

Run Norwood Run!

BY MICHELE TARANTO

The Boston Marathon is the champion of running competitions and athletes come from all over the world to contend in this legendary event, and it all kicks off just a few towns from Norwood. In Massachusetts, some workers may look forward to this day for its selective Patriot's Day holiday status, but for runners, it's Game Day!

The 129th Boston Marathon starting gun will go off on Monday, April 21. The men's and women's wheelchairs will start at 9:06 a.m. and 9:09 a.m., respectively, handcycles and duos at 9:30 a.m., and professional men and women at 9:37 a.m. and 9:47 a.m., the para-athletics division at 9:50 a.m., then waves 1-4 through 11:15 a.m.

A total of 18 Norwood residents will be lacing up and heading to Hopkinton on Patriot's Day to take part in this local, national, and international renowned tradition. They have spent months testing and strengthening their muscles and endurance, battled New England weather, all to reach their goal of 26.2 miles and cross that



finish line in Copley Square.

Name	Age
Thomas Ahearn	61
Ryan Bower	39
Jillian Cartwright	28
Ashling Devaney	26
Michael Duggan	38
Connor Flynn	27
Amanda Jaccino	31
Kirsten Kalkhurst Burbo	57
Allison Kelleher	24
Jack Kelley	23

Sean Kineavy	28
John Mcgourty	65
Roberta Myers	59
Du Park	34
Jaclyn Poulos	45
Valerie Quinlan	27
Sean Rooney	45
Erik Vik	32

If you happen to see any of these residents around town before the race, be sure to wish them luck!

Your Vote Counts!

BY MICHELE TARANTO

The Town of Norwood will be holding its Town Election on Monday, April 7, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Residents are throwing their hat in to earn your vote to serve the town in many municipal areas, either for a repeat term or challenging an incumbent. This is the time for Norwood residents to make a difference in their local government, whether they are pleased with their present officials or ready for a change in leadership.

This year, there are only two contested seats: Cheryl Lynn Doyle and Stephen P. Konetchy are running against Robert G. Donnelly and Amanda R. Grow, for Town Selectmen; and Kathryn Kinzel Ahnger-Pier is challenging Carolyn Ann Riccardi for the Board of Health seat.

The list below are Norwood government officials running to represent the residents of the Town of Norwood.

SELECTMEN:

(Two) 3-Year Seats

Robert G. Donnelly (Incumbent)

Amanda Grow (Incumbent)

Cheryl Lynn Doyle

Stephen P. Konetchy

TOWN MODERATOR:

(One) 1-Year Seat

Gerri S. Slater (Incumbent)

MEMBER OF BOARD OF HEALTH:

(One) 3-Year Seat

Carolyn Riccardi (Incumbent)

Kathryn Kinzel Anger-Pier

MEMBER OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Two) 3-Year Seats

Joan Elizabeth Giblin (Incumbent)

Judith E. Bromley

MEMBER OF FINANCE COMMISSION

(Two) 3-Year Seats

Anne Marie Haley (Incumbent)

Alan D. Slater (Incumbent)

MEMBER OF FINANCE COMMISSION

(Two) 3-year seats

VOTING

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A Little Off The Top

Fixation with a vacation to our location

BY STUART GREEN

We interrupt this previously scheduled show for this kinda special non-paid, non-political program from the town's Not Very Board of Tourism, Sightseeing, Physics, and Parallel Universe.

Due to the town's quest to balance its books and follow that star - no matter how hopeless, no matter how far - officials, economic advisors and Mrs. Fitzgibbons' fourth-grade class have devised this new board to attract tourists to the town from all around the continent, the world, and even the county. So, sit back, grab a bag of Mr. Chips, slip into your slippers, and be sure to pay attention to the following program... unless you have to do something really important - like walking the dog.

"Good evening, welcome, howdy, and who took my cupcake? My name is Boris, a Taurus from the forest. I'm head of Tourists.

"I've got a question for

those viewing: Are you tired of the same old vacation? You know - a trip to a Caribbean beach, an around-the-world cruise, a weekend getaway to Paris, a bowling trip to Chelsea? Oh, we've all done that and done that over again, I'm sure.

"We'd like you to consider an alternative. Or at least an alternative to an alternative. And if not, we can alter it.

"How about spending your precious time off in our town? We're just the ticket for those of you who can't afford a first-class ticket.

"The accommodations are nothing short of simply mediocre. The Smiths (not their real name) are clearing out their spare bedroom to welcome exotic travelers who don't mind a couple of bathrobes in their closet and a classic American late 20th century masterpiece of Farah Fawcett on the wall, generously donated by their son (not his real name) when he lived there before going to college last year - or maybe it was 40 years ago.

"The sights will be nothing less than amazing, which many have compared to the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Well, not exactly many, but one guy passing through town did say it was a wonder we made it out of the ancient world.

"We may not have the Pyramids, but there's this terrific clubhouse Tommy Smith (no relation) built for his Beagle Scout Award.

"The Hanging Gardens of Babylon was nice, but the Dormant Petunia Garden of Miss Violet is beyond that. Some even say it's very nice. Imagine!

"Sure, the Lighthouse of Alexandria was stupendous, but it doesn't compare to the Birdhouse of Alex and Ria.

"We could go on and on, but we already have.

So, next time you're planning your getaway, consider us. And always remember our motto: 'Visit us. We really need the money.' "

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

New Resident Open House

BY MICHELE TARANTO

Learn everything about Norwood? A great idea! But how? Where? The best place would be at Norwood 101, the New Resident Open House! Each spring, the Morrill Memorial Library hosts this new resident welcome program to introduce and educate newcomers (and often long-timers) on volunteer opportunities, town and non-profit organizations, and to meet civic personnel.

Norwood 101 will be held on Monday, April 14, 6-8 p.m., (drop

Lions Club, Neponset Valley Humane Society, Women's Community Council, League of Women Voters, Friends of the Morrill Memorial Library, and many more!



Visitors will also have the opportunity to view and learn about the Morrill Memorial Library and the abundance of interesting and valuable resources and services this local gem has to offer. That also includes meeting the knowledgeable library staff and how they can help in a variety of areas!



in), at the Morrill Memorial Library. The guest list includes Town of Norwood representatives and officials, municipal departments, and community and non-profit organizations. Their mission? To welcome and answer any questions new residents (owners and renters) may have. Basically, learn everything about what's going on around town!

Just a sampling of those who will be eagerly waiting to introduce themselves and their departments or organizations are: members of Norwood's police and fire departments, town selectmen, representatives from Norwood Light Broadband, the Health Department, the Council on Aging, the Norwood Evening Garden Club, Norwood Trails Committee, Old Parish Preservation Volunteers, the Norfolk County DA's Office, the Norwood Food Pantry, the Rotary Club, the

"One room will be for town officials, departments, one room for community groups, and the library departments will also be showcased on the second floor bringing attention to our ever growing "Library of Things" collection," Technical Service Specialist and Norwood 101 organizer Patty Bailey said.

Registration is not required, but the first registered 30 registered attendees will receive a welcome swag bag and free raffles will be donated by local businesses. Once Local Bank is also returning this year as the event sponsor. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

If you are new to town or would like to find out more about the wonderful Town of Norwood and what it offers its residents, this event is for you!

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FREE Pancake Breakfast for Veterans

The VFW & VFW Auxiliary #2452 are hosting a free Pancake Breakfast for Veterans, military, & families in Norwood, on Sunday, April 6, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 193 Dean St., Norwood. Family and friends are asked to make a \$5 donation.

A Veteran who will lead the Missing Man Ceremony at 10:15 a.m.

VOTING

continued from page 1

Anne Marie Haley (Incumbent)

Alan D. Slater (Incumbent)

TRUSTEES OF MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

(Two) 3-Year Seats

Sheri A. McLeish (Incumbent)

Donna R. Montgomery (Incumbent)

MEMBER TOWN PLANNING BOARD

(One) 5-Year Seat

Robert J. Bamber

MEMBER OF NORWOOD HOUSING AUTHORITY

(One) 5-Year Seat

Jennifer M. Polito (Incumbent)

CONSTABLE (One) 3-Year Seat

Daniel Paul Williams (Incumbent)

Absentee Voting In-Person deadline - Friday, April 4, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

All ballots must be returned to Norwood Town Hall on or before Monday, April 7, 2025, 8 p.m., in the Town Hall Drop Box or the Blue Drop Box in the Town Hall back parking lot.

