

Norwood

localtownpages

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

October 1, 2025

Norwood Businesses Invited to Compete This Holiday Season!

By MICHELE TARANTO

Norwood is set to sparkle with the launch of the Second Annual Norwood Business Window Decorating Competition! This year's theme, "Light Up the Town," invites businesses to transform their storefronts with glowing lanterns, twinkling candles, and imaginative, glowing displays that celebrate the warmth and unity of the season and its residents.

The contest, organized by the Friends of Norwood Center (FONC), with support from the Rotary Club of Norwood, kicks off on Small Business Saturday, November 29, and runs through December 18. For

the next three weeks, residents and visitors are invited to stroll through Norwood Center, and beyond, to admire the festive windows of local businesses, each designed to spread holiday cheer and to vote for their favorite.

"This is about more than just decorating," FONC Presi-



DECORATING
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A Tradition of Treasures: Norwood's Craft Affair Enters Its 31st Year

By MICHELE TARANTO

For three decades, Norwood's The Craft Affair has been a beloved fall tradition. Now entering its 31st year, this event continues to draw crowds of shoppers and an

impressive lineup of vendors from across New England, proof of Norwood's flair for hosting spectacular community gatherings.

CRAFT
continued on page 3

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DECORATING

continued from page 1

dent Graham Stetson said. “It’s about bringing the community together, supporting small businesses, and celebrating what makes Norwood so special during the holidays, and throughout the year.”

For Norwood businesses, this is a chance to showcase their creative side and attract shoppers and visitors throughout the holiday season. It’s also an opportunity to thank their clients for their support throughout the year. A panel of local celebrity judges will evaluate the displays and award prizes in three

to make their voices heard by voting for the People’s Choice Award. Displays must be completed by Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29 for the official contest launch, and remain decorated to Thursday, Dec 18. Participation is open to all Norwood businesses and organizations, with a \$25 entry



making it easy for families to plan their holiday stroll. For more information, email norwoodcenter@gmail.com. To sign up, visit the FONC website at norwoodcenter.org. All Norwood business owners are encouraged to participate in this festive Norwood tradition that brings joy, builds community spirit, and supports the local economy. Plus, a little friendly competition is fun as well!

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categories: Best Use of Theme, Most Local, and Best Visual Impact. In addition, the community will have the chance fee to help support event costs and community initiatives. A full list and map of participating locations will be released,

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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

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A SYMPATHY CARD.

CRAFT

continued from page 1

On Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Norwood High School (NHS), the 31st Annual The Craft Affair will host more than 90 vendors that will fill the gymnasium with unique, handmade items. Shoppers can



browse an incredible array of goods, including sewn, crocheted, and knitted pieces, jewelry, pet items, holiday décor, wreaths, stained glass, jams and jellies,

mirrors, paintings, scarves, soaps, wooden toys, quilts, ornaments, ceramics, and so much more. The popular raffle corner will feature chances to win handmade

treasures and gift certificates, while the bake sale, complimentary kids’ craft corner, and hand-painted pumpkins from the NHS Friendship Club enhance the festive atmosphere.

But The Craft Affair is more than just a shopping destination; locally, it’s one of Norwood High School’s biggest fundraisers. Profits have grown steadily over the years, with recent events generating \$15,000–\$18,000 annually.

“We are still donating an average of \$5,000 to Post Prom each year, and our team and group donations have increased as well,” former organizer Michele Hsu shared.

A big part of The Craft Affair’s success lies in its community spirit. Norwood students, athletic teams, and clubs all pitch in, from setting up the gym the night before, to assisting vendors at 6 a.m., helping run raffles, and supporting activities throughout the day.

“Every year, I hear how we are the only fair that does this and what a difference it makes,” former The Craft Affair Coordinator Amy Campbell noted.

“Vendors always comment

on how kind and helpful our NHS students are,” The Craft Affair Transitional Coordinator Michele Hsu added. “Many are amazed to see teenagers smiling and working hard before sunrise! Their energy and dedication are truly what make this event special.”

Drawing approximately 1,000 shoppers each year, The Craft Affair is considered the largest fundraiser for Norwood High School. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and free for children under 12, available at the door.

Whether you’re searching for the perfect hostess gift, holiday décor, or a one-of-a-kind handmade treasure, The Craft Affair at Norwood promises something for everyone, along with the joy of supporting local students, artisans, and community programs.

For more information on The Craft Affair and learn more about its participating vendors, visit their Facebook Page at facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064603992962 or email norwoodcraftaffair@gmail.com.

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“We Care: Neighbors Heating Neighbors” Free Heating System Giveaway

Pro Comfort Control A/C & Heating has announced the return of its annual “We Care: Neighbors Heating Neighbors” program, a free heating system giveaway designed to help a local household in need stay safe and warm this winter. This heartwarming initiative offers one deserving family or individual the chance to receive a brand-new heating system at no cost.

From **October 1 through November 14**, community members are encouraged to nominate a neighbor, friend, or

family member facing financial hardship and unable to afford a reliable heating system.

Whether it’s a senior on a fixed income, a family going through a tough time, or a neighbor who’s always helping others but now needs a hand themselves, this is a chance to make a real difference.

The winner will be announced on November 21, and the installation will be completed in time to bring warmth, safety, and peace of mind before winter fully sets in.

Last Year’s Winner’s Story: A Life-Changing Gift

In 2024, the selected recipient was Cheryl, a senior living in Natick, MA. Cheryl was caring for her daughter, who was undergoing cancer treatment. Together, they lived on a fixed income that barely covered their day-to-day needs.

Their furnace was condemned due to dangerously high carbon monoxide levels. With no funds to replace it, they had been living without heat, an unthinkable situation made worse by her daughter’s



Free furnace installation for the 2024 Natick resident award recipient.

OBITUARY

Ann M. “Nancy” Briggs
August 17, 1943 —
September 19, 2025

Ann M. “Nancy” Briggs, age 82, passed away in the early morning hours of Friday, September 19, 2025, at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. She was the loving and devoted wife for 61 wonderful years to Harold “Harry” Briggs of Norwood.

Born in Stoughton, MA, Nancy was one of nine children born to the late Clarence and Elizabeth (McDonald) Hurley. She was raised in Sharon and was a graduate from Sharon Highschool with the Class of 1962. Nancy had the ever so important role of being a Homemaker to her dedicated family. She took great pride in providing a safe and comforting home for her family and all who entered her doors.

