

localtownpages 1 Norwood

Vol. 17 No. 1

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

August 1, 2026

More than books at Morrill

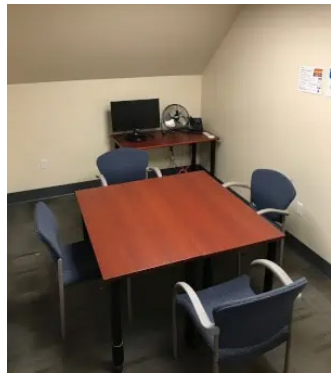
By MICHELE TARANTO

Did you know library visitors can reserve private study rooms and individual work pods during regular library hours? Whether you're preparing for an important exam, attending a virtual meeting, collaborating on a group project, or simply looking for a quiet place to focus, the Morrill Memorial Library offers a variety of spaces designed to meet the needs of students, professionals, community groups, and residents alike.

Reservations are available for up to two hours and may be made as far as one week in advance. A valid Minute-man Library Network card is required to reserve a room or pod, but users do not need to be Norwood residents to obtain a card or use the service.

For those seeking a private workspace, the library's Solo Pod provides a quiet environ-

ment for one person. The pod features built-in ventilation, a power outlet, and mul-



multiple charging ports, including USB-C and standard USB connections, making it an ideal choice for remote work, online classes, telehealth appointments, or uninterrupted study.

An Accessible Pod, coming soon, will accommodate up to four people and will include built-in ventilation, power outlets, and charging ports. The

new space is designed to provide a comfortable and inclusive option for small groups.

The library also offers two private study rooms, each accommodating up to four people. Both rooms feature large-screen monitors with attached HDMI cables, whiteboards for brainstorming or presentations, comfortable seating, and power outlets. USB-C to HDMI adapters are also available upon request, making it easy to connect a variety of laptops and devices.

Study rooms and pods are also available to participants in the Commonwealth's Access to Justice program. Those who need a reservation longer than the standard two-hour limit are encouraged to speak with library staff.

Beyond individual study

LIBRARY

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Olin Meyers, foreground, discusses some of the aspects of "Lady Windemere's Fan" with some of the cast members on July 9 in Dedham. Photo by Maureen Sullivan

Dragonfly Theater flutters into 'Lady Windemere's Fan'

By MAUREEN SULLIVAN

An early summer's evening in the yard, and the dragonflies – actually, members of the Dragonfly Theater – were getting ready to rehearse for their latest produc-

tion, "Lady Windemere's Fan."

Led by director Olin Meyers of Norwood, each cast member began by describing their charac-

THEATER

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LIBRARY

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spaces, the Morrill Memorial Library also serves as a gathering place for the community through its two meeting rooms: the Simoni Room and the Trustees Room. These rooms are available free of charge to local nonprofit organizations for educational, informational, and cultural meetings and programs.

To ensure equal access for the community, meetings held in the library's meeting rooms must be open to the public and free of charge, regardless of whether attendees are members of the sponsoring organization. The rooms may not be used to promote businesses, commercial activities, or marketing events.

Organizations wishing to reserve a meeting room must complete a Room Use Application identifying an adult, age 18 or older, who will be responsible for the reservation. Applications may be delivered to the library or emailed to norwood@minlib.net. Reservations are not confirmed until approved by library administration, and applicants are encouraged to check the

Library Events Calendar before submitting a request to verify availability.

Meeting rooms are available during the following hours:

Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Sunday: Meeting rooms are not available.



Because library programs receive scheduling priority, library administration reserves the right to reschedule or cancel reservations, if necessary, although every effort is made to provide advance notice and avoid disruptions.

Visitors should also note that parking at the library is intended for library patrons. For meetings

with 20 or more attendees, participants are asked to park in the church parking lot on Winter Street to help preserve parking availability.

Library staff can also assist visitors with obtaining or renewing a Minuteman Library Network card. Those interested in reserving a study room, learning more about meeting room availability, or obtaining a library card can contact the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, ext. 2.

From quiet study spaces equipped with modern technology to meeting rooms that foster civic engagement and lifelong learning, the Morrill Memorial Library continues to provide resources that support education, collaboration, and community connections throughout Norwood.

