between food and vision may seem like a stretch, but in fact the macula (responsible for sharp central vision) is the body's most metabolically active area, requiring ample nutrients, oxygen, and nutritional support. Any deficiencies may manifest in the eyes before affecting other bodily functions.

Put simply, the best way to maintain ocular and systemic health is to consume a diverse diet of whole foods, focusing on vegetables, fruits, fatty fish, and healthy oils. Unfortunately, the reality is that most items available in grocery stores are highly processed and lack recommended nutrients.

Key principles for good nutrition include choosing foods with few ingredients on the label, avoiding items with unpro-

nounceable ingredients, favoring wild-caught fish and pasture-raised meats, and opting for pesticide-free fruits, vegetables, nuts, and plant oils.

Eating fruits and vegetables of various colors is important as the pigment molecules in plants act as crucial antioxidants, safeguarding against inflammation and enhancing high-detail central vision. Macular pigments are vital for sharp vision and combating macular degeneration, including lutein (abundant in dark green vegetables), zeaxanthin (found in sweet potatoes, egg yolk, and yes, carrots), and meso-zeaxanthin (present in the skin of fish like salmon and sardines).

While whole foods are the best nutritional sources, you may want to consider adding some key dietary supplements like Omega-3 fatty acids, probiotics, macular pigments, and vitamins C, D, E, B-complex vitamins.

Akin to nutrition, lifestyle factors also significantly influence ocular and overall health, especially exercise levels, smoking, alcohol consumption, environmental exposures, and stress.



There are many cases showing the visual benefits of good nutrition. For example, a patient who has wet macular degeneration recently told me that she can go twice as long between treatments when she eats according to the above recommendations. Prioritizing these nutritional practices

can ensure the health and optimal performance of both our eyes and the rest of our body. Hopefully, you can incorporate these guidelines into holiday menus and beyond to keep all of your days merry and your vision bright. Happy Holidays!

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ule a comprehensive eye exam, call 781-352-4849 or come see us at 696 Washington Street in Norwood.

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We all look for balance in our lives, but achieving it is a more difficult task. It's not uncommon that when a specific health challenge occurs and has been interfering with our life, for many, they seek their primary doctor's advice. But after going through many tests and/or imaging they may get the answer "Great news, all your tests and images are normal." That is great, but that doesn't answer the question, why do I still feel this way?

Homeostasis is the ability or the tendency of the body to seek and maintain a condition of equilibrium or balance in the body. When we can no longer achieve homeostasis, symptoms start to appear. The nervous system's job is to control and coordinate every system, organ and tissue in the body. When this process is interfered with our health potential begins to decline. Through NIS (Neurological Integrative Systems) and /or NET (Neurological Emotional Technique) one can identify the stressors. This allows us to utilize a 3 step



Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

process to remove the stressor, rebuild the tissues and restore the function, thereby bringing you back into balance.

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Senior Corner

By MICHELE TARANTO

What's Free with Medicare

Medicare beneficiaries must pay many out-of-pocket costs, including, monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and doctor and prescription co-payments. Many

seniors may not be aware, however, of the many FREE services Medicare, offers, such as preventive screenings, vaccines, and counseling.

- Welcome to Medicare Visit
- Yearly Wellness Visit

Vaccines

- Diabetes Screenings
- Depression Screenings
- Mammograms
- Colorectal Cancer Screenings
- Lung Cancer Screenings
- Prostate Screenings
- Smoking Counseling
- Alcohol Counseling
- Nutrition Therapy

For more details on the above benefits, visit www.aarp.org/health/medicare-insurance/info-2023/free-medicare-services.

Protect Your Property Deed

The ads for deed protection are all over tv. There are many scams where people are taking out mortgages on a property they do not own. There is a cost for deed safety through these services, but first, there are a few things to know about Property Deeds.

What is a Property Deed?

A property deed is a document that transfers ownership from one person to another. The deed for a house in Norwood is held at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds.

Whose Name is on a Deed?

Whether there is a mortgage on the property or not, the homeowner(s) name is on the Deed. If there is a mortgage on the property, the bank holds a lien on the property.

How to Protect Your Deed

A homeowner signature is needed to transfer a Deed. Transferring the Deed should never be done under pressure and should likely be overseen by an attorney. Visit the Norfolk Registry of Deeds periodically to view a property's deed history.

What to Watch for:

Never just disregard mail if it is mailed to the home, especially tax and home related items, but in another name. This could be a sign that someone has transferred the Deed to another name or is using that address.

Medicare Open Enrollment

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period runs through Dec. 7. This gives enrollees a chance to review and make changes to their current Medicare coverage. For more information, contact the Norwood Senior Center, at 781-762-1201 to schedule an appointment with a SHINE Counselor.

