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February 2024

Riding into the Future

By BELLA CAGGIANO

The push for electric vehicles continues to be on the rise, however, two big questions erupt when considering converting from combustion engines: price and available current. With Norwood having their own electric company, it should come as no surprise the Town and its geographical location is able to assist residents in both areas.

In partnership with EN-EConserve, Norwood Light Broadband (NLB) have a developed a website called Norwood Drives Electric (www.norwood-driveselectric.com), an outreach program and a roadmap to purchasing and energizing an electric vehicle. This resource covers everything from information on the benefits of driving electric, available vehicle and charging rebates and incentives, as well as grants, a buying guide, charging basics, and the ins and outs of charging levels and the differences in home and commercial charging.

The Town of Norwood currently offers four public charging stations: the Norwood Post Office parking lot, the parking



Norwood Drives Electric

lot between Norwood Town Hall and Norwood Printing, the Norwood Airport on Access Rd., and at the Norwood Light Department, at 136 Access Rd. According to Norwood Light Broadband, the Town's four charging stations average approximately six sessions per day, which translates into a driver plugging in their vehicle. Over the past year, the stations have experienced a total of 2,350 sessions.

A second option for Norwood residents is to install a home charging station, which is the 'Bring Your Own Charger' program. There are 110 Norwood customers enrolled in this program and over the past year 33 rebates on newly purchased EV's as well as chargers have been given.

According to NLB, the Town's network can easily handle the voltage for EV charging stations, however, billing credits are given during off-peak home charging hours. Residents are encouraged to charge their vehicles overnight, but that encouragement is less about a strain on the system and more about costs. Daytime costs are a bigger expense to obtain the electricity.

Home charging is no doubt a big convenience, and while some lower level stations can be regulated to a regular outlet, that system runs the slowest charging time. There are three charging levels: Level 1, 120 volts, can utilize most outlets in

ELECTRIC
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Norwood Light: How it all Started

By MICHELE TARANTO

While Norwood residents would like to feel their ancestors' development of a municipal light system was groundbreaking, unfortunately, the town of Wellesley owns those rights as the first Massachusetts town-run lighting company with its implementation in 1894. Even so, Norwood was not far behind.

It has been 116 years since the Town of Norwood, and more specifically, the Norwood Municipal Light Department, began providing residential and commercial service. The local

electric company launched in August, 1907. It took two years and many meetings and votes to initiate this valuable and convenient benefit to Norwood's 6,000 residents.

The idea of a municipal light department was initiated in 1905 by attorney Harold Fales with his numerous letters to the Norwood Advertiser & Review advocating for an independent electric company. Discussions took place that same year at Town Meeting and Special

LIGHT
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ELECTRIC

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a home but is very slow; Level 2, 240 volts, is quicker, and would draw like an electric dryer and likely require a dedicated circuit; and Level 3, 400-920 volt-
age, is the most powerful and can charge most vehicles in under an hour.

A visit to the Norwood Drives Electric website should be at the top of the list when researching an electric vehicle purchase and/or home charging station. There are many rebates and grants available today for local residents.

In addition to electric vehicle incentives, the light department also manages a conservation fund for heat pumps, solar panels, and other home energy saving alternatives. For those residents who have gas heating, the program is very similar to Mass Save. For more information, visit www.norwood-light.com, click on Electric, then Energy Saving and Rebates.

Lastly, the town of Norwood is well known for many things, one

of which is the AutoMile. When considering an electric vehicle purchase, lack of nearby choices is not an option. There are several car dealerships along Rte. 1 offering electric vehicle sales as well as charging stations (Nor-



wood, Massachusetts EV Charging Stations Info | ChargeHub). A quick online search can get anyone connected quickly....or just take a ride through the infamous AutoMile!

With a Town-driven electric department, Norwood is in the perfect position to support and encourage energy-saving options to its residents. The only thing left, is education. For more information, visit the recommended websites or call Norwood Light Broadband at 781-948-1100.

LIGHT

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Town Meeting. A motion by milliner Walter Tilton (yes, the same man who donated the carillon bells and named the Walter F. Tilton Memorial Carillon authorized the construction and maintenance

department: Walter Tilton, and two committee members, John Gillooly, and James Berwick.

It took two years, for the Norwood Municipal Light Board to officially appear in the Annual Town Report for year ending January, 31, 1907. Engineer T. Russell Robinson was hired to oversee plan con-

service in the state, serving all or part of 50 communities. With the capabilities of additionally offering cable service, Norwood Light Electric & Broadband provides electric, high-speed internet, HD cable TV, and digital telephone to 15,000 homes and businesses in town.

It all started with an idea,



to manufacturer and/or distribute electricity throughout Town.

Town Meeting reaffirmed their vote after a committee report and the vote reaffirmed the proposal. Now what? The Town took out a \$25,000 loan (over 10 years) to construct a physical plant. Three citizens would overlook the project and

construction and installation of equipment, He was also instrumental in the recommendation of converting Norwood's street lights from gas and oil to electric as well as implementing independent circuit to prevent town-wide service interruptions. He also doubled the initial budget of \$25,000 to \$50,000 to build an adequate facility.

Just seven short months later, the Norwood Municipal Light Department was provided residential and commercial service! Today, only 41 municipal light departments provide electrical

and providing affordable electrical service to 6,000 in 1905. There were some stumbling blocks along the way, primarily a settled lawsuit regarding distribution, but look where Norwood is now. The envy of many out-of-town residents with its consistently low electrical, cable, and phone rates, and quick, dependable service that cannot be beat.

Norwood Light Broadband is located at 136 Access Rd., 781-948-1100. They are open Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Officer Ciavattone to the Rescue

When Officer Jonathan Ciavattone, who works the South Norwood foot beat, arrived at this house fire on St. Joseph Av-

On arrival Captain Chris Campillio reported heavy fire showing from the top floor of a 3-story wood frame multiple



enue just ahead of Norwood Fire, he was told that not everyone was out. So he ran around back and began making his way up the outside stairway to the top floor where he found two people looking for their cat. They didn't realize how intense the fire had gotten. Officer Ciavattone escorted them (and the cat) down the stairs and to a safe place. Norwood Fire arrived in no time and knocked the fire down. Good work by both departments.

At 9:30, nov. 23, last night HRECC alerted all Norwood Fire companies to a reported building fire on Saint Joseph Ave. While en route crews were advised by dispatch that multiple 911 calls were being received so a Walpole Engine was added to the response.

family dwelling and ordered a working fire adding a Westwood Engine to the assignment.

Engine 5 deployed an 1 3/4" attack line up the rear stairs to the fire floor while simultaneously Engine 5's chauffeur utilized half of the trucks 750 gallons of water and knocked the flames down utilizing the deck gun. Ladder 1 went to the roof to ventilate while Engine 4 established a water supply from a near by hydrant and NA-1 and 3s crews conducted primary searches. The Walpole Engine on their arrival stretched a second attack line and the Westwood Engine went to work overhauling and chasing fire extension.

Fire was found extending throughout the attic space so a 2nd alarm was ordered by Norwood Fire Chief Bailey bringing reserve Norwood Engine 3, a Sharon Engine, Norfolk Engine and Canton Ladder to the Fire. Crews worked for over 2 hours before the fire was placed under control. A fire watch was held on scene throughout the night out of an abundance of caution.

While crews were committed to the Fire a Foxboro and Wrentham Engine along with a Dedham ladder provided station coverage. The Norwood Fire Dept would like to thank all of our outstanding mutual aid partners as well as The Providence Canteen for providing rehabilitation to crews on scene. We would also like to thank the Norwood Police Dept who prior to our arrival were able to ensure everyone had made it out safely as well as clear the street for arriving fire apparatus. There were no injuries to any occupants or firefighters. Norwood Fire Investigators are currently working to determine a cause and there is no damage total estimates at this time.

WRITERS WANTED!

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

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Clearer Vision Tomorrow: Understanding Macular Degeneration

By: GRAHAM R. STETSON, OD, MS

With over 80% of our understanding of the world coming through our eyes, they play a pivotal role in our everyday perception. The macula, the central part of our retina, is particularly important since it is responsible for our detailed central vision. Macular degeneration (AMD) is a condition that impairs how well we can see and interact with the world around us. AMD is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss in the US.



There are three forms of AMD: “wet”, “dry”, and geographic atrophic. AMD always starts out “dry”, with small, yellowish spots, called drusen, collecting under the retina. Dry AMD often causes distortion and grey or missing areas in our central vision.

Sometimes, AMD advances to the “wet” or geographic atrophic types. In the “wet” form, new weak blood vessels form under the retina. These weak blood vessels will leak blood under the retina. If treated early, functional vision can generally be maintained.

In the geographic atrophic form, areas of the retina start to die off, leading to expanding blind spots. Until very recently there were no treatments for geographic atrophic AMD.

Age is a major risk factor in developing AMD. Genetics can also play a role in the condition.

While we cannot reverse aging or change genetics, there are other important risk factors that can be modified, like lifestyle choices.

Eliminating any tobacco use is the most important change to make. After that, patients should focus on getting good nutrition, taking frequent exercise, and working with their primary care physician to manage co-morbid conditions (like high blood pressure and diabetes). In addition to eating a healthy diet, supplementing your nutritional intake with macular pigments and omega-3 fish oils can reduce the risk of developing AMD or slow its progress. Talk to your doctor about which supplements are right for you.

Like many conditions, early detection is crucial in managing AMD. Regular comprehensive

eye health exams are imperative to identify the condition early. Remember that, while AMD primarily affects the individual and their vision, the societal impact extends well beyond, affecting families, caregivers, and health-care systems. Make sure to follow the steps above to ensure that your vision stays sharp and you get to enjoy everything this world has to offer.

For more advice, schedule an eye exam by calling (781) 352-4849 or stop into the office at 696 Washington Street in downtown Norwood.