To check your voter status and location, visit norwoodma.gov, click on Departments, Town Clerk, Voting and Elections, Voter Status and Location.

Norwood Polling Locations

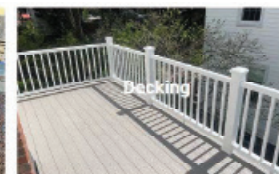
- District 1- Oldham School, 165 Prospect Street
- District 2- Oldham School, 165 Prospect Street
- District 3- Civic Center, 165 Nahatan Street
- District 4- Cleveland School, 33 George F. Willet Parkway
- District 5- Civic Center, 165 Nahatan Street
- District 6- Balch School, 1168 Washington Street
- District 7- Balch School, 1168 Washington Street
- District 8- Callahan School, 90 Garfield Avenue
- District 9- Prescott School, 66 Richland Road

Poles will be open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. You must be a registered voter to participate in Norwood's election.

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BSAC PET CORNER

PINEAPPLE ADOPTED!



Anyone who follows this page or is familiar with the Bay State Animal Cooperative (BSAC) is likely met Pineapple through this page. Pineapple's life had a rough beginning when at an early age he lived on the streets and suffered from malnutrition and no human love. When BSAC took him in, he had severe dental disease and a terrible tail injury. With months of proper medical care and great foster care, Pineapple got a new lease on life. BSAC spent thousands of dollars to remove all of his teeth and treat his tail which has fully healed.

The BSAC volunteers are thrilled to announce that after many, many, many months in foster care, seven-year-old Pineapple has found his furrever home with a loving family!

Despite the tough breaks, Pineapple is the most loving, affectionate cat ever. It's incredible how much he still loves and trusts humans through the patience, kindness, and generosity of BSAC volunteers. Through their efforts, and Pineapple's tough but sweet spirit, his dreams (if he could tell us) have come true!

THANK YOU FOSTER PARENTS

As a non-profit organization, the success of the Bay State Animal Cooperative solely relies and operates on the generosity and altruism of volunteers, from board members, to administrators, event participants, and foster families.

BSAC's foster families, how-

ever, are indispensable. The only way the organization can accept these cats as they wait for an adoptive family is to house them with a temporary family who opens their home without knowing how long this 'guest' will be staying. It is also not an easy task to care for these helpless and loving felines only to give them up. It takes special people for this task and the BSAC has a team of incredible foster parents. A special thank you to: Lydia, Maria-Lisa, Lynn, Volunteers; Marcia, Lesley, Diana to name a few for being there and helping them find their forever homes!

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES SEND A THANK YOU



In April 2017, we welcomed Kiara into our home, where she became a beloved companion to our orange tabby, Rocky. After settling into island life in Nahant, she quickly adapted to our weekend travels to Wells, Maine, proving to be an adventurous and adaptable companion.

Later that year, our journey took an even bigger turn as we packed up and moved to Florida. Kiara and Rocky embraced the adventure, often lounging comfortably in the backseat during our travels. Once in Florida, they discovered a new favorite spot—the lanai—where they could bask in the fresh air and watch the world go by. To this day, Kiara insists on inspecting the lanai first thing every morning while I prepare her breakfast, a ritual that has become part of our daily routine.

Kiara has been the love of my life and my constant companion. I first reached out to Marcia in search of a friend for Rocky, knowing that with our frequent trips to Maine, a cat comfortable with car rides was a must. Marcia introduced me to this beautiful tabby-Bengal mix, and it wasn't

long before she completely won our hearts. We even discussed training her for car travel and considered working with a cat behaviorist to ensure a smooth transition.

Kiara has brought so much joy, adventure, and love into our lives, and I'm forever grateful for the journey we've shared.

Warm regards,
Paula Pascucci

I adopted Penny through BSAC in 2014. She was a tiny kitten then, but her LOUD purring caught my attention immediately. Since then, Penny has been my little buddy. She accompanies me around the house as I do my daily activities (she is sleeping here on the couch with me as I type this), she enjoys playing with her toy mouse, and she loves having her tummy scratched. My experience with BSAC and with Penny has been nothing but great.

John Dugan

THE EASTER BUNNY LOVES PETS.....AND KIDS TOO!!



The Easter Bunny festivities are not just for the kids, pets can also enjoy join in on the fun of the season! They may relish in their own treats hidden in the house or backyard, but how about hopping up on the Easter Bunny's lap before the big search!

Their photo shoot takes place on Sunday, April 13, 1-4 p.m., Castle Island Brewing, 31 Astor Ave., in Norwood. For a \$15 donation, families will receive a 4 x 6 photo with the famous mascot

DOG/CAR WASH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Need service hours? Looking for volunteer opportunities? Love dogs? Or maybe you love washing cars!

The Bay State Animal Cooperative is looking for volunteers for its Annual Dog/Car Wash Fundraiser!

The event is Sunday, June 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Any time slot within those hours will be much appreciated!

The day will also include rabies vaccinations and a microchipping clinic.

For more information or to sign up, email info@baystateanimals.org.

Children under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult.



Have a truck? Two volunteers with trucks are needed to pick up and drop off supplies on the day of the event.

of the Easter season! All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Charley's Angels Pet Initiative (CAPI).

CAPI, a local non-profit organization launched in July, 2023, focuses its efforts on assisting owners who may find themselves struggling with the costs of pet ownership. They can provide essentials, such as food, litter, preventatives, toys, and enrichment, as well as financial veterinary assistance for those not able to pay for critical care. To learn more about CAPI, visit charleysangel-spetinitiative.org.

For more information on CAPI, visit their website at www.charleysangelspetinitiative.org/ or their Facebook page at facebook.com/charleysangelspet.

baystateanimals.org



Happy 2nd Birthday Mustang Sally!

Mustang Sally celebrated her 2nd birthday on March 3, 2025 at the Callahan Elementary School! Principal Scarlett Grandt invited Sally to their school, where they presented her a birthday cake and sang her happy birthday!

For those new to town, Mustang Sally (named from resident suggestions), was welcome into the Norwood Police Department (NPD) after the tragic murder of Norwood resident Tyler Lawrence in Boston when police departments brought their comfort dogs to the Coakley Middle School to help ease student grief and heartbreak. Norwood officer, and Sally handler Geoffrey Baguma, proposed the idea of bringing a dog into the NPD family to former Norwood Police Chief Brooks, and the rest is history!

“Sally is a very BIG hit throughout the community,” Officer Baguma said. “I think that part of it is that she visits every corner of the community and is always very happy to greet everyone in her great hometown.”

While Mustang Sally has been seen at virtually every



town event and ‘walking her beat,’ she has also spent the past two years learning. It’s not all fun and games as a canine member of the Norwood PD!

In addition to being a welcoming and comforting friend, Sally has been developing some great tracking skills. For those interested in viewing Sally in tracking action visit her Face-

book page, Mustang Sally. She also has her own Instagram page at MustangSallyNPD.

Last, but certainly not least, Sally enjoys her namesake ice cream flavor at Daddy’s Dairy, but in case anyone is wondering, she has some other favorite snacks, such as chicken, hamburger, a little hotdog, and cheese!

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Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday**

Living Healthy

Trouble Telling Red from Green?

By: GRAHAM R. STETSON, OD, MS

Color perception plays a crucial role in daily life, from interpreting traffic signals to selecting ripe fruits and appreciating nature. It is also essential in fields like graphic design, medicine, and aviation. But how does color vision work, and what happens when it malfunctions?

Color vision is a complex process involving both the eyes and brain. It starts in the retina, where specialized photoreceptors called cones detect light

and send signals to the brain. Humans have three types of cone cells, each sensitive to different wavelengths: short (blue), medium (green), and long (red). The brain processes these signals to create the full spectrum of colors we see.