HESSCO Holiday Meals

The mission of the HESSCO Holiday Meal project is to provide a meal to homebound elders in the HESSCO service area who will be home alone during the holidays. The Christmas meal will be a stuffed boneless chicken breast dinner and will be delivered on Friday, Dec. 22.

You do not have to be a HESSCO client to receive a meal. If you live in Norwood, are 60 years of age or older, and will be home alone on the holiday, call Kathleen at the Norwood Senior Center, at 781-762-1201, ext. 3,

with your name, address, phone number and emergency contact information. Order by Thursday, December 7, to order a Christmas meal.

Events

Dec. 8

Norwood Senior Center Holiday Luncheon

Entertainment by the Elderly Brothers. Cost is \$10. For more information or to sign up, call 781-762-1201.

Dec. 12

Norwood Woman's Club Meeting

Knights of Columbus Hall, 572 Nichols St.

12:30 p.m.

Illusionist and magician Barry McDonough will bring his excitement and fun to brighten the holiday season. A light lunch will be served. Guests are welcomed. Yearly dues are \$35. Please bring one item for the ecumenical food pantry to each meeting. For questions, call Trina at 781-762-8173.

Dec. 15

December Monthly Ballroom Dance

Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St.

7-10 p.m.

The Friends of the Norwood Council on Aging will be spon-

SENIOR CORNER

continued on page 11



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Ready, Set, Decorate!

BY MICHELE TARANTO

Remember the days when outdoor holiday decorating meant a few lights sprinkled on trees and bushes, a wreath on the door, and maybe some electric candles in the windows? Today, that form of minimalist décor is gone and embellishing the exterior house and landscape has transformed into a neighborhood, and sometimes town-friendly rivalry months in the making.

Feeling that spirited holiday bug? Why not challenge neighbors and friends this year in the Norwood Recreation Department's 6th Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest! This has become an incredibly popular and fun competition as Norwood residents flaunt their spirit for all to enjoy. For the past five years, residents have pulled out all the stops on their decorating and this year should be an even bigger event building on that festive momentum! Contestants simply need to register their house with

the Norwood Recreation Department by Dec. 17. The rest is up to the judges!

Rivalries and extreme decorating not for you? Enjoy the holiday spirit of others and spend a festive evening soaking in the sights using the interactive map on the Norwood Recreation social media page.

To register your home or for more information, contact the Norwood Civic Center at 781-762-0466, or email the program coordinator at mduffykidd@norwoodma.gov. Residents can nominate their home or their neighbor's home. Judges from the Norwood Senior Center will rank each decorated house and three winners will be announced a few days before Christmas. The top winner will receive bragging rights with the traveling trophy! Gift cards to local businesses will be provided to each winner.

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. Who in Nor-

wood is up for the challenge and boasting rights for the most fes-

tive home in Norwood!!??

SENIOR CORNER

continued from page 10

soring their monthly Ballroom Dance, music by Dave Valerio. Cost is \$12 per person. Coffee, tea, desserts, and water will be served and door prizes will be awarded. Newcomers of all ages are welcome. To stay up to date on 'Friends' events, visit their Facebook page: Friends Of The Norwood Council On Aging | Facebook

Dec. 16

Musical Saturday Concert Series: A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas Music

Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.

A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas combines the music, stories, and a wee bit of history from Scotland, Ireland, and England into a program that will keep audiences on the edge of their seat. There will be singing, laughing, clapping and perhaps a bit of foot stomping. Songs will include familiar, and perhaps not so familiar, Christmas songs and tunes, and instruments will include the guitar, bouzouki, and autoharp. The concert is interactive; questions and input from the audience are encouraged and

become part of the event. To register, visit <https://www.norwood-library.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. N023P3158EA

Norfolk Probate and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of: Winifred Kennedy Carty

To all interested persons, A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by John Carty of Portsmouth NH, requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that John Carty of Portsmouth, NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/13/2023.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Personal interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Patricia Gorman, First Justice of the Court
Date: November 07, 2023

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Norwood Sports

Mahoney Might Have A Decision To Make

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Matt Mahoney is a two-sport athlete at Norwood High School. The senior takes part on the football field as well as the basketball court for the Mustangs, and excels in both. He is hoping to take his athleticism to the next level following high school. However, he may have to make a decision about which sport he may play on the collegiate level once he graduates from Norwood.

“I have been reaching out to college basketball and football coaches and recently went on a recruitment visit to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for football,” Mahoney said. “While I love playing both sports, if I happen to get offers for both, I think that I would have to choose basketball as my favorite sport.”