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2024 Dog Licenses Are Due

Dog Licenses are issued by the Town Clerk at the Town Hall. To obtain a license, proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination must be shown. License fees are \$15 for dogs that have been spayed/neutered, \$20 for dogs that have not been spayed/neutered. A \$1 mailing/processing fee will be applied to all dog licenses. All dogs six months or older are required to be licensed. All dog licenses must be renewed by May 30th of each year. Licenses are available for renewal on January 1st each year.

After May 30th the Town imposes a \$25 late fee for

any unlicensed dog.

Continued failure to license a dog will also result in a citation from this department per MGL Ch140, Sec 137. Please license your dog in a timely manner to avoid these extra fees.

To register a dog in the Town of Norwood, visit energovweb.norwoodma.gov/EnerGov_prod/SelfService#/home.

For more information, call the Norwood Town Clerk’s office at 781-762-1240.



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A Little Off The Top

Pony up to stirrup a holiday

By STUART GREEN

Turning back the pages of local historical history... Oh, for those under 20, a page is something made of paper in what was known as a book, which is something that people read, which is something that people did with their eyes to impart knowledge into their brains before the advent of videos, 24-hour drive-thrus, and cheese doodles.

So, the history thing. A recently discovered book (there's that word again) reveals the origin, and not to mention beginning of, a beloved February tradition. Dusting off the cover – mainly because my vacuum is on

the fritz – let's take a look:

“So I hereby propose to my fellow fellows and workers of all trades – from bellringers to forest-walkers, from wax melters to brine picklers – that we should invoke a new holiday to celebrate our glorious New World - the United Colonies of Britain.

“And what better time to get out of the cabin than at the end of February – when no one will be expecting to us to, you know, get out of the cabin.

“And, I further propose, we should make merry – and if not merry than maybe she has a friend – all day long in our great borough on Naaaay-wood.

“And the place of going on holiday with our fellow villagers should be that path previously known as Route 3/8 before working its way up to Route 7/9 – and someday with proper planning to be called Route 1.

“Heretofore, and with all humility and time out of sincere gum-chewing, we shall request all stable merchants on the path to hold their livery up for sale to all dwellers.

“And in particular, per Section 7, Clause 4, Paragraph Incomprehensible, I submit to ask mainly Maine mane handlers to sell their thoroughbreds, fillies, stallions and mares that eat oats (wouldn't you?) on the aforementioned path, henceforth to unite

all ware sellers with a common goal of letting the neighbours (at least the ones with the extra “u”) know that “You Oughta Buy a Horse,” and therefore known as the Oughta Mile.

“And with great forethought, with a little Dijon, I further hereby and thereby believe that the correct time to hold this annual event should happen, oh, once a year, on the birthday of the great leader of our land, George... the King, not the gentleman in the powdered wig we've seen in Ye Olde Rebel Rouser.

“And that, gentlepeople and others incorporated, is a complete completion of my proposal, proposed on this day and at this time and in this place, for all to

see and witness for all time – or until the next stage pulls into town.

“I do believe, with eyes to the future, ear to the ground, and head stuck firmly in the sand, that this holiday will live on, not only in our humble borough but all up and down to very ends of the county. And nothing, I repeat nothing, will hold sway over us holding this great day in celebration on the exact same date every year...

“Oh, unless it doesn't fall on a Monday. In which case, just switch it.”

Stuart Green is a freelance writer. He can be reached at sagreen115@aol.com.

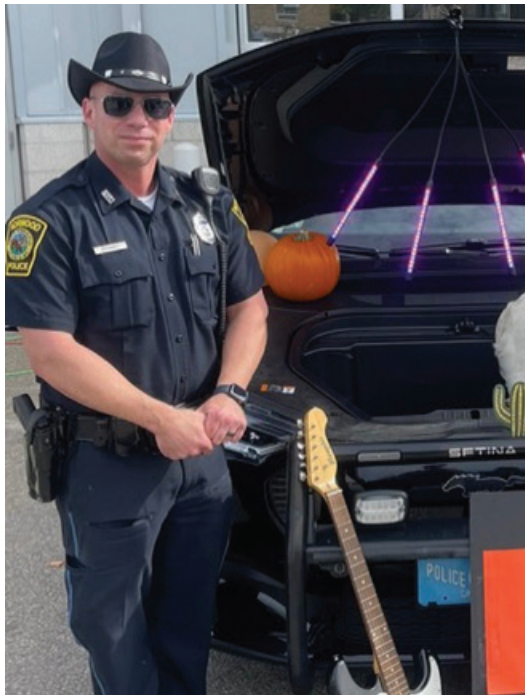
Officer Rooney Back at School!

Congratulations to Officer John Rooney on his appointment as the full time School Resource Officer, (SRO), for

Norwood High School. Officer Rooney is an eight-year

veteran of NPD where he has served many roles. Including: a Field Training Officer, a MetroLEC mountain bike officer, Juvenile Court Officer and a member of the honor

guard. Officer Rooney has been a certified SRO since 2019 and has served as SRO to NHS on an interim basis for the past two years.



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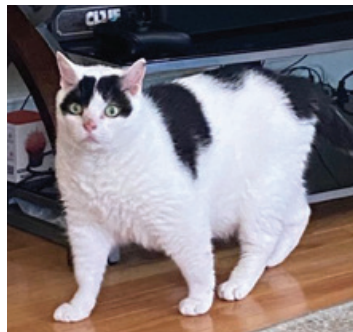
Cooperative (BSAC).

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!

Earl is Patiently Waiting

Earl is almost 12 years old and has a pink nose. He has been waiting patiently for his new home... can that be you? Earl could probably live with other cats but we do not know his dog preference as he has not been exposed to dogs. He should be fine with children.



Earl enjoys pats but does not like to be held. He is independent and not afraid of strangers.

Why is Earl still available for adoption? Some people may shy from his cardiac condition requiring daily medications. He is up to date on all his shots and BSAC have all medical records.

Earl still likes to play and often acts like a kitten but is surely compromised and needs a new owner ready to take on this challenge. Honestly, he is worth every bit of the care he needs. We are looking for someone who can give Earl a happy and healthy retirement. We believe he deserves it!

Support BSAC at Norwood Shaws!

The Bay State Animal Coop-



erative (BSAC) has been selected for the Shaw's GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag Program Non-profit partner! During the month of February, for every \$3 reusable bag purchased at the Norwood Shaw's, (134 Nahatan St., Shaw's Plaza), \$1 will be donated to the BSAC!

Impress your Valentine this year a reusable Shaw's bag filled with candy! That thoughtful gift would impress anyone!

Spay/Neuter Financial Assistance Available

The Bay State Animal Cooperative is a proud recipient of a very valuable grant from the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC) to assist in the spay/neuter costs. This grant is funded by the Spay/Neuter, Animal Friendly License Plate. MAC proposed and implemented the Animal Friendly license plate.

As a cat rescue, BSAC focuses on cats per our grant application.

If you have cat needing spay or neuter, please email BSAC (info@baystateanimals.org) with the following information; 1: Gender, age, vaccine status and any and all medical or behavior concerns regarding your cat. 2: Why would you like us to consider your cat for spay/neuter services?

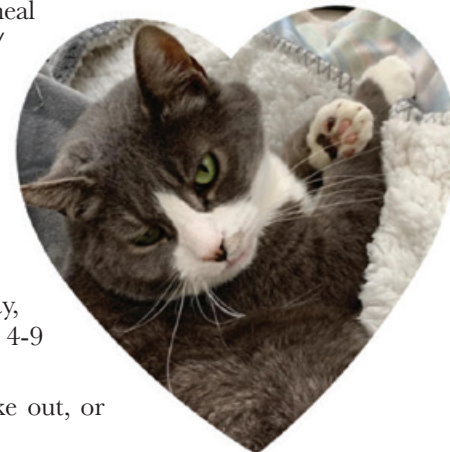
3: Since funds can only be used for the surgeries, are you able to pay for vaccines and any other services like flea/tick treatment? If so, how much can you contribute.

4: Would you be able to pay any portion of the surgical procedure and if so how much? You may be able to get discounted microchipping, deworming or feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus testing as part of BSAC's mission outside of spay/neuter surgery.

5: Are you able to transport your cat as far away as Grafton, Mass? It's a same day surgery so drop off and pick up would be in the same day. Other possible surgery locations may be available so please let us know what you can or can not do so we can assess our volunteer needs to accommodate this surgery.

Pete is asking for your help!

Order a delicious meal from Papa Gino's/ D'Angelo's in Dedham on our special day and they will generously donate 20% to help BSAC help us! No extra cost to you!



When? Thursday, February 8 between 4-9 PM

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How? Walk in/phone in orders: Tell your server. Online orders: Enter code 19 on the payment screen and click Redeem.

Info and menu: <https://locations.papaginos.com/ma/dedham/600-providence-highway.html>

Your support provides food and medical care for unadoptable cats like us because BSAC believes that ALL cats deserve care.

Thank you, and happy new year!



VOLUNTEERS needed!

As part of this effort, can you provide transport for 1-5 cats to and/or from surgical appointments, either local or as far as one hour away? Be a part of the pet overpopulation solution.

Finally, BSAC is going to match the grant amount and provide an additional \$1,000 towards spay/neuter for pets and owners in need.

Send your request need or volunteer interest to us at info@baystateanimals.org

Thank you for all you do MAC. MAC has many resources

on its website so please visit to see what resources are available in Massachusetts, from lost pet resources, spay/neuter options, legislative advocacy, and much more.

If you have not yet considered a special Animal Friendly license plate please do. We can attest that the funds raised go directly to local communities to help alter pets to help decrease pet overpopulation. As recipients of \$1,000 we are excited to provide free and/or subsidized spay/neuter surgery assistance to the community.

www.baystateanimals.org



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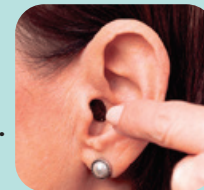
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2023 Norfolk County Real Estate: the Year in Review

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reports that Norfolk County recordings for 2023 show indicators of less real estate activity as compared to 2022 with decreases in both the total number deeds and mortgages recorded. However, seasonal trends remained consistent, with a decrease in activity during the winter months and an uptick in the spring and summer months.

