

## The Front Pages of 2023

By MICHELE TARANTO

### JANUARY It's A Winter Trifecta: Flu, Covid, & RSV

Covid, flu, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) season is coming on strong. Covid has been around for two years, and it's likely everyone knows someone who has been stricken, but you can catch it again and it can carry a punch! This year's flu season promises to be a potent one, starting months before we see numbers on it. RSV has been with us always but is hitting children and adults particularly hard this year.

Diane Hillery, Norwood's Public Health Nurse, said she's seen an uptick of Covid and flu numbers for the past month and a half. When asked what the difference between the two illness is, she explained they both share symptoms of fever, cough, and runny nose, among others. If you wonder which you have, "testing will tell you." Hillery credits the vaccinations and boosters with preventing hospitalizations.

"People who don't (get inoculated) could end up in the hospital," Hillery noted. "It's

not too late if you haven't gotten your shots yet."

It takes two weeks for them to protect your body, but even if you do contract the flu or Covid during this time, the symptoms will be less severe. Hillery can give these shots in the office, or go to a homebound resident.

RSV, she explained, affects the young and the elderly. To help a child who has RSV, you can suction the mucus to clear the airways, use chest therapy, which often means holding them upright and thumping their chest, and make sure they keep up their intake of fluids.

### FEBRUARY Community Milk Depot Opens in Norwood

In 1986, a baby boy was born prematurely in Chicago. His mother was sent home and he remained behind in the NICU, but he was fed his mother's expressed milk via a bottle or feeding tube. The hospital was 25 miles away, so family members retrieved the milk and made the journey with the precious ounces. On one trip, traffic and parking made a particular uncle anxious. He

entered the hospital, frantic to make the delivery, but was banned from getting the elixir to the NICU. Parents only, he was told. Flustered, he blurted: "But- I'm the Milk Man!" and gained entrance. Mother's milk is often the best option, if possible, especially for babies who had difficult deliveries, are ill, premature, or for other reasons, not ready for formula.

With the shortage of formula, it's more important than ever for a new mother to give



breast feeding a try. But what if you can't breast feed? Enter the Mother's Milk Bank, which opened its doors December

**WRAP-UP**  
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## Hat's Off to Norwood's Generosity

By MICHELE TARANTO

With rising daily costs, it can be a difficult task to solicit donations, especially during the holiday

and in neighboring towns. The numbers were impressive this year with over 1,000 accessories collected requiring many trips to empty overfilled boxes, often with



season. Not in Norwood however. Even with economic challenges, the local community compassionately responded to the 8th Annual Women's Business Network of Norwood (WBN) Winter Accessory Drive. Through that generosity, many local neighbors again had presents under the tree and items to stay warm this winter.

In total, ten donation boxes were placed throughout Norwood

new and handmade clothing. The first week in December, all items were donated to the Norwood and Dedham communities through local organizations and churches: the Norwood Food Pantry, the WCC Thrift Shop, First Baptist Church (Blessings Boutique), First Congregational Church of Nor-

**ACCESSORY DRIVE**  
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WRAP-UP

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7, 2022, in Norwood. Mother's Milk Bank Northeast, is a donor milk depot at Reliable Maternity, located at 1504 Boston-Providence Turnpike, Suite 7B, Norwood. The nonprofit milk bank collects milk from mothers who have more supply than their babies need. The approved donors then drop their milk off at the local depot.

Milk donor screening, modeled after blood donor screening, includes health history, physician approval, and a blood test. No one is paid for donating the milk, there is no profit in this endeavor.

In 2006, Naomi Ball Young learned all she could about the importance of milk donation, and started the first Human Milk Bank of North America. The program was accredited in 2011 and follows all the rules of safety. The milk bank is not the only way to share excess milk. It's possible to donate privately, screened by the lactation /coach nurse she used herself.

How perfect to have resources that can benefit families looking to feed their babies, and it all starts right here in Norwood.

MARCH Flying Turtles at Norwood Airport

On January 24, 13 sea turtles received the benefit of Norwood's local airport when they were boarded onto a flight bound



sonal requirements, according to Wilson, all their personal needs were happily and successfully met.

Wilson has been a private pilot for 31 years and owns his plane

for New Jersey and Georgia. The rescued animals were transported by volunteer pilot Bryan Wilson through the Turtles Fly Too non-profit organization. The 12 Kemp ridleys and one loggerhead came from the New England Aquarium. Four of the Kemp ridleys and the loggerhead disembarked at the Essex County Airport in New Jersey, and the remaining eight Kemp ridleys finished the flight to Dekalb-Peachtree Airport, in Georgia. The entire carefully coordinated project took five hours from Norwood to Georgia.

The animals each had their own private seat safely tucked away in banana boxes or crates, and while silent with their per-

with three partners, all retirees interested in flying compassion flights for charity. They not only volunteer their time and aircraft, but also directly pay all expenses. According to Wilson, many airports and service centers will also waive airport fees and reduce fuel prices for these charity flights. Last year, 38 turtles caught a ride with Wilson who flew them to Orlando, Florida, to Sea World.

Wilson and his partners also volunteer for other organizations who could benefit from their generosity. For example, they have flown for Patient Airlift Services (PALS), Angel Flight, and Veterans Airlift Command.

It is estimated that more than 200 volunteer mission are flown

from Norwood Memorial Airport with volunteer pilots each year. In addition to Turtles Fly Too (www.turtlesflytoo.org), organizations served but not limited to include: Above the Clouds Kids (www.abovethecloudskids.org), Pals Sky Hop (www.palsflight.org), Angel Flight (www.angelflighteast.org), Pilots N Paws (www.pilotsnpaws.org), and STEM Aviation (www.stemflights.org).

APRIL Remembering Norwood's Icon

John Carroll will forever be an icon in Norwood history. For those new to the town, Carroll served as Town Manager for 39 years and retired at the age of 89. Although a resident of Dedham and Milton, Carroll's love and devotion to the Town of Norwood was evident, not only through his long tenure, but also his principle to make this town the best it could be.

The Norwood DPW administration building was honored in his name and there is even a whimsical lawn display in front of Town Hall. Throughout his lengthy occupancy, Carroll interacted with many town employees as well as residents and each could share countless memories of this hard working and dedicated employee.

"John Carroll was an extremely warm and compassionate human being as well as a great administrator," Norwood Board of Selectman Chairman William J. Plasko said. "John worked tirelessly to provide the best services possible to the residents of Norwood. He worked

nights and weekends to improve the town's social and cultural life. For example, he was a leader and heavily involved in the Concerts on the Common committee. His contributions to Norwood are truly unmatched."

"He told me the two things he enjoyed most about his job were working with people and 'the grind,'" Norwood Police Chief William Brooks said.

While he obviously loved the Town of Norwood, he was ready to turn over the torch should he be asked. But this town didn't let him go too easily.

"He once talked to me about his age and his tenure in Nor-



wood," Chief Brooks said. "He said that when he turned 75, he almost expected someone from the Board of Selectmen to hint that maybe he should think about retiring. He chuckled when he said, 'but no one said anything, so I just kept coming in.' And he was even more surprised when he turned 80 and the same thing happened, and then when he turned 85. He loved his job and was thrilled that no one had asked him to move along."

MAY Your Mailbox is not just for Mail on May 13

On Saturday, May 13, letter carriers will be picking up non-perishable food throughout Norwood neighborhoods as part of the 31st Annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This event is the largest one-day food drive in the country...and Norwood residents can be a part of this national campaign!

On this day, rain or shine, when Norwood residents leave marked bags of nonperishable food by their mailbox in the morning, mail carriers will pick

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**ACCESSORY DRIVE**

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wood, and the Allin Congregational Church, of Dedham.

In addition to thanking Norwood neighbors who generously donated gloves, mittens, scarfs and hats, WBN would also like to recognize the businesses who provided a donation location as well as the May School and the League School for decorating the festive bins: Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St., Norwood, Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood, Murph's Place, 58 Broadway, Norwood; May School/May Institute, 1 Commerce Way, Norwood; Modern Eyes, 696 Washington St., Norwood; League School, 300 Bos.-Prov. Hgwy., Walpole; Clean Remodel LLC, 50 River St., Dedham; Home Helpers Home Care, 609 Neponset St., Unit 1, Canton; Back in Balance Chiropractic, 59 Pond St., Suite A, Sharon; Passion Beauty Supply & Salon, 1257 River St., Hyde Park.