Our ability to perceive millions of colors depends on how these cones interact. For example, equal stimulation of red and green cones results in the perception of yellow. This intricate system allows us to distinguish between countless shades.



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Not everyone experiences color the same way. Color vision deficiencies occur when one or more types of cone cells do not function properly. The most common type is red-green color vision deficiency and is more prevalent in men, affecting about 8% of males and only 0.5% of females. Less common is blue-yellow color blindness, where people struggle to differentiate between blue and yellow hues. In rare cases, individuals may have color blindness (achromatopsia), seeing the world in shades of gray.

Although males are much more likely to have a color vision deficit, the genetics of color vision are identical in males and females. That means that the edge that females have in color vision perception may be due to a larger vocabulary of colors rather than a physiological advantage.

Color vision deficiencies vary in severity, from significant impairments to mild cases detected only through testing. People with these conditions may face challenges, but assistive devices like color-correcting/enhancing glasses and digital filters can help. Consulting an eye doctor can determine if these tools would be beneficial.

From the vibrant hues of a sunset to the subtle shades in a painting, color is an essential part of how we perceive the world. Understanding color vision not only enhances our appreciation of everything around us but also fosters empathy and inclusivity for those with vision differences. As science advances, new technologies and treatments may one day offer solutions for those with color deficiencies, broadening their visual experiences and making the world more vibrant for all.

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Living Healthy

Is Shoulder Pain Limiting Your Life?

It is researched that over 70% of people will experience shoulder pain at some point in their lives. Whether this is caused by sleeping the wrong way, shoveling the snow, a sports injury or anything in between, shoulder pain can deter one from the ability to live their normal life. Sometimes these symptoms can come on spontaneously, so finding the root cause of the pain is imperative to leading a healthy, pain-free lifestyle.

Susan N came into the office complaining of shoulder pain and restriction of movement. She could not reach up to wash her hair, or into a cabinet in the kitchen. This reduced range of motion was becoming extremely painful and was interfering with her daily life. She went to her MD who put her on meds but she only got a small amount of relief. Her sister told her about our office and she decided to give our office a chance. She underwent a program of care which included chiropractic adjustments as well as other therapies to assist in her care. Within a short timeframe Susan was back to herself and living pain free.

We have welcomed a new doctor to our practice! Dr. Molly Rappaport is a Board



Dr. Rochelle Bien, Dr. Molly Rappaport & Dr. Michael Goldstein

Certified Licensed Chiropractor and utilizes many integrative tools to help her patients reach optimal physical health. She uses instrument assisted soft tissue mobilization techniques like cupping, muscle scraping, and myofascial release in conjunction with chiropractic adjustments. She has helped many patients return to normal daily lives following shoulder pain incidents, improving their mobility and ultimately eliminating their painful symptoms.

Call the Holistic Center at Bristol Square (508) 660-2722 located at 1426 Main Street in Walpole to book your appointment today. Dr. Molly, Dr. Bien, or Dr. Goldstein will be happy to assist you on your journey back to health.

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Norwood Cultural Council Announces Grant Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the Norwood Cultural Council grants for Fiscal Year 2025!

The Norwood Cultural Council received 53 applications for FY25 grant opportunities and awarded 31 grants to various individuals, organizations, and Norwood schools for a total of \$20,543.19.

Here are the grant recipients, programs, and amount of the grant:

Grantee	Program	Grant
Applefield, Janet	Combating Hate & Prejudice	\$375
Baguma, Geoffrey	Juneteenth 2025	\$1,200
Bassett, Lynda	Art Journaling for Beginners	\$425
Easton Children's Museum	Fossil Discoveries	\$350
Friends of Visual Arts Norwood, Inc.	Yard Art 2025	\$278.19
Jeanty, Rachelle	Lens to Life: Lighting Workshop	\$575
Mass. Educational Theater Guild, Inc.	The Mass. H.S. Drama Festival	\$800
Morrill Memorial Library	Artist in Residence: Motoko Dworkin	\$2,000
Japanese Culture & Storytelling	MUSIC Dance.edu	
	I Am Autistic I Am Fantastic - The Musical	\$450
	MUSIC Dance.edu	
	Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors	\$425
Norwood Art Assoc.	Art in the Park	\$700
Norwood Coordinated Family & Community Engagement	Norwood Early Childhood Education Fair	\$550
Norwood Historical Society	Holiday Concerts (2025)	\$450
Parkway Concert Orchestra	"Encore" (2025 Concert)	\$580
Shalom-Kobil, Tai Shalom	Hear Their Voices – A tribute to Women of Color around the world	\$900
The Attleboro Museum, Inc.	High Art Exhibition: "Balance"	\$200
Zammarchi, Robert	Elijah T. Grasshopper & Friends	\$500
Grants to the schools:		
Thomas Balch Elementary School	Echo Dance Group	\$995
	The Ooch Experience	
Tui Sutherland, author		\$340
Cornelius M. Callahan School	Meet Delilah – The North America	\$1,000
Right Whale	Prismatic Magic: Black History Tribute	\$1,000
	Top Secret Science Family STEM Night	\$500
Dr. Philip O. Coakley Middle School	Rhode Island Black Storytellers Performance	\$450
Charles J. Prescott Elementary School	Communication Board	\$400
Saint Catherine of Siena School	Pumpnickel Puppets	\$250
Willett & Little Mustangs Preschool	Barn Babies	\$900
Academy PTO	Pumpnickel Puppets: Buggy & Friends	\$700
	Toe Jam Puppet Band	\$850
	Wacky Science Show	\$900
	Wingmasters: World of Owls	\$700

Funding for the grants is made possible through the support of the Mass Cultural Council, the Town of Norwood, and donations.

The NCC invites Norwood residents to submit their ideas for future programs, performers, or displays that would benefit the town and increase cultural awareness. The annual public survey will be available in May 2025. The next grant cycle opens to submissions on September 1, 2025 and closes on October 15.

For more information regarding grants, to submit ideas for future programs, or to find out how you can become a Board Member of the Norwood Cultural Council, please email marypaz, NCC Chair: marypaz@norwoodma.gov.

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Norwood Presented with MIIA Risk Management Award

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), Norwood's insurance provider, presented the town with a Risk

work collaboratively and participate in quarterly safety meetings sponsored by the town's leadership. The town also consistently

employees safer, but also the community as a whole," Norwood Town Manager Tony Mazzucco said. We are grateful to MIIA for nominating Norwood for the 2024 Risk Management Award, and we look forward to continuing to lead by example in the Commonwealth via our commitment to training and adherence to best practices."

Norwood also takes advantage of MIIA's training course program designed to support its member municipalities in staying current on the latest safety issues, regulations, and best practices in leadership and municipal management. These free workshops, offered both onsite and online

by MIIA to its municipal members across the Commonwealth, cover a range of worker safety and health topics, including fall prevention, emergency preparedness, hazardous materials handling, asbestos control, and emergency driving techniques.

"By taking advantage of MIIA's programs and fostering a strong safety culture, Norwood is not only protecting workers but also setting a standard of excellence that minimizes risk and ensures a safer, more productive environment for everyone," Executive Vice President of MIIA Stanley Corcoran said. "We commend Norwood for its local commitment to workplace

safety and for prioritizing the well-being of employees and community members."

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) is the non-profit insurance arm of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a member-based organization, MIIA's sole focus is to provide excellent service and quality risk management and health insurance solutions to Massachusetts municipalities and related public entities. MIIA insures more than 400 cities, towns, and other public entities in Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.emiia.org and www.mma.org.



Management Award in recognition of its commitment to workplace safety and compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. The award was presented at Connect 351 during MIIA's Annual Business Meeting held on January 25, 2025, in Boston.

MIIA commended Norwood for demonstrating a consistent and proactive focus on risk management. All town departments

works to identify key loss areas and trends, develop preventative safety programs, and address training needs. Additionally, Norwood recently leveraged funds from MIIA's Risk Management grant initiative to upgrade its cyber risk prevention protection.