In 2023, there were 102,188 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, a 21% decrease from 2022.

"Looking at the 2023 real estate market, I think most would agree that it was a slow year, especially compared to 2021 and 2022's busy home sales," Register O'Donnell said. "Consumers have been facing a limited inventory of available properties along with rising mortgage interest rates. As an example of these indicators, property sales in Massachusetts have dropped 22.5% in 2023. However, Norfolk County's decline was less than the statewide average for the year."

Overall, the County's lending activity showed a continued downward trend. A total of 14,598 mortgages were recorded at the Registry in 2023, 37% less than a year earlier.

According to numbers from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the median interest rate of a 30-year fixed-rate conventional loan started at 6.42% in January, 2023, and grew to 7.79% by October, 2023.

"Those who locked in lower

interest rates in 2020 and 2021 are less inclined to refinance or buy property at current mortgage interest rates leading to fewer mortgages being recorded and fewer existing homes on the market," Register O'Donnell noted. "Furthermore, buyers looking for new property may be hesitant to take on a new mortgage with average interest rates still above 7%."

homebuyers who must now deal with the added cost of higher interest rates," Register O'Donnell stated.

Sale prices for 2023 appear to have decreased slightly compared to 2022. The average sale price for all of Norfolk County, both commercial and residential, this year was \$1,083,609 an 8% decrease from 2022. The total dollar volume

to 2021 and 2020 values, and to add to this difficulty, there may be multiple people competing for the same property as well as higher interest rate costs."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely monitoring the foreclosure market. In 2023, there were 73 foreclosure deeds recorded, as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in

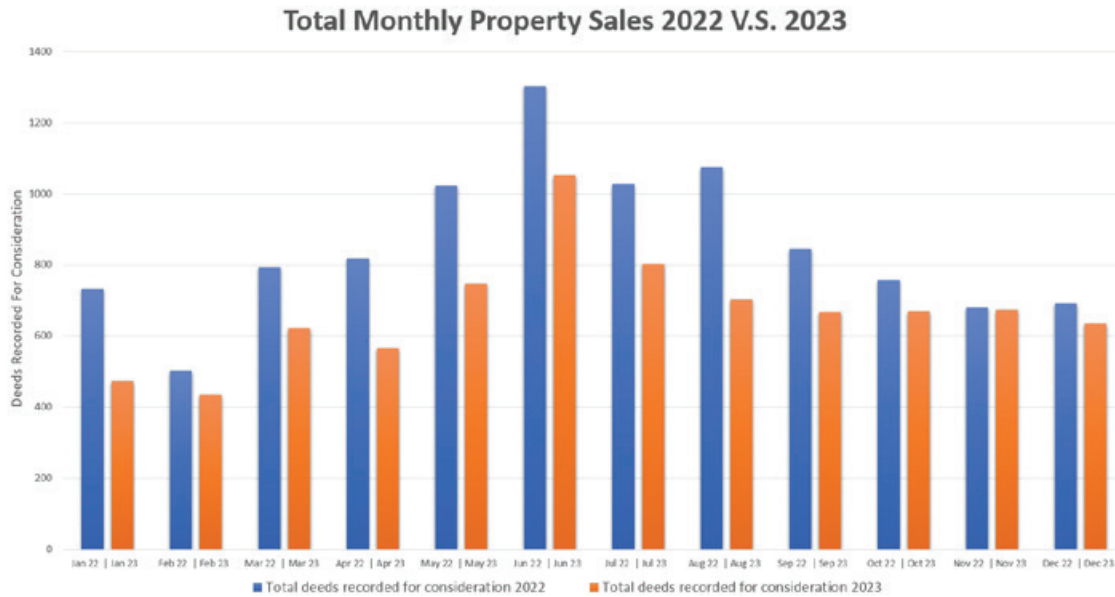
the future. We will continue to monitor these figures in 2024."

"A limited inventory of properties for sale and buyers who have been facing rising interest rates resulted in an overall slow year for the housing market," Register O'Donnell said. "While current market conditions may be frustrating to some, especially for first-time homebuyers, it may be comforting to know that Norfolk County's real estate market is doing better compared to state and national averages and remains a desirable place to both live and work in."

Follow this YouTube link to watch the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Year in Review segment on Quincy Access Television: <https://www.youtube.com/watch/bHXIGI-HAHg>

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

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



The number of deeds for 2023, which reflect real estate sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, was 15,253, a decrease of 12% from 2022.

"The scarcity of available real estate due to fewer existing homes on the market and new construction not being able to keep pace with demand is making it more challenging for homebuyers in general, but especially for first-time

of commercial and residential sales is also down, decreasing by 26% from one year ago.

"I can understand the frustration some homebuyers may be feeling because right now it is a more complicated process for individuals looking to purchase a home and especially, first-time homebuyers," Register O'Donnell said. "It is more expensive for home buyers because prices are still high relative

Norfolk County, whereas in 2022, there were 68 recorded. Also concerning is in 2023, there were 339 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, compared to the 308 recorded in 2022.

"The increase in the number of foreclosure deeds and notices to foreclose is troubling," Register O'Donnell said. "This could suggest that more of our neighbors may have financial difficulties in

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It's Never Too Cold for a Concert!

By MICHELE TARANTO

The Town of Norwood Concerts on the Common Committee is again holding their popular Sunday Winter Concerts! The remaining three Sunday concerts will be held on Feb. 4, Feb. 11, and Feb. 18., 2-4 p.m., Norwood High School, Paul M. Alberta Performing Arts Center.

Silver Spears will perform on Sunday, Feb. 4, returning favorite Dan Gabel and the Abletones take the stage on Sunday, Feb. 11, and the 2024 Winter Concert Series will close with the S.O.S. Band, on Sunday, Feb. 18.

All concerts are free and open to the public.

Two free raffle prizes, sponsored by local businesses, will be called during intermission each week. For more information on the concerts, call Norwood Town Hall at 781.762.1240 or visit www.norwoodma.gov.

These complimentary concerts could not be held without the generosity of the following sponsors:

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The Vertex Companies, LLC

Many hours are also spent to coordinate all Norwood's community music series by the Concerts on The Common Committee: Olga Abdallah, Bob Donnelly, Paul Eysie, Lee Leach, Tony Mazzucco, Dorothy Previor, Mike Rosen, Patricia Schick, Dave Tuttle, and Jeanne Vautour.

The Norwood Concert Committee also recognizes the contribution and support from the Town of Norwood and the Boch Fund.

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Local Catholics Hold Pro-Life Demonstration in Norwood



On December 31st, 2023, a group of roughly 30 local Catholics stood in front of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Norwood to demonstrate for the protection of human life in the womb. The event was led by “Pro-Life Standouts” a group of Young Adult Catholics from the Boston area. Leader Gabriel D., a 21-year-old resident of Westwood, says he is inspired to organize these events because of the “sad reality” of abortion in the United States. “We know that thousands of lives have been lost last year to violence in places like Ukraine and Gaza, and I support efforts to stop the bloodshed abroad,” said Gabriel. “But we also have to remember that even more innocent lives have been snuffed out in our own country due to abortion. How can we have a just society and uphold human rights when we deny protection to the smallest and most vulnerable human beings?”

The Pro-Life Standouts group aims to raise awareness of the abortion issue, particularly in this

area where many people do not follow it closely or consider the pro-life stance a lost cause. Gabriel stated that “there are a lot of people in Massachusetts who support the right to life, but many are afraid or feel they can do nothing. We want to encourage those people, especially my fellow Catholics, to pray and take action. Even if we can’t make political change yet, we can save lives by changing hearts and minds and offering support to women in difficult situations.”

The Standout, which went from 1-3 p.m., featured a public Rosary (a popular Catholic prayer) and a speech from Rita Russo, a Norwood resident and longtime leader of 40 Days for Life Boston. 40 Days for Life is a peaceful, ecumenical movement that encourages people of faith to stand and pray in front of abortion facilities such as the Planned Parenthood in Boston. Rita drew on her experiences in her speech, explaining how many women feel pressured into abortion by financial difficulties or

abusive partners. While leading 40 Days for Life, she has seen several women choose life for their unborn children after talking to pro-life individuals and learning about the free resources that are available to them through local charities and shelters. A retired obstetrical nurse herself, Rita emphasized that “abortion does not help women” and often leads to regrets and health complications for the women who undergo it.

Despite the serious subject, it was an enjoyable time for the participants at the standout. The attendees, most of who came from

Norwood and nearby towns, had the opportunity to meet one another and discuss various topics of interest in the pro-life and Catholic community. While not praying or hearing speeches, the group also played Christmas carols and other Christian music. The standout wrapped up with pizza from Buffalo Bill’s and some time for socializing.

Gabriel hopes that those who attended the standout, and those who passed by, will be inspired to keep learning about the pro-life cause. “There are a lot of important parts of the pro-life

movements,” said Gabriel. “Not everyone wants to hold signs on a street corner, but everyone can do something to build a culture that respects human life and supports mothers and children.” Gabriel especially encourages young people to learn about the pro-life movement and to get involved if they feel so called, recommending www.StudentsForLife.org as a good place to start. You can also reach out to Gabriel at his website, www.ProLifeStickers.com.

This article was submitted by Gabriel Dionisi

You Can Run But You Can’t Hide from Norwood PD!

Norwood police officers drove to Rikers Island in New York City Jan. 18 to retrieve Ali Almashhadani, who was under arrest on a warrant from Norfolk Superior Court. Almashhadani had been arrested by Norwood Police Department

(NPD) detectives in 2019 for allegedly participating in a so-called grandparent scam on an 85 year-old Norwood woman. The woman had received a call from a man claiming to be an attorney representing her grandson and he told her he needed money

to get the grandson out of jail. NPD discovered the scam after the woman had already handed over \$19,000 and was preparing to give more. NPD detectives set up a delivery but intercepted Almashhadani and a cohort and arrested both men.