While a decision may not have to be made for a few months, Mahoney is gearing up for the upcoming basketball season, one in which the Mustangs are looking to get back to the State Championship. Two years ago, under Kristen McDonnell, the team opened the season on a 10-1 run with no recognition whatsoever. Norwood went on to finish at 18-2, but still no acknowledgement.

Mahoney and his teammates earned themselves a #7 seed in the Division 2 Tournament and

then dispatched Fitchburg by 26, and Salem by 15, before taking down the number two seed Mansfield and Burlington enroute to the State Championship game.

“During the State Championship game, we played good, but our shots were just not falling,” Mahoney said. “Although we lost, the biggest takeaway from that game was that no one gave up despite the score.”

No one expected the Mustangs to have the type of season they left on the floor that year, outside of the players themselves.

“I had coached against him for two years prior to becoming the Norwood Coach last year,” Mustang Head Coach Chris Fraioli said. “We always had to game plan against him and now he is a much more mature individual the way that he carries himself. He’s calm, cool, and collective on the court and likes to get his teammates involved. We will be relying on him heavily this year for his leadership, experience, and basketball IQ.”

Mahoney was the youngest of four siblings, all who had played basketball, so he was around the court from a very young age. He found the competitiveness of the game to be something that he admired. Through the years, he has played on multiple AAU basketball teams, with the last being the Boston Bobcats, which he

played for right up to high school during both the spring and fall seasons.

Mahoney was nervous trying out for the Mustangs, but he knew that if he just went out and played the game that he was used to his skill would show the type of player he is.

“I believed that I was capable of making a team, but to actually make the varsity team was a bonus as a freshman,” Mahoney said.

Being a little undersized, Mahoney found himself playing point-guard for Norwood. He was usually the sixth or seventh man off the bench that season depending on the matchup. Sitting on the bench, he realized he learned how to take a back seat and tried to change to game with his cheering and encouragement.

Getting ready to begin his third year as a starter and second year captain for Norwood, Coach Fraioli foresees his point guard and being an important key if the Mustangs are to be successful.

“Matt was a huge part of our Tri-Valley League Championship team from a year ago and he has definitely worked on getting stronger,” the Coach said. “Last year, he was our second leading scorer averaging about 15 points per game and was named to the



TVL All-Star team. I expect he’ll be just as important this year.”

Being named a 2x captain is a huge honor for the senior.

“Being named a junior captain is something that usually doesn’t happened, so I want to be the best possible captain that I can be this year,” Mahoney said. “I want to be able to help the younger kids get better so that they can continue to have success

at Norwood after we’re gone.”

Mahoney would like the team to have another successful campaign while capturing its third straight TVL Championship in addition to getting back to the State Tournament Finals, this year with a different result. Individually, he would like to accomplish eclipsing the 1000-point mark for the Mustangs.



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Norwood Sports

Black Sheep Of the Family

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Norwood's Michaela Reen grew up in a family of basketball players, many who went on to play for Norwood High School. In addition to playing basketball, however, when she was young she was placed in a learn to skate program and found that she enjoyed being on the ice; eventually that ice time evolved into hockey.

The time came when she entered high school where she had to make a decision on which sport she would continue to play. Everyone assumed that she would follow in her family's footsteps and play basketball, but the younger Reen had different thoughts.

"In 8th grade, I had to make a decision, hockey or basketball," Reen recalled. "I chose hockey as I had a completely different feeling playing the sport. The skills, drills, excitement, and that team atmosphere."

According to Reen, her family fully supported her decision to play hockey, but continually joked about it. While her family may have been making fun of her decision, she knows deep down inside they understood her passion for the sport.

"Coming from a basketball family and she is the only one playing hockey, she is considered the black sheep of the family," Norwood Coach Tim Coskren said. "But we are extremely glad to have her on our team."

Reen not only found that the sport just seemed to click for her, she was also having fun playing it. It was something that she really enjoyed and looked forward to lacing up her skates and gliding onto the ice. With all the enjoyment and pleasure she felt playing hockey, she could see no reason to give it up.

When she realized that she had a chance to be something special on the ice, she joined the Spitfires, her first club team. Lately, she has been playing for the Boston Junior Huskies out of Canton.

The senior center reflects on how she came upon playing the position.

"It's something that the coaches assigned to me," Reen

said. "I found that I like the position and enjoy going anywhere on the ice, playing defense or offense. Offense for sure is better as I can create plays, movement of the puck up and down the ice and scoring."



Like most freshman taking on a high school sport, she found the tryouts intimidating as no one knew who she was before stepping onto the ice. Once she did and started to practice, however, her confidence and skills came out and soon after she was welcomed to the team.

"It was tough at first trying to find my groove and fit in with the team, but after that first game I seemed to settle in with my linemates Morgan Roache and Jenna Nauman," Reen said. "We've played together for the last three years, and we had a lot of fun as well as working well together; knowing where each other was on the ice."