In her spare time, Nancy liked to travel, go shopping, play the slot machines at the casino, and get her steps in on her daily walks. She was very creative and enjoyed arts & crafts, along with decorating her house for the holidays. Above all, she treasured the time spent and memories made with her devoted children, especially her grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

In addition to her husband, Nancy is survived by her proud and cherished children: Carolyn Hutchens and her husband David of Norwood, Susan Melia and her husband Joe of Denver, CO, Michael Briggs and his wife Joan of Norwood, and Scott Briggs and his wife Heather of Medfield; her 10 grandchildren: Chris, Tyler, Kayla and her husband Nick, Griffin, Nolan, Sean, Ashley, Isabelle, Ava, and Mason; her



great-granddaughter Blair; her sisters: Marie Cuneo of Sharon, and Carol and her husband Bob Simonin of Atascadero, CA; and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

In addition to her parents, Nancy is preceded in passing by her siblings: Eleanora Berteletti, Jean Berteletti, Claire Botsch, Betty Whittington, Bill Hurley, and Dan Hurley.

Private services will be held at a later date.

compromised health. Cheryl was nominated in September and received her brand-new heating system in October, just in time for the cold.

How You Can Help

If you know someone like Cheryl, a neighbor who quietly carries a heavy burden, now’s the time to speak up for them. This program reflects the true spirit of community: neighbors looking out for neighbors.

“Neighbors helping neighbors is what this program is all about. Together, we can make sure no one faces winter without heat.” – Alexandra Mckernan, Co-Owner, Pro Comfort Control.

Let’s come together and make this winter a little warmer for everyone.

Submit your nomination today at www.procomfortcontrol.com/nominate or call it in to 508-955-4776

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Norwood’s Tavern Tradition Continues— Save the Date for the 5th Annual Fall Crawl

Get ready for a night of local fun with friends and neighbors! The Friends of Norwood Center (FNC) is once again partnering with Castle Island Brewing for the 5th Annual Fall Crawl! The event will take place on Wednesday, November 19, 7-11 p.m. The Crawl takes advantage of Norwood’s vibrant tavern scene guiding participants through four locations each hour: Limey’s Pub, Napper Tandy’s, Conrad’s, and Lewis’ Bar & Grill.

Stay tuned for full details in the Norwood Local Town Pages November issue! As the date approaches, visit Eventbrite.com, and search Norwood events.

A Little Off The Top

AI better start worrying

By STUART GREEN

“Good morning, class, and welcome to another school year. My name is Miss Automatic Indicator, but you can call me AI for short. Short: a length of time between two designated time periods, or used as a noun as a comparative size reference. As a plural, what men typically wear slightly beneath their pants. As a proper name, Short, Martin is a comedian originally from Canada, was a regular on Saturday Night Live for a short time. Short...”

“Miss AI, can I ask a question?”

“Question: an inquiry by an individual requiring or asking for an answer. In philosophical terms, a question is doubting

about the veracity of standard norms. Norm, in the singular, a spontaneous shout when a certain character walks into the Cheers bar. Bar: alcoholic or chocolate...”

“Hey, please, Miss AI, I need to know...”

“Hey: American slang, considered not courteous in some social circles. Circles: a geometric shape with no beginning, middle or end.”

“Yeah, like this class.”

Class laughs. Miss AI looks bewildered. Her humor circuit has not been installed. She shifts gears, pulls out a ruler, and begins the day’s lesson, which she cleverly writes down as “The day’s lesson.”

“Today we will learn about

long division. Long is the opposite of short. Short: a length of time between two designated time periods...”

“Yes, Miss AI, we went over short earlier. I’m also thinking about short-circuit, as in short-circuiting certain educators.”

Miss AI displays her patented bewildered look. Sarcasm does not compute.

“...Division. A derivative of divide, to split, break into equal or unequal parts. Also used in math, as in long or short division. Short: a length of time between two designated time periods...”

“Miss AI, I still have my question. Can I please...”

“Peas. A small green vegetable, eaten as a side dish. Apparently, raw peas are mainly water - 79 percent, in fact. Varieties include shelling peas, snow peas

and snap peas.”

“Miss AI, I said please, please. Not peas, please. P-l-e-a-s-e.”

“Peas. A small green vegetable, eaten as a side dish. Apparently, raw peas are mainly water...”

“That’s it. I’m just going to ask my question and hope for the

best. Miss AI, can I please go to the bathroom?”

“Bathroom. Despite its name, very few people actually take baths in the room. It is American jargon for frequent activities, such as...”

“We know, we know.”

Fantasy Footsteps Live at NHS!

The town of Norwood knows how to celebrate the Halloween season, and Fantasy Footsteps is one of many fun and exciting events help this month! Audiences (hopefully dressed in costume) are led in small groups through the sparkling hallways of the high school by a costumed guide to enjoy live theatre! Through their walk, they experience six funny fairy tale performances that have been written by Dean Calusdian. The talented student actors are from the Norwood Public Schools and range from fourth to twelve graders. For some of the students, this is a first theatre experience and some are seasoned pros, coming back year after year to be a part of

this terrific program.

Since 2005, the Norwood Backstage Boosters has been producing Fantasy Footsteps. The proceeds from the program help to fund scholarships for graduating seniors who are part of Norwood drama productions. The program was originally performed outside but after a few years of snow, rain, and miserable weather, the program was moved indoors to the Savage Center. During, Covid the event turned the program into a short film where we had the audience viewed the plays on a large outdoor movie screen. This was fun, but just not the same as the live theatre experience and in 2023, the program was brought back live at the

Norwood High School.

Fantasy Footsteps has a very lively atmosphere and is a great family night out. While waiting to start their tour, folks are entertained with face-painting, games, and music in the gymnasium. the program will run on Saturday, Oct. 18 & 25, and Sunday, Oct. 19 & 26, 6-7:15 p.m., Norwood High School, 245 Nichols St. Tickets are \$10 each, (\$50 cap per family), and sold at the door. Cash only. All proceeds donated to the Backstage Boosters Scholarship Fund.

Dressing up in costumes in welcome and encouraged! This is a family and stroller friendly event!

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Living Healthy

Magic Weight Loss? Here's the Catch...

BY GRAHAM STETSON, OD, MS

Chances are you've heard the names Ozempic, Wegovy, and Mounjaro in the news or from a friend. Originally developed to help people with type 2 diabetes manage blood sugar, these GLP-1 receptor agonists (RAs) are making headlines for their "nearly magic" weight-loss results.

By activating areas of the brain that reduce hunger and increase feelings of fullness, GLP-1 RAs can help lower food intake and promote weight loss. The catch? Without lasting changes to eating habits, their benefits end once the medication stops. And, while most of the focus has been on shrinking waistlines, it's important not to overlook the risks to your eye health.

For people with diabetes, GLP-1 RAs can be life-changing. By improving blood sugar control, they reduce the long-term risk of serious eye problems such as diabetic retinopathy (damage to the retina), glaucoma, and cataracts. However, if blood sugar levels drop too quickly, existing eye disease can temporarily worsen. While not unique to GLP-1 RAs (it can happen with other therapies too), it means anyone with diabetes starting these medications should be closely monitored with regular eye exams.