"The dedication and hard work of the Town of Norwood Safety Committee, led by Assistant General Manager Michael Rosen, has not only made our

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Norwood Sports

Prowess Behind the Plate

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Ever since he began playing baseball in Boston at the young age of three, Angel Olaverria wanted to be a third baseman, but he soon found out that his coaches thought he'd be better suited as a catcher. Thankfully, his coaches back then had the insight of who and what Olaverria could become playing behind the plate.

"I thought of myself playing third, but the coaches moving me to catcher, they felt it better fit my play as I had an amazing baseball IQ, could see the field well, and was vocal," Olaverria said. "I originally hated the position and didn't like it at all, but once I picked it up it became a true passion of mine. As a catcher, I was an extension of the coaching staff."

Through the years, the Boston native honed his catching skills, and by the seventh grade he realized that he was pretty good behind the dish. He found that his game developed into a top-notch catcher and was playing above his grade with kids 15-18 years old while he was only 13. This is when he knew that he could compete at a high level.

"I love being able to see the entire field while calling the shots and giving directions to my teammates," Olaverria said. "Back then it was tough at first and I was somewhat hesitant, but over



time I have become very comfortable with the position and it is now something that I really love."

Olaverria's ability to play on the diamond at a high level most likely comes from his father, who was drafted in the Dominican Republic but never really got to play due to an injury. As a youngster, he would follow his dad to the fields in Boston and while his father played, he was asking people to play catch with him.

It was in the seventh grade when his family decided to get out of Boston and away from the violence and moved to Norwood. According to Olaverria, his mother wanted to give him more exposure with baseball, but somewhere quieter.

It was while he was playing for an AAU when Norwood Coach Kevin Igoe first noticed his catching abilities on the baseball field.

"He had a special ability and I could see that he was going to be something special," the Mustangs Coach said. "He has worked his way into becoming the best in the league defensively. He's an unbelievable backstop and is well respected by his peers."

Arriving at the Norwood High School, Olaverria found himself starting for the JV team, but also sat on the varsity bench as the back-up catcher. During his sophomore year, the position would be his to lose.

"I knew that I was going to get the chance to start as a sophomore," Olaverria said. "(Coach) Igoe told me that I was up next as we had no other catchers. I was up for the challenge and ready to take on the opportunity."

His first start as a varsity catcher was against Westwood. Norwood would win the game but the young catcher was a bit nervous and had butterflies in his stomach, but felt a sense of pride being the youngest player on the field. Making the jump to high school baseball from AAU was a big adjustment, but he settled in quickly.

Playing against kids who were older Olaverria knew that he had raise the mental aspect of his game while getting his body in the best possible shape that he could. With those priorities he knew that his body would be able to recover and he could give 100% all the time.

Defense has always been a top priority of Olaverria's and you can usually find him working on his craft day or night. The senior noted that he gets to the gym every day at 5 AM to work on his cardio, then goes to school and is back in the gym in the afternoon; and if he has any free time in the evenings, he's working on drills in his basement.

"Most catchers don't like to be aggressive behind the plate and that's what separates me from the

others," Olaverria said. "I work hard on my blocking and receiving. Catching is a demanding position, but I take pride in my game. I'll put my butt on the line for my teammates ten out of ten times."

With all the work that he put in to improve himself, Olaverria was unanimously voted by the Tri-Valley League coaches as the Defensive Player of the Year last fall as a junior.

As he enters his senior campaign with Norwood this spring, Olaverria would like to go back-to-back as the Defensive Player of the Year in addition to winning a Division 2 State Championship for his coach.

Following his high school days at Norwood, he will be looking to continue playing baseball on the collegiate level. He has had a handful of college offers but noted that he needs to do some more research on the schools' academics as he wants to major in exercise science.

Although Norwood still has the entire season to play, Coach Igoe remains impressed with Olaverria's dedication and ambition in baseball as well as his position that he wished would receive more player attention and interest.

"He is involved in baseball 365 days a year and is looking to extend that into college," Igoe said. "He worked hard all winter and participated in many showcases. I'm going to be really sad when he leaves; catching has become a lost art with a lot of athletes not wanting to take the position on and he does it so well."

Women Take Aim

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Register at finfurandfeather.us

EMASS Senior Softball League Opens Player Registration

Eastern Massachusetts Senior Softball (EMASS) is opening its annual registration campaign for men and women softball players age 50 and older. With almost 500 members, the league attracts players from towns across Eastern Massachusetts with games played primarily in Wayland, Medfield, and Framingham. The EMASS

season runs from late April through late September, includ-

ing playoffs. Interested players can register for the EMASS 2025 season at <https://e-mass.org/current-programs>.

EMASS has six divisions that accommodate a range of skill levels, two of which play



SOFTBALL
continued on page 13

Norwood Sports

Norwood Cheer Looking For 2 Successful Seasons

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Over the past few seasons the Norwood fall cheer squad has accomplished a successful program, finishing fourth in the South Regional Sectionals in the large coed division and seventh at the States. This fall, the Mustangs finished in the top three of various international competitions in the coed division; third in the South Regionals small coed division, and top five in the States.

Coach Jill Buckman would love to get her winter cheer team to the same status the fall team has had. However, a majority of the girls who participate in the fall do not compete in the winter as they move over to gymnastics. So far, the winter squad is made up of a lot of newcomers trying the sport for the first time.

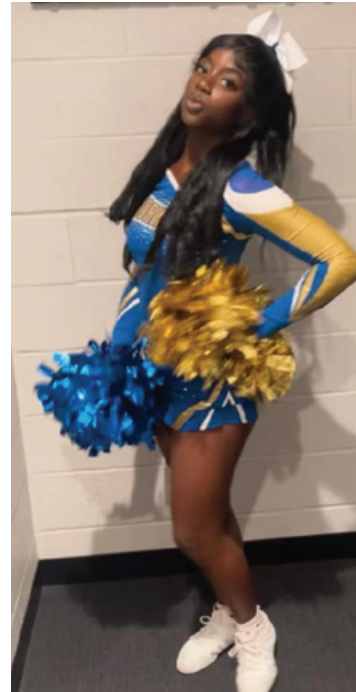
Last winter, Buckman had four girls take the challenge for the first time and the quartette liked the sport so much they decided to return this season.

“None of them had ever cheered before and knew absolutely nothing about the sport,” Buckman said. “Because a lot of the girls move over to gymnastics, the winter season has become for those looking to try the sport. It’s not as intense as the fall; we take part in three competitions during the winter and look to get better each competition while increasing our scores.”

Returning this winter for a second go-around at the sport are back spots Rachel Noel and Schellandie Cherrisson, flyer Sarah Souza, and Isabelle Allen, who is a jack of all trades outside of the back spot. With her versatility and talent, Allen was named to the Tri-Valley League All-Star team.

According to the Mustang coach, cheering can be tough at first, especially for someone who has never taken part in the sport. Stunting is somewhat difficult to get the timing down and practice is the only way to improve, but it looks as if her four new recruits have been able to take their cheering to the next level.

Souza, who like the other three girls are participating in their second season, has been thinking



From left: Sarah Souza, Schellandie Cherrisson, Rachel Noel and Isabelle Allen

about taking part in cheer for a long time.

“When I was living in Brazil, I saw the sport and thought that it was really cool, but we didn’t have the sport,” Souza said. “As soon as we moved to Norwood I was so happy that they had cheer and doing it with friends is so much better.”

As a freshman, Souza, along with Allen and Cherrisson, were playing tennis for the Mustangs in the spring and after seeing how well the fall cheer team did, she was more than anxious to take part in something she had wanted to do for a long time.

“Watching the girls, I wanted to be part of that; the stunting and tumbling was amazing,” Souza said. “Seeing the girls all the way at the top was something that I wanted to try. Being tiny I figured that was something that I could do; I love it and it’s the best feeling ever being up there.”

Souza got Allen, her friend and a soccer player during the fall, to come out with her during their sophomore year to try out for the winter cheer team.

“I wanted to stay busy and active during the winter so cheer sparked my interest,” Allen said. “The uniforms are top notch and I enjoy all the stunting and tumbling. Stunting is one of my favorite things to do at practice and I am getting better at my

tumbling.”