Almashhadani was due to stand trial in Norfolk Superior but absconded. A warrant was issued for his arrest now charging him with failure to appear. Officer Ryan Marchant of the NPD Warrant Unit was given the task of tracking Almashhadani and

eventually coordinated his arrest with NYPD officers on Staten Island where Almashhadani lives.

NPD will keep the public updated.

Nice detective work PD!

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Norwood Actors Starring in The Mousetrap

The Mousetrap, by Agatha Christie, opened in London on October 6, 1952, and has never closed. There have now been over 29,000 performances in London. What better way to cel-

the killer is among them, and the seven strangers grow increasingly suspicious of one another. A police detective, arriving on skis, interrogates the suspects: the newlyweds running the house, a

The Walpole Footlighters production of The Mousetrap, directed by Peter McElhinney, is a perfect diversion for a cold winter evening with its mix of mystery and humor.

Norwood actors Mark Adams and Gregory Kleciak are both starring in the production. Mark plays Major Metcalf, the retired army officer, and Gregory plays the skiing Detective Sergeant Trotter. Mark is a seasoned Footlighters veteran (he's in his fourth production with the group), while Gregory is making his Footlighters debut.

The Footlighters are starting a long-term plan to make the theater more accessible in conjunction with their 100th anniversary. The theater always has hearing assistance devices for hearing impaired audience members. For visually impaired audience members there will be a touch tour of the stage at 1:10 p.m., prior to the February 4th performance, and a touch table in the lobby at every performance.

Performances of The Mousetrap are at the Walpole Footlighters Playhouse at 2 Scout Road in East Walpole. Long-time patrons are asked to take note of the new, earlier start time for evening performances; those performances will be on February 2, 3, 9, 10

and 17 at 7:30 PM. There will also be matinee performances on February 4 and 18 at 2:00 PM. Concessions will be available. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased online at www.footlighters.com.

This production is sponsored in part by the Walpole Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.




brate the Walpole Footlighters 100th anniversary season than with a production of the longest running play in the history of the world?

After a local woman is murdered, the guests and staff at Monkswell Manor find themselves stranded during a snowstorm. It soon becomes clear that

female traveler with a curious background, an architect who seems better equipped to be a chef, a retired Army major, a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in a drift, and a jurist who makes life miserable for everyone. When a second murder takes place, tensions and fears escalate.

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In Memory of....

Claire L. (Ayotte/ St. Laurent) Ethier, 91, of East Falmouth, formerly of Norwood, Monday, December 26, 2023, Falmouth Hospital, following a short illness.

Claire was the loving wife of Laurent B. "Larry" Ethier, who preceded her in death April 2, 2018. Claire and Larry were life-long friends, began their courtship in spring 1992, married June 30, 1996, and shared over 25 years of love, laughter, travel, car shows, and happy times with both their families and many friends.

Born in Woonsocket, RI, Claire was the oldest child of the late Conrad O. and Rose A. (Brousseau) Ayotte. She was a 1950 graduate of St. Clare's High School. Claire was an accomplished classical pianist who studied under the renowned liturgical composer and teacher C. Alexander Peloquin and performed on-air for local radio stations. In 1970, Claire segued her musical talent to the pipe organ and began her studies with James P. Moritz, organist, and Boys Choir Director at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Norwood; she subsequently took over Moritz's duties and served there for 16 years.

Claire also studied under Richard J. Griffin, Chapter Dean

of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and was a member in good standing of the AGO for more than 50 years. She served at numerous churches in the Boston area and Cape Cod, including St. Patrick Catholic Church, Natick; St. Denis Catholic Church, Westwood; Mission Church, Roxbury; St. Mary's Parish churches, Dedham, Walpole, Somerville, Cambridge; Grace Episcopal Church, Norwood; St. Paul Episcopal, Dedham; and St. Anthony's in East Falmouth, until age 85. Of special note, was Claire's assistance at a Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Claire is survived by children Susan St. Laurent Powell, Robert W. St. Laurent, Diane C. St. Laurent, sister Pauline Ayotte, RJM, granddaughter Rachel A. Powell and wife Kayla Copeland, niece Paulette (St. Laurent) Carigan, grand-nephew and godson Christopher Gaudreau, nephews Roger, Billy, and David Tremblay, stepsons Steven L. Ethier and wife Linda, David R. Ethier and wife Sharon, and stepdaughter Michelle and husband Jim Siddall; grandchildren Kristin and husband Jervie Castro, Christopher Ethier and wife Tricia, Amber and husband Don Jeffrey, Micaela and husband Mark Vanderzyden, Rachel and Jes-



sica Siddall; great-grandchildren Tessa, Tanner, Natalie and Noelle; and a large, loving network of cousins, grand- and great-grandnieces and their families, and many special professional and personal friends. Claire was preceded in death by her parents Conrad and Rose, grandson Ross M. Powell, brother Oscar C. Ayotte, and former husband William E. St. Laurent.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at a later date at the Church of the Precious Blood in Woonsocket, RI, arrangements by Menard-Lacouture Funeral Home, Woonsocket, RI. Interment Resurrection Cemetery, Cumberland, RI. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or Habitat for Humanity, or to the charity or church of your choice.

Nomination Papers Available for Annual Town Election

By MICHELE TARANTO

The buzz around the country may be about the presidential election, but here in Norwood, the immediate talk is about the Annual Town Election on Tues-

You must be a registered voter to run or participate in Norwood elections. You also must commit. In order for candidates to compete for a major office, they must pull and submit nomination papers from the Board of Registrars, Town Clerk's office, in Town Hall. Major office candidates must obtain at least 50 registered Norwood voters to sign the form in their support. (The Town Clerk recommends obtaining additional signatures as some supporters may not be registered voters). All candidates running for Major office must complete Campaign Finance Reports ([Running for Office in Norwood \(norwoodma.gov\)](http://Running for Office in Norwood (norwoodma.gov))).

There are openings in all precincts for Town Meeting Members. Anyone looking to run as a Town Meeting Member who is not a candidate for re-election, must obtain 10 signatures of qualified voters in their precinct.

Before nomination papers are circulated for signatures, all the information on the top of the



day, April 1, 2024. Why is that important in February? There are a few steps required before you can run for office on the local ballot.

ELECTIONS

continued on page 13

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Living Healthy

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An estimated 11% (6.4 million) of US school aged children have been diagnosed with ADHD in their lifetime. Additionally, 4.4% of adults have ADHD in the US. ADHD is a neurobehavioral disorder that is characterized by a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity or impulsivity that interferes with function and development. Some of the symptoms include lack of focus, inability to complete tasks and impulsive behavior. Many people choose to treat this disorder with medication and behavior modification, while others choose a more holistic approach which targets the cause and not just the symptoms.



Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

Marla P. was frustrated dealing with her 8 year old son. He had difficulty finishing school work and difficulty completing his daily tasks at home. She would ask him repeatedly to get dressed, brush his teeth and put his toys away. He would start but not finish these tasks because he

became distracted easily. At first, she thought he was just lazy, but very quickly realized there was something wrong. The behavioral patterns of inability to focus, complete tasks or sit still for any length of time “set off bells” in her head. She realized that something was not right and that he might have ADHD. She didn’t want to put him on meds and decided to take a holistic approach. A dear friend suggested she call The Holistic Center at Bristol Square in Walpole.

Within 2 weeks of beginning treatment, Marla noticed that her son could sit to do his homework and complete the assignment without screaming, yelling and tears. Within 4 weeks, he was completing his daily tasks at home easily and happy to do so. Within 2-3 months her son was happy and more confident because he was finishing his assignments in school as well as at home in a reasonable time frame.

If you or someone you love is suffering from Add or ADHD don’t hesitate to contact Dr Rochelle Bien or Dr Michael Goldstein at The Holistic Center at Bristol Square, 1426 Main Street in Walpole.

CALL TODAY and get started on your journey back to health (508)660-2722.

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ELECTIONS

continued from page 12

nomination paper must be completed by the candidate. Completed nomination papers are due by Monday, February 12, 2024, by 5 p.m.

The last day to register to vote in the town election is Friday, March 22, 2024. For more information on voting in Norwood, visit norwoodma.gov/departments/townclerk/votingandelections.

The 2024 current open seats for major offices:

Selectmen (1) 3-year term available (William J. Plasko)

Moderator (1) 1-year term available (Gerri S. Slater)

Board of Health (1) 3-year term available (Kathleen F. Bishop)

School Committee (1) 3-year term available (David Michael Hiltz, Jr.)

Finance Commission (2) 3-year terms available (Myev A. Bodenhofer, Kellie Noumi)

Planning Board (1) 5-year term available (Joseph F. Sheehan)

Morrill Memorial Library Trustee (2) 3-year terms available (Sarah E. Begg, George A. Michalec)

Constable (1) 1-year term available to fill a vacancy (James A. Perry)

Norwood Housing Authority (1) 5-year term available (Anne White Scobie)

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Migrant Families to be Housed in Norwood

January 10, 2024

Dear Community Member,

We write to you today to provide information regarding the state opening a temporary shelter site here in Norwood. The Commonwealth's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities has contacted the Town of Norwood to inform us that the State has reserved rooms to begin providing unhoused families with shelter. Approximately 63 families will be moved to a lodging facility in Norwood later this month.

Town and school staff have been preparing since the Fall in the event that the state chose to locate a facility in Norwood. At the end of October the state reached their "capacity" which was at that time somewhat undefined. Since that time, the state has begun consolidating many of their shelter sites into larger sites that they can offer more services at. This consolidation is what led the state to contracting with a single local hotel here in Norwood.

The families are being sup-

ported by a third-party contractor of the State for food and other needs they may have while staying at the lodging facility. Per the law, any school-age children either will be attending the Norwood Public Schools to continue their education during this time of transition; or may be transported daily back to the school they have been attending, if feasible.

The Commonwealth is providing emergency aid for transportation, enrollment, and other extra costs for educating such "Emergency Assistance" students at a daily rate of \$104 per student.