For those looking to lose weight, GLP-1 RAs carry some different risks. Blurred vision and dry eyes are relatively common, often tied to diet or blood sugar

changes. More rarely, studies suggest a possible increased risk of non-arteritic ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION), where reduced blood flow damages the optic nerve. Though uncommon, NAION occurs about twice as often in weight-loss patients on GLP-1 RAs than in those with diabetes. Because NAION can cause sudden vision loss or distortion, it requires urgent medical attention.

If you're taking (or considering) one of these medications, here are four steps to protect your vision:

- 1. Tell your eye doctor:** Let them know you've started a GLP-1 RA so they can monitor your eye health more closely.
- 2. Get a baseline exam:** A thorough eye exam before starting treatment provides a reference point for future changes.
- 3. Follow up regularly:** Many eye conditions begin without noticeable symptoms. Stick to your doctor's visit schedule to catch any changes early.
- 4. Report sudden symptoms:** Vision loss, blurry or distorted vision, flashes, floaters, and eye pain should never be ignored.



GLP-1 RAs are powerful tools that can improve both health and quality of life, but they are not without risks. Protect your vision by staying connected with your doctors and prioritizing eye care, so you can enjoy the benefits of these medications safely.

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DON'T MISS A PEEP

A photograph of a person jumping in a field of autumn leaves. The person is wearing a white shirt and blue jeans, and is captured mid-jump with their arms outstretched. The ground is covered in a thick layer of fallen yellow and orange leaves. In the background, there are trees with similar foliage and a clear sky.



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Living Healthy

A Drug Free Approach to Treating ADD/ADHD

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.

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



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

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 us at The Holistic Center at Bristol Square, 1426 Main Street in Walpole.

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Winter Prep for Your Home: Must-Do Heating Tips Before the Cold Hits



Alexandra McKerman



Ryan McKerman

HEATING INSIGHTS

Get ahead of the chill with these simple steps to keep your home healthy, warm, and worry-free. As the crisp fall air rolls in, now is the perfect time to prep your home for the colder months ahead. Whether you're a seasoned New Englander or new to harsh winters, making sure your heating system is ready can save you stress, money, and uncom-

fortable nights. Here are 5 easy, expert-backed steps every homeowner should take before the freeze sets in.

1. Change Your Air Filters

This one's simple, but it makes a huge difference. A clean filter improves airflow, helps your system run more efficiently, and keeps dust, dander, and allergens out of your indoor air. This small step can make a big health impact for homes with pets, allergies, or kids. Change your filter

at least every 1–3 months, and consider a high-efficiency filter for better air quality.

2. Get a Professional System Tune-Up

Before your furnace is working overtime, schedule a professional inspection and tune-up. A licensed technician can catch small issues before they turn into costly breakdowns. A high-performance tune-up ensures your system is running safely, efficiently, and reliably when you need it most.

3. Test for Carbon Monoxide

Heating systems that burn fuel, like gas or oil furnaces, can risk carbon monoxide (CO) leaks if not properly maintained. Make sure your home is equipped with working CO detectors on every floor, especially near bedrooms. Replace batteries annually and test each unit monthly. If your system is older or hasn't been inspected recently, schedule a professional safety check to protect your family from this odorless, invisible threat.

4. Insulate Smart

Proper insulation keeps the

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Norwood Recreation Department Announces Inaugural Howl O’Ween Dog Parade

By MICHELE TARANTO

A brand-new fall event has been unleashed on the Norwood Recreation Department’s jam-packed schedule! The inaugural Howl O’Ween Dog Parade is set for Saturday, Oct. 25, at 12:30 p.m. on the Norwood Town Common, and this time, it’s all about the pets.

Dogs (in costume, of course!) can stop by the Town Common 12:30-1:30 p.m., to have their photo taken by local photographer Jonathan Cardoni for entry into the costume contest. After that, the fun continues: from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., families are invited to stroll through downtown with their four-legged friends and collect treats especially for them. Participating businesses will be marked with a water bowl outside, and a full list will be available at the gazebo. All pets must be on leashes for the entire event.

Norwood Recreation Department Program Coordinator Marie Duffy-Kidd shared that the event was designed not only to spotlight downtown businesses but also to expand the variety of recreation opportunities in town.

“My goal is to get more people involved in recreation department activities,” Duffy-Kidd said. “We have so many events for kids, but now you’ll see more options geared toward adults too. We’re here for all ages in the community.”

In addition to the dog parade and costume contest, several local non-profits will be on hand to share information about their causes. The event is also being hosted in partnership with the local women’s networking group Women in Business (MA).

Businesses interested in joining the Howl O’Ween festivities can contact Duffy-Kidd at mduffy-kidd@norwoodma.gov. The Recreation Department will provide the treats and water bowls, businesses just need to sign up, greet visitors, and maybe hand out a few pats along the way!

3rd Annual Halloween Costume Swap

The Morrill Memorial Library promotes Sustainability, Fun, and Community.

Get ready to celebrate Halloween in a fun, eco-friendly way at the Morrill Memorial Library’s 3rd Annual Halloween Costume Swap! From September 15 through October 30, the library invites residents of all ages to donate, shop, or both, as costumes are available anytime the library is open.

What to Know:

To Donate: Gently used Halloween costumes in good condition, including infant through teen sizes, and family-friendly adult costumes, are accepted (no regular clothes, please). A donation bin will be conveniently located in the hallway outside the Children’s Room.

To Shop: Browse and select costumes displayed on portable racks next to the donation bin.

No donation is required to shop—everyone is welcome to join the fun!

Eco-Friendly Impact: Left-over costumes will be donated to local community organizations, supporting reuse and reducing waste.

No Registration Required: Whether you’re donating, shopping, or both, simply drop in during library hours to participate.

This community-driven initiative not only spreads Halloween cheer but also embodies sustainable values and neighborly generosity. Join the library in making Halloween more sustainable, budget-friendly, and inclusive for the entire Norwood community. Start swapping on September 15!

Don’t Fear the Fluff

By KRISTA JADRO

Norwood’s Girl Scout Troop 70654 is getting the word out about adopting big dogs! This troop of Girl Scouts spent their fifth-grade year researching the needs of local animal shelters as part of their Bronze Award Project.

They visited two local shelters and learned about the animals and the shelters’ biggest challenges. One major problem stood out: big dogs are the least likely to be adopted. Shelter staff explained that many people have incorrect assumptions about what it’s like to have a big dog.

Some common big dog myths include: big dogs need a big house and yard; big dogs are aggressive; and big dogs need tons of exercise.

choosing a pet. The shelter staff work closely with families to help match them with the right dog. Whether you’re looking for a friendly, cuddly, athletic, or lazy dog, they can help you find the perfect fluffy (or not-so-fluffy!) new best friend.

The troop took their message to the Norwood Farmer’s Market last month spreading awareness about big dogs being adopted less and handed out pamphlets they made.

They sold handmade bracelets, did crafts with kids, and donated all the proceeds to the local animal shelters they visited.