Although she is now primarily a base, Allen has taken part as a flyer for and found that it was something she liked but believes that she is a much better base and finds it interesting.

Cherrisson, another tennis player, found out that Souza and Allen were thinking about trying out for the winter team and decided to follow suit.

“I was just chillin’ when Bella and Sarah told me that they were going to try out for the cheer team and asked me if I wanted to go with them,” Cherrisson said. “I took up their offer and found out that I really loved the sport, so I stayed with it. The energy and competitions are great.”

Unlike the other three girls who were on the courts together, Noel heard about cheer through her friends, and although she never really considered it, she decided to give it a shot.

“I hadn’t really thought about the sport, but once I did consider it and joined the team, I found that I really liked it,” Cherrisson said. “I like the energy that it provided and it was really fun. Stunting is all out there, but back spot is an important position and I enjoy keeping the flyers stable and safe.”

Souza, Cherrisson, and Allen all enjoyed their inaugural winter season of cheer that they de-

cidated to tackle the fall season as well. Although only being on the junior varsity team, they are all having fun while improving their talents in the sport.

“I am hoping that next year I’ll be able to make the varsity team and I know that I have to work on my tumbling,” Allen said. “I have a mental block about hurting myself. I don’t want to get hurt and put the team in a bad position. I just need to tell myself that I can do it and don’t worry about it.”

Souza originally found herself in a tough sport at first too but has since gotten over the stigma and has improved upon her tumbling.

“At first I couldn’t do things right as I was putting too much pressure on myself, but my skills have improved and I am working hard on my tumbling,” Souza said. “I bought myself a mat and can practice at home to get better. I’m no longer putting too much pressure on myself and things are getting better.”

Like her JV teammates, Cherrisson found the fall much different than the winter season.

“Fall competitions are much more stressful, but once you hit the mat you feel the energy,” Cherrisson said. “I am having fun and being a back spot helping my teammates do stunts is great.”

All four girls are glad that they have joined the winter cheer

team and are looking forward to making it to Regionals next year as seniors.

“Our goal next year is to make it to Regionals while having fun,” Noel said. “We were close this year, a couple of points short. It was a minor disappointment, but with hard work we should be able to accomplish our goal next year.”

Cherrisson echoed her teammate’s thoughts.

“Our goal was to make Regionals and last year being that we were new to the sport we didn’t do any new stunts,” Cherrisson said. “We’ve been improving and putting a lot of effort into our stunts and should be able to make Regionals next year, while having fun.”

Souza wrapped things up by noting that the team was sharpening their skills and scores were going up so the team should expect to make Regionals next year. While making Regionals will be their top priority, she also enjoys being with her friends during the run.

“I love spending time with my teammates and coach and you can’t do stunting in any other sport,” the tiny flyer said. “I’ve only been cheering for two years now, but it has become my favorite sport and I can’t live without it now.”

The Matt Brown Foundation is an Official Charity Partner of the 2025 Boston Marathon® presented by Bank of America

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- If selected on our team, you must pay a \$100 team fee upon acceptance to secure your spot. This does not apply to your fundraising commitment.
- Commit to raising \$11,000 minimum by April 17, 2025.
- Pay a \$375 race entry fee to the Boston Athletic Association in January.

For runners with their own race entry bib either Qualified or invitational:

- If selected on our team, pay a \$100 team fee. This does not apply to your fundraising commitment.

- Commit to raising \$3,000 USD minimum by April 17, 2025.

Benefits of joining Team Matt Brown Foundation:

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- Entry into the 2025 Boston Marathon presented by Bank of America
- Full and personalized 20-week training plan for every level of running by RRCA certified coaches with organized group runs throughout the season starting in December.
- Runners will receive professional fundraising and training support through CharityTeams.com
- Organized point to point



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Officially qualified participants who are already entered in the 129th Boston Marathon that wish to raise funds for The Matt Brown Foundation may still do so by visiting our website.

Managed by CharityTeams.com

Team History

Matt and his running partner Lucas Carr first took on the Boston Marathon in 2012. For years they ran to raise money and awareness for some incredible organizations around the area.

However, they had always envisioned that one day they would be able to for the charity of their own. That dream became true in 2021 and is now a fixture on the calendar every year.

Alongside Matt and Luke, the foundation has been able to secure an additional bib for an individual to join their team during the last three years. We owe a huge thank you to Marykate, Jessica, and Brendan for their commitment and sacrifice when they each took on the 26.2 miles themselves! Their dedicated efforts to fundraising have raised over \$100,000 for the foundation.

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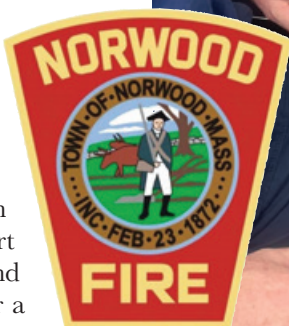
No Call Too Small To Handle!

Engines 4 and 5 had an interesting call on March 16, when they were dispatched to the Shaws parking lot for the report of a dog trapped under the seat of a car.

The small and frightened dog had managed to get stuck under the driver's seat and became wrapped up in the wire harness under it.

Firefighters utilized the mini hydraulic cutters, (yes, they have those) carried on the truck to cut the seat frame freeing "Malibu!". The dog and owner were given a courtesy transport home with a story and memory to share for a long time!

A big thanks to Group 2! They never know what the next call will entail!



SOFTBALL

continued from page 10

on Saturday mornings and four on weekday mornings. EMASS has many seniors in their fifties and sixties who can still hit a ball over a 300-foot fence, run down a deep drive in the outfield, or turn a double-play in the infield. There are other divisions in which players whose talents may have diminished over time can enjoy playing with similarly skilled friends.

divisions to enhance connections across our large softball-loving community," said Division Coordinator Rich Goldberg. "Our members enjoy competing with and against their friends."

EMASS players cherish their weekly double-headers and three-hour escape to the ballfield. "Aches and pains are easily tolerated when offset by the joy of playing and competing with friends," said Walker Royce. "And, at a cost of roughly \$5 per game, there's no better value for healthy recreation."

skill levels a safe, well-organized opportunity to play competitive slow-pitch softball. Players can sign up for a division featuring players with similar abilities. With two Saturday divisions and four weekday divisions, players can play at a level most comfortable for them. All divisions play a double-header each week and many members play on different teams in multiple divisions.

For more information about EMASS Senior Softball League, visit www.e-mass.org.

A Physical Activity Outlet with Balanced Competition

EMASS adds about 60 new players each year. "We shuffle up team rosters every year in all

About EMASS Senior Softball League

EMASS was founded in 1995 and offers active seniors of all

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Calendar of Events

April 3

Library Art School Morrill Memorial Library 3:30 p.m.

Each week, Miss Nicole will talk about a different artist, will show some art, and try out a project based on the artist's methods and style. Learn about some of the art all around you - on t-shirts, bags, books, and other media. Have you seen "Starry Night" and wondered about who painted it and why? For ages 8-12. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 4

Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults 10:20 a.m.

Join art instructor Stephanie Enloe for Sensory-friendly Art Classes for Adults, a program specially designed for adults with different levels of cognitive abilities. Each week, Ms. Stephanie will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 5

VFW Meat Raffle Norwood V.F.W. Post 2452, 193 Dean St. 2-5 p.m.

The price for each Drawing is \$2 or a pre-buy during the week for \$20. Ten Drawings are conducted each 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. Open to the public. The Norwood VFW is looking for new members. Veterans of the Gulf War, and personnel who have served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan are welcome to visit the post at any time or come to one of the monthly meetings which are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month through May (except December).

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima St. Catherine of Siena Church Saturday, April 4, 3 p.m.-Saturday,

April 5, 9 a.m.

The world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima has visited more than 100 countries bringing Mary's powerful message of salvation and hope to millions of people. The public is invited to come and experience the blessings of Our Lady of Fatima during this special statue visitation, sponsored and coordinated by World Apostolate of Fatima, Boston. www.wafboston.org.