Library Hours:
 Mon – Thurs: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Fri: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Sat: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Sun: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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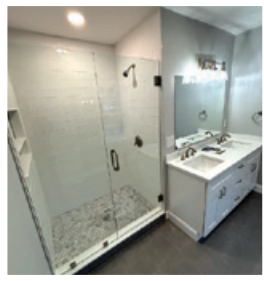
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THEATER
continued from page 1

ter, and how they blend into the off-center world of Oscar Wilde.

“It’s very much a coming-of-age story” for the character of Lady Windemere, said Karen Hunt.

Bob Maibor, a 10-year Dragonfly veteran, will play Lord Augustus.

“My character’s interesting,” Maibor said. “He’s sort of pompous, and he ends up confused and bedazzled by Mrs. Erlynne (another main character in the play).”

As cast members began stepping into the roles of upper-crust scions in Victorian London, Meyers began stepping into the role of first-time theater director.

“I was a film student way back in the day – early 2000s, in the hope of being a TV or movie writer,” Meyers said.

Over the years, he found himself doing several jobs, from being a production assistant, to bartending, to making comedy sketches for YouTube (check his channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@olinmeyers3657>).

Meyers entered the Dragonfly fold through Joe Rich, a member of the board who has appeared in several of Meyers’ comedy sketches. After appearances in the Dragonfly productions of “Merry Wives of Windsor” and “A Woman of No Importance,” Meyers went for a part in “Lady Windemere’s Fan.”

Instead of the role, Meyers was offered the director’s spot.

“I had no prior experience as a theater director,” Meyers said.

Nevertheless, he accepted, and began his new role by holding Zoom meetings with cast members in June. In-person rehearsals took place over most of

July into August.

According to Beca Gates, the producer, the group got its name because dragonflies would often flit around the actors during outdoor performances. She added that they’re not the only wildlife that strut across the stage. When they performed at the Fairbanks House in Dedham, bunnies would hop around during and between acts.

As for the choice of plays, Gates said she loves bringing classic literature to life.

“Beautiful literature transcends time,” Gates said.

“Lady Windemere’s Fan” will be performed Aug. 8, 9, 15, and 16, at Paul Park, off Cedar Street, in Dedham (down the street from the Endicott commuter rail station). Performances on Saturday will be at 2 p.m., and Sunday performances at 4. Times are subject to change.

Performances will be free, and families are welcome.

For updates and more information about Dragonfly Theater, visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064778283941>

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A Little Off The Top

Every holiday has its day

By STUART GREEN

“OK, folks, settle down, settle down. We’d like to start the first meeting of the Give August a Holiday Symposium Organization Sub-particle and All Points West Committee, or as it’s known in the hinterlands – the what?”

“As we all know, or at least those of us who have put down their phones to listen, the Month of August called this meeting to meet, what with its manic-depressive state of being the only month without a holiday to call its own. Oh, we know some say March also shares that annual monthly misery, but it does, after all, have the Ides – which now can be cured with an over-the-counter remedy, or sleeping in until the 16th. Most of us, of course, spend the month trying to beware of it, while others say they can’t find Ides on the calendar, while oth-

ers are just looking for a comfy chair to forget I even mentioned it.

“At any rate — and that’s rising precipitously what with inflation — we’ve gathered to lift August’s spirits and give it a holiday to call its own. We’ll now take suggestions from the body - hopefully attached to a head of some sort.

“Yes, the representative with the leash and collar, furiously scratching himself in the back row. Mister Rover, I believe.”

“Thank-you. I represent Planet Pooch. I would like to propose to declare one day in August after my species which is synonymous with August – the Dog Days. Let’s make Aug. 25 or thereabouts the Dog Day of August. We can celebrate by unleashing my brothers and sisters from sunup to sundown, let ‘em find a tree of their choice, and let them sniff without abandon.”

“Yes, we get the picture. OK, in the back row, with the horse collar around your neck. Mr., um, Mr...”

“Ed. You don’t need to call me mister. Just Ed. I trotted in from Norwood. We’d love a day to commemorate the goal of every Mustang to run wild, run free. Throw off the reins, stirrups, bits, and horseshoes of our ancestors and proclaim loud and clear Mustang ‘Mancipation Day.’ Make it Aug. 5, because, you know, the sooner

the better.”