A special thanks to the Animal Rescue League of Boston in Dedham and Schultz Guest House for welcoming us and educating us about shelters’ needs.



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Norwood Sports

New Coach on the Soccer Field

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Brandon Denneen had spent 21 years in the Whitman-Hanson soccer program where he began as the freshman coach for one year before taking over the reigns of the junior varsity program for the next 16, and rounded out his time with the Panthers as the assistant varsity coach for the final four campaigns. The last two seasons, Denneen found himself guiding the junior varsity squad for Norwood. This fall, he is taking over the varsity girls soccer program and looking to build on what Kim Brinklow, the outgoing Mustangs Coach, built over her tenure while at Norwood.

“Kim did a great job here building a strong foundation for Norwood girls soccer and by the time she left, the program was increasingly better,” the new varsity coach said. “More soccer players were joining the team instead of just random athletes looking to play a sport during the fall. She built a really good relationship with the girls; now it is my responsibility to take the program to the next level while being competitive.”

While the Mustangs have had their problems with wins over the last few seasons, the new coach is not worried about wins right now. Instead, Denneen is hoping that the girls are competitive game in and game out, and that should eventually lead to the wins.

Denneen went on to say that he is looking for talented girls with high soccer IQ's so that they

can continue to build for the future. Although he is looking, he believes that this year's squad is capable of taking that next step with the girls he currently has. However, he does want to see improvement with field management and better ball control instead of just taking quick shots.

Senior tri-captain Mackenzie Flynn, a true soccer player according to the coach, loves the sport, plays for a club team, and does possess that high soccer IQ he is looking for will be a main contributor this fall.

“She has a passion and fire for the game playing in the middle; we will be depending on her,” Denneen said. “She is also helping the other players on the field.”

In addition to Flynn, the other two captains are seniors CeCe Becker and Bella Coras; two solid players that work hard and are good teammates. Coras is not afraid to get in there and play a strong physical game.

Another senior, Riley Barnett, will play in the back for the Mustangs. She is a lead by example player that provides a solid game leaving the other players to not only look up to her but respect her game.

Junior Raegan Curran will be between the pipes this fall for Norwood. Beginning last fall on the junior varsity program, Curran moved up to the varsity team during the year and has since worked on developing her play.

“During the off-season, Raegan worked with a goalie coach,



taking those steps needed to improve her game,” the Coach said. “With her new found ability, we are hoping that she can save us from the opposition scoring.”

Last fall, the Mustangs continued to struggle on the field and it was hard to say why it was so. Norwood didn't open the season with any type of scoring attack and didn't get their first goal until the mid-way point of the season, leaving Denneen confused to what was going on. However, that first goal seemed to break the ice and give them the confidence they needed.

Coming into this year, the new varsity coach is hoping that things carry over from the later half of

last season.

“They need to be competitive right from the start and believe in themselves,” Denneen said. “It's tough to go out and have a season with no wins, so we need that confidence to show itself right from the start to be able to compete.”

As the season was getting ready to begin, Denneen was looking for the girls to take to the field and control what they can. He knows that they can't control the other team, the referees, or the weather, instead they need to focus on what they can control while on the field.

“I'm not setting a win total,” Denneen said. “We just need to

go out and play every game hard and competitively while scoring goals. Goals will eventually lead to wins. They need to believe in their game; a team that believes in themselves is a dangerous team.”

The first-year Norwood varsity coach is hoping that his squad can make the jump and take its game to the next level while being competitive on a daily basis, and in the process, grabbing some wins, something that has been hard to come by the last few years.

Norwood was scheduled to open the season on Tuesday September 2 at Ashland.

2nd Annual AR5K Memorial Walk/Run

By MICHELE TARANTO

How do you bring a community together? Host an event to honor the life and legacy of one of its beloved residents. That is exactly what the 2nd Annual AR5K Memorial Road Race does to remember lifelong Norwood resident Austin Reardon, who tragically passed away at only 22 years old from a tragic highway accident in 2023.

The event will take place Sunday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. (check-in 8:30-9:30 a.m.). The race kicks off and finishes at the Knights

of Columbus, at 572 Nichols St., winding through scenic residential neighborhoods near the high school where Reardon graduated in 2019. Registration is \$45. Both runners and walkers are welcome.

All registrants will receive a pair of AR5K sport socks, and AR5K will match the souvenir to the Pine Street Inn, in Boston. Prizes of \$250 for both the first male and female finishers. The first 100 registrants get a free event t-shirt!

In its inaugural run in 2024,

399 participants and/or runners raised \$25,000 for the scholarship foundation which was awarded to six 2025 Norwood High School graduates. Students who participate by running, walking, or volunteering will earn scholarship eligibility. New this year, any 2026 graduate from any high is qualified to apply a \$1,000 scholarship.

Austin left behind his parents, twin brother, younger siblings, and a large extended family and circle of friends. He was a 2015 St. Catherine graduate, and se-

nior at the University of Maine. He was known for his love of hockey and playing for both Norwood and UMaine teams.

Whether running or cheering, food, raffles, and live music will be offered after the race. The event will be held rain or shine. Everyone is welcome to support the event and the life of Austin Reardon, a lift taken too soon.

All proceeds will support the Austin Reardon Foundation, which awards scholarships to graduating Norwood High

School seniors who reflect Austin's generous heart and vibrant spirit.

Not a runner or walker? Come cheer on participants and join the community in honoring Austin's lasting legacy. The route starts at the K of C, up Nichols St., left onto Willett Parkway, around Westover Parkway onto Devon, Albemarle, Essex to Croydon, and then back to the K of C.

For more information, email AR5KRoadrace@gmail.com or visit AR5KRoadrace.com.

Norwood Sports

For His Dad

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

In second grade, Norwood's Kevin Roach was introduced to football by his dad, who had coached the seventh-grade middle school team for 20 years. The elder Roach always wanted his son to play the sport he loved, unfortunately, his son was never actually able to play for his dad's team due to Covid cancelling the season that year.

"I was really looking forward to playing for him for such a long time," Roach said. "And not being able to do so really upset me, but at least it was good to have him around."

Sadley, during the eighth grade, his father passed away from a heart attack. Roach would never be able to play for the Mustangs in front of his father and it is something that bothers him to this day.

"It really sucked but there was nothing that I could do about it," Roach said. "I just had to learn how to go on playing football without him around. Throughout my entire high school football career, each time that I stepped onto the field, I thought of him."

In taking to the field with his father in his heart, the Norwood athlete tries to play the best that he can because that is what his father would have wanted him to do. On occasion, he believes that his father is with him out there, especially during last year's Thanksgiving Day game when he had an interception in the Mustangs 35-13 win over Dedham.

"His dad died unexpectedly and he was forced into maturity at a young age," Norwood High School (NHS) Varsity Coach Manny Lopes said. "He has grown so much over the years, and unfortunately had to play his four years of high school football without him. We have pushed him to become a leader with a voice."