April 6

Musical Sundays Concert Series: Fanny Lora, Through My Eyes Morrill Memorial Library 3 p.m.

Experience the vibrant voices of the Americas in "Through My Eyes: Sounds of the Americas," a captivating program celebrating classical works by trailblazing women composers from Cuba, Argentina, and Colombia. Featuring My Name is Alondra, a poignant song cycle by Boston-based composer Omar Najmi, with poetry by Dominican-American poet Alondra Bobadilla, this performance explores themes of love, loss, motherhood, and mental health. Join us for an unforgettable journey through music, poetry, and storytelling! To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 7

5 Alive: Explore the Senses! Morrill Memorial Library 9:30 a.m.

Join Miss Kate at the library for this interactive sensory program to introduce kids to different textures, sounds and sights (and maybe even smells!). There will be a short story on our theme of the week and then have 2-4 sensory activities to try out. For toddlers and preschoolers. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Annual Town Election 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Norwood Polling Locations
District 1- Oldham School, 165 Prospect Street
District 2- Oldham School, 165 Prospect Street
District 3- Civic Center, 165 Nahatan Street
District 4- Cleveland School, 33 George F. Willet Parkway

District 5- Civic Center, 165 Nahatan Street
District 6- Balch School, 1168 Washington Street
District 7- Balch School, 1168 Washington Street
District 8- Callahan School, 90 Garfield Avenue
District 9- Prescott School, 66 Richland Road

April 8

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.

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

Matt York will bring country music to the meeting with "Songs and Stories," and help celebrate the 99th year of the Norwood Woman's Club! A light lunch will be served. Guests are welcomed. Please bring an item for the food pantry. May 13 is annual luncheon, at Conrads, Walpole. Cost \$30. Choice of haddock, steak tips, or chicken parmesan. Write your choice on your check and send to Pat Cavanaugh or bring to April Meeting. For more information, call Trina at 781-762-8173.

"Ready, Set, School! A Parent's Guide to a Smooth School Transition" Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

Is Your Child Starting Preschool or Kindergarten This Fall? Whether this is your child's first school experience or you're looking for fresh ideas, this workshop is a great opportunity to connect with other parents and gain valuable tools for a smooth and confident back-to-school transition. Join Norwood Public School teacher Ellen Norton and Norwood CFCE program coordinator Liz Hogrell as they share helpful tips, answer questions, and support you on this exciting

journey! To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Norwood Toastmasters Norwood Civic Center, Lydon Suite 6:45 p.m.

The Norwood Toastmasters Club helps develop communication and leadership skills for its members and the community at every ability level. Guests are always welcome to come and see how it works! Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. For more information, visit <https://norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

April 10

Sensory-Friendly Monthly Movie Morrill Memorial Library 1 p.m.

Th3 April movie in the Sensory-friendly Monthly Movie series is "Universal Pictures' Despicable me 4." 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.

Library Art School Morrill Memorial Library 3:30 p.m.

Each week, Miss Nicole will talk about a different artist, will show some art, and try out a project based on the artist's methods and style. Learn about some of the art all around you - on t-shirts, bags, books, and other media. Have you seen "Starry Night" and wondered about who painted it and why? For ages 8-12. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Seed Packing Party! Morrill Memorial Library 7 p.m.

Norwood Seed Library is having a seed packing party and you're invited! The seed library is in need of restocking since it has been so popular. The seed library needs to be restocked with a wide variety of seeds to last through the planting season, so why not make it a social event. There will also be impromptu gardening conversations with fellow seed packers! Suitable for all ages. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults 10:20 a.m.

Join art instructor Stephanie Enloe for Sensory-friendly Art Classes for Adults, a program specially designed for adults with different levels of cognitive abilities. Each week, Ms. Stephanie will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 12

VFW Meat Raffle Norwood V.F.W. Post 2452, 193 Dean St. 2-5 p.m.

The price for each Drawing is \$2 or a pre-buy during the week for \$20. Ten Drawings are conducted each 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. Open to the public. The Norwood VFW is looking for new members. Veterans of the Gulf War, and personnel who have served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan are welcome to visit the post at any time or come to one of the monthly meetings which are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month through May (except December).

April 13

Musical Sundays Concert Series: The Dirty Martinis Duo Morrill Memorial Library 3 p.m.

Les Sampou & Ed Grenga are The Dirty Martinis Duo. Les and Ed bring their vast musical talents to an extensive repertoire which includes not only award-winning original compositions but cover songs from Americana, Classic Rock, Blues, and American Songbook standards. For their concert they'll play a show featuring adult contemporary and blues music. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the refer-

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ence desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 14

5 Alive: Explore the Senses! Morrill Memorial Library 9:30 a.m.

Join Miss Kate at the library for this interactive sensory program to introduce kids to different textures, sounds and sights (and maybe even smells!). There will be a short story on our theme of the week and then have 2-4 sensory activities to try out. For toddlers and preschoolers. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Monday Movie Matinee: Ali & Ava (NR) Morrill Memorial Library 1 p.m.

Ali and Ava spend time together over the course of one month after a brief encounter. Despite the traumas inflicted by Ava's previous relationship and Ali's mounting despair over his crumbling marriage, the unlikely duo finds solace in one another, proving the wholesome power of kindred spirits. For ages 18 and up. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Norwood 101-New Resident Open House Morrill Memorial Library 6-8 p.m.

Representatives and officials from the Town of Norwood departments and community organizations will be at the library to welcome you and answer any questions you may have. Learn about the great things the Morrill Memorial Library and the Town of Norwood has to offer. Welcome bags will be distributed to the first 30 registered attendees; free raffles will be provide by local businesses. If you are new to town or would like to find out more about the Town of Norwood, this event is for you! To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 15

Be MediaWise: Fact, Opinion, & Bias Morrill Memorial Library 7 p.m.

The digital landscape is changing quickly, and we have more access to information than ever before. With that, however, comes

some potential pitfalls. There is plenty of misleading and even dangerous information out there, too. The Library's Be MediaWise series invites you to explore your engagement with online information and learn how to navigate the internet safely and confidently. We'll define the differences between fact and opinion, objectivity and subjectivity, and news and commentary; talk about the role of news reports versus opinion pieces, and the benefits of reading both; and how to tell when factual statements and/or opinions are being used to support a bias. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 16

Turn the Page Book Group Morrill Memorial Library 10 a.m.

Join Patty Bailey and other local readers for a friendly and informal discussion of the novel *The Magnolia Palace*, written by Fiona Davis. Two very different women from two eras enter the Gilded Age realm of famous industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick and his imperious daughter Helen and become part of a thrilling mystery centered on the Frick mansion that stretches through the decades. Copies of the book in regular, large print and audio are available at the circulation desk. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Turn the Page Book Group Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.

Join Patty Bailey and other local readers for a friendly and informal discussion of the novel *The Magnolia Palace*, written by Fiona Davis. Two very different women from two eras enter the Gilded Age realm of famous industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick and his imperious daughter Helen and become part of a thrilling mystery centered on the Frick mansion that stretches through the decades. Copies of the book in regular, large print and audio are available at the circulation desk. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 17

Sensory-Friendly Lego Club for Adults

Morrill Memorial Library 12:30 p.m.

Join the L.E.A.D. students in this creative adventure. Just bring your imagination – the 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.

Library Art School Morrill Memorial Library 3:30 p.m.

Each week, Miss Nicole will talk about a different artist, will show some art, and try out a project based on the artist's methods and style. Learn about some of the art all around you - on t-shirts, bags, books, and other media. Have you seen "Starry Night" and wondered about who painted it and why? For ages 8-12. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Planning for Medicare Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

Join this program to understand Medicare eligibility. Learn about your health insurance options outside of employer-sponsored coverage. Many people need help understanding the coverage options available to them. This is especially true for people that plan to retire and are leaving employer sponsored coverage. For these individuals, retirement may be the first time they do not have a Human Resource representative coordinating, explaining, and negotiating a rate for their health plan premium. The presentation will explain: Medicare Parts A and B, Medicare enrollment timeline, Medigap Plans that supplement Medicare coverage, Medicare Advantage Plans, such as HMO and PPO's, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, and plans and programs available to early retirees, such as COBRA. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 18

Big Dance StoryWalk® & Outdoor Music Fun with Sarah! Hawes/Endean Trail 10 a.m.