“Well, it may be a bit revolutionary for our purposes, but it would make a great movie. Moving on... you sir, in the toga.”

“I believe I have the ideal day, one that is staring us in the face. The month, you see, is named after me. Yes, that’s right - I am Augustus Caesar. My friends call me Emperor.

“You know, I’m not just an afterthought to my previous month, Julius... or, as he likes to be called, July. And, as was mentioned in a previous context, we should make it Aug. 15 - Beware the Ides of August.”

“Well, too much of it’s been done before, I think. One final suggestion from the foursome. I think you’re called the Quad Squad, correct?”

“Yes, that’s me. And me. And me. And me. It may be a little too obvious, but the ideal holiday already is on the calendar in August. Let’s make every Monday in the month a holiday. And we can call it, oh, I don’t know, let’s see - ah, we’ve got it, the Monday Holiday. But we’re giving you notice, if August doesn’t want it, we’ll be offering it to March.”

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

Override Approval Brings New Police, Fire Staffing to Norwood

By MAUREEN SULLIVAN

With the passage of a \$1.8 million Proposition 2 ½ override on June 15, the town’s police and fire departments will be able to fund additional staffing for fiscal 2027.

“To everyone who supported this effort, thank you for the trust you have placed in the recommendations of our public safety leaders and in those who serve this town every day,” according to a Facebook post from Norwood Firefighters Local 1631. “That trust is something we will never take for granted,”

For the NFD, the added funding will allow an increase in shift staffing from 15 to 18; for the second engine, E5, the staffing would increase from two firefighters and one lieutenant, to three firefighters. An additional firefighter would be used to meet the requirements of a second paramedic on priority calls, according to documents provided by the department.

The increase in staffing will help the department better comply with standards set by the National Fire Protection Association.

“The process [to increase staffing] has started, and we hope to fill the positions as soon as possible,” Norwood Fire Chief Timothy F. Bailey Jr. said. For the Police Department,

the approved override will help add five officers:

One detective added as a full-time task force officer (Drug Enforcement Agency)

Three street-level supervisors – sergeants. This will provide two supervisors per shift to ensure proper supervision for all shifts.

One patrol officer added to the midnight shift. In conjunction with the supervisor above, this will also bring midnight staffing back to seven.

According to documents provided by the NPD to the town’s Finance Commission, these additions will help alleviate a staffing shortage that’s lasted for the past several years. The department currently staffs 65 officers. Beyond fiscal 2027, the department hopes to add a traffic officer, two patrol officers, and a community support officer.

“We will begin moving toward these changes, but hiring and promotions follow a procedure and are not done instantaneously,” Officer Andrew Jurewich, the NPD’s communications officer, of the successful override.

For an average single-family home assessed at \$719,477, the override adds approximately \$115.12 to the annual tax bill. The increase will not appear in the quarterly tax bills until early 2027.



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Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to every home
in Norwood
Circulation: 14,659
households and businesses

Publisher
Jennifer Schofield

Send Editorial to:
editor@norwoodtownnews.com

Advertising Director
Jennifer Schofield
508-570-6544
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout
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Kim Vasseur
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Office Address
9 Industrial Road, Suite 107
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600,000 Cans and Bottles, and Still Counting

By BOB LIEBERMAN

From the Make-A-Wish Foundation
We have reached July, 2026, and Bob Lieberman, the Can Man of Norwood, has been collecting cans, bottles, and donations for Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island for 3 1/2 years and has reached 600,000 as he continues his climb to 1,000,000. He just

might reach it. Things have been proceeding very well for Bob.
I must first thank all the wonderful people who own businesses and homeowners who have stepped up to the plate, for the past 3 1/2 years, to make my effort the success that it is," Lieberman said. "I could not have done it without all their help leaving bags outside with