Growing up, the Norwood resident played the fullback and linebacker positions into high school. Upon entering NHS, Roach knew that Norwood had a freshman team and expected to play there, so when he was tapped to play on the freshman team he was not surprised. He

was surprised, however, when the varsity coach called him up to the team near the end of the season.

"I just sat on the bench to learn and see what the varsity program was like," Roach recalled. "I found that the varsity game was very different and I knew that I was going to have to do a lot of hard work if I wanted to get onto the field playing linebacker."

During his sophomore campaign, Roach found his way onto varsity but didn't see the field all that much. The only time he got to play was primarily on special teams, but at least he was representing the Mustangs.

Last season as junior, he was moved to safety and had a breakout season for Norwood.

"As a junior, he came onto the scene and you could see all the work that he put in," the Mustang Coach said. "He is everything that you want in a player; he sees the field well and becomes the best player he possible can when he gets onto the field."

After being told that he was going to be playing safety, however, he knew he had a lot of work to do physically as well as mentally.

"It was such a different position," Roach said. "I had to talk to former players to get tips and pointers. I was told to work on my speed and coverage skills while watching the receivers hip movement to know when to make my break. It's all the little things and I was definitely prepared to play the position when the season opened up."

That year, the junior started 10 of his team's 11 games at safety and recorded his first two interceptions of his career. He occasionally saw some time playing running back and slot receiver, offensive positions that he enjoys playing because he gets to make things happen.

Now, as he begins his senior campaign, Roach will be playing yet another position for the Mustangs. Coming into his final year on his high school football field, Roach will find himself center field as the team's quarterback having beaten out the incumbent for the position.



"There was talk about giving me a shot at earning the position near the end of last season," Roach said. "I was thrown into a battle with the former quarterback and started getting more and more reps before eventually getting the position. The old quarterback was fine with it especially after I threw a touchdown to him as a receiver during our first game."

Roach noted that he not only had to learn all the little things but he also had to make sure that everyone was in the correct positions and ready to go.

As his final season has begun, Roach is hoping that he can lead the Mustangs to the top of the Tri Valley League, once again capturing the championship. He also wants to win a playoff game (Norwood has lost the past two seasons in the first round).

"It hurts not being able to have won a playoff game with Norwood," he said. "As for playing football in my final year, it's surreal and has been a quick four years. I'll definitely miss playing, but I just got to go out and make the most of this year."

Whether Roach is able to help Norwood capture its first tournament win in some years or not, he knows that his father will be watching every moment while cheering his son on from afar.

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Calendar of Events

Oct. 1

Nightmare on Walpole Street: Horror Film Series: Nosferatu Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

The Morrill Memorial Library presents, *Nightmare on Walpole Street*, a horror film series in October. Unsettle your senses with four Wednesdays of spine-tingling horror movies. Each Wednesday brings a new terror, from creeping psychological horror to classic monster tales. Robert Eggers' *Nosferatu* is a gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her, causing untold horror in its wake. Rated R. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 3

Friends of the Library Book Sale *FRIENDS ONLY PREVIEW* Morrill Memorial Library

1-4:45 p.m.

Current members of the Friends of the Library are welcome to preview the book sale items before the sale is opened to the public. New members may sign up to become a Friend at the door. For more information about The Friends of the Library and their membership rates visit their page at <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/friends/>.

Oct. 4

Friends of the Library Book Sale Morrill Memorial Library 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Friends of the Library Book Sale is open to the public.

VFW Meat Raffle VFW post 2452, 193 Dean St. 2-5 p.m. (each Sat. through May)

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 winners of the Pre-Buys need not be present to win.

The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. An example includes: Sirloin steak tips, sausage, ground sirloin burgers, center cut pork chops, whole or cut chicken, ground sirloin burgers, chicken wings, and much more! The drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. The Meat Raffle is open to the public.

Oct. 5

Trick or Treat, Pout Pout Fish Grab and Go Kit Pickup Morrill Memorial Library

Celebrate spooky season with Pout-Pout Fish! This October kit includes crafts and activities designed to bring the story Trick or Treat to life and help little readers dive deeper into the book. Kits will be available Oct.-Oct. 11. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Friends of the Library Book Sale *HALF PRICE DAY* Morrill Memorial Library 1-4:45 p.m.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. All remaining items are 50% off.

Oct. 6

Closing the Garden w/ Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens Morrill Memorial Library 7 p.m.

While the end of the season can be depressing, it's also the best time to get a jump start on the following year. The talk will explore pruning, seed saving, mulching, and composting. Learn the best way to put your garden to bed so that it wakes up healthy in the spring! To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 7

Norwood Farmers Market: Pumpkinfest! Town Common 2-6 p.m.

The theme this week is pumpkins! Kids will receive a small pumpkin to decorate (method TBD), there will also be specialized food, decorations, and more! The common will also still be filled with old and still new vendors, including farm stands, bakeries, fish, meat, baseball cards, non-profit organizations, specialty foods, artisans, and more! Meet your neighbors, purchase a fresh dinner, and have some fun.

Cooking with Sandhya: Festival Flavors for Diwali

Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

Learn to cook festive food to celebrate the biggest Hindu festival of Diwali. This year, the Diwali festival starts on Sunday October 19th and lasts for several days. Learn to make deconstructed, open-faced Gujiya, and Spinach, Cheese & Potato Patties. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 8

Nightmare on Walpole Street: Horror Film Series (Sinners; 2025) Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

The Morrill Memorial Library presents, *Nightmare on Walpole Street*, a horror film series in October. Unsettle your senses with four Wednesdays of spine-tingling horror movies. Each Wednesday brings a new terror, from creeping psychological horror to classic monster tales. Trying to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers (Jordan) return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back. Rated R. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Advocating for Today's Immigrant & Refugee St. Timothy Church, Lower Hall, 650 Nichols St. 7 p.m.

The Norwood League of Women Voters is sponsoring this informative program with guest speaker Cristina Dacchille Freeman, Managing Attorney for MIRA'S (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition) Immigrant Assistance Services Program. The group would like to acknowledge to St. Timothy Church for use of their lower hall. Light refreshments included.

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

The Norwood Junior Woman's Club is a women's social group that serves the Norwood community by fundraising in order to give back locally to various programs, events, and families in need. They are an easy-going, fun group and by joining it doesn't require a big commitment. Monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday

of each month. For more information, email Norwoodjwc@gmail.com or visit their website at Norwoodjwc.org.

Oct. 9

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

The September movie in the Sensory-Friendly Monthly Movie series is Columbia Pictures *Goosebumps*, rated PG. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Sourdough Starter Workshop Morrill Memorial Library 6:30 p.m.

This presentation on how to start and maintain your own sourdough starter. Learn the art of starting, and preserving your own sourdough starter with Sourdough Brandon. Brandon is a sourdough aficionado and food blogger. He will share his considerable knowledge about how to create, maintain and store the sourdough starter.