Each year, the fundraiser is held Nov. 1-30, but from the abundance of homemade items that were donated, it was clear many residents had busy hands throughout the year creating incredibly beautiful knitted pieces in preparation for the event. As in other years, the boxes were also plentiful with brand new items.

WBN was formed nine years ago and its participants include women who work or live in and around Norwood. Shadowing their tagline, Connect, Refer,



and Support, the members strive to support each other and their businesses through referrals, advice, consultations, networking connections, and sharing wis-

dom. Their chapter also consider it vitally important to give back to the community that supports their businesses throughout the year through civic service projects, such as the winter accessory drive.

Current WBN members include Michele Taranto, Suburban Lifestyle Real Estate; Kandi Finch, All Chores Considered; Wendy Aimola, New York Life Insurance Co.; Ellen Connors; Shamrock Home Loans, Kim Burke, Home Helpers; Catherine Good, Law Office of Catherine Becker Good; Maria Levin, Maria Levin PC; Mencia Quinonez, Clean Remodel, LLC; Alyssa Koulopoulos, Cross Insurance; Jillian Banks, Back in Balance Chiropractic; Cheryl Dukeman, Coast to Coast Closings; Christina G. Stetson, Modern Eyes;

WBN is currently accepting members. Only one representative per industry. For more information on WBN, email wbnofnorwood@gmail.com, or call 781-799-7068. You can also visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wbnnorwood.

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56 Elm St . . . . . \$520,000	132 Berwick Place . . . . . \$750,000
65 Churchill Dr . . . . . \$490,000	9 High Street . . . . . \$884,000
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5 Carpenter Street . . . . . \$625,000	315 Neponset U:45 . . . . . \$315,000
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# Mass Save

Norwood residents who heat with gas should consider looking into the energy efficiency program Mass Save. This program isn't just for homeowners; landlords and renters can find out if they qualify as well. Even small businesses may qualify for benefits. One of the biggest challenges for Norwood's Energy Advocate, Julie Barbour-Issa, is knowing there are homes and buildings that could be receiving assistance but do not, because they don't realize the program exists, let alone that they are eligible.

So what is Mass Save? Mass Save is the state's energy efficiency program. It is designed to assist all residents with energy efficiency, and low to moderate income households may qualify for even larger savings.. In Norwood, only those who heat with gas are eligible for Mass Save because the town has its own electric company, which also has a separate energy efficiency program.

If you look at your gas bill every month, you'll notice there's a section for service charges; in this section is a small amount of money that is collected every



month solely to fund the Mass Save program. This is the Energy Efficiency Surcharge. Barbour-Issa recommends residents using National Grid to look into Mass Save as they're already paying into it. "Why not utilize something that you're already paying for?" she asks.

When you sign up for Mass Save, you begin by having a NO COST Home Energy Assessment done. This assessment takes approximately 2 hours and is conducted by an energy specialist. This specialist comes into your home to see if you are in need of insulation, check out your existing heating and cooling systems and also provides you with energy saving devices.

Should you discover you are in need of insulation, you can receive a discount of 75%-100%,

# Town Services spotlight



depending on your income and household size. That's right; with Mass Save you could get your home insulated at next to no out-of-pocket costs. You can also qualify for \$10,000.00 or more worth of rebates on heat pumps or more energy-efficient home heating systems. As for the free energy saving devices, they vary but can include items such as new, programmable thermostats, high quality weather stripping, low-flow showerheads or advanced power strips.



Barbour-Issa is active in the community when it comes to advocating for folks to take advantage of what Mass Save has to offer. She visits various places, including the Senior Center, Farmer's Markets, the library, and even recently made a presentation to a local cub scouts troop.

In 2023, 460 Norwood residents opted for the Home Energy Assessment. Of those 460, 160 weatherized their homes, and 91 upgraded their heating or cooling systems. The hope is for that number to increase exponentially in 2024. For example, a family of 4 with an annual income lower than \$116,392 may qualify for no-cost insulation.

There are a number of variables when it comes to rebates and incentives for Mass Save. As

mentioned, income and household size play a large part, but so do the layout and age of the home. However, getting the assessment is key to saving money in the long run. Let's say your heating system is 20 years old-by getting a free assessment you're able to be proactive and

make necessary changes or upgrades before the entire system fails and you're required to spend a lot more out of pocket than you'd like to in order to have it completely replaced.

The town of Norwood has partnered with HomeWorks Energy for Home Energy Assessments. If you would like to book an assessment, please visit [hwe.works/Norwood](http://hwe.works/Norwood) or call 781-305-3319.

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*The Town of Norwood has partnered with HomeWorks Energy*

*Income-Qualified households and landlords may be eligible for additional incentives. See website for more details about these offers and eligibility.*

Our Community is a Mass Save® Community First Partner



WRAP-UP

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up the packages during their regular delivery routes and deliver them to the Norwood Ecumenical Food Pantry. All types of nonperishable food are welcome, including peanut butter, coffee, canned fruit, canned tomato sauces/paste, diced and whole tomatoes, canned meat and hash. The only requirement is that all cans and boxes must be new and in good condition.

Norwood is one of 10,000 cities and towns across America taking part in the Letter Carriers' Food Drive. The national effort began in 1992. Since then, letter carriers, represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers, postal employees, volunteers, and sponsoring organizations, have collected tens of millions of pounds of food to help those in need.

JUNE Making a Difference One Can at a Time

There is a man in Norwood, Bob Lieberman, who collects empty cans and bottles and brings them to the Walpole Redemption Center to redeem the deposits. He then donates all the money he collects to MAKE-A-WISH. So far, he has raised \$2,000! The first question I had for Lieberman was: "Why MAKE-A-WISH?" He explained he had wanted to do something for years involving children. He saw a program about MAKE-A-WISH. The broadcast showed "suffering beyond belief" in children, young children, "children who have had short lives," and thought about what he could do for them. "It means so much to the kids" to be given a free vacation from MAKE-A-WISH.

Why cans? Lieberman has worked on golf courses and knew they would be easy to collect from the numerous trash receptacles. He intended to collect 20,000 recyclables, which translates into \$1000, and he did. But now his goal has shifted to collect 100,000 cans! And he is well on his way;



40,000 is his latest count.

How does he do this? Lieberman is an early riser. He goes to the golf courses; he visits the recycling centers. And he counts each one, storing 200 in each plastic bag he brings to the Walpole Redemption Center. Sometimes he has 3,000 cans to bring, which is quite a lot of cans to fit into his car, but he does it.

Lieberman been retired for 20 years and plans his collections every day, and is astounded at what success he has met due to his desire and effort, and the generosity of others.

"If this article inspires anyone, MAKE-A-WISH would love to accept any donations, of any denomination, from people who would like to return their cans to the Walpole Redemption Center, like me," Lieberman said.

To donate directly, MAKE-A-Wish of MA and RI is located

at 133 Federal St., 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02110, or visit their website: <https://wish.org/massri>. If you are in Walpole and want to make a donation, visit the Walpole Redemption Center, 747 Main St. Tell them Bob and MAKE-A-WISH sent you!

JULY Ride Sally Ride

Norwood had never had a comfort dog. When the benefits of these animals were gaining popularity in police precincts, Norwood Chief of Police Brooks did not think Norwood was set up for this accompaniment to the force.

"When these dogs first hit the scene a few years ago, I remembered seeing a piece on TV about the dog in Franklin," Chief Brooks said. "They showed him kind of wandering the halls in and out of offices. The Franklin Police Dept. is a one-story building that's very open once you get inside. Our station, on the other hand, is a narrow three-story building with a lot of security doors and barriers, by design. I just didn't think the dog was a fit, based in part on that.

A tragedy that effected Norwood changed his mind.

"When Tyler Lawrence was murdered in Boston, police departments from the area, brought their comfort dogs to our middle school to help comfort the kids," Chief Brooks said. "Sometime after the comfort dogs visited the school, Officer Baguma brought forward a proposal that we rethink the issue of a comfort dog. I'm glad he did because having given it more thought I now see the great value in having one. Quite frankly, she is a bigger hit than I even imagined. Best I can tell, her job is to be calm and furry. But seriously, she will in-

teract with children, and in some cases adults and senior citizens. (She has already been to the senior center where she was also a big hit.) I believe, as the term



implies, she will be a comfort to people who may be in distress, particularly children in a school setting.