my name on them. The name BOB is easy to remember, and when they call me, I am always there.
Kara Walker/Chief Marketing & Communications Officer contacted me to make nine clocks for nine "WISH 2026 AMBASSADORS." their diagnoses vary to reflect on their personal efforts while facing critical illnesses, but through their physical efforts, they continue the fight. The presentation to these nine, was on Saturday, June 13, and it was well received. I presented the recipients with their photo clocks, and mentioned how my involvement grew from a few cans to thousands of cans. I just can't stop.
The Fourth Invitational Golf Event will be held in October, at Hopkinton C.C., in Hopkinton, with all three previous events a sellout and a complete success. Fingers crossed the 4th one will also be. The commitment these companies made shows that they will be staying onboard for a long time. Again, this will be the fourth year that I will make photo clocks that will go to the winning team.
Unbeknownst to me, Make-A-Wish of Massachusetts and Rhode Island has been so impressed with my efforts for the charity they felt they needed to submit my story into their "Summer Newsletter;" a story relating to my connection to the charity and my ongoing efforts, which has really impressed

them.
"I wanted to help young adults and kids to the best of my ability, and I am."
I was totally shocked to see the article on their website. I wasn't expecting it, and certainly did not feel that I needed

to be recognized in that way. I do all this just to be a helper and want to see these young children and young adults survive their nasty ordeals. Progress is definitely being made.
Photo submitted by Bob Lieberman.



Donor Spotlight: Bob Lieberman

In Make-A-Wish and Norwood, MA, circles, Bob Lieberman is affectionately known as "the Can Man." He earned the title over the past three years by collecting more than 450,000 cans and bottles, redeeming them, and donating the money to Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
A chance encounter on a golf course in Brookline started what has become this incredible story of support. Lieberman, who had already begun his mission of collecting cans and raising money for the Make-A-Wish mission, happened to meet CEO Sean Holleran, who was playing a round that day. When Holleran heard about Lieberman's efforts, he invited him into the organization's Boston office to learn more. Three years later, the relationship has grown and in addition to his significant donations, Lieberman is an annual sponsor of the Make-A-Wish Golf Invitational at Hopkinton Country Club. He also donates his time and talent making clocks for wish families, using photos that commemorate their wish experiences. Lieberman, a big believer in the power of relationships, couldn't believe the chance meeting with Holleran that validated his idea, and he's proud to have helped grant wishes for four local children through his contributions.
According to the Can Man, his work isn't done. "I'm grateful to everyone in my community who has set aside cans for me, knowing that what I'm doing is supporting local children who are facing such difficult circumstances," says Lieberman. "Whenever someone hears that it's all for Make-A-Wish, they go out of their way to help me and to be a part of it. I can't slow down now!"

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LIVING HEALTHY

You Have Your Mother’s Eyes...in More Ways Than One

By GRAHAM R. SIETSON, OD, MS

When someone says that you have your mother’s eyes, they are probably thinking about their color or shape. Yet even familiar traits such as eye color are shaped by a complex mix of genes. It is not determined by a single brown- or blue-eye gene. The genetics behind eye health and disease can be even more complicated.

Predictable Patterns

Genes are sections of DNA containing instructions that help cells develop and function. Because the eye contains many highly specialized tissues, including the cornea and the retina, changes in different genes can affect vision in very different ways.

Some rare eye conditions result from a change in a single gene and may pass through families in recognizable pat-

terns. In a dominant condition, one altered copy inherited from either parent may be enough to cause the disorder. A recessive condition usually develops only when a person inherits altered copies from both parents. Those parents may have no symptoms themselves.

Some conditions are linked to genes on the X chromosome. Females usually have two X chromosomes, so an unaffected copy on one may compensate for an altered copy on the other. Males usually have only one X chromosome, making an altered gene more likely to affect their vision. This helps explain why red-green color-vision deficiency is much more common in males.

Complex Pathways

Most common eye conditions do not follow a simple inheritance pattern. Glau-

coma, age-related macular degeneration and nearsightedness are considered complex, or multifactorial, conditions. An inherited risk does not make the condition inevitable. Genetic variations may each contribute a small amount of risk, while age, overall health, and environmental factors influence whether the condition develops.

Even relatives with the same genetic change may have very different experiences. Symptoms can appear at different ages, vary in severity, or never develop. Researchers describe these differences as incomplete penetrance and variable expression. Other genes, environmental exposures, and normal biological variation may influence the outcome.