This event is free and open to all ages 16+. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 10

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

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

Oct. 11

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

Come pick out exceptionally nice clothing to outfit the whole family! Get a head start on your Christmas shopping with choices of beautiful shoes, jewelry, kitchen accessories, decorative items, lamps, books, and much more!

VFW Meat Raffle VFW post 2452, 193 Dean St. 2-5 p.m. (each Sat. through May)

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted



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CALENDAR

continued from page 12

each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The winners of the Pre-Buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. An example includes: Sirloin steak tips, sausage, ground sirloin burgers, center cut pork chops, whole or cut chicken, ground sirloin burgers, chicken wings, and much more! The drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. The Meat Raffle is open to the public.

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

Love doing puzzles? Want to test your speed against others? Join us for a friendly puzzle face-off against other teams!

How does the race work?

Up to 8 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 identical.

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 registers for the whole team. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-

769-0200, x2.

5th Annual Pumpkin Float & Lantern Walk
Endean Ponds
6-7:30 p.m.

Bring a carved pumpkin to set afloat at the event! Cub Scouts 49 will set a campfire to make s'mores. Then join the Norwood Trails Advisory Committee for a Lantern Walk in the woods. Food trucks will also be on site!

Oct. 13

AR5K Race/Walk
Knights of Columbus, 572 Nichols St.
10 a.m. (check-in 8:30-9:30 a.m.).

The race winds through scenic residential neighborhoods near the high school where Reardon graduated in 2019. Registration is \$45. All registrants will receive a pair of AR5K sport socks, and AR5K will match the souvenir to the Pine Street Inn, in Boston. \$250 will be awarded to the first male and female finishers. The first 100 registrants get a free event t-shirt! For more information, email AR5KRoadrace@gmail.com or visit AR5K-Roadrace.com. Both runners and walkers are welcome.

Oct. 14

Women in 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 womeninbusinessma@gmail.com.

Oct. 15

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

Join Patty Bailey and other local readers for a friendly and

Norwood Woman's Club Meeting

Knights of Columbus, 572 Nichols St.

12:30 p.m.

Dan Clark, The Singing State Trooper, will help celebrate the 100th year of the Norwood Woman's Club. A light lunch will be served. Guests are welcomed; please bring an item for the food pantry. For more information, call Trina at 781-762-8173.

Norwood Farmers Market

Town Common

2-6 p.m.

It is the final market of the season. The farms are still harvesting their fall produce, which offer richer and warmer flavors! Shop from favored stands and bid farewell and thanks to the loyal vendors that have set up their tents on the Norwood common, many for the full 18-week season! The common will still be filled with vendors, including farm stands, bakeries, fish, meat, baseball cards, non-profit organizations, specialty foods, artisans, and more! There is no way to experience the Norwood Farmers Market wearing a sweater on a brisk, fall day!

Norwood Toastmasters

Civic Center, Lydon Suite

6:45 p.m.

The Norwood Toastmasters Club helps develop communication and leadership skills for members and the community at every ability level. Guests are always welcome to come and see just how it is done! For more information, visit norwoodtoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org/.

Be MediaWise: Sharing Responsibly on Social Media
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.

Join Adult Services Librarian Heath Umbreit to learn about **sharing responsibly on social media**. She'll talk about strategies you can use to manage emotional responses to misinformation, how to ensure you are sharing information responsibly with your social networks, and how to have conversations with loved ones who are sharing misinformation. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

CALENDAR

continued on page 14

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CALENDAR

continued from page 13

informal discussion of the novel *Yellowface*, written by R.F. Kuang. *Yellowface* is a dark satire about June Hayward, a struggling white author who steals her recently deceased, successful Asian-American friend Athena Li's manuscript about Chinese laborers in WWI. June rebrands herself with a racially ambiguous name, Juniper Song, and publishes the stolen work, lead-

ing to a commentary on cultural appropriation, the racism and tokenism within the publishing and entertainment industries, and the overwhelming influence of social media. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Board Game Night
Morrill Memorial Library
6 p.m.

If you've been looking for a casual group of fellow board gamers, the Morrill Memorial Library is your spot! Games

will be provided, but feel free to bring any of your own! For ages 18 and up. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 16

Ghostly Tales from Japan
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.

Can a doll do you harm? Are evil ogres real? Would a curse invoked by the dead last forever? Shadows and fantasies intermingle in dark and mysterious tales from ancient Japan. In a combination of performance and lecture, award-winning storyteller Motoko Dworkin will take you on a journey into the fascinating world of warlords and warriors, nuns and priests, ghosts and demons. Recommended for ages 14 and up. Get ready for a BIG CHILL! To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 17

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

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

Oct. 18

The Craft Affair at Norwood
Norwood High School

9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The 31st Annual The Craft Affair will host more than 90 vendors that will fill the gymnasium with unique, handmade items. The Craft Affair is considered the largest fundraiser for Norwood High School. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and free for children under 12, available at the door.

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

VFW Meat Raffle
VFW post 2452, 193 Dean St.
2-5 p.m. (each Sat. through May)

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 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. The Meat Raffle is open to the public.

Oct. 19

CFCE Fall Parent Bookclub/Book Pickup
Morrill Memorial Library
1-5 p.m.

This is the launch of the library's very first Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Parent Book Club! This fall, the group will be reading *Good Inside*, by Dr. Becky Kennedy, a #1 New York Times bestseller that offers practical, compassionate strategies for raising resilient, connected children while also caring for yourself as a parent. The virtual discussion will take place on Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. The first 25 caregivers who register will receive a free copy of the book to keep. If you'd like to join and already have a copy, please make a note when you sign up. Books will be available to be picked up at the MML Children's Desk Oct. 19-25. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Musical Sundays Concert Series:
Women in World Jazz
Morrill Memorial Library
3 p.m.

The first concert in the Fall Musical Sunday Concert Series is a Norwood favorite: welcome back a Norwood favorite: Women in World Jazz! WIWJ will be performing their concert, "Hear Their Voices

- A tribute to women of color around the globe."

Oct. 22

Nightmare on Walpole Street: Horror Film Series (The Woman in the Yard; 2025)
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

A lone, spectral woman shrouded entirely in black appears on a family's front lawn without explanation and warns them "today's the day." Cast: Okwui Okpokwasili, Danielle Deadwyler, Russell Hornsby, Peyton Jackson. Rated PG. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 24

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

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

Oct. 25

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

Browse through many new, never-worn clothes for men, women and children at fabulous prices. All of the merchandise, from lamps to jewelry to you-name-it, is in excellent condition, excellently priced.

Trunk or Treat
Municipal Parking Lot Behind Town Hall
10:30 a.m.-12 noon

At this family-friendly event, cars are decorated for Halloween and parked in one spot so children can walk from trunk to trunk collecting candy and goodies in a safe and fun environment. Don't forget to stop by the CFCE Trunk to say hi to Ms. Liz and get a for a spooky treat. Wear your costumes and get ready for a day of community fun! Donations for entry required: a canned good or \$1. All proceeds go toward the Norwood Food Pantry.