Early on, several of us suggested the name Sally," Chief

Brook explained on deciding on a name. "It's a pretty name for a pretty girl, and the mustang connection seemed natural. But we were committed to asking the children and the people of the town for input. And as it turns out, Sally was the clear front runner as we gathered input."

Norwood residents have welcomed Mustang Sally with open arms. She has an ice cream flavor named after her at Daddy's Dairy and her puppy cards almost sold out immediately, even with a double order!

"We believe that she was the pick of the litter," Officer Baguma said. "And also believe that she actually chose us in the end.

AUGUST Why Not?

The late great Doug Ross (1921-2012) of Norwood used to ask the same question, and by

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Muffin House Cafe advertisement with multiple locations (Medway, Hopkinton, Natick, Westwood, Walpole), contact info, and promotional offers like '10% off any cake' and 'Free Small Coffee'.

Water's Early Learning Center advertisement for Norwood Enrollment 2023, listing services like English, Math, Music, Art, and Faith Based, along with contact information and a hiring notice.



# BSAC PET CORNER

### Meet Oliver

Can you give Oliver a new home to start 2024?

Oliver (Ollie) is almost 7 and has a black nose. Oliver could probably live with other cats but we do not know his dog prefer-

back with his housemate Oliver. Both are stunning white and black shorthaired kitties. Earl was surrendered with a heart condition. After months of waiting for a cardiology appointment, he finally was seen at Angell.



ence as he has not been exposed to dogs.

Ollie is a lover, loves attention and will intervene if other cats are getting attention. Though this behavior will take a while to develop.

Oliver (Ollie) is shy with strangers but is a lover (he will usually hide when he hears a strange voice). However, once Ollie knows you, he will want to sit near you and cuddle.

Young children would be hard for Ollie to handle as he might be afraid of loud noises and quick movements. We think older children would be fine.

Up to date on all shots and I have all medical records.

### Earl update (still available for adoption)

For those of you following our pets, Earl was surrendered to us a few months

ago. It was great news! His exam, history, and echocardiogram were unremarkable. Which basically means, no advanced heart disease was noted and he is not in any cardiac distress at this time. His prognosis seems pretty



## BSAC 2024 Calendars Ready for Purchase!

Grab the 2024 Bay State Animal Cooperative calendar filled with precious memories of our adopted cats! Cost is \$18 for Norwood residents (personally delivered), or \$20 shipped outside of Norwood.

To order, visit [baystateanimals.org](http://baystateanimals.org), or send a check, made out to BSAC, P.O. 932, Norwood, MA 02062. Proceeds go towards food and medical care for BSAC cats. Thank you for your purchase!



good though he will remain on heart medication for maintenance and see a cardiologist every 6 months for check ups. Earl resides in an amazing foster home. He could always be adopted to that special person who would continue his heart health care. We realize that is a big ask and want our followers to know he's safe with us for his entire life.

Not able to adopt but want to help? Earl's medical care is expensive. The exam and echocardiogram cost us \$675. We expect this expense every 6 months. His medication is not crazy expensive but has to be available lifelong.


Over time Earls heart may require a lot more medical care so please consider any donation towards this guy's forever care!

We appreciate you and Earl

appreciates Bay State Animal Cooperative. Let's continue to work cooperatively for kitties just like Earl.

Happy New Year to you all!

## Here's To Another Year of Making an Impact!



What better way to ring in 2024 than buying a reusable \$3.00 Give Back Bag at our selected Star Market store? For every bag purchased this January, \$1 will be donated to our organization.

### Shop in Dedham? You Could also Support BSAC!

The Bay State Animal Cooperative (BSAC) has been selected for the Star Market GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag Program Non-profit partner! During the month of January, for every \$3 reusable bag purchased at the Dedham Star Market, (795 Providence Highway, Dedham), \$1 will be donated to the BSAC.

[starmarket.2givelocal.com](http://starmarket.2givelocal.com) GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Reusable Bag Program



### Enjoy a Drink for Bay State!

Through the month of January, Yankee Spirits and Tito's vodka have committed to animal welfare, and more specifically, supporting the Bay State Animal Cooperative (BSAC).

For every purchase of Tito's 750ml, 1L, or 1.75L, at Yankee Spirits (943 Providence Highway, Rte. 1), Tito's will donate \$1 to four local charities, including BSAC.

The holidays may be over, but celebrate 2024 in style for animals!

[www.baystateanimals.org](http://www.baystateanimals.org)



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[www.instagram.com/baystateanimals16](http://www.instagram.com/baystateanimals16)



**WRAP-UP**

*continued from page 5*

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.

It was in his later years he formed the “Why Nots.” The “Why Nots” consisted of Doug and some old friends. He would make a few calls 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 Why Not idea.

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

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.

“The police chief at the time wanted nothing to do with him,” Rano recalled. “But Chief Brooks listened, and the cruisers are still backed into their spots to this 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 VFW, local 5390 to be exact. As a gardener, I could not help but notice the grounds were an eyesore. 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. 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.

**SEPTEMBER  
Oh, What A Day!**

The most wonderful time of the year? Here in Norwood, some may argue it is not December, but early September, and more specifically, Sept. 9, as that is NORWOOD DAY! It’s a day that brings the Town together with the biggest, best block party around!

This annual celebration connects businesses, organizations, and family and friends to share information, goods, and services, but just as importantly, celebrates and commends this wonderful town.

The streets are filled with people enjoying live entertainment, games, kiddie rides, crafters, food bites from local restaurants, sidewalk sales, and tables and booths of businesses and non-profit groups, and town department displays. Approximately 160 booths are currently scheduled, which is up from 150 from last year.

The very popular beer garden will be back, with beverages served by Castle Island Brewery. There will be a few local food vendors around the beer garden; OCC, One Bistro and Smokehouse BBQ.

The entire communal party

will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and for a great bargain of only \$3 (prior to event) for a



Norwood Day button (\$5 the day of the event), entrance and participation is free to almost all events. Buttons can be purchased at the Civic Center, Town Hall, Morrill Memorial Library and the Senior Center. Buttons can also be purchased at the informational booths on the day of the big event. The theme of the Norwood Button this year is to celebrate the life of John Carroll.

According Superintendent of Recreation John Kinney, Norwood Day still remains completely self sufficient. All expenditures are satisfied by corporation donations, sponsorships, and the sale of Norwood Day buttons. Norwood Day would also not be possible without the countless volunteers who donate their time for months planning the event and throughout the day giving directions, selling buttons, and ensuring a smooth schedule for all.

Norwood Day attracts approximately 13,000-15,000 visitors. Many are from Norwood,

but word has gotten out about the grand festival and residents from surrounding communities cannot resist supporting Norwood and joining in on the fun!

**OCTOBER  
The Norwood Craft Affair Returns for its 29th Year!**

How popular is The Craft Affair in Norwood? Now in its 29th year, this highly visited fair’s vendor list was almost filled in July! As in most Norwood celebrations, this town springs for spectacular, and The Craft Affair of Norwood does not disappoint. This day brings together crafters and craft enthusiasts for one of the largest fall shopping experiences in the area!

Every October, the town of Norwood hosts this favorite fall shopping escape for crafting fans. The ‘Affair’ has grown to include approximately 80 crafters who travel to Norwood from all over New England to showcase their creative wares. The vendor list is so impressive, and includes: sewn,

crocheted, and knitted pieces, there will be chocolate and honey, items for pets, jewelry, holiday decor, wreaths, stained glass, jams and jellies, mirrors, paintings, 3-tiered plates, bags, scarves, soap, wooden toys, painted glass, quilts, ornaments, hats and mittens, cards, plastic canvas, hand towels, hair bows, hen houses, ceramics, puzzle lights, decoupage plates and doll clothes, and much more! The huge assortments of raffles are always a popular corner with chances to win many handmade items, gift certificates, and everyone’s favorite, Mustang memorabilia!

This event, however, means a lot more than just a fun and successful shopping day. In addition to hosting one of the premier craft venues in the state, it is a very successful fundraiser for Norwood High School and local Norwood organizations.

**WRAP UP**  
*continued on page 8*





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**WRAP-UP**

*continued from page 7*

While a large amount of the proceeds goes towards the Post Prom Party, any Norwood group or team that has students helping at the craft fair is eligible to apply for funds for their club from the day's profits. Past organizations have included, Norwood sports teams, the drama club, cheerleaders, SAAD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and the fine arts department after school programs.

What is considered one of the leading craft fairs in the area, 'A Craft Affair' at Norwood, sees roughly 1,000 customers walk through the door. With that kind of popularity, the craft fair is considered the largest Norwood High School fundraiser.