Unfortunately for Reen and her teammates, her first season happened to be the year of Covid, and the pandemic made things a little difficult as the athletes had to wear masks. Hockey players not only had to wear a mask, but they wore it under their helmet causing them to be a sweaty mess. Reen recalls it was not fun at first, but eventually learned to adjust.

"With Covid, there was no tournament that year, that was

tough to deal with," Reen said. "But as a freshman playing in my first high school season, I was pleased with my playing time and I actually scored one goal that year."

With the inability to participate in the post-season thanks to the pandemic, Reen worked extremely hard in the off-season with her club team hoping to improve her endurance and also worked on her shooting.

When her sophomore season did get underway, she fell that she had improved, but unfortunately broke her wrist early in the season and was forced to watch the majority of the year from the bench.

"I fell into the boards with another girl and felt a lot of pain, so I skated off the ice and over to our trainer," Reen said. "He took one look at it and knew that it was not good."

While Reen was dealing with physical therapy, she found it difficult not being able to get on the ice with her teammates and take part in the games.

"I was really looking forward to that season," Reen said. "Not being able to play I did what I could with the team, workouts and skills as long as I was not using my wrist. I wanted to be ready for when I was cleared to go back and didn't want to find myself too far behind."

In addition to not being able

to play most of the season, Reen had a hard time watching her two linemates take to the ice with another center between them. She was glad, however, they were able to have success without her.

"Being an every day player who could do a bit of everything for the team, I know that she was disappointed when she broke her wrist," Coskren said. "We could have really used her on the ice that year."

Last year, Reen was named assistant captain, and this season she will move up a notch to captain. This will hold her accountable for her actions on the ice and pushes her to put forth her best effort.

"She is an intense, but smart player," the Norwood Coach said. "The girls look up to her, and although she is quiet, she leads by example."

As Reen gets ready to enjoy her final campaign for the Mustangs, she is hoping that the team

can once again put forth a good season with another invitation to the State Tournament where she is looking to go further than the past few seasons.

"The entire team is more excited to start the season already," Reen said. "Myself, I am so ready to begin. I've worked really hard over the past few seasons with my club team and am looking to play my best hockey for Norwood."

While she is more than anxious to get back onto the ice for the Mustangs, the big question, who will be on the line with her.

"I'm not sure who I'll be playing with, but we'll make it work," Reen said. "I'm big on assists, but I always want to score and be able to contribute to the team's success."

Following this season, Reen will begin considering playing hockey on the collegiate level.

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Calendar of Events

Dec. 2

VFW Post 2452 Meat Raffle
193 Dean St.
2-5 p.m.

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The pre-buy allows for entrance in all ten drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the pre-buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5. The Meat Raffle is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

F. Holland Day House Holiday Open House
93 Day St.
4-8 p.m.

Visit the F. Holland Day Open House decorated for the holidays. The Norwood High School Madrigal Singers will perform and refreshments will be provided.

Dec. 4

Furoshiki Workshop: Wrap Gifts with Fabric
Morrill Memorial Library
6 p.m.

In this workshop, learn how to use furoshiki, the Japanese art of using fabric to wrap gifts. Like origami with fabric, this is a great and sustainable way to wrap presents, for the holidays or any time of the year. The evening will cover the basic knots and go over a few common ways to wrap presents - including a box, a ball, and a bottle.

Bring presents to wrap. Thanks to Sewstainability, there will be some holiday-themed fabrics available to use and take. Feel free to bring your own lightweight fabrics, too. All materials provided. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 5

Zoom with a Law Librarian
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)
1-2 p.m.

Patrons from anywhere in Massachusetts can Zoom one-on-one with a law librarian from the Trial Court Libraries of Massachusetts for legal information about whatever legal situa-

tion they may be experiencing. Note: they can't give legal advice. Like their other reference services, they're happy to share law and case law, court forms and rules, information about court processes if available, and more. Find the Zoom links for upcoming Zoom with a Law Librarian dates at norwoodlibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/zoom-with-a-law-librarian-37/. To schedule a Zoom video chat for a different time or day, email the law librarians (brocktonlawlibrary@jud.state.ma.us). The Morrill Memorial Library can help access these remote services. In addition to providing the space and technology needed for Access to Justice remote court services, they can help connect you with a Law Librarian. Visit the Reference Desk to learn more.

Creating Norwood Cultural Districts
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.