Family Ties

Family history can provide important insight, but it cannot predict exactly what will



happen. Several relatives with glaucoma or unusually early vision loss may point to an inherited vulnerability. However, family history rarely provides the whole explanation. Having

no known family history does not eliminate genetic risk; relatives may have been undiag-

EYES

continued on page 7

A vibrant photograph of a multi-generational family enjoying a barbecue in a lush, green backyard under a bright blue sky with scattered clouds. A woman in a red patterned top and a straw hat is grilling food. A man in a blue polo shirt is serving a plate to a young girl in a blue and white striped dress. An older woman and a young boy are also present, holding plates. The scene is festive with colorful balloons and bunting.

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LIVING HEALTHY

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One of the biggest warning signs of a leaky gut is that you are experiencing multiple food sensitivities. Other symptoms include: bloating, thyroid conditions, fatigue, joint pain, headaches, skin issues and weight gain. If left untreated for a long time, leaky gut can lead to IBS, arthritis, eczema, psoriasis, depression, anxiety and muscle pain. This can lead to malabsorption of vital minerals and



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

nutrients including magnesium, zinc, iron and vitamins D, B12 and others.

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EYES
continued from page 6

nosed, or a genetic change may have passed silently through previous generations.

Genetic testing can be valuable when an inherited retinal or other uncommon disorder is suspected. It is not needed for

everyone, however, and does not replace a comprehensive eye examination. Results must be considered alongside symptoms, examination findings, and family history.

Your mother's eyes (and more broadly, your family's) can offer valuable clues about your own ocular health. Genetics seldom tells the whole

story, but knowing your family history can help identify risks earlier, guide more informed care, and help protect your sight for years to come.

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PET CORNER

Get your car and your dog clean for a cause!

Looking for a fun way to check a couple of chores off your list while helping local animals in need? Bay State Animal Cooperative and Charley's Angels Pet Initiative are teaming up for a Car and Dog Wash fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Norwood Municipal Parking Lot.

The event will give local residents the opportunity to drive away with a clean car and, for those bringing along their four-legged family members, a freshly washed pup, all while supporting the work of two local nonprofit animal welfare organizations.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will help Bay State Animal Cooperative and Charley's Angels Pet Initiative continue their efforts to assist animals and pet owners in the community.

For Bay State Animal Cooperative, those efforts include

helping homeless and community cats, coordinating trapping and foster care, providing spay and neuter assistance, and caring for animals with significant medical needs. The organization relies heavily on volunteers, foster families, and donations to continue its work.

Charley's Angels Pet Initiative also works to make a difference in the lives of animals and the people who love them by providing food and sometimes accessories to residents who need a helping hand feeding and caring for their pet.

Organizers are currently looking for volunteers to help make the Car and Dog Wash a success. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the event, including washing cars, washing dogs and assisting with other duties throughout the day. Students looking to complete school community service hours are encouraged to volunteer and can receive credit for their time.

The Car and Dog Wash offers

the community a lighthearted way to support local animal welfare efforts. Whether your car needs a good cleaning, your dog could use a bath, or both are overdue, volunteers will be ready to roll up their sleeves for a good cause.

Events like this are about more than raising funds. They also provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about local animal welfare efforts and discover ways they can help, whether through volunteering, fostering, donating or simply spreading the word.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Norwood Municipal Parking Lot. Bring the car, bring the dog, or bring both, and leave a little cleaner while helping make life a little brighter for animals in the community.

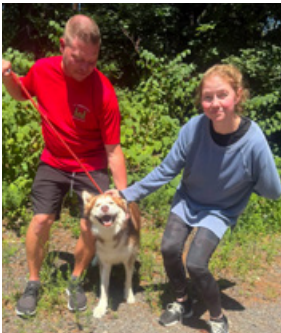
Adopted through the Norwood animal shelter!

Ralphie has officially found his forever home!

After receiving so much love and support from our community, Ralphie has found the perfect family. Even better, he now has doggy siblings to play with and a home where he'll be loved, exercised, and spoiled every single day.

It takes a village. So many residents shared his adoption post, helped spread the word, and showed Ralphie so much love throughout his journey. Every share truly makes a difference.

Here's wishing Ralphie and his new family a lifetime of adventures, happiness, belly rubs, and wagging tails. Enjoy your new life, sweet boy – you deserve it!



Meet Mu



Mu was left alone outdoors with no mom or siblings. He was curious and social and luckily found a human to rescue him.

He's very active, fun and very playful. Not fearful of dogs and would also love a cat friend we believe.