**NOVEMBER  
Kick-Off the Holidays at Tree Lighting!**

The perfect four-day weekend. It starts with a grand Thanksgiving meal, followed by a day of bargain hunting, holiday decorating, and of course, those delicious leftovers. Saturday is the time to support and patronize local businesses and take in lunch or dinner on Small Business Saturday. What could possibly top that? How about closing out the weekend with a community kick-off of the holiday season on Sunday,

Nov. 26 with the Norwood Tree Lighting Celebration!

This day/weekend may be considered the calm before the storm. A time to celebrate the holiday season with family and friends before the Christmas bustle begins. In true Norwood form, the town goes all out hosting a free breathtaking afternoon festival that has become a favorite holiday tradition. The fun-filled family event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 26, 1:30-4 p.m., on the Town Common and the Norwood Civic Center. The celebration includes a reindeer dash, horse-drawn hayrides, festive entertainment, holiday readings,



face painting, ornament decorating, barnyard animals, a parade, and choir music. The afternoon

concludes when Santa and Mrs. Clause make their dramatic entrance and light up the Norwood Town Common!

Norwood residents would agree that no town unites like Norwood, and this year's holiday celebration is a great opportunity to connect with friends and neighbors and kick off the holiday season!

**DECEMBER  
Remember, Honor, Teach**

Wreaths Across America began in the eyes of a 12-year-old paper boy who visited the Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In 1992, the boy, Morrill Worcester, now an adult and the owner of Worcester Wreath, thought back to that memorable scene at America's cemetery, and made arrangements to place a surplus of wreaths in an older section of the graveyard. 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, 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.



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 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. In addition to Norwood Veterans Director Ted Mulvehill and other guest speakers, the name of each local veteran will be read aloud.

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](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).

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# A Little Off The Top

BY STUART GREEN

A game-change to ‘Stang?’

“Alright, the Mascot Up in a Storm Committee will come to order, place their orders, and order their places. As is well known by all – even those who follow social media – the mascot is a very controversial subject by the citizens of our great region, our great nation, and our grate potatoes.

“Which brings us to tonight’s subject – that and a noun-verb placement: Is the Mustang a proper mascot for the municipal masses? We have several candidates who will speak on the subject, followed by arguments, discussion, and cookies.

“First, I’d like to introduce the first candidate who needs no introduction, so I guess I won’t be introducing him after all – Mr. Mustang.”

“Thanks for recognizing me, although it would be hard not to recognize me what with these reins and harness. I just want to say one word in my defense: Tradition. I’ve been the Norwood High School symbol since I was a pony to a thoroughbred – with just a spot of butter.

“I’ve loyally stayed with our school while some of my cousins moved on to bigger stables, which weren’t very stable. One family finally fell forward and flopped – right into the Kentucky Derby,

which led to Kentucky Bourbon and even Tennessee Moonshine. But that’s a color of a different horse.

“In conclusion, I just want to say: Mustang is a Must.”

“Thanks to our incumbent. Now we’d like to hear from some other candidates who will be heard, considered – and routinely dismissed as unworthy. Anyhow, in short order, welcome Bobby Beaver.”

“That’s Chuckie Woodchuck, Mr. Chairman.”

“Same thing. Mr. Woodchuck, you have the floor. And when you’re done, the broom’s in the closet.”

“Well, thanks. I just have one point to make, maybe two. No more than 27, for sure. Anyhow, everyone loves the “woodchuck would chuck” ditty, so we’d be unique at games, if not downright distinctive and tidy.

“But my main point – and I knew I’d get to it eventually – would be the cheer: “Let’s Go, Nor-Wood-Chucks! It’s a natural.”

“Thank-you, Chuckster! Next up, we have Leo Lion.”

“Yo, committee. You’ll be voting for me and the Lions. That’s the end of this discussion. I do tend to get my way, you see. The new motto for our Mane Men: Let’s Rumble with the Kings of the Jungle.”


“Um, we’ll take it into every consideration... considering. And our last candidate is Rocky Rock – who, we understand, is Boulder than the average mascot. Mr. Rock, let’s Roll.”

“Ah, could you speak up, Mr. Rock?”

“Well, thanks anyway. We didn’t want to leave any stone unturned.

“And those are our candidates. Before we break to vote, I’d just like to say that there’s no need to vote. Mustang mania continues! Everyone now: Don’t change horses in the middle of the team...”

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# Tis the season!



The Cleveland Elementary School had a special guest in December at their "Holidays at the Cleveland" celebration. SRO Baguma and Mustang Sally were on hand to do a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" for the students and parents. It was a great time for all those who attended. Thanks Principal Kerry Hutchins for making the event possible!

# Giving Back

In the true spirit of the holidays and giving back to the community, the Norwood Woman's Club made numerous donations to support local organizations.

### Donation to Norwood Senior Center

Last month, the Norwood Women's Group gave a generous donation to the Norwood Senior Center.

### Norwood Food Pantry

The Norwood Woman's Club made another generous donation in November to the Norwood Food Pantry.

Pictured left to right: Phyllis Spiro, President of the Norwood Woman's Club, Sue Medinaceli, and Cindy Daft of the Norwood Food Pantry

### Veteran's Affairs

Representing the Norwood Woman's Club, President Phyllis Spiro, made a donation in November in honor of Veteran's Day, to Ted Mulvehill head of the Town of Norwood's Veteran's Affairs.



Pictured left to right: Martha Colamaria, Norwood Senior Center Executive Director Kerri McCarthy, Phyllis Spiro, Betty Mastandrea



Norwood Police Honor Guard joined law enforcement from around the state and country to honor and pay respects to Waltham Police Officer Paul Tracey Dec. 16, as he was laid to rest.

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# Norwood has an FBI National Academy Graduate!

Congratulations to NPD Deputy Chief Chris Padden on his graduation from the FBI National Academy Session 288 last month. Deputy Chief Padden completed 11 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training at Quantico, VA. Congratulations on the accomplishment Deputy!

One-hundred and ninety-eight law enforcement officers graduated December 7th from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The 288th session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 45 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 24 countries, four military organizations, and six federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the Na-

tional Academy offers 11 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

FBI Director Christopher Asher Wray delivered remarks at the ceremony. Class spokesperson Woodrow Hawkins, from the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Police, Agency Village, South Dakota, represented the graduating officers.

FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other staff with advanced degrees provide the training; many instructors are recognized internationally in their fields. Since 1972, Na-



tional Academy students have been able to earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia, which accredits all the National Academy courses offered.

A total of 54,763 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy since it began in 1935. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, the same facility where the FBI trains its new special agents and intelligence analysts.



# Senior Corner

By MICHELE TARANTO

For anyone who has not visited or utilized the Norwood Council on Aging Senior Center, it is a must visit in 2024. Their services are available to anyone over 60 years old; and oh, what services they offer! The list is long, but just a few examples include exercise, social hours, a lunch program, trips, transportation, and many other topics related to living as a senior citizen.

There is no charge to attend the Center and you don't have to live in Norwood to visit or enjoy its services, however, Norwood residents do receive local preference and accessibility to ride the senior bus.

Their three core responsibilities are:

To identify the needs of older adults along with the available resources within the community.

To educate the community at large on the problems of aging and the needs of its older adults.

To design and promote services that are needed to serve older adults. To serve as advocates and enhance the lives of older adults in our community.

The Norwood Council on Aging offers many legal and financial advisories, recreational opportunities, medical screenings, many other services.

For more information on the Norwood Senior Center or Council on Aging, call 781-762-1201, or visit the Center at 275 Prospect St., Norwood. Don't let another year go by without checking out this fabulous resource.

Thinking of Visiting Ireland?

The Norwood Senior Center is hoping to plan a trip and is holding an information session on Monday, January 29, 1-2 p.m., with Collette Tours. For more information, contact Nanci 781-762-1201, x4.

### Norwood Memory Café

The Norwood Memory Café is held the third Thursday of each month. The next session is Thursday, January 18, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Entertainment by Senior Moments. The Norwood Memory Café is a monthly social gathering with caregivers and

their loved ones who are living with memory changes. For more information, contact Jean Cotton, MS, Gerontology, C.D.P. at Je7cot@msn.com, or call: 781-762-1611.