Cultural Districts boost tourism, bring in annual funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, create incentives for new businesses and artists to move to Norwood, bring State-wide recognition and benefit local businesses, artists, and residents. These areas are officially designated by local government and managed by appointed committees and volunteers. Learn more about the benefits of Cultural Districts and how you can get involved in helping to make one in Norwood. A brief presentation will be followed by a discussion led by members of the Norwood Cultural Council, Joseph Collins (Economic Development Director/Key Accounts Manager), and Clayton Cheever, Morrill Memorial Library Director. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Baking Demo & Discussion w/Chef Erin Jeanne McDowell
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.

Who doesn't like a bit of holiday baking? Chef and cookbook author Erin Jeanne McDowell will demonstrate how to make one of her favorite recipes and then will have some time to chat with attendees about all of their "burning" questions. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or

call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 6

DIY Card Making Workshop with Betty Saccocia
Morrill Memorial Library
6 p.m.

Are you hoping to create a special one-of-a-kind message for the holidays? Or perhaps a general well-wishes card for wintertime? Expert card maker and paper artist Betty Saccocia will guide through crafting two unique designs with high-quality materials to create professional and personalized card designs. All materials will be provided in this free workshop for people ages 14 and up. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

DIY Card Making Workshop with Betty Saccocia
Morrill Memorial Library
7:30 p.m.

Are you hoping to create a special one-of-a-kind message for the holidays? Or perhaps a general well-wishes card for wintertime? Expert card maker and paper artist Betty Saccocia will guide through crafting two unique designs with high-quality materials to create professional and personalized card designs. All materials will be provided in this free workshop for people ages 14 and up. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 8

Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults
Morrill Memorial Library
10:30 a.m.

Ms. Stephanie Enloe of Lifeworks, Inc., will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. Registration is required. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 9

American Red Cross Blood Drive
First Congregational Church
100 Winter St.
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Blessings Boutique
First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.
10 a.m.-12 noon

This is the last boutique to pick up some great bargains before Christmas! There will be many brand-new items with the tags still attached, perfect for gifts. Plenty of decorations are waiting as well!

Pet Photos with Santa
Dirty Dawg Wash (1 Wilson St.; corner of Wilson and Walpole Sts).
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Have your pet's photo with Santa with this worthy fundraiser! All proceeds benefit Charley's Angels Pet Initiative. Donation is \$15 for a 4 x 6 photo. Have your dog's nails trimmed for an additional \$15 donation. Drop in. For more information, call 781-762-8822.

VFW Post 2452 Meat Raffle
193 Dean St.
2-5 p.m.

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The pre-buy allows for entrance in all ten drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the pre-buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5. The Meat Raffle is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Dec. 10

Holiday Concert
F. Holland Day House, 93 Day St.
3 p.m.

The acclaimed Norwood High School Madrigal Singers will perform their crowd-pleasing versions of familiar songs rise up through the Great Hall of the Day House.

Dec. 12

Women's Business Networking Meeting
Norwood Civic Center
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.

Norwood Woman's Club Meeting
Knights of Columbus Hall, 572 Nichols St.
12:30 p.m.

Illusionist and magician Barry McDonough will bring his excitement and fun to brighten the Holiday Season. A light lunch will be served. Guests are welcomed. Yearly dues are \$35. Please bring one item for the ecumenical food pantry to each meeting. For questions, call Trina at 781-762-8173.

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 <https://norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

Dec. 13

Norwood Junior Woman's Club Meeting
Conrad's Restaurant
7:30 p.m.

The Norwood Junior Woman's Club is a women's social group that serves the Norwood community by fundraising in order to give back locally to various programs, events, and families in need. Monthly meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., the second Wednesday of each month. New members are always welcome! For more information, email Norwoodjwc@gmail.com or visit their website at <https://norwoodjuniorwc.wixsite.com/norwoodjwc>. The Club is sponsored by the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, one of the largest and oldest women's volunteer service organizations.

Dec. 14

Open Video Game Play: One Up Games
Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.

Join One Up Games at the library for an open video game play with VR! One Up Games will bring next-gen consoles and gaming monitors to play popular video games along with a mixture of classic and retro ones. Kids who are 8 and over will also be able to play with their VR sys-

CALENDAR

continued from page 14

tem. This program allows kids to play what they wish, with the freedom to move to any system and play any game they want! For ages 6 and up. For questions, call the library at 781-769-0200 x3 or email the staff at norchild@minlib.net. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**Open Video Game Play: One Up Games
Morrill Memorial Library
2:30 p.m.**

Join One Up Games at the library for an open video game play with VR! One Up Games will bring next-gen consoles and gaming monitors to play popular video games along with a mixture of classic and retro ones. Kids who are 8 and over will also be able to play with their VR system. This program allows kids to play what they wish, with the freedom to move to any system and play any game they want! For ages 6 and up. For questions, call the library at 781-769-0200 x3 or email the staff at norchild@minlib.net. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**Forget Me Not: Inclusion in the Classroom Documentary Screening and Discussion
Morrill Memorial Library
6 p.m.**

If you are a parent of a child with a disability, you know the anxiety experienced when your child enters the school system. Forget Me Not intimately documents a family's fight to have their son with Down syndrome included in the country's most segregated school system, the New York City public school system. Propelled forward by others' struggles and successes, Forget Me Not offers a rare look at what a truly inclusive education can look like and how it can lead to a more inclusive society so that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. For more information, please visit Forget Me Not website. There will be a discussion following the screening of the documentary.