Kick off the fun with an interactive outdoor music class with Sarah, where little ones can sing, dance, and play in-

struments in the fresh air! Then, take a stroll through the new StoryWalk® installment featuring *Big Dance* by Aoife Greenham, a joyful tale about movement, rhythm, and togetherness. This family-friendly event is perfect for young children—come ready to make music, move your body, and enjoy a story in the great outdoors! Due to construction at the Hawes Pool parking lot, you can park in the 'Construction Parking' lot adjacent to the Coakley Middle School tennis courts (1315 Washington Street). Follow the trail behind the tennis courts leading down to the Hawes/Endean Trail. The StoryWalk® begins at the entrance to the woods. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults 10:20 a.m.

Join art instructor Stephanie Enloe for Sensory-friendly Art Classes for Adults, a program specially designed for adults with different levels of cognitive abilities. Each week, Ms. Stephanie will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often

utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 19

VFW Meat Raffle Norwood V.F.W. Post 2452, 193 Dean St. 2-5 p.m.

The price for each Drawing is \$2 or a pre-buy during the week for \$20. Ten Drawings are conducted each 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. Open to the public. The Norwood VFW is looking for new members. Veterans of the Gulf War, and personnel who have served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan are welcome to visit the post at any time or come to one of the monthly meetings

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DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE - PRINCESS DINNER
April 11, 2025 - 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Join us at Rosetta's for our Princess Dinner, before you head out to the Daddy-Daughter Dance

Please visit
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063726604545>
To enter your Princess in the contest and to see the contest rules.

One lucky Princess will win:

- Complimentary Princess Dinner at Rosetta's Restaurant
- Flower Bouquet
- Privately chauffeured ride to the Princess Dinner and to the Father-Daughter Dance by JMF Coach

Chauffered Transportation provided courtesy of JMF Coach, Canton MA
781-413-4511 • jim@jmfcoach.com

521 Washington Street, Canton
781-821-2300
www.rosettasrestaurant.com

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which are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month through May (except December).

Puzzle Race! **Morrill Memorial Library** **2:30 p.m.**

Love doing puzzles? Want to test your speed against others? Join for a friendly puzzle face-off against other teams! How does the race work?

Up to 6 teams will compete, with a maximum of 4 people per team. Feel free to name your team!

Families are welcome to come as a team; children aged 10+ will count as a team member.

One puzzle per team.

Puzzles will be 500 pieces and each design will be unique.

Based on random luck of the draw, teams will get to choose their puzzles.

Race will kick off at 2:30pm and will end at 4pm. Please plan on arriving by 2:20 pm at the latest, so we can start on time.

The team with the most completed puzzle by the end of the race will be the winner, but everyone gets the bragging rights!

This program is free and open to all, but note that the difficulty level of the puzzle design is most suitable for tweens, teens and adults. Only one team member should register for the whole team. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 21

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

Drop in, no appointment needed.

April 22

Women in Business Networking Meeting **Norwood Civic Center** **8 a.m.**

The Women in Business (WIB) networking 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 wbnof-norwood@gmail.com.

Norwood Toastmasters **Norwood Civic Center, Lydon Suite** **6:45 p.m.**

The Norwood Toastmasters Club helps develop communication and leadership skills for its members and the community at every ability level. Guests are always welcome to come and see how it works! Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. For more information, visit <https://norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

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

The January title will be 'The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi', by S.A. Chakraborty. 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. The stories are shaken, not stirred, and participants don't mind taking their love of lit outside the library walls. Titles on Tap meets once a month in the left-hand bar of Napper Tandy's to eat, drink, be merry, and discuss the latest reading selection.

April 24

Library Art School **Morrill Memorial Library** **3:30 p.m.**

Each week, Miss Nicole will talk about a different artist, will show some art, and try out a project based on the artist's methods and style. Learn about some of the art all around you - on t-shirts, bags, books, and other media. Have you seen "Starry Night" and wondered about who painted it and why? For ages 8-12. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Entrepreneurship 101: Business Grows Norwood **Morrill Memorial Library** **6:30 p.m.**

Are you somebody thinking of setting up a business, but hesitant to take that first step? Or are you somebody who has a business idea, but would like to know the nuts and bolts of setting up a business? Would you like to learn from local entrepreneurs

about their own experiences? If the answer to these questions is a yes, then look no further. Morrill Memorial Library is excited to launch a series of programs on the topic of business building called Entrepreneurship 101. We are kicking off our Entrepreneurship 101 series with presentations by Joseph Collins, the Economic Development Director for the Town of Norwood and Tom O'Rourke, the President of the Neponset River Regional Chamber. Joe will talk about the role and scope of the Economic Development Department, how the Town of Norwood attracts businesses a.k.a. outreach, and will touch briefly upon the help available to individuals and businesses interested in setting up a business in town. Tom will cover topics such as the mission of the Neponset River Regional Chamber, how the Chamber can help you if you are a budding entrepreneur or an established business, and how to take advantage of the collective business knowledge of the Chamber. The presentation will be followed by Q&A. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 25

Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults **10:20 a.m.**

Join art instructor Stephanie Enloe for Sensory-friendly Art Classes for Adults, a program specially designed for adults with different levels of cognitive abilities. Each week, Ms. Stephanie will guide participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature. The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Arbor Day Celebration **Bond St. Totlot** **3 p.m.**

Celebrate the beauty of nature at Norwood's 2nd Annual Arbor Day Celebration! Join Norwood CFCE, the Morrill Memorial Library, the Norwood Trails Advisory Committee, and the Norwood Recreation Department for a free and fun-filled event honoring Norwood's trees and trails. Enjoy hands-on activities, and plenty of free give-

aways in this celebration of the great outdoors! Registration is appreciated by not required. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 26

VFW Meat Raffle **Norwood V.F.W. Post 2452, 193 Dean St.** **2-5 p.m.**

The price for each Drawing is \$2 or a pre-buy during the week for \$20. Ten Drawings are conducted each 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. Open to the public. The Norwood VFW is looking for new members. Veterans of the Gulf War, and personnel who have served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan are welcome to visit the post at any time or come to one of the monthly meetings which are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month through May (except December).

April 27

Musical Sundays Concert Series: **'Friction Farm'** **Morrill Memorial Library** **3 p.m.**

Modern-folk duo Friction Farm, is a husband and wife team of traveling troubadours. Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay combine storytelling, social commentary, and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, and quirky observations. Their lyrically rich, harmony-driven songs earned them spots as Kerrville New Folk Finalists, Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists, and South Florida Folk Festival Songwriter winners. Friction Farm's latest CD, "Evidence of Hope," which reached #10 on the Folk Radio Chart, was inspired by the collision of strong political polarity with personal kindness, the intersection of fragility and breathtaking beauty. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 28

5 Alive: Explore the Senses! **Morrill Memorial Library** **9:30 a.m.**

Join Miss Kate at the library for this interactive sensory program to introduce kids to different textures, sounds and sights (and maybe even smells!). There will be a short story on our theme of the week and then have 2-4 sensory activities to try out. For toddlers and preschoolers. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Monday Movie Matinee: 'Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris' (PG) **Morrill Memorial Library** **1 p.m.**

Mrs. Harris, an English domestic servant who falls in love with a couture Dior dress, decides she must buy one of her own. After she raises the funds to buy the dress, Mrs. Harris sets off on a journey to Paris that will change the course of her life. Paul Gallico's classic 1958 novel inspires the narrative. Cast: Jason Isaacs, Lesley Manville, Anna Chancellor, Rose Williams, Alba Baptista. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Borrowing and Credit Scores w/ CFA Society Boston **Morrill Memorial Library** **6:30 p.m.**

Confused about whether to "buy now, pay later" or use a credit card? Wondering how your credit score impacts the interest that you pay? Want to learn how to boost your credit score and save? Join us for an informative session on borrowing and credit scores to gain valuable insights from unbiased financial professionals and make smarter financial choices. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

April 30

Sensory-Friendly Lego Club for Adults **Morrill Memorial Library** **10:30 a.m.**

Join us in this creative adventure! Just bring your imagination - the library will provide the Legos. The Club is free, inclusive, and open to anyone ages 18+. It is specially designed for adults with different levels of abilities. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Real Estate Corner

Positive Trends Continue in Norfolk County's Real Estate Market

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings for the month of February, 2025, indicate an increase in overall real estate activity compared to last year, including increases in both the total number of deeds and mortgages recorded.