### Self Help Fuel Assistance

Applications for fuel assistance are accepted through April 30, 2024, but the sooner you apply, the sooner help will arrive. For more information, qualification guidelines, or complete an application, call Kathleen at the Norwood Senior Center at 781-762-1201, x3.

### Tried Listening to a Podcast

Have you ever listened to a podcast? Podcasts are online audio recordings, similar to a radio show, except it is available to listen to anytime. Remember the days being tied down to a specific time to listen to something on the radio or watch a program on tv? With a podcast, you can listen at your convenience from your phone, tablet or computer. And the best part? Well, two best parts! They are free, and there are podcasts about almost everything: news, sports, comedy, health and so much more!

Kathleen from the Norwood Senior Center has compiled a sampling of interesting podcast titles: This American Life - These are true stories that unfold like little movies for radio' The Bill Simmons Podcast - Bill Simmons breaks down all things sports; Camp Codger - Three retired guys sharing their rocking chair wisdom; Criminal - Stories of people who have done wrong or been wronged; The Daily - Breaks down the biggest or most interesting news story of the day; Excuse My Grandma - Hosts talk about generational differences on relationships; Living to 100 Club - This is an exciting take on getting older; The Moth - This compelling storytelling podcast is made up of true stories; The Perfect Scam - AARP's weekly podcast telling stories of people targeted by scams; ReIMagine Aging - tells the story of the age-and dementia friendly movement in MA.; A Rosary Companion - You can pray the rosary along with the Host; My Generation, sponsored by SS Senior News - Healthy aging, nostalgia and retirement; Stuff you Missed in

History Class - Talks about historical figures and events; Ted Talks Daily - The latest talks by the world's leading thinkers and creators; You Must Remember This - Stories of the forgotten days of Old Hollywood; 70 over 70 - Interviews with 70 fascinating people over the age of 70.

Most cell phones have a podcast app pre-loaded that you can click on and get started, Google 'podcast,' or, if you are an Amazon member, you can access podcasts from that resource.

### Drop-In Technology Help

Need help learning or keeping up with the latest technology? The staff from the Morrill Memorial Library is at the Senior Center two Friday's a month, 10:30 a.m.-noon. They could even provide help with podcasts! For more information, call the Center at 781-762-1201, x3.

Jan. 19

### Monthly Council on Aging Ballroom Dance

Norwood Senior Center, 275

Prospect St.  
7-10 p.m.

Music will be provided by the D B Band. Cost is \$12 per person, and coffee, tea, and desserts, will be served. There are also door prizes. Newcomers of all

ages are welcome,

To stay updated on the Council on Aging and their events, follow their Facebook page: Friends Of The Norwood Council On Aging | Facebook

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# Living Healthy

## National Glaucoma Awareness Month: Understanding the Silent Thief of Sight

By GRAHAM R. STETSON, OD, MS

Imagine a high-quality camera, a powerful computer, and a USB cable that is damaged. How well do you think the pictures from your camera are going to transfer to the computer? Similarly, glaucoma is a condition where there is damage to your optic nerve (USB cable connecting your eye/camera to the rest of your brain/computer) because the pressure in your eye is higher than is healthy.

You might think that you would notice if your eye pressure is too high or if you are losing vision, but high eye pressure is undetectable without an eye exam.

The loss of vision is also something that you won't notice until that loss is significant. This is because vision loss caused by glaucoma is slow and occurs first in the area where the vision of the two eyes overlaps.

The good news is that glaucoma is a very manageable condition. With appropriate treatment

and monitoring, your vision can be maintained essentially indefinitely.

There are a few things that you can do to ensure early detection of glaucoma:

1. Have your eyes examined regularly: Even if your eyes seem fine, it's essential to visit your eye doctor regularly. Those over 65 should be examined annually, and those from 18 to 65 without ocular disease or risk factors, every two years is acceptable.

2. Get informed: If you don't understand something about our eyes, it's okay to ask questions. Eyes are very complicated, so I take time to educate my patients. Your doctor is there to help, and the more you know, the better you can take care of our eyes.

3. Family Matters: Sometimes, glaucoma can run in families. If someone in your family has it, your chance of getting it may be a bit higher. Don't worry – regular check-ups can catch it early and help keep your eyes healthy.

4. Relax: Stress can affect our



eyes, and even raise our eye pressures, so it's good to find ways to de-stress. Mindfulness meditation has been shown to be particularly effective.

Remember, our eyes are like an amazing camera providing an irreplaceable link to our world.

Taking care of them means we get to see everything life has to offer. So, let's be eye-wise and keep that vital connection in top shape!

For more advice or to schedule a comprehensive eye exam, call 781-352-4849 or come see

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# Living Healthy

## Cheers to Health in 2024!!!!

I like to think that Health is a lifestyle of good, healthy habits and choices that help one achieve their goals. That should include surrounding yourself with like minded people and loved ones that support your goals as well as taking the action steps that help you achieve and maintain your goals. To truly achieve health and mental clarity the signaling from your brain to your body must be working at 100% of your genetic potential. Any interference in your Nerve system can change this signaling and your function begins to decline. Interference can be caused by trauma, processed food, pesticides, household chemicals, pathogens (viruses, bacteria etc.) food preservatives and dyes and many more. Over time symptoms may appear. This is when NIS shines. Neurological Integrative systems turns the signaling back on between the brain and the body improving function and healing.



Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

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# “Wonka”

By BOB GARVER

A bit of autobiography here at the start: I grew up a stone’s throw from Hershey, Pennsylvania and my current full-time employment comes from Hershey’s Chocolate World in Times Square. Chocolate, its production, and its sales are all a major part of my identity. So, I view media related to Roald Dahl’s 1964 children’s book “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” through a different lens than most. For example, the first time I saw 1971’s “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory” at the age of six, I wondered why the whole world would lose its mind over a contest where the prize was a visit to a chocolate factory. I lived a mere ten minutes from a chocolate factory, and even at that young age, the tour had gotten boring for me. Eventually, I learned that the factory of the movie was a gorgeous and twisted place, and then I was able to enjoy the ride (with the possible exception of the nightmarish actual “ride”), but it took about half the movie for my disbelief to be suspended.

All of this is to say that I went into “Wonka” with a high standard for how the chocolate would be portrayed. I wasn’t looking for accuracy, heck, I was just coming off an unreasonably crowded Saturday-in-December shift and needed a break from real chocolate. But I did need the chocolate to look good, to come off well so that people would leave the theater wanting more of it. The chocolate of the 1971 film looked absolutely scrumdiddlyumptious (a word that surprisingly passes my computer’s spell-check), but in the 2005 Tim Burton version, it looked distorted and inedible. Given those two extremes, it’s not shocking that the chocolate in “Wonka” falls somewhere in the middle, but given that it’s surrounded by an underwhelming movie, I wasn’t exactly in a hurry to return to work and use my employee discount.

The movie follows young Willy Wonka (Timothée Chalamet) as he seeks to open his first chocolate shop. Standing in his way are the “Chocolate Car-

tel” of no-good rivals Slugworth (Paterson Joseph); Fickelgruber (Mathew Baynton); and Prodnose (Matt Lucas), an on-the-take police chief (Keegan-Michael Key), and his indentured servitude to a pair of laundromat owners (Tom Davis and Olivia Colman). But he has help from his fellow “scrubbers” (Jim Carter, Natasha Rothwell, Rakhee Thakkar, Rich Fulcher, and breakout Calah Lane), and the lasting wisdom of his late mother (Sally Hawkins). He’s initially antagonized by a thieving Oompa-Loompa (Hugh Grant) but we know that the two will eventually end up allies and that Wonka will bring in all of Oompa-Loompaland to work in his factory in an arrangement that future adaptations will no doubt overcompensate to make clear is not slavery.

Wonka himself is both a spectacularly great and terrible businessman. He’s pitifully naïve and bad at managing a budget, yet effortlessly charming as a salesman and knows chocolate so well that he can manufacture it seemingly by magic. The only time he ever has to worry about finding an ingredient is a sequence where he has to break into a zoo to get giraffe’s milk. And not only does the chocolate taste great, but it gives people superpowers like newfound self-confidence and the ability to fly. So yes, the chocolate comes off well, the movie has done its job there.

I can’t say “Wonka” does its job well in every department.



I’m still not sold on Chalamet as a leading man, especially compared to the brilliant Gene Wilder as the 1971 Wonka. This movie is so darn sweet that it lacks the naughtiness that made that version appealing. Grant is the only one who seems to be in the right spirit, and his performance is hampered by terrible CGI. And every one of the movie’s musical numbers is overproduced dreck, even the classic “Pure Imagination” is devoid of life. That said, it’s impossible to get too mad at a

movie like this, one that the family can all agree to see together during the holidays.