Suitable for ages 18+. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 15

**Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults
Morrill Memorial Library
10:30 a.m.**

Ms. Stephanie Enloe of Lifeworks, Inc., will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. Registration is required. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

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

The Morrill Memorial Library and Lifeworks Inc of Norwood bring this program sensory-friendly and inclusive environment series to the Norwood community. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**December Monthly Ballroom Dance
Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St.
7-10 p.m.**

The Friends of the Norwood Council on Aging will be sponsoring their monthly Ballroom Dance, will music by Dave Valerio. Cost is \$12 per person. Coffee, tea, desserts, and water will be served and door prizes will be awarded. Newcomers of all ages are welcome. To stay up to date on 'Friends' events, visit their Facebook page: Friends Of The Norwood Council On Aging | Facebook

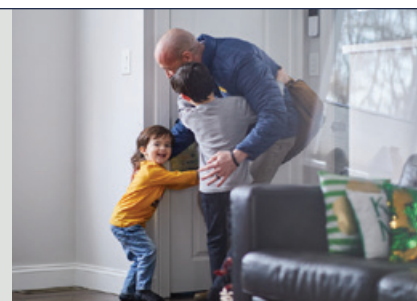
Dec. 16

**Musical Saturday Concert Series: A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas Music
Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.**

A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas combines the music, stories, and a wee bit of history from Scotland, Ireland, and England into a program that will keep audiences on the edge of their seat. There will be singing, laughing, clapping and perhaps a bit of foot stomping. Songs will include familiar, and perhaps not so familiar, Christmas songs and tunes, and instruments will include the guitar, bouzouki, and autoharp. The concert is interactive; questions and input from the audience are encouraged and become part of the event. To register, visit [*Hiring all techs, all trades!*](https://www.norwood-</p>
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library.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**VFW Post 2452 Meat Raffle
193 Dean St.
2-5 p.m.**

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The pre-buy allows for entrance in all ten drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the pre-buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5. The Meat Raffle is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Dec. 17

**Children's Story Hour & Craft
F. Holland Day House, 93 Day St.
1-3 p.m.**

Children (with their parents) will enjoy holiday stories, ornament-making, and refreshments.

Dec. 20

**Turn the Page Book Group-Miss Benson's Beetle
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m.**

Join Patty Bailey and other local readers for a friendly and informal discussion. The December book is Miss Benson's Beetle, a novel written by Rachel Joyce. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**Turn the Page Book Group-Miss Benson's Beetle
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)
6:30 p.m.**

Join Patty Bailey and other local readers for a friendly and informal discussion. The De-

cember book is Miss Benson's Beetle, a novel written by Rachel Joyce. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**Sensory-Friendly Lego Club for Adults
Morrill Memorial Library
12:30 p.m.**

Join the L.E.A.D. students in this creative adventure. Just bring your imagination – the Legos are provided. 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 the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 22

**Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults
Morrill Memorial Library
10:30 a.m.**

Ms. Stephanie Enloe of Lifeworks, Inc., will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. Registration is required. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 27

**Flora, Fauna, and Friends: Kids Explore the Neponset River
Morrill Memorial Library
2 p.m.**

Flora, Fauna, and Friends is a program designed to introduce elementary school-aged children to the Neponset River ecosystem and all the living things that can be found in the backyard. There

will be a short lesson about habitats and then use microscopes and other fun methods to creatively engage with different aspects of the environment in the library. For ages 5 and up. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 28

**Learn to Draw Pokemon with Pop-Up Art School
Morrill Memorial Library
2 p.m.**

Learn how to draw favorite Pokémon characters including Pikachu! Pop up Art School will show how to draw step-by-step using basic shapes and easy to follow instructions. For ages 6 and up. This program is designed for school-aged children. Space is limited to sign up to reserve your child's spot today! For questions, email staff at norchild@minlib.net or call the library at 781-769-0200 x3. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Dec. 29

**Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults
Morrill Memorial Library
10:30 a.m.**

Ms. Stephanie Enloe of Lifeworks, Inc., will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. Registration is required. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Real Estate Corner

October, 2023 Norfolk County Housing Market Closes Margins

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings in October, 2023 show a slight increase in the total real estate activity compared to October, 2022 recordings. This tight margin of closeness in October, 2023 activity and statistics to October of 2022 activity and statistics can be attributed to a housing market that has been slow for over a year and the ability of Norfolk County to maintain steady real estate transactions despite the challeng-

ing conditions.