Howl O'ween Dog Parade
Norwood Town Common and Downtown Norwood
12:30-2:30 p.m.

Join in on the 1st Annual Howl O'ween Dog Parade! Meet at the Walter Dempsey

Norfolk County Agricultural High School, 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA 02081



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CALENDAR

continued from page 14

Bandstand for some yummy doggie treats. Picture contest for best pet costume! The event is in partnership with Women in Business MA (WIB).

VFW Meat Raffle
VFW post 2452, 193 Dean St.
2-5 p.m. (each Sat. through May)

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 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. The raffle is held every Saturday through May. The Meat Raffle is open to the public.

Oct. 26

Musical Sundays Concert Series:
Steve Rudolph Trio
Morrill Memorial Library
3 p.m.

The Fall Musical Sundays Concert Series continues with local favorite, The Steve Rudolph Trio, performing their concert, “Steve Rudolph’s Golden Oldies Show. Get your toes tapping as the Steve Rudolph Trio plays music from the golden era of Rock ‘n’ Roll. Elvis, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, The Big Bopper, Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, Chubby Checker - they’ll all be there! To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 27

Monday Movie Matinee: Psycho
Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.

Alfred Hitchcock thriller about a psychotic motel owner who obsesses over his late, controlling mother while becoming the prime suspect in a murder case involving one of his recent guests; a pretty secretary who checked into the Bates Motel after impulsively stealing \$40,000 and never checked out. Rated R. To register, fill the form below or call the Reference desk at 781 769 0200 ext. 2. This event is recommended for attendees aged 18 and up.

Cozy Puzzle Night
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

Hang out on an autumn night with friends and neighbors! The Simoni Room will be full of 300-

to 500-piece puzzles waiting to be completed. Light refreshments will be served and lo-fi music will be played to curate a relaxed vibe. Unlike the puzzle races, this event is not competitive! Plenty of puzzles available, but feel free to bring any from home to share or trade as well. Registration is encouraged but not required. To register, fill the form below or call the Reference desk at 781 769 0200 ext. 2.

Oct. 28

Women in 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 womeninbusinessma@gmail.com.

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

The Norwood Toastmasters Club helps develop communication and leadership skills for members and the community at every ability level. Guests are always welcome to come and see just how it is done! For more information, visit norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/.

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

This event is sponsored by the Morrill Memorial Library. The title this month is “The Death of Vivek Oji,” by Akwaeke Emezi. Copies of the book will be available to pick up at the library’s Reference desk. Titles on Tap is a social book group for readers in their 20s and 30s and for the young at heart. We go in for stories that are shaken, not stirred, and we don’t mind taking our love of lit outside the library walls. Titles on Tap meets once a month in the left-hand bar of Napper Tandy’s to eat, drink, be merry, and discuss the latest reading selection.

Oct. 29

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.

Nightmare on Walpole Street: Horror Film Series (Get Out; 2017)
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

In Universal Pictures’ Get Out, a speculative thriller from Blumhouse (producers of The Visit, Insidious series and The Gift) and the mind of Jordan Peele, when a young African-American man visits his white girlfriend’s family estate, he be-

comes ensnared in a more sinister real reason for the invitation. Rated R. To register, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/, or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200, x2.

Oct. 30

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

Morrill Memorial Library is partnering with the L.E.A.D. program affiliated with Norwood High School to host a Sensory-friendly Lego Club for Adults. Join the L.E.A.D. students in this creative adventure. Just bring your imagination, the library will provide the Legos. The Club is free, inclusive, and open to anyone ages 18+. It

Oct. 31

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

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

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MEET SNAP, CRACKLE, AND POP!



Sweet baby boys for adoption! These brothers have recently entered our care, and the cuteness they brought is off the charts! Kittens need a friendly and playful companion for proper social development, so the only way we adopt out single kittens is when there is already another friendly and playful cat at home.

If you are interested in adopting, you can complete a non-commitment application on our website: www.baystateanimals.org or cut and paste the application link below: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIZOY9nMLLFFSLbblBd7C8A_0KBaorWtAvhbGoEINJDII-Jw/viewform?c=0&w=1

We have a \$175 adoption fee for each cat that includes; spay or neuter, age appropriate vaccines, feline leukemia test, FIV test if over 6 months of age, microchip, flea treatment and roundworm treatment as deemed necessary. Thank you and if you do not hear from one of our volunteers in a reasonable amount of time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

MEET BROOKLYN

Hi, I'm Brooklyn— your Future Feline Queen!

I may be small, but I've got a *BIG* personality packed into this gorgeous tortoiseshell coat. I love to play with toys, especially ribbon toys. I also love to cuddle and have a wonderful loud purr motor. I am friendly to all visitors and love to meet people. I am very clever and can explore the entire room in minutes. I am also a really good jumper!

There is a \$175 adoption fee for each cat that includes;

spay or neuter, age-appropriate vaccines, feline leukemia test, FIV test if over 6 months of age, microchip, flea treatment and roundworm treatment as deemed necessary. Thank you and if you do not hear from one of our volunteers in a reasonable amount of time, please do not hesitate to contact us at: info@baystateanimals.org

MEET MEATBALL
Guessed to be 7-8 years old. Young adult Owner passed away from Cancer. Kitty needs a new home. Can you provide a safe new place for him? He is friendly with cats and kids! He has a housemate needing placement too, Lily.

MEET LILY

Lily is a sweet female senior

kitty, approximately 10-12 years young. She is less interactive than her housemate Meatball but needs a new secure home. She is not a fan of kids, as a senior she would prefer quiet and relaxation! She has lived with other cats. Losing her human mom has been tough and she needs a new home!

BUDDY & BLACKIE DESPERATELY NEED A HOME!

Dearest friends, BSAC cats cannot be rescued or cared for without the generosity of people like you. THANK YOU. The organization currently has a bonded senior pair, Buddy and Blackie, who need immediate long-term foster care. It is never easy to care for our senior felines, but they deserve love and care throughout their senior years and through end of life. Both of these cats are looking to find their final place to live out their senior years. Please consider being that option for them. If not you, please please reach out via your personal social media, friends, and family as they need a long-term foster care immediately. Long-term Foster Care includes; the provider, supplying a safe, warm, welcoming, loving space for them to live in, including their litter, bedding, and food. However, if required prescription food is not affordable by the long-term foster Bay State Animal cooperative will take care of this. Bay State Animal Cooperative would afford all their medical care however that does mean that the provider agrees to this and agrees to utilize our veterinary care. With that said, we are also always open to our friends becoming adopted. To learn more about becoming a foster family for Buddy & Blackie, or any of their cats visit baystateanimals.org, click on Contact Us; or email info@baystateanimals.org

ing their litter, bedding, and food. However, if required prescription food is not affordable by the long-term foster Bay State Animal cooperative will take care of this.