The Norwood Public Schools is working with the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure the proper support of our new students.

Massachusetts is a Right to Shelter State and is obligated to find shelter for eligible families. Per Section 30 of Part I, Title II, Chapter 23B of the General Laws, "the department shall ad-

minister a program of emergency housing assistance to needy families with children and pregnant women with no other children. The department shall administer the program throughout the commonwealth at locations that are geographically convenient to families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and shall administer the program in a fair, just and equitable manner."

There are over 3,000 shelter units across the state, nearly all of which are currently occupied.

The State has needed to use nontraditional facilities such as hotels and motels to address the critical shortage of available shelter beds. Facilities are already operating in some surrounding communities, including Dedham and Foxborough.

The Frequently Asked Questions below address many questions residents may have about the state sheltering families here in Norwood. As indicated above and in the FAQ below there will be a slight impact to the school department; however based on

funding provided by the state and communication with the district where these students currently reside, it is estimated to be minimal. From a public safety standpoint, we expect no impact. Chief Brooks and Chief Bailey have communicated with their counterparts and peers in communities hosting shelters and report no concerns. While we have expressed concerns to the state regarding walkability on Route 1 and we have concerns regarding the hospital still being down, there should be no impact to public safety according to the plans the state has shared and the one facility they have leased.

For more information about ways to support families in crisis, visit www.mass.gov/sheltercrisis or email shelterhelp@mass.gov. In addition, the Massachusetts Migrant Families Relief Fund, a partnership between United Way of Massachusetts Bay and the Boston Foundation, has been set up to address the acute humanitarian crisis faced by new arrivals seeking asylum in Massachusetts,

while also supporting community-based organizations directly serving new arrivals.

For more information about Right to Shelter and the State's Emergency Assistance program, please see the Frequently Asked Questions below or contact the Office of the General Manager at (781) 762-1240 or managers@norwoodma.gov.

Both the Town of Norwood and the Norwood Public Schools will continue to collaborate with

the State and the on-site service provider to ensure that families receive all of their basic needs.

We are certain that residents will show these families the welcoming community Norwood is known to be.

Sincerely,

David L. Thomson

General Manager Superintendent

Tony Mazzucco Dr. David Thomson, E.d.D

Town of Norwood Norwood Public Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

What is "Right to Shelter?"

Massachusetts has a "right to shelter" law, meaning families have a legal right to shelter that the Commonwealth must comply with. This is the result of a 1983 state law.

Why is an emergency family shelter necessary?

There is a critical shortage of shelter beds in Massachusetts, which has been experiencing record numbers of entries into the system. Coupled with low exits, this has led to a critical shortage.

How has the State been in communication with Town Officials?

The Commonwealth's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities recently contacted the Town of Norwood to inform officials that the State has reserved rooms to begin providing unhoused families with shelter several weeks ago. Furthermore, officials from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have communicated with school and town staff on a number of items and have been very accessible over the last few weeks. Previously, towns were sometimes only given 72 hours notice with no clear con-

tact in the state.

How many families will be sheltered in Norwood?

The State is planning to place approximately 63 families in late January. There are an additional dozen families that have been housed by the state at a separate hotel in Norwood that are being "consolidated" into this one site.

Why is the state consolidating shelters?

It is our understanding that the state wants to move to fewer shelter sites overall and to have all sites "managed." Currently the state has some shelters that are as few as 8 or 10 rooms.

Who will be staying at the shelter?

Only families with children and/or pregnant women are eligible for placement in State

emergency shelters. Families without a safe place to stay may be deemed eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- Be a resident of Massachusetts, and be living in the United States with the knowledge and consent of the Department of Homeland Security;
- Meet the gross income stan-

dards and asset test for Emergency Assistance;

- Have children under the age of 21, or be pregnant.

The majority of families in this Emergency Assistance system are local Massachusetts families who are experiencing homelessness. However, currently over half of new families applying for shelter are new arrivals, which is defined as families without citizenship or a green card who arrived in Massachusetts in the last thirty days.

To be eligible for shelter, at least one household member must be a citizen, a green card holder, or be present in the United States with the knowledge and consent of the Department of Homeland Security, meaning individuals have made lawful entry into the United States.

What can we do as a community to support these families?

There is going to be a citizen volunteer group, headed by Selectman Grow and Anne Haley of the Finance Commission who will work with area community groups, residents, religious institutions, and others to welcome and support these families. Once more informa-

tion is available we will put that out.

For more information about ways to support families in crisis, visit www.mass.gov/sheltercrisis or email shelterhelp@mass.gov.

Will children be required to have currently mandated vaccines that other children in Massachusetts require?

Yes. The Commonwealth provides vaccination services and follow-up with all entrants into the system to make sure requirements are met. Vaccination status is also (and has been for many years) monitored by school health staff and public health staff.

Will the children be enrolled in the Norwood Public Schools?

While some may, others will not. Some children will not be school-aged and others are already enrolled in other school districts in Massachusetts and may opt to continue to attend those

schools. Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children are guaranteed access to school in either their host community or home community, where feasible, based on what is best for the child and to ensure access to education. The total anticipated impact to the schools is about 40

children. In the district the students are coming from, this amounted to a negligible staffing increase. We may face some additional transportation costs, but this should be close to falling within what the state has allowed.

What is the State's role? What is the Town's role?

The Emergency Assistance program is overseen by DHCD, which manages placements of new families into the system. Shelters are operated by non-profit service providers from the community. All services at the site will be coordinated and paid for by DHCD, and the agency will coordinate closely with the town throughout the process.

What is the impact on public safety?

Town staff have been meeting with counterparts in impacted towns for several months to learn exactly what their impacts have been and what role public safety will play. Both Chief Brooks and Chief Bailey have spoken with their counterparts in several area communities, including making site visits, and reported no concerns with

FAQ

continued from page 14

public safety. Some towns reported an increased call volume to 911 the first ten days or so; however this quickly subsided and is not likely to happen in Norwood as the new arrivals coming here have been in a facility in another community for several months.

How long will families stay at the shelter?

The onsite providers will work with families to help place them into stable housing of their own.

There is no minimum or maximum length of stay. Per information provided by the State, families exiting the shelter system in 2023 had stayed in shelters an average of fourteen months.

How is the shelter managed?

There is an on-site service provider that provides clients with case management, connections to resources, housing search assistance, and the coordination of direct care.

How is the shelter funded?

The shelter and all related social services are fully funded by the Commonwealth. The Town does not provide any funding.

How will meals be provided?

An outside vendor will provide food service for shelter residents. In addition, the on-site service provider will assist families in securing groceries, often leveraging benefits like SNAP. The Town is not involved in this contract in any way.

How will individuals and families in shelters receive the resources and support they need?

The on-site provider will ensure families have meals and necessities, provide case management and connection to resources, assist with housing searches, and assist with routine cleaning, maintenance, and security of the property.

Is language assistance being provided?

The Commonwealth provides free, over-the-phone, language translation services. In addition, service providers seek to hire multilingual on-site staff.

Can Norwood refuse a shelter?

No. Local approval to site a shelter is not required, nor do we have any say in location, number of families, etc.

Will Norwood be covered for school costs?

School districts receive emergency aid for transportation, en-

rollment, and other extra costs for educating Emergency Assistance students at a daily rate of \$104 per student. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education works with impacted school districts to ensure that the educational needs of any school-aged children living in an emergency shelter are met as quickly as possible.

Additionally, Governor Healey signed a supplemental budget earlier this fiscal year that allows school districts to receive emergency aid more quickly for costs associated with educating children placed in new shelters. Otherwise, the districts would have had to wait much longer for funding for these new students to be incorporated into their state education aid.

The district where these students currently reside had a negligible increase in staffing. Due to space concerns and the potential need to spread students around we may see higher transportation and staffing costs, but they should not vary significantly from the sending district.

Have we communicated with our state legislators?

Yes, we have been in touch with both Representative Rogers and Senator Rush and they have been very supportive and offered their

full assistance with anything the Town may need.

Is it a good idea to host migrants with the hospital still under construction?

While there should not be an appreciable increase in 911 calls, we had advised the state we do have concerns that our hospital being down as well as the relative lack of health services in the Town's borders does not make Norwood a suitable location.

Why are hotels being booked now as opposed to earlier in the year?

There are a number of factors, primarily the amount of money the state is paying. When the state first began booking hotels last summer the market rate that was being paid was around \$100/room with the provision of food. Now, the state is paying as high as \$210 per room per night in some areas, with food being provided separately. While we do not know what the contract cost is in Norwood, this amount is well above the market average for small hotels in Norwood and the area. It is likely that the economics simply became too attractive for lower revenue hotels in the area to ignore.

Will there be an impact to Town revenue?

The revenue generated from the hotels tax is the only revenue that would be impacted by the Commonwealth contracting for an entire hotel (property taxes and other fees/utility charges continue to be paid as normal). The Commonwealth pays the rooms tax for the first 90 days, after that there is no provision to pay the local rooms tax. However the Governor's office has stated they are working on a method to assist towns beyond the 90 day period. That being said, with five hotels and a lower occupancy hotel being selected the revenue impact to the Town will be minimal overall. We are reaching out to the hotel owner to see if they will continue to pay the amount otherwise due.

Is the Commonwealth forcing hotels to accept new arrivals?

No. Any hotel is able to accept or not accept a contract with the Commonwealth. Furthermore, hotels are being paid a market rate for rooms, so there is no negative impact to the hotel's bottom line.

If you have additional questions, please contact us at managers@norwoodma.gov. We will work to assist you with any questions you may have.



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Norwood Sports

Norwood Swim and Dive

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Although the Covid pandemic peaked four years ago, the Norwood swim and dive team is still looking to build its program back up. This winter, the Mustangs have 21 athletes who will take to the pool to compete in numerous events. Having a smaller number of athletes makes it hard to compete against some of the larger schools, but Coaches Jen Dwyer and Kate Curtin said the kids are working extremely hard.