"Despite the challenges posed by limited inventory and higher interest rates, the Norfolk County housing market has managed to maintain steady activity," noted Register O'Donnell. "The recording for October, 2023 compared to October, 2022 shows some of the closest margins to each other that we have seen all year."

The Registry of Deeds recorded 9,214 documents in Oc-

tober, 2023. This was 2% more than in October, 2022 and a 13% increase compared to September, 2023.

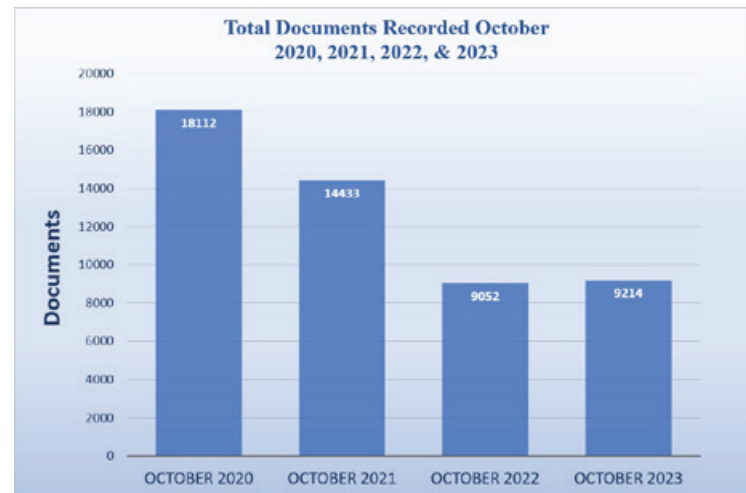
"To get these numbers to keep moving in a positive direction, new home construction will need to increase its pace because what we have in housing inventory is still not enough to keep home prices in check," Register O'Donnell said. "Particularly when you consider that high interest rates, relative to what they were in 2020 and 2021, makes finding an affordable home difficult for homebuyers in general but especially for first-time homebuyers."

The total number of deeds recorded for October, 2023, which reflects both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1299, down 1% from October, 2022 but up 4% from September.

"The increase in real estate activity this month compared to last month shows that despite difficult market conditions, Norfolk County remains a desirable community to both live and work in," Register O'Donnell noted.

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties for October, 2023 was \$967,836, a 9% decrease compared to October, 2022 but an increase of 12% from September, 2023. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 20% from last year but up 12% from last month.

"While prices have come down compared to last year, they are only down 1% compared to 2020 and 2021, when mortgage interest rates were lower than 3%," Register O'Donnell said. "The lack of available real estate inventory is likely one reason why property prices are still higher than they were before the pandemic. Seasoned homebuyers are doubly affected by current market conditions, as they not only face higher borrowing costs but also have limited options to choose from. Additionally, with home loan interest rates exceeding 7%, these same home owners are also less likely to refinance, leading to a decrease in the number of mortgages being



recorded."

For the month of October, lending activity overall continued to decline from last year. A total of 1,165 mortgages were recorded, which is 21% less than last year and 1% less than last month.

"Those who took advantage of the lower interest rates in 2020 and 2021 are also less likely to refinance at current rates, and with property sales going down, this results in a more pronounced decline in the number of mortgages recorded," Register O'Donnell said. "For individuals who are struggling to keep up with payments now, refinancing at a higher interest rate is not going to help, which is one factor contributing to the increase in notices to foreclose and foreclosure deeds. Also, many potential sellers who would need to borrow to purchase a new property have elected not to sell given the higher interest rates."

"We cannot begin to know all the causes that have contributed to these foreclosures and notices to foreclose, but what we do know is that a number of our neighbors have lost their homes, and even more are dangerously close to losing their homes," Register O'Donnell said. "We all experience unforeseen events in our lives, and sometimes events beyond our control can have devastating emotional and financial effects, so I would urge anyone struggling to pay their mortgage or who knows someone who is struggling to contact one of the non-profit organizations listed on our website, www.norfolkdeeds.org."

For the past several years, the Norfolk County Registry

of Deeds has partnered 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.

"While current market conditions may be frustrating to some, especially for first-time homebuyers, Norfolk County has shown a high level of resilience this month and saw some positive market indicators despite the challenges faced in the housing market," Register O'Donnell concluded. "We will continue to track these market trends as we move further into the fall season."