Grade: C

“Wonka” is rated PG for some violence, mild language and thematic elements. Its running time is 116 minutes.

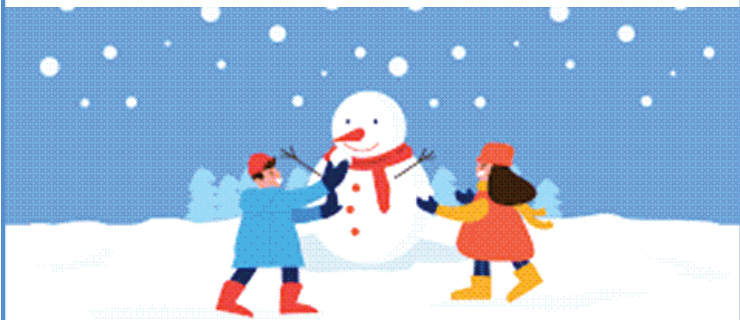
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Photo: IMDB

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# Norwood Sports

## Hsu Looking to Hit the 100 Win Mark

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Norwood's Nate Hsu got involved in wrestling when a friend of his, whose dad was a wrestling coach, coaxed him into joining the team some seven years ago. In addition to his friend continuously prodding him to join the sport, Hsu had an older brother (Ryan) who at the time was already wrestling. Ryan is now a junior, wrestling at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, and has helped his younger brother with his moves on the mat.

Being three years apart, Hsu now realizes how special it was to be able to wrestle for one season with his older brother representing Norwood.

"I didn't realize it at the time how lucky I was to be wrestling with him on the same team," Hsu said. "It didn't feel special at the time, but now I cherish that season with him."

Although he had already been wrestling with the Norwood varsity team during their practices for two years when he was in middle school, Hsu was able to find his way onto Coach Billy McDermott's varsity squad as a freshman.

"Wrestling with the high school while I was in the middle school was definitely tough, I was not ready for it at the time," Hsu said. "Luckily, I had my brother looking out for me."

According to McDermott, Hsu will be shooting for his 100th win on the mat for Norwood this season as a senior; something

that he most likely would have already accomplished if not for Covid interrupting his freshman campaign.

"Right now, he has 80 wins and will become the first kid under the current coaching administration to become a 100-win athlete," McDermott said. "If not for Covid, where he went 7-4, he'd already be above 100 wins. He is a very dedicated athlete and loves what he is doing. He has been awarded Most Improved and Unsung Hero for Norwood and is very fun to watch."

The senior noted that getting to 100 wins would surely be a huge accomplishment in his wrestling career with Norwood, but also noted that there have been a lot of good wrestlers to have gone through the program prior to his arriving that deserve more recognition than him. Being 20 wins away from eclipsing 100, Hsu believes that he should be able to get to the number about mid-season.

Hsu was also named a two-time captain for Norwood, as well as a two-time Sectional Champion. As a freshman, he was able to finish eighth in the State Tournament, the following year he moved up to fourth place, and last year was the runner up in the 145-pound weight class.

"Finishing as high as I did in the States as a freshman gave me a lot of confidence, but I wanted more, it just wasn't good enough for me," Hsu said. "I wrestled hard in the off seasons to get ready for the next season."



Hsu went on to say that although it was a big accomplishment to be wrestling in the State Championship meet last year, he was unprepared.

"Honestly, last year I was not ready for that," Hsu said. "Being on the biggest wrestling stage with a lot of people in attendance with all eyes on you was a bit intimidating."

Now that he knows what it is like to have all eyes on you and only you as you wrestle, he is ready to give it another shot. His main priority this season will be to get back to the States and earn his way to the Championship Meet once again, but this time forging out a different ending.

This past year he has been working with the Metro West Wrestling Club in hope of taking his game to the next level.

"Wrestling with Metro West has definitely helped me improve my game as I was going up against some very talented individuals," Hsu said. "I'm hoping that it will give me the necessary momentum to grab that State Championship this year."



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# Norwood Sports

## Wladkowski Taking her Basketball Talents to Endicott

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Trish Wladkowski has been playing basketball as long as she can remember. It all started with Norwood youth basketball, and if

Wladkowski had gotten to play the sport she loves with a lot of different players from different towns and states. The talent she gets to play against on the AAU stage

It was prior to her sophomore season when Wladkowski realized that she was going to need to up her game, especially if she wanted to play on the collegiate level. The now senior has committed to play basketball at Endicott

College in Beverly when her Norwood playing days are over. "My brother Robbie plays baseball there, so I have been there a bunch of times and started talking to the coach," Wladkowski said. "It's a surreal process and the entire team and coaching staff are awesome and can't wait to begin my journey there."

mentary player, but we asked her to step up and take the shots while becoming a focal part of our offense. This year, it should be much more of a natural thing. I know that she wants to share the ball and get everyone involved, undersized but will play a tough and gritty game.

As a junior, Wladkowski averaged 13.5 points per game while being the team's leading rebounder with an impressive 9 a game, and adding 3.5 steals a game as a forward.

"Defense is one of the most important parts of the game and Coach McDonnell focus' on that," Wladkowski said. "The whole team is relentless when it comes to defense. We're taught, see the ball, go for the ball. If I can do my part (steals) then it's all good for the team."

Wladkowski is hoping that the team can have an all-around year where they win the TVL and then make another deep run through the Division 2 State Tournament. During her sophomore campaign with the Mustangs under then coach Amy Quinn, they were the number one seed going into the tournament. Norwood won all four of its games to the State Championship Final by an average of 14 points. Unfortunately, they were upset by Oliver Ames in the title match.

"We may have lost the championship game that year, but it was the best experience ever," Wladkowski said. "I'm hoping that we can get back there again this year; we have a great group of girls, so it's entirely possible."



but I'm looking for her to take those shots instead."

McDonnell went on to say that Wladkowski does it all for the Mustangs; bringing the ball up court, while hitting those big threes, to battling down low with the bigs. She often finds herself

During her junior campaign, Wladkowski found herself as more of a shooter, something that she was unaccustomed to doing.

"It was very different as I had never been much of a shooter, never mind an outside shooter," Wladkowski said. "I am thankful that Coach (Kristen) McDonnell brought my game to an entirely new level. I can now catch and shoot the ball; as a freshman I never imagined this would be a possibility."

she wasn't on the court with her team, she could be found in the backyard shooting hoops with her brothers Robbie and Jay. Although she also enjoys playing goalie on the soccer field, basketball is her go-to sport.

"It's such a team-oriented sport that feeds off your teammates," Wladkoski said. "I'll play any position but point guard, it never fit with me. I'd prefer the forward positions, probably because of my size (Wladkowski is 5'10"); besides, I have the best point guard in Lauren Reen."

The senior forward has been playing with Reen since the duo were four years old. Who wouldn't want to play with Reen, who sends her friend the ball down low where she gets to enjoy the physical aspect of the game.

Having joined Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball at an early age (fifth grade), Wlad-

has given her the ability to step up her game.

Heading into high school, Wladkowski was just hoping to have a good tryout while doing her best to impress the Norwood coaches. Obviously, she did enough to earn herself a position on the varsity squad. Unfortunately, she didn't get to play all that many games due to Covid that season.

"It was definitely a weird experience," Wladkowski said. "I didn't get to play a lot of games and we had to wear masks and there was no one in the crowd. On the bright side, I did get more playing time than I had expected, which was awesome, but being named to the Tri-Valley League All-Star Team was something that I did not expect."

Being a TVL All-Star is something that Wladkowski would do each of her first three years on the court with the Mustangs.

Originally, it was a tough adjustment for Wladkowski, but her coach had faith in her ability.

"Trish is a great leader and last year she took on a very different role for us," the Norwood coach said. "She was a comple-

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# Calendar of Events



## Jan. 4

### 3 Body Qigong for Health & Healing Session 1 Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

David Sholemson of 3 Body Healing Arts will be teaching the attendees the practice of 3 Body Qigong. This form of Qigong helps to energize your body, mind and spirit. It has been known to reduce stress, depression, and negative emotions by improving the flow of energy in your body and quieting your mind. The class will be standing and seated as well as on the ground so please bring a mat. Movements can be adapted to be done in the chair. For ages 18+. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

## Jan. 5

### 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.

## Jan. 6

### 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.

## Jan. 8

### Monday Movie Matinee Morrill Memorial Library 1 p.m.

This is the launch of the Morrill Memorial Library's Monday Movie Matinee, which will run through May the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Today's feature is 'A Man Called Otto.' For the fans of Tom Hanks, see him portray a curmudgeonly old man. Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around. Based on Frederik Backman's best-selling novel A Man Called Ove. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

## Jan. 9

### 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 wb-

nofnorwood@gmail.com.  
**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/>.