“Following Covid, there was a decline in numbers in all sports in general,” Curtin said. “We’re just trying to get kids to take part in the program and become part of a team. You want to win, but our focus is for the individuals to reach goals.”

Norwood has begun working with the recreational program in town to help build the future of the program. They are looking to spread the word. During the early part of the season, Norwood has already had two individuals qualify to take part in the Sectionals at the end of the year.

Junior Colleen Sisk (diving) and Bridget Sople (100 breast stroke) have already punched their ticket to the post-season for the Mustangs. Sople made it clear in the first meet of the season what she was looking to do as she swam a 1:17.68 (.14 of a second below the qualifying time of 1:17.86). Now she is looking to get down below 1:16.48 to earn a spot in the State Tournament.

“Last year, Bridget qualified on the last meet of the season and things carried over this year,” Curtin said. “She is a super hard worker and in the weeks prior to the year’s first meet you could see how dedicated and goal driven she was. I expect to see her time continue to go down as the season goes on.”

On the diving board, Sisk has already earned scores to qualify for the Sectionals as well as the States.

“It’s a big accomplishment for her to qualify in the first two meets,” Dwyer said. “Coming in as a freshman two years ago she had never dove and now she is 100% focused on her craft.”

Although the junior primarily finds herself participating in diving events, she will also take part in the pool if needed to help the team. In the past, she has swam the 50 freestyle and has been part of the team’s relays. Sisk is a team player that is willing to help the team score points in anyway that she can. According to Dwyer, most divers will put up

swimming to a time of 2:02.68. He also etched his name in the record books by swimming a 1:05.78 in the 100 backstroke.

DeMattia may have lost his 200-freestyle record, but the senior captain still holds the high school record in the 200 IM (2:19.81) and the 500 freestyle (5:34.72). Although he is currently focused on the 200 IM

(100 fly and 100 breast).

“Like any good group of captains, we are looking for leadership and sportsmanship from them while allowing our program to remain successful,” Curtin said. “This is an untied group that works well together and takes pride in being a close-knit group supporting one another in and out of the pool.”

“The 100 is a very competitive event and he has a personal best of 56.84,” Dwyer said. “It is important for him to get us points. He is an asset to the team individually but will also help out in the relays.”

Having numbers on the smaller side, Norwood was able to get a waiver allowing middle schoolers to swim on the team



4 and 5’s, but Sisk has been scoring in the 6 and 7 point ranges consistently; she even earned one dive score at an unbelievable 8.5.

“She [Dwyer] has worked extremely hard on her skills and her diving has become so clean,” Curtin said. “Her skills have become refined, and she is always setting a high example to all the other divers, which are all new to the team this year.”

In addition to the qualifiers, newcomer and freshman Caleb Kwon had already broken two Norwood records. In the 200 freestyle, the freshman broke team Captain David DeMattia’s 2022 record (2:03.45) by

and 100 Breast stroke, DeMattia is a very versatile athlete and strong competitor. Right now, he is scoring really well in those two events so he is trying to improve his times there for the time being.

“We’ll see what the season brings for him, but it’s his senior season so he is goal focused on individual improvement and cutting his times,” Dwyer said. “He’ll do what is best for the team to be successful, but being a senior, we are allowing him to do what he wants for now.”

In addition to DeMattia, Norwood has two other captains in Ted Caparrotta (butterfly and sprint freestyle) and Molly Keats

Junior field hockey phenom Shae Larkee decided to come out for the team this winter and is taking part in the diving events and is already showing improvement on the board. The coaches are hoping that she eventually qualifies for the post-season.

Another noteworthy athlete is senior Anthony Cavanaugh, who was named an athlete of the meet already this season. Coach Dwyer noted that the senior has been putting in a lot of hard work, dedication, and commitment in the pool. His times continue to improve, and he is showing the talent of becoming a top 100 freestyle swimmer for Norwood.

and thus far, two have shown incredible potential.

Eighth graders Anthony Silva and Michelle Connolly look to be part of the Mustang’s future in the pool. Silva is swimming hard and putting in great effort in the distance freestyle events, while Connolly is diving for the first time. Over the first few meets, she has improved considerably while her scores keep decreasing. Being middle schoolers participating on a varsity team is a very big commitment and both seem to be a breath of fresh air to the program.

Norwood Sports

Middle Distance Runner Looking To Qualify

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Upon entering Norwood High School, Catherine Cronin first tried out for the Mustang soccer team, but by the time the winter season came around, she then

Norwood Coach Alanna Keady figured that the incoming freshman would best be suited for running middle distance. Cronin has run the 300, 600, and 1000, but finds she fits the best in the

ute mark," Cronin said. "The 600 is a long spring and you have to get use to it to become good. I really didn't get it down until the end of last year (her sophomore campaign). I had to not only

"Getting Ms. Baptiste last year as a distance coach really helped," Cronin said. "In practice she taught us where our times should be in each event and how we should run our races to get those times down."

With her having someone teach her how to properly run her event, Cronin is shooting to qualify for the 600 in the Sectional Meet at the end of the season. Last spring as a sophomore, she qualified to take part in the 800 during the Divisional Meet. Unfortunately, she did not have her best of days and believes she finished in the vicinity of 25th out of 30 runners.

"I definitely would like to get my current time down at least one second if not more to qualify," Cronin said. "And once I do that, I'll have to keep working on my running to perform well there."

Prior to the school year beginning this year, Cronin found herself using the summer to prepare on her own by running more and doing the workouts that she was taught last year.

By running track in the winter and spring, Cronin believes that her soccer game has improved, and she now has more stamina to run up and down the field for the entire game. Running track has also given her confidence on the track as well as on the soccer field.

According to the coach, she'll occasionally use Cronin in other events to help the team out.

"She has been on the team now for a couple of years and this year has definitely shifted into a leadership role," Keady said. "She will do whatever is needed to help us out. She can do the 300 or move up to the 1000 and I feel confident putting her in various events."

Taking part in the 600 this season, the junior has continually found herself in the top 3 of each meet, with the majority of her finishes being the first to cross the finish line. Cronin also runs the anchor leg of the 4x4 relay as she loves chasing people down.

Having some talented runners on the track team, Cronin believes that Norwood just doesn't have enough girls to be successful.

"We have about 30 girls on the team, which is just not enough to allow us to win on a regular basis," Cronin said. "There just doesn't seem to be enough interest in track; girls come out each year for the team and soon after just quit and never come back."

Although she is talented on the track, Cronin seems to still prefer soccer. She feels more involved on the soccer field as it is much more enjoyable because track is all on your own and the fans don't come out to watch track like they do soccer. While she enjoys playing defense on the soccer field for the Mustangs, Cronin is still making goals on the track working on getting her 600 time down so she can take her talents to the Sectional Meet in the event.



freshman was looking for something else to fill her time. Like so many athletes, Cronin gravitated toward track to help with her main sport.

"I wanted to stay in shape for soccer and I felt that I was pretty good at running so I gave it a shot," Cronin said. "I made the varsity team and found that the girls were all welcoming. Being not that large of a group it wasn't all that bad."

600 where she currently has a best time of 1:48 and is a mere one second away from being able to qualify for the Divisional Meet.

Taking part in the other events she noted that she has done all right, but prefers the 600. However, it wasn't all that easy for her when she began running the event Norwood two years ago.

"The first year in anything is usually hard and my times were not that good, around the 2-min-

learn to pace myself but had to breathe properly."

Prior to becoming proficient running the 600, Cronin decreased her time during her sophomore season. Continuing to practice and learn proper techniques for the event, she was able to knock her time down to 1:56. In addition to her working on her running ability, she found a great resource in the addition of a distance coach.



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Calendar of Events

Feb. 3

Art Therapy: Self-Care/Well-Being through Art Therapy; Part 1
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m.

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to host a 4-part series called Art Therapy with Elisandra Lopes starting in February. Please join Elisandra, a mental health clinician, as she guides the attendees through understanding how art is used in dealing with challenges like low self-esteem, anxiety, and self-care. This program is free and open to ages 18+. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

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

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

Feb. 4

Sunday Winter Concert
Norwood High School
2 p.m.

The Sunday Winter Concert series is back and Silver Spears will perform to a welcoming audience. Free and open to the public. Two free raffle prizes, sponsored by local businesses, will be called during intermis-

sion each week. For more information, call the Norwood Town Hall at 781.762.1240 or visit www.norwoodma.gov.

Feb. 5

Effective Grassroots Movements that Impact Voting Rights
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)
7 p.m.

What does it take to form a grassroots idea into an effective movement which can have significant impact on voting and elections? Join this virtual panel discussion to see how that happens and what you can do to be part of that movement!

Feb. 6

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 counted but only for bragging rights! This event was from Jan. 16 which was postponed due to inclement weather. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Democracy Talks: College Admissions & Affirmative Action
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)
7 p.m.

In 2023, Supreme Court of the United States ruled in a landmark decision that race-based affirmative action programs in college admissions processes violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. How has this decision impacted

students and college applicants? Join Dr. Anthony Abraham Jack and Prof. Christina J. Cross for an educational chat. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2

Feb. 8

New England UFOs
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

Join Ronny LeBlanc, television star and author of "Monsterland: Encounters with UFOs, Bigfoot and Orange Orbs," as he outlines some amazing UFO sightings that have occurred in the New England area, latest revelations from the US Government, as well as what these crafts just might be. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2

Feb. 10

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

The boutique has everything you need to stay warm and cozy! Also, discover some very nice pants and tops in hard-to-find sizes, 18-20. In addition to their regular treasures, you can find even bigger bargains in the half-price room!

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.

Feb. 11

Sunday Winter Concert
Norwood High School
2 p.m.

Returning favorite Dan Gabel and the Abletones take the stage! Free and open to the public.

Two free raffle prizes, sponsored by local businesses, will be called during intermission each week. For more information, call the Norwood Town Hall at 781.762.1240 or visit www.norwoodma.gov.

Feb. 12

Monday Movie Matinee
Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.