To learn more about Registry of Deeds' events and initiatives, like them on Facebook® at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds, follow on Twitter® at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds, and Instagram® at 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, and 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 at 781-461-6101 or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

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Real Estate Corner

Norfolk Registry of Deeds 2023 Holiday Food Drive through December 14

The cost of living has become increasingly challenging for many individuals and families across Norfolk County, making it difficult to afford basic necessities, such as food, which can be especially difficult during the holiday season when the pressure to provide for loved ones is heightened. Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell is asking people to take a moment to contribute to the Annual Registry of Deeds Food Drive, that started starting Tuesday November 14 and runs through Thursday December 14.

"There is no doubt that Norfolk County is a desirable place to live and to work," Register O'Donnell said. "However, there are people throughout the county who are truly hurting. This year, we, as a community, have seen a rising demand for food assistance, and it is crucial that we come together to support those in need. By participating in the Annual Registry of Deeds Food Drive, we can make a significant impact this holiday season."

Today, according to the latest Project Bread statistics, 18.8% of households in Massachusetts are considered food insecure. Furthermore, 21.9% of children in the state are also considered food insecure. The increasing cost of housing and food are likely factors that contribute to

the rising rates of food insecurity.

"As the holidays approach, there is definitely a need for more food assistance," Register O'Donnell noted. "Household expenses are higher due to the cost of home heating fuel, food bills, and increased interest rates. Some Norfolk County families are hit harder by these increased costs and worry about putting food on the table this holiday season. So, let us be mindful during this holiday season that others may need our help."

Non-perishable food items can be brought directly to the Registry of Deeds, which is located at 649 High St., in Dedham. A donation bin will be set-up in the Registry's lobby and food can be dropped off Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Suggested donations include canned goods, breakfast cereals, pasta, sauces, toiletries, and paper products.

"We (Interfaith Social Services) are experiencing a 30% increase in the demand for food assistance which is the highest it has been in our 53 years of operation," Executive Director for Quincy Interfaith Social Services Rick Doane said. "We would be extremely grateful for any assistance that the local community could provide."

If you can't get to the Registry of Deeds building to drop off

food, you can check the Registry website at www.norfolkdeeds.org for a pantry location in your community.

"Working together, we can truly make a huge difference this holiday season," Register O'Donnell concluded. "By supporting each other and being mindful of those in need we can help those struggling with food insecurity, because no one should go hungry, especially during this time of year. I ask that we all embrace the true meaning of the holidays by showing compassion and generosity towards all."

To learn more about Registry of Deed's events and initiatives, like them on Facebook® at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow on Twitter® at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram® at 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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Real Estate Corner

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds 2023 Toys for Tots Drive

Believing that the true spirit of the holidays lies in giving rather than receiving, Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell is sponsoring the Registry's 16th Annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots drive.

"The Registry of Deeds is proud to partner with the United States Marine Corps Reserve to help deliver a happy Christmas to children this holiday season," Register O'Donnell said. "This act of kindness can help spread joy and make a positive impact on those in need. Those engaging in this selfless act can know that they are part of what makes this time of year so special and hopefully inspire others to do the same."

Donations of new toys and games for toddlers and children up to age 10 can be brought directly to the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds building, 649 High St. in Dedham, through

Friday, December 8, 10 a.m. A marked donation bin will be set up in the lobby, which is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

"The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve plays a vital role in ensuring that donated toys reach children in need during the holiday season," Register O'Donnell said. "Their dedication and commitment to the goal of making sure no child goes without a present on Christmas is truly commendable. We thank the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and all our military personnel for their dedication and service to our country."

This year marks the 76th anniversary of Toys for Tots. The program was established in 1947 when the wife



of a Marine major wanted to donate a Raggedy Ann doll

to attorneys, and members of the general public. Because no family should have to struggle to

for Christmas but couldn't find an organization to accept it. Since then, the national program has delivered over 652 million toys.

"Every holiday season, the Registry witnesses firsthand the many acts of kindness and Christmas spirit as numerous people drop off gifts for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots drive," Register O'Donnell said. "It's truly wonderful to see so many people dropping off gifts, from Registry employees, to title examiners,

enjoy their holiday season."

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program's mission is to help less fortunate children experience the joy and happiness associated with Christmas. The program operates in more than 800 cities and towns throughout all 50 states.

"We can't possibly do this without the support of the local community, and seeing people come out to donate means everything," Staff Sgt. Andrew Fetrow, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines said. "By doing an event like this, you get to witness the best side of people and know that these donations are going to give children, who might not otherwise have had the opportunity, a happy Christmas."

Since 2007, the Registry of Deeds has collected over 1,600 toy donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.



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