The Registry of Deeds recorded 6,870 documents in February, 2025. This was 1% more than in February, 2024, but a 12% decrease compared to January, 2025.

"Overall, the increase in document recordings compared to the previous year is a positive indicator for the real estate market, highlighting steady growth in both commercial and residential sectors," Register O'Donnell said. "Despite a slight dip in activity from the previous month, the year-over-year growth suggests a consistent trend for the market."

The total number of deeds recorded for February, 2025, which reflects both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,035, up 8% from February, 2024, but down 10% from January, 2025. According to the Federal Reserve Bank, home listings in Norfolk County increased by 15% in February 2025 compared to February, 2024.

"Since mid-2024, the real estate market in Norfolk County has experienced a sustained increase in the number of deeds recorded," Register O'Donnell noted. "This upward momentum has continued all the way up to the traditional homebuying season. We will need to wait and see if this trend persists, especially as we approach the peak months for real estate activity. Factors such as interest rates, economic conditions, and the inventory of available property will play crucial roles in determining whether the market can maintain its current pace."

In February, lending activity increased compared to the same month a year ago. A total of 983 mortgages were recorded in February, 2025, up 7% from February, 2024, but down 14% from January, 2025. According to The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, average mortgage interest rate in February, 2024, were between 6.63% and 6.94%, while in February, 2025, they were between 6.76% and 6.89%.

"The increase in mortgage activity continued in February compared to the same month last year," Register O'Donnell stated. "Mortgage interest rates have remained relatively stable, staying within a narrow range compared to this time last year. Even though rates are higher than in 2021 and 2022, some borrowers still find them attractive. As we move forward, it will be important to watch how changes in the economy and interest rates affect both the lending market and overall real estate activity in Norfolk County."

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties for February, 2025 rose to \$1,061,849, a 7% increase compared to February, 2024, but a decrease of 14% from January, 2025. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is also up, increasing by 4% from last year but down 30% from the previous month.

"Norfolk County is undeniably a sought-after location for both living and working, thanks to the vibrant communities and the dedicated efforts of municipal staff and leaders," Register O'Donnell remarked. "However, even as property listings increase, the limited property inventory is still unable to meet the high demand. Many would agree that the market poses challenges for buyers, particularly those purchasing their first home."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely monitoring the foreclosure market. In February, 2025, there were seven foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures tak-

ing place in Norfolk County, up from the six recorded in February, 2024. Additionally, there were 19 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, which is fewer than the 26 recorded in February, 2024.

"Unforeseen events can happen to any of us, and sometimes these events can have severe emotional and financial impacts," Register O'Donnell said. "I urge anyone struggling to pay their mortgage, or who knows someone in this situation, to reach out to one of the non-profit organizations listed on our website, www.norfolkdeeds.org."

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

"The real estate market in Norfolk County has shown signs of growth and stability over the past year," Register O'Donnell concluded. "February, 2025 saw an increase in both the total number of deeds and mortgages recorded compared to February, 2024, indicating a healthy demand for property in the area. While there are some challenges with limited property inventory, especially for first-time buyers, Norfolk County continues to be a great place to live and work. As we move into the

traditional home buying season, we look forward to continued growth in the months ahead."

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

First Deeds: Fall of 1793

In the spirit of exploring Norfolk County's rich history, Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell has set out to discover some of its earliest deeds recorded from various communities throughout Norfolk County.

Land records at the Registry can shed light on some of the earliest property transactions that occurred in the early years after Norfolk County was established, offering insight into the origins of landownership in the region. It is possible to reveal the names of early settlers and prominent

figures who may have played significant roles in shaping the communities they lived in.

"There is a wealth of historic information in the more than 13.1 million land records recorded in 42,297 Registry books dating back to when Norfolk County was created in 1793 and stored at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds and available online at <https://www.norfolkresearch.org>," Register O'Donnell stated. "We have also made this research process even easier for you through our History Comes Alive

Transcription Program where all the Registry documents written in hard-to-read cursive penmanship from 1793 to 1900 were transcribed into clearly readable print."

This second of a four-part series focuses on real estate transfers that occurred in the Fall of 1793 between November 5th and December 3rd, during the County's formative months following Governor John Hancock's signing of the legislation that established Norfolk County on June 20, 1793.

The very first document from

Dover in Book 1, Page 28 was recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds on November 5, 1793, more than 43 years before the community officially became a town. The deed shows that Thomas Larrabee purchased land on Strawberry Hill from Kazia Morse. Larrabee settled in Dover on his return from the Revolutionary War in 1778 after serving under the command of George Washington during the crossing of the Delaware and at Valley Forge. He, along with his fellow veterans, built a home on the property, which stayed in the Larrabee name until 1865, when the home was willed to "the inhabitants of Dover forever for the relief, comfort, and benefit of the poor persons who have a legal settlement in Dover."

On November 11 in 1793, Jacob and Lydia Parker sold a portion of their land to their son Jacob Parker, Jr., for 60 pounds, recorded in Book 1, Page 33. In this first deed from Needham, the Parkers state that their son is allowed access to one room in the house, a third of the cellar, a third of the barn, and the privilege of baking in the oven. They also permitted him the liberty of using the well. This deed highlights the practical arrangements some families may have needed to make at the time and also provides a glimpse into the daily lives and domestic setups of early settlers in Norfolk County.

Book 1, Page 39, contains a deed from Brookline that transfers property from Ebenezer Davis to Jonas Tolman. This deed provides clues about Jonas Tolman and the property. Jonas Tolman was a shoemaker working with new leather, and the property was located on Watertown Road, which was paved and renamed Washington Street in 1840. These clues indicate that this Jonas Tolman, mentioned in the deed, is the original owner of the Tolman House on the corner of Washington and Cypress Streets. The Tolman House, still standing today, was built in 1795 and is a Brookline landmark.

Book 1 of the Norfolk County Land Records is a treasure trove of interesting land records because, in addition to the notable deeds mentioned so far, on page

43 of Book 1 is a deed from Elkanah and Mary Thayer to future President of the United States John Adams, who at the time was serving as President George Washington's Vice President. The deed, dated November 19, 1793, describes a property with portions of the land situated in both Braintree and Quincy.

In Book 1, Page 44, is a deed from Samuel Vose to Captain Isaac Tucker, recorded November 22, 1793, for property in Milton. Isaac Tucker served in the Revolutionary War and was called to muster on December 25, 1775. He eventually became the captain of a company in the 6th Regular Militia, with his commission signed and recognized by Governor John Hancock.

On December 3, 1793, Roger Braley sold property in Franklin to his son Solomon Braley for the sum of four pounds, recorded in Book 1, Page 79. Roger Braley was a prominent figure in the Quaker community, serving in Rochester town offices from the late 1740s to the late 1760s. He later moved to Franklin, where he became a staunch supporter of the town, so much so, that despite being exempt from serving during the Revolutionary War, Roger Braley and his two sons, Israel and Elijah, were listed in the 1777 military census and prepared to serve if needed.

"The primary mission of the registry is always the security, accuracy, and accessibility of our communities' land records and reliable service to the residents of Norfolk County. Moreover, these legal documents, beyond their importance in establishing ownership of a property, offer a glimpse into the daily lives of early settlers and preserve the legacy of prominent figures who have shaped Norfolk County from its founding in 1793 to the present," Register O'Donnell concluded.

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.

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