Today's movie is Judas and the Black Messiah (126 minutes, Rated R, 2021) Offered a plea deal by the FBI, William O'Neal infiltrates the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party to gather intelligence on Chairman Fred Hampton. A career thief, O'Neal revels in the danger of manipulating both his comrades and his handler, Special Agent Roy Mitchell (Jesse Plemons). Hampton's political prowess grows just as he's falling in love with fellow revolutionary Deborah Johnson (Dominique Fishback). Meanwhile, a battle wages for O'Neal's soul. Will he align with the forces of good? Or subdue Hampton and The Panthers by any means, as FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover (Martin Sheen) commands? To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Black Girl Love: Indie Romance Writers Panel
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)
7 p.m.

Join a chat with independently-published romance authors Alexandria House, Katrina Jackson, and Ines Johnson. The authors of this all-Black panel will discuss their journey to being self-published, the romance community, their books, and the rise of indie publishing in the last few years. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Feb. 13

Women's Business Networking Meeting
Norwood Civic Center
8 a.m.

The Women's Business Networking (WBN) group is a non-profit organization for women in business or residents of Norwood and surrounding towns. The group meet two mornings per

month and in addition to providing referral business, the women share and support business ideas and community events/fundraisers. If you would like more information about the organization, call 781-799-7068, or email wbnofnorwood@gmail.com.

Norwood Toastmasters Can Improve Your Communications Skills
Norwood Civic Center, Lydon Suite
6:45 p.m.

The Norwood Toastmasters Club, a not-for-profit educational organization, is well into its 25th year! The group develops communication and leadership skills for its members and the community at every level of ability. Guests are always welcome! Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. For more information, visit www.norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/.

Feb. 14



Feb. 15

Understanding Your Taxes
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.

Do you understand the basics of tax forms? How is your tax bill calculated? Kevin Callahan, CFA, and Yuri Dagan, CFA, will share information on tax filing—both preparation and forms. Learn the answers to some common questions about your taxes and become a more informed consumer of financial services. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE!

Morrill Memorial Library, partnering with the Norwood Senior Center, is offering Monday Movie Matinees! The series will run through May, the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 1 p.m. Registration is required. The event is recommended for ages 18 and up. Register at www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call 781-769-0200, x 2. Film titles can be found in the calendar section each month.

CALENDAR

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Feb. 16

February 2024 Monthly Ballroom Dance
Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St.
7-10 p.m.

Music will be provided by Dave Valerio. Cost is \$12. The evening will include coffee, tea, desserts, and water, door prizes! Newcomers of all ages welcome! To stay updated on 'Friends' events, visit their Facebook page: Friends Of The Norwood Council On Aging | Facebook

Feb. 17

Art Therapy with Elisandra Lopes: Self-care/Well-Being through Art Therapy; Part 2
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m.

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to host a 4-part series called Art Therapy with Elisandra Lopes starting in February. Please join Elisandra, a mental health clinician, as she guides the attendees through understanding how art is used in dealing with challenges like low self-esteem, anxiety, and self-care. This program is free and open to ages 18+. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

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Feb. 18

Sunday Winter Concert
Norwood High School
2 p.m.

The S.O.S. Band will close out the 2024 Sunday Winter Concert Series. Free and open to the public. Two free raffle prizes, sponsored by local businesses, will be

called during intermission each week. For more information, call the Norwood Town Hall at 781.762.1240 or visit www.norwoodma.gov.

Feb. 20

Beyond Dystopia: Weaving Hope & Justice thru Climate Fiction
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)
7 p.m.

Dive into a future built on hope and justice! Join Tory Stephens, the Creative Manager at Grist's Imagine 2200: Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors climate fiction initiative, for a captivating talk that will explore climate fiction and climate storytelling as a climate solution. Uncover the power of hope and community embedded in the genres of climate fiction, solarpunk, and throtopia. Leave with a belief that story is an important missing link for society to muster the collective strength to overcome our climate crisis.

This talk is: perfect for curious minds seeking alternative climate narratives, ideal for bookworms and advocates interested in the power of stories, and an inspiring call to action for anyone invested in shaping a brighter future. Leave inspired, empowered, and ready to take action. Discover why climate storytelling deserves our support and how you can play a role. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Feb. 23

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

The February movie is 'Disney's Soul,' rated PG. The Morrill Memorial Library and Lifeworks Inc of Norwood bring this program series to the Norwood community. This event is recommended for attendees aged 18 and up. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Feb. 24

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

Beautiful clothes, expanded jewelry section, kitchen needs, decorative items, books, puzzles, shoes, linens. The Blessings Boutique has it all!

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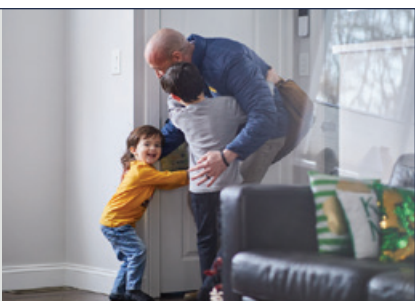


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ity. Guests are always welcome! Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. For more information, visit www.norwoodtoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org/.

Titles on Tap Book Group
Napper Tandy's, Norwood
7:30 p.m.

Titles on Tap, sponsored by the Morrill Memorial Library, and meeting at Napper Tandy's, will discuss 'Bubblegum,' by Adam Levin. Copies of the book will be available to pick up at the library's Reference desk. The ebook and audiobook are instantly available through Libby. Titles on Tap is a social book group for readers in their 20s and 30s and for the young at heart.

February 28

Author Discussion: "A True Account: Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pyrates"
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)
7 p.m.

New England author Katherine Howe will chat about her latest release, *A True Account: Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pyrates, Written By Herself*, a rollicking mystery set in the Golden Age of Piracy. Katherine will also discuss her collaborative book with Anderson Cooper, her YA books, and her journey to becoming a bestselling author. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Feb. 29

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

Morrill Memorial Library, partnering with the L.E.A.D. program affiliated with Norwood

High School, will host a Sensory-friendly Lego Club for adults. 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 different levels of abilities. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

One Vote: Film Screening and Discussion
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

The League of Women Voters, in partnership with Morrill Memorial Library, is hosting the film screening of the documentary, 'One Vote.' The film will be followed by a discussion. ONE VOTE is a small film about a big topic: American democracy. At a moment of unprecedented cynicism about the political process, ONE VOTE bears hopeful witness to the humanity and rich diversity of American voters, and to the unsung stories that comprise our exercise of democracy. It is an inspiring film that follows five diverse Americans on election day. At times funny, surprising and heart-wrenching, the film eschews partisan politics in favor of an honest portrayal of voters' Election Day experiences. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/ or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2.



Real Estate Corner

Real Estate Activity Dips in December, 2023

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reports that Norfolk County recordings in December, 2023, show a decline in the total number of property sales and mortgages compared to December, 2022, recordings. This decline can be attributed to a limited inventory of new and existing property for sale and a housing market that continues to struggle with mortgage interest rates that meet or exceed 7%.

"The limited inventory of

properties for sale has created a highly competitive market with fewer opportunities for buyers," Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell remarked. "Additionally, higher mortgage interest rates relative to what they were in 2020 and 2021 have made it more challenging for potential homeowners, especially first-time homebuyers, to secure affordable financing options, forcing some potential homeowners to put their dreams of purchasing a home on hold."

The Registry of Deeds recorded 8,015 documents in December, 2023. This was 15% less than in December, 2022 and a 7% decrease compared to November, 2023.

"These declining numbers suggest a slowdown in the real estate market, Register O'Donnell said. "A decrease in the number of deeds and mortgages, which make up a large portion of the total documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds, greatly impacts overall real estate activity."

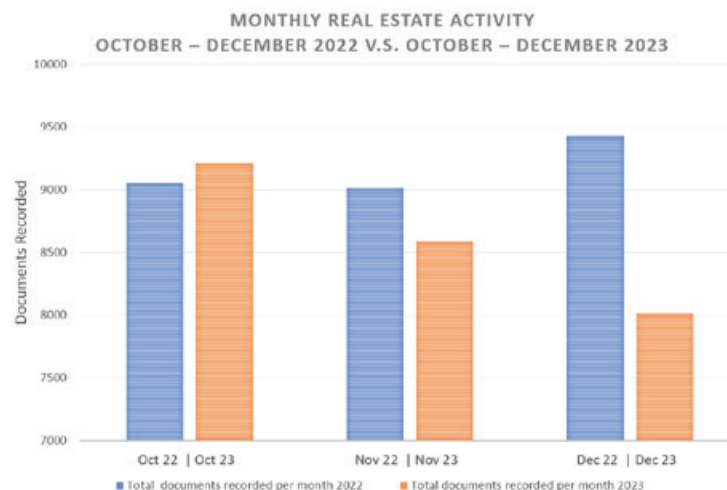
The total number of deeds recorded for December, 2023, which reflects both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,235, down 3% from December, 2022 and down 2% from November of last month.

"Property prices dropped significantly in December compared to last year, and the number of property transactions was also down, which may suggest that the property price alone is not the sole factor contributing to the decrease in the number of deeds recorded at the Registry," Register O'Donnell said.

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties for December, 2023 fell to \$871,249, a 7% decrease compared to December, 2022 and a decrease of 9% from November, 2023. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 15% from last year and 14% from last month.

"Seasoned homebuyers are doubly affected by current market conditions as they not only face higher borrowing costs but also have limited options to choose from" Register O'Donnell said. "Additionally, although home loan interest rates are coming down a little, but in some cases rates still exceed 7%, so these same homeowners are also less likely to refinance, leading to a decrease in the number of mortgages being recorded."

For the month of December, lending activity overall continued to decline from December of last year. A total of 1,124 mortgages were recorded, which is 19% less than last year and 4% less than



last month.

"Those who took advantage of the lower interest rates in 2020 and 2021 are also less likely to refinance at current rates, and with property sales down, this results in a more pronounced decline in the number of mortgages recorded," Register O'Donnell said. "For individuals who are struggling to keep up with payments, refinancing at a higher interest rate is not going to help."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds continues to closely monitor the foreclosure market. In December, 2023, there were six foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in December, 2022, there were four recorded. The total number of notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, decreased from last year, going from 40 notices in December, 2022 to 26 in December, 2023. This resulted in 35% a decrease in the number of notices to foreclose.