## Jan. 11

### 3 Body Qigong for Health & Healing Session 2 Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

David Sholemson of 3 Body Healing Arts will be teaching the attendees the practice of 3 Body Qigong. This form of Qigong helps to energize your body, mind and spirit. It has been known to reduce stress, depression, and negative emotions by improving the flow of energy in your body and quieting your mind. The class will be standing and seated as well as on the ground so please bring a mat. Movements can be adapted to be done in the chair. For ages 18+. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

## Jan. 12

### 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.

## Jan. 13

### 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.

## Jan. 16

### Norwood Women's Club Food Pantry Drive Knights of Columbus Parking Lot, (572 Nichols St.) 10 a.m.-12 noon

The Norwood Women's club will be collecting the following items for their Food Pantry Drive: instant mashed potatoes (13oz), instant rice, tea (black, green or herbal), Coffee (instant, regular or decaf), jams/jellies, crackers (graham, Ritz, Townhouse, Triscuits, saltines), white albacore tuna or small canned chicken, pasta (ziti, penne, elbows, spaghetti etc.), pasta sauce (tomato, marinara, tomato basil etc.), oatmeal (small canisters- instant and old fashioned). Checks made out to the Norwood Food Pantry will also be accepted.

### Winter Take + Make Crafts Morrill Memorial Library 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Take + Makes are back! Sign up now to reserve a craft with all the pieces and instructions to create at home! Register each child for a craft. Crafts are available for pick-up beginning the Monday of each week. All crafts are designed for kids aged 3+ and may require adult supervision. Craft kits come with most supplies but glue, scissors, and crayons will need to be provided at home. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

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

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. Scores will be tallied over the course of the evening, but for bragging rights only. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

## Jan. 17

### Turn the Page Book Group-The Pull of the Stars Morrill Memorial Library 10 a.m.

The January selection is The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue. A novel set in 1918 Dublin offers a three-day look at a maternity ward during the height of the Great Flu pandemic. In an Ireland doubly ravaged by war and disease, Nurse Julia Power works at an understaffed hospital in the city center, where expectant mothers who have fallen sick are quarantined into a separate ward to keep the plague at bay. Into Julia's regimented world step two outsiders, a woman doctor who is a rumored Rebel, and a teenage girl, Bridie, procured by the nuns from their orphanage as an extra set of hands. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

### Turn the Page Book Group-The Pull of the Stars Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.

The January selection is The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue. A novel set in 1918 Dublin offers a three-day look at a maternity ward during the height of the Great Flu pandemic. In an Ireland doubly ravaged by war and disease, Nurse Julia Power works at an understaffed hospital in the city center, where expectant mothers who have fallen sick are quarantined into a separate ward to keep the plague at bay. Into Julia's regimented world step two outsiders, a woman doctor who is a rumored Rebel, and a teenage girl, Bridie, procured by the nuns from their orphanage as an extra set of hands. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

### Stormwater Management in Norwood Morrill Memorial Library 7 p.m.

The Morrill Memorial Library is partnering with the Town of Norwood and the Neponset River Watershed Association to offer a presentation about stormwater management in Norwood. Join NepRWA Green Infrastructure Specialist, Anna Yie; Norwood As-



**CALENDAR**

*continued from page 18*

sistant Director of Community Development, Holly Jones; and Stormwater Utility Committee member, Alan Slater, as they discuss the impacts of climate change on stormwater and the changes we can expect to see locally. This presentation will cover some ideas we have about how we can act *now* to be ready for what may prove to be a stormy future. Discussion will include designs for stormwater improvement projects at the Savage Center and Cleveland School, as well as Norwood's proposed stormwater utility fee. A Q&A will follow the presentation. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**Jan. 18**

**3 Body Qigong for Health & Healing Session 3  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6:30 p.m.**

David Sholemson of 3 Body Healing Arts will be teaching the attendees the practice of 3 Body Qigong. This form of Qigong helps to energize your body, mind and spirit. It has been known to reduce stress, depression, and negative emotions by improving the flow of energy in your body and quieting your mind. The class will be standing and seated as well as on the ground so please bring a mat. Movements can be adapted to be done in the chair. For ages 18+. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**Jan. 19**

**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.

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

Music will be provided by the

D B Band. Cost is \$12 per person, and coffee, tea, desserts, and water will be served. There are also door prizes. Newcomers of all ages are welcome,

To stay updated on the Council on Aging and their events, follow their Facebook page: Friends Of The Norwood Council On Aging | Facebook

**Jan. 20**

**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.

**Jan. 22**

**Winter Take + Make Crafts  
Morrill Memorial Library  
9 a.m.-9 p.m.**

Take + Makes are back! Sign up now to reserve a craft with all the pieces and instructions to create at home! Register each child for a craft. Crafts are available for pick-up beginning the Monday of each week. All crafts are designed for kids aged 3+ and may require adult supervision. Craft kits come with most supplies but glue, scissors, and crayons will need to be provided at home. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

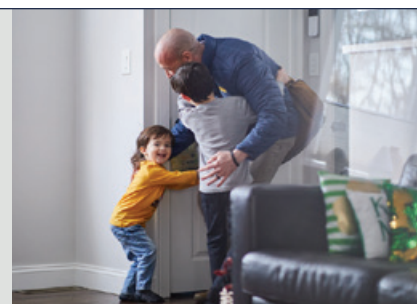
**Monday Movie Matinee  
1 p.m.**

Today's movie is 'Asteroid City.' For the fans of Wes Anderson, here comes a movie set in an American desert town in the mid-fifties, the Junior Stargazer Convention attracts stargazers of different ages. A group of students and their parents visit the town to attend the event. What follows is an unexpected exchange of ideas and experiences that lead to eye-opening revelations. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

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**Jan. 23**

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

**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/>.

**Jan. 25**

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

Morrill Memorial Library partners with the L.E.A.D. program affiliated with Norwood High School to host a Sensory-friendly Lego Club for Adults. Join the L.E.A.D. students in this creative 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 the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**3 Body Qigong for Health & Healing Session 4  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6:30 p.m.**

David Sholemson of 3 Body Healing Arts will be teaching the attendees the practice of 3 Body Qigong. This form of Qigong helps to energize your body, mind and spirit. It has been known to reduce stress, depression, and negative emotions by improving the flow of energy in your body and quieting your mind. The class will be standing and seated as well as on the ground so please bring a mat. Movements can be adapted to be done in the chair. For ages 18+. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**Jan. 26**

**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.

**Jan. 27**

**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.

**Jan. 29**

**Winter Take + Make Crafts  
Morrill Memorial Library  
9 a.m.-9 p.m.**

Take + Makes are back! Sign up now to reserve a craft with all the pieces and instructions to create at home! Register each child for a craft. Crafts are available for pick-up beginning the Monday of each week. All crafts are designed for kids aged 3+ and may require adult supervision. Craft kits come with most supplies but glue, scissors, and crayons will need to be provided at home. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

**The Byte Side of Life: The Wonders & Woes of AI w/ Clayton Cheever  
Morrill Memorial Library  
7 p.m.**

Ready for a tech-tastic experience? Embark on an exhilarating journey into the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI)! Join Library Director Clayton Cheever for a captivating exploration of the "byte side of life"--where we demystify the complexities, celebrate the wonders, and talk frankly about the risks of AI. This program promises insights, wonders, and a glimpse into the future. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.