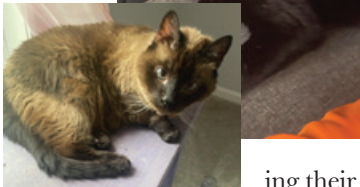
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With that said, we are also always open to our friends becoming adopted.

To learn more about becoming a foster family for Buddy & Blackie, or any of their cats visit baystateanimals.org, click on Contact Us; or email info@baystateanimals.org

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

Real Estate Corner

The Importance of Filing Mortgage Discharges

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell recently reminded consumers about the importance of filing a mortgage discharge in a timely manner after their mortgage has been paid off.

"As consumers, we all need to borrow money," Register O'Donnell stated. "There are many reasons why consumers borrow money: to purchase a house, to make home improvements, or to help pay for the ever-increasing tuition payments of our children. When borrowing money involves real estate, a mortgage is recorded against the property's title."

In 2024, the Norfolk Registry of Deeds recorded over 103,000 documents. Of these, nearly 15,500 were mortgages, accounting for more than 15% of all recordings.

Once a mortgage is paid off, a mortgage discharge must be recorded to clear the property's title. This document, typically titled "Discharge of Mortgage" or "Satisfaction of Mortgage," is issued by the lender and is usually one or two pages long.

"As a consumer, you want to make sure a discharge has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds, which tells the world that the mortgage has been paid off," Register O'Donnell noted.

In some instances, mortgage discharges are filed directly by banks or settlement closing attorneys with the Registry as part of a property sale or as a result of a refinancing transaction. In other cases, the mortgage discharge is sent to the property owner, who then becomes responsible for making sure the document is recorded.

"Whether or not the mortgage discharge is recorded by the lending institution or the individual property owner, it is imperative that the property owner ensures all necessary documents have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds," Register O'Donnell cau-

tioned.

Individuals with property recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds can check their title and make sure all their mortgages have been properly discharged using the Registry's online records at www.norfolkdeeds.org.



By going to the Online Research section of our website, property owners can verify that all mortgages associated with the property have been discharged.

"Please remember that not having a mortgage discharged will result in a title issue and thereby impact the process of selling one's home or the refinancing of one's home," Register O'Donnell explained.

The Register further noted that there have been cases where no discharge has been recorded against a long-paid-off mortgage.

"Unfortunately, some of the lending institutions that provided funds for these mortgages are no longer in existence," Register O'Donnell said. "In other cases, financial entities have merged with another lending institution."

If a property owner needs to retrieve the original discharge of a mortgage and it is unclear which lending institution is now responsible for providing the document, an option is to contact the Massachusetts Division of Banks at 1-800-495-2265, x-1, and then x-61501. Another option is to access the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation website, www.fdic.gov. Approximately halfway down the homepage, find and click the Consumer Resource Center link. Under the topic Protecting Consumers, click Bank Find. Enter the name

of the lending institution in question, click on the lending institution link, and you will be able to determine who is responsible for the mortgage and then procure a mortgage discharge from that entity.

When recording a mortgage discharge, the original document is required. By law, the Registry of Deeds cannot accept photocopies or faxed copies of documents. The filing fee, set by state statute, is \$106.

"After paying off all the mortgages on their property, homeowners want peace of mind knowing they have a clear title, especially if they are contemplating selling," Register O'Donnell concluded. "Taking the right steps to record your discharge ensures that peace of mind. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is that homeowners make sure their mortgage discharge has been filed with the Registry of Deeds once their mortgage has been paid off."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is staffed with a team of customer service representatives who can be reached, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, at 781-461-6101. These representatives have been trained in researching documents and are well-versed in the subject of mortgage discharges, and what, if necessary, needs to be done to clear title to a property.

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives like them on Facebook at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds, follow on X at x.com/NorfolkDeeds, and Instagram at instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High St., in Dedham. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities and others with a need for secure, accurate, accessible land record information. All land record research information can be found on the Registry's website www.norfolkdeeds.org.

Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center

via telephone at (781) 461-6101, or email us at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

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Real Estate Corner

Norfolk Registry of Deeds Celebrates the Impact of Women in our Society

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds hosted a tribute to honor the impact and importance of women in our society, unveiling its latest volume of Notable Land Records, "We Remember Our Women." The publication features 44 women from across Norfolk County whose lives and legacies have made lasting contributions to their communities, Massachusetts, and the country.

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll addressed the audience on the importance of honoring those who came before.

"We really stand on the shoulders of so many women who came before us who took on tasks, who took on leadership roles at a time that it probably was much more difficult," Lt. Gov. Driscoll said. "I want to celebrate not only the women who are here today, the

stories that are being told in this volume, but the work that we do collectively to make Massachusetts the best place to live."

Lt. Gov. Driscoll emphasized the power of storytelling in preserving history and inspiring future generations.

"Being here today is about capturing history of the women who played a meaningful role in this county and capturing those stories

and building upon them for the next generation," Lt. Gov. Driscoll said.

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell spoke about the origins of the project and the Registry's evolving role in preserving history through the land records housed at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

"Our main job here at the Registry is to manage land records," Register O'Donnell said. "But through our History Comes Alive initiative, we've uncovered stories that deserve to be told. This book celebrates the women, past and present, who have shaped our communities, our county, and our country."

The Registry's History Comes Alive Transcription Project transcribed over 450,000 handwritten land records dating back to 1793. These records now allow users to see the legal cursive script and clearly readable print text, which can more easily reveal the land histories of early Norfolk County residents. This repository of land records is available to the public both at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds and online through www.norfolkdeeds.org.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet some of the women featured in the booklet, including author Lisa Graves of Millis and Olga Abdallah of Norwood, the town's first female selectwoman. Guests explored storyboards and displays that brought these stories

to life, featuring trailblazers such as astronaut Sunita Williams of Needham, CNN host Audie Cornish of Randolph, Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman, and historical figures like Abigail Adams, who famously urged her husband to "remember the ladies." Each display offered a glimpse into the lives of women whose impact continue to shape Norfolk County and beyond.

Follow this link to watch coverage of the event by Norwood Community Media's Ron Marshalsea: <https://www.norfolkdeeds.org/news-event/video/we-remember-our-women-event-coverage>

Adams National Historical Park Superintendent Marianne Peak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were then treated to a performance by the Norwood High School Madrigals, led by choir director Jennifer Hartnett.

"This latest volume of Notable Land Records is more than a booklet, it is an opportunity to put together the history that is in these land record books and share it with people from the communities in Norfolk County," Register O'Donnell said. "It's about connecting the past with the present, and honoring the women whose stories deserve to be remembered and celebrated."

Residents interested in receiving a free copy of the "We Remember Our Women" booklet can contact the Registry of Deeds at 781-234-3305, or email registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.

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