"We all experience unforeseen events in our lives," Register O'Donnell said. "Sometimes these events are beyond our control and can have a devastating impact on our finances. I would urge anyone struggling to pay their mortgage or who knows someone who is struggling to contact one of the non-profit organizations listed on our website, www.norfolkdeeds.org."

For the past several years, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has partnered with Quincy Community Action Programs (617-479-8181, x376) and

NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (617-770-2227) 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 decrease in the number of documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds indicates a significant decline of 15% in real estate activity," Register O'Donnell concluded. "This could be attributed to various factors, such as rising interest rates, a lack of available inventory, or elevated property prices. It will be important to monitor these trends and see how they impact the overall real estate market in the coming months."

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, "like" them on Facebook at facebook.com/norfolkdeeds. Follow on Twitter and Instagram at @norfolkdeeds.

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

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Real Estate Corner

“Suits for Success” Donates to Boston’s St. Francis House

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell donated a carload of smart casual clothing, business attire, and wool coats totaling more than 100 articles of clothing

“It is my great pleasure to deliver these clothing donations to Boston’s St. Francis House on behalf of the residents of Norfolk County,” Register O’Donnell remarked. “I



to St. Francis House in Boston through the “Suits for Success” program.

The often-taken-for-granted suit or dress clothes hidden away in the back closet and only occasionally seeing the light of day may seem to some like an unfortunate necessity. However, for those looking to regain self-sufficiency, quality clothing can be that extra push they need and help them on the path to success.

“These clothes will be put to good use and appreciated by the thousands who come to St. Francis House each year for a fresh pair of clothes in times of need,” St. Francis House Vice President of Programs and Services Keri Thomas said. “It is so valuable and necessary in getting individuals ready for the next step and help them to become more independent.”

St. Francis House’s mission is to rebuild lives by providing refuge and pathways to stability for adults experiencing homelessness and poverty. They aim to transform lives using a holistic approach to understanding and addressing behavioral health, housing, and employment needs.

thank all those who donated to our ‘Suits for Success’ program, and I hope other local residents and businesses will consider making a clothing donation to their local nonprofit organization. Organizations like the St. Francis House are truly needed and are a great resource for the community.”

St. Francis House has been aiding the community since 1984. They provide a range of services, including clinical care, behavioral health services, and job counseling. They also offer food, clothing, and affordable and low-threshold housing to those in need.

“Donations like this help ensure the physical and emotional safety of our guests and assist in the process of changing the trajectory of their lives and moving beyond homelessness,” Thomas said. “It offers choices to people who have had total control of their lives taken away, and this is the final touch that can help individuals land a job and help them on their path to becoming self-sufficient.

Since the Registry started the “Suits for Success” program in February 2009, it has distributed more than 11,200 articles of clothing to local charitable

organizations.

The “Suits for Success” program, developed by Register O’Donnell, partners with groups like Interfaith Social Services of Quincy, Father Bill’s & MainSpring of Quincy, the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System Voluntary Service Program, Circle of Hope in Needham, United Parish’s Thrifty Threads, St. Vincent de Paul in Plainville, St. Francis House in Boston, Suits and Smiles in Jamaica Plain, InnerCity Weightlifting, and New Life Furniture Bank of Massachusetts in Walpole to

assist those who are in need of clothing as well as household items. The mission of “Suits for Success” is to collect donations of suitable clothing to be distributed to individuals who may need appropriate attire for employment interviews.

“During the past decade, we have learned that programs like ‘Suits for Success’ work,” Register O’Donnell said. “This program has given many people a valuable resource to help them on the path to success and may ultimately help them achieve self-sufficiency. It is rewarding just to help others in our com-

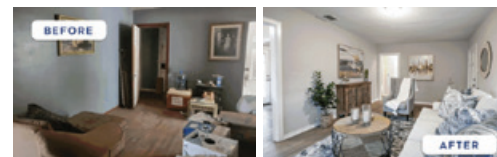
munity who may be looking to take that next step in a search for a job or just have a suit to go to a wedding or other event.”

To learn more about Registry of Deed’s events and initiatives, like them on Facebook@ at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow on Twitter@ at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram@ at Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center via telephone at (781) 461-6101 or email register-odonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

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Real Estate Corner

County Lawsuit: Another Favorable Ruling for Register

The Norfolk Superior Court recently ruled for a second time in favor of Norfolk Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell in a lawsuit against Norfolk County Director John J. Cronin and the County Commissioners Peter H. Collins, Joseph P. Shea, and Richard R. Staiti.

Judge Cahillane of the Norfolk Superior Court ruled in favor of the Norfolk Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell on a motion for the judge to reconsider an earlier decision against County Director John J. Cronin and the County Commissioners in favor of Register O'Donnell. This motion was put before the Norfolk Superior Court by County Director John Cronin and the County Commissioners. Norfolk Superior Court Judge Cahillane reaffirmed his earlier decision and denied the motion filed by County Director Cronin and the County Commissioners. At issue is the Register's ability to manage the Registry of Deeds and to

access funds in an approved and funded Registry of Deeds budget without the unlawful interference of the County Commissioners and their Director under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 35, Section 32.

This most recent favorable ruling for Register O'Donnell follows another favorable ruling in the Norfolk Superior Court on October 19, 2023. The Norfolk Superior Court in recognizing the Register of Deeds' role as the "authorized official" of the Norfolk Registry of Deeds stated in its decision "The statute recognizes that the Register is in the best position to understand the daily needs of the Registry of Deeds and to take certain actions in the interest of the public that elected him."

These favorable court rulings for the Norfolk Registry of Deeds are a result of a lawsuit that was initiated by the Norfolk Register of Deeds in October of 2022, in

response to Norfolk County Director John J. Cronin's refusal to allow the Register to access approved budget funds for Registry operations services and matter.

"In my opinion, denying access to funds in a lawfully approved budget is an abuse of power, and any time an official such as a staff bureaucrat like the County Director or elected officials like the Norfolk County Commissioners abuse power, you have got to stand up to that abuse of power," Register O'Donnell said.

Register O'Donnell had to file and fight this lawsuit without the benefit of legal representation. The Register's office was not allowed an attorney to represent the office and the interests of the Registry of Deeds and all those Registry stakeholders, including homeowners who benefit from the operations and services of the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. Despite not having an attorney, the

Norfolk Superior Court issued a favorable ruling for Register O'Donnell writing "The Defendants' actions in preventing the transfers, therefore, are directly contradictory to the unambiguous language of the statute." County Director Cronin and the County Commissioners Peter H. Collins, Joseph P. Shea and Richard R. Staiti are represented by Attorney Scott Lopez a partner in the Boston law firm of Lawson, Weitzen, LLP. The legal fees and costs of Attorney Lopez are being paid by the Norfolk County monies.

"The actions of County Director Cronin and the Norfolk County Commissioners are not in the best interests of the taxpayers," Register O'Donnell said. "Taxpayer monies are not being spent wisely by the Norfolk County Commissioners."

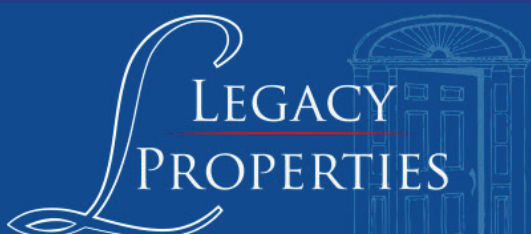
There are no registry legal fees to be paid by the taxpayers because the Registry is fighting

this case without an attorney. This second favorable ruling, just like the first favorable court decision for the Norfolk Register of Deeds, is not costing the taxpayers as this case is being litigated by the Register of Deeds on his own. However, the Norfolk County Commissioners Peter H. Collins, Joseph P. Shea and Richard R. Staiti and County Director John J. Cronin continue to spend taxpayer monies to pay their Boston law firm and Attorney Scott Lopez on this case.

The Norfolk Superior Court decision entered 12-8-2023 can be viewed at <https://files.norfolkdeeds.org/file/Norfolk-Superior-Court-Decision-12-8-2023.pdf>

The Norfolk Superior Court favorable ruling for the Register of Deeds dated 10-19-2023 can be viewed at <https://files.norfolkdeeds.org/file/Norfolk-Superior-Court-Favorable-Ruling-10-19-2023.pdf>

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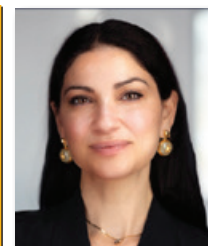
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Rose is a seasoned real estate agent with over a decade of experience, adept at navigating the intricacies of the housing market. She has a proven track record of successful transactions and a deep understanding of property values. Skilled in negotiations, contract management, and providing personalized guidance to clients.



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Christina is dedicated to providing top-notch service to clients. Christina possesses a strong work ethic, excellent communication skills, and a passion for helping individuals find their dream home.



Pat V. Pino, Esquire

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ppino@pinolawfirm.com

Pat is the managing attorney and founding principal of Pino Law Office, P.C. With over 20 years of experience protecting and pursuing the interests of his real estate clients, Pat offers a free consultation to discuss your issues. Buying or selling property is a huge step for most people, and Pat V. Pino brings a professional attitude, years of experience, respect from his colleagues and a deep well of knowledge to the table.



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Avg. List Price
↑ 2%

100.60%
Sales Price / List
Price Ratio
↓ 1%

19
No. of Prop. Sold
↓ 2%

25
Avg. Days on Market
↑ 39%

Based on data from M.L.S. Property Information Network, Inc. for property type(s) single family, townhome, multi-family, condominium, Lot/Land/Farm, land, farm in the price range \$0 - \$999,999,999 for the period September 2023 - December 2023. December 2023 stats are compared to previous 3 months' average. Source data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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