# Real Estate Corner

## Norfolk County Shows High Resilience in Local Market

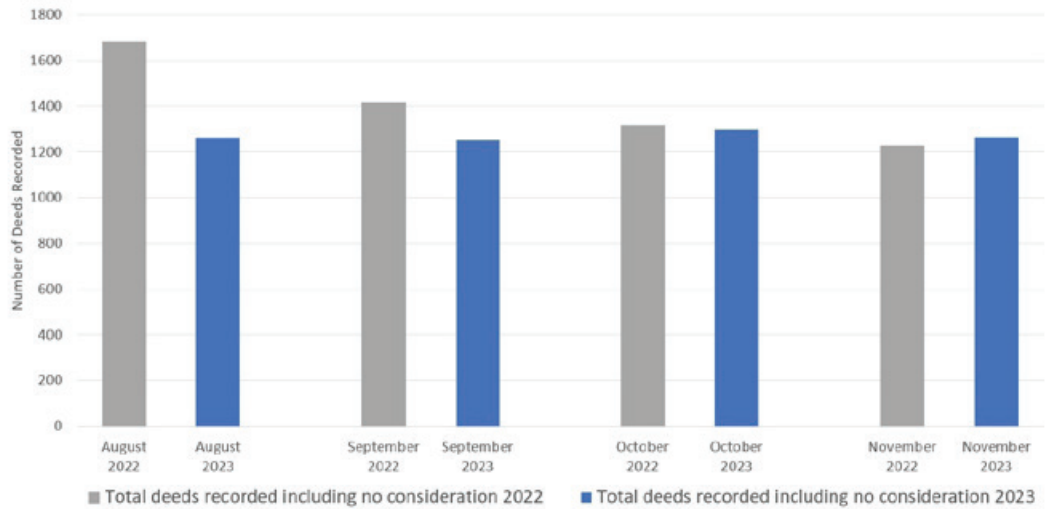
Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings for November, 2023, show indicators of less real estate activity. However, the one real estate activity that remained on a steady trend compared to November, 2022 recordings was an increase in the number of deeds recorded.

"Despite the challenges posed by limited inventory and higher interest rates, the Norfolk County housing market has

managed to maintain steady activity," Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell stated. "Notwithstanding a slight dip in the number of recordings this month, the housing market in Norfolk County remains resilient, with steady demand from buyers and stable property values."

The Registry of Deeds recorded 8,587 documents in November, 2023. This was 5% less than in November, 2022 and a 7% decrease compared to October, 2023.

Total Deeds Recorded Per Month  
August - November 2022 V.S. August - November 2023



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"Higher mortgage interest rates have an impact on the number of mortgages and deeds recorded at the Registry," Register O'Donnell said. "Higher interest rates affect seasoned homebuyers' eagerness to refinance, which means fewer mortgages. It also affects a homeowner's willingness to sell, which results in fewer homes on the market that can be bought. Higher interest rates also impact a buyer's ability to find a potential home within their budget."

The total number of deeds recorded for November, 2023, which reflects both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,266, up 3% from November, 2022 but down 3% from October.

"The slight increase in the total number of deeds this month compared to last year shows that despite difficult market condi-

tions and a housing market that has been slow for over a year, Norfolk County and its communities remains a desirable place to both live and work in," Register O'Donnell noted.

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties for November, 2023, was \$959,272, a 1% decrease compared to November, 2022, and a decrease of 1% from October, 2023. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 2% from last year but showed less than a 1% change from last month.

"For the second month in a row, prices have remained close compared to last year's property values, and compared to 2021, costs are down 36% and down 8% from 2020," Register O'Donnell stated. "While prices have come down compared to previous years, high interest rates,

relative to what they were in 2020 and 2021, make it difficult for homebuyers in general, but especially for first-time homebuyers looking to purchase property."

For the month of November, lending activity overall continued to decline from last year. A total of 1,175 mortgages were recorded, which is 13% less than last year but 1% more than last month.

"Those who locked in lower interest rates in 2020 and 2021 are less inclined to refinance at current mortgage interest rates, and buyers looking for new property may be hesitant to take on a new mortgage with average interest rates still above 7%," Register O'Donnell stated. "These are some of the factors that have resulted in decreased mortgage recordings."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds continues to closely monitor the foreclosure market. In November, 2023, there were five foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in November, 2022, there were four recorded. There were 27 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, which was less than the 30 recorded this month last year.

"These numbers suggest that a significant number of our neighbors are struggling, and more may have financial difficulties in the future," Register O'Donnell

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# Real Estate Corner

## New Life Furniture Bank of MA



conomic hardship that many families face, in many instances at no fault of their own.”

You can also donate household items and furniture directly to New Life. New Life accepts donations on Saturday mornings, 9:30-11 a.m., or by appointment. The New Life warehouse is located at the Walpole Station Business Center, 102 Elm St., Building S, rear of building. New Life can be reached at 774-316-6395 or by email at [info@newlifefb.org](mailto:info@newlifefb.org)



Please note while New Life accepts furniture, due to space limitations, the Registry of Deeds CAN NOT accept donations of furniture on behalf of New Life.

Further information about New Life can be obtained via their website, [www.newlifefb.org](http://www.newlifefb.org)

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell is pleased to announce an ongoing endorsement of the important work that New Life Furniture Bank of MA does. New Life is a non-profit that accepts gently used household items and furniture, warehouses them, and makes the items available at no cost to those in need.

rounding communities of Medfield,” Register O’Donnell said. “New Life began its existence on Sept 13, 2013. New Life grew out of the experiences founders had with Habitat for Humanity. Founders recognized the need for gently used household items and furniture.”

Notices to Foreclose Mortgages and Foreclosure Deeds, the eco-

“Due to the Registry’s role in recording land documents, we have seen, by the recording of

“New Life serves the sur-

### REAL ESTATE

*continued from page 20*

said. “We will continue to monitor these figures, and 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](http://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.

“The current housing market climate that the country is in has a ripple effect on several aspects of the local real estate market, impacting buyers, sellers, real estate agents, and others whose

livelihood is tied to the real estate sector of our economy,” Register O’Donnell concluded. “However, Norfolk County has shown a high level of resilience this month and saw some positive market indicators despite these challenges.”

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, “like” them on Facebook at [facebook.com/norfolkdeeds](https://facebook.com/norfolkdeeds). Follow on Twitter and Instagram at [@norfolkdeeds](https://twitter.com/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 accessible land record information. All land record research information can be found on the Registry’s website, [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://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](mailto:registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org).

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“Paul was extremely easy to work with. He was very knowledgeable about the area and about real estate in general. His demeanor was very relaxed but his response time was very quick. His pricing suggestion and other suggestions to prepare the house for sale were spot on, enabling us to get the offer we were looking for after just after just one day on the market. I would definitely recommend Paul to anyone who wants to sell their house.”

– Deborah C.

*Happy New Year!*

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# Real Estate Corner

## Register O'Donnell Wraps Up 16th Annual Toys for Tots Drive

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell and Registry Staff distributed donations from the Registry's 16th Annual Toys for Tots Drive to Cpl. Christopher Todd of Franklin, Lance Cpl. Madison Flynn of Foxborough, Pfc. Brayan

Quinche, and Pfc. Jeffery Manna, all with the 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, representing Toys for Tots, during a pickup event on Dec. 7.

With the help of the local community, business owners, and staff, the Registry of Deeds col-

lected nearly 100 gifts during the drive.

"I would like to thank everyone who generously donated to the Registry's 16th Annual Toys for Tots Drive," Register O'Donnell said. "We are grateful for the service of all veterans, past and present, and are, as always, honored to partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in their annual toy drive, which helps make the holiday brighter for so many."

Since 2007, the Registry of Deeds has collected over 1,700 toy donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

"It means everything, any time the local community can come out and help support Toys for Tots," Cpl. Christopher Todd said. "Each time we go to an event like this, it makes me happy to see that people donated what



they could and that these donations are going towards giving someone a happy Christmas."

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 for Christmas but couldn't find an organization to accept it.

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.

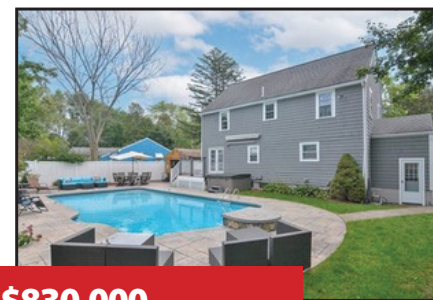
The program operates in more than 800 cities and towns throughout all 50 states. Since its start, the national program has delivered over 652 million toys.

Register O'Donnell expressed his gratitude for the generosity of county employees, title examiners, attorneys, and residents from across Norfolk County in contributing to this year's Toys for Tots Drive.



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bring you a change of address,  
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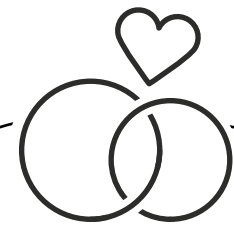
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