He will be neutered shortly, but is ready for his forever home now. This little guy will not disappoint you or your family. We do recommend he go to a family with older children as he still has not figured out how to play gently.

To adopt Mu, send an application through our website www.baystateanimals.org

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GRAND PRIZE WINNER - Wachusett Free Press Chelsea T.

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Norwood Local Town Pages..... Kelly A.

Norfolk & Wrentham Local Town Pages..... Joseph C.

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Franklin Local Town Pages..... Amanda G.

Blackstone Valley Express - South..... April H.

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Bellingham Bulletin..... Scott R.

Ashland Local Town Pages..... Suzanne M.

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Thank you to all our readers for your enthusiastic participation in making this contest a fun and successful community event!

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FREE PRESS

Grand Prize Winner enjoys a day at Southwick's Zoo

Grand Prize winner Chelsea T. recently redeemed her four-pack of tickets to Southwick's Zoo, enjoying a memorable day with her extended family. Pictured above, Chelsea is the second from the right.

NORWOOD SPORTS

Norwood Legion Playing for the Tournament

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

After getting the summer season underway with a 3-0 win over Braintree, the Norwood American Legion baseball team has been playing some good baseball on the diamond. After opening the season with a five-game win streak, Post 70 found themselves up against District 6's only undefeated team. Franklin and Norwood found themselves in a scoreless battle before Franklin began scoring at will and handed Norwood its first loss on the season.

"It was a really close game in the fifth inning before they blew it open," Norwood coach Paul Samargedlis said. "We made a couple of mistakes and a good team will jump on you and make you pay; Franklin did just that. However, I honestly believe

that we can play with them on any given night."

At the time of this writing, Franklin had themselves a 2-game lead in the District 6 standings over Norwood. The Norwood skipper, who has been coaching Post 70 for 22 years, has gotten his team into the tournament all but once and he aims on keeping it that way this summer. Norwood is currently 10-2 with four games remaining on their regular season schedule before the post-season gets started. Following their loss to Franklin, Norwood went on another five-game winning streak before being stopped by North Attleboro, 6-2, for their second loss.

Winning his 300th game is not a big deal to the Samargedlis, but by then he was only one win away from accomplishing

the feat. Although things start at the top, the Norwood coach said it was all possible by the good teams that he had over the years.

According to the official American Legion Team Registration, virtually the entire 18-man roster is registered with a secondary or primary position designation as a pitcher. This gives Samargedlis extensive flexibility and should be a great asset to the team when the tight tournament schedule begins.

Mike McDonagh has been the team's ace through the first 12 games, while Dylan Begley and Ryan Grenham have also impacted to Norwood's success. Also contributing on the mound has been Bob Griffin and Kevin Hultgren.

Brody Johson had primarily found his way behind the plate for Norwood last year, but this

summer he is making way for first year catcher Thomas Willard from Blue Hills.

"Thomas is doing an amazing job for us behind the plate," Samargedlis said. "Brody moved over to third base and he too is doing a great job. I love having a catcher playing over there, he's got an arm and blocks the ball better than most infielders."

Unfortunately, Norwood lost its starting shortstop, Kevin Farmer, in a collision at second base when he was cleated and ended up breaking two toes. The Norwood infielder has been in a boot and the coach is hoping that he has him back in the field when the playoffs roll around.

Willard and McDonagh have been leading the team at the plate, giving Post 70 the opportunity to keep on winning. With only four regular season games



left on their docket, Norwood is hoping to keep their status in the top four places in the district to earn a bye in the tournament. While the top four teams rest, teams 5-12 will battle it out in a single elimination contest to move onto the next round. The winners will take on the teams with a bye and continue to move through the District 6 Tournament in single elimination games until a champion is crowned. Norwood is hoping to be that such champion.

Norwood Recreation Serves Up Facility Upgrades and a Full Slate of Programs

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

It's been a busy year for the Norwood Recreational Department. They recently renovated the tennis courts at the Coakley Middle School, and last month the refurbished Hawes pool reopened to the public. And to offer Norwood residents the opportunity to take part in the latest sports craze, the pickleball courts were redone last fall in conjunction with the Bob Ivatts Tennis Courts that were updated this spring.

"Since they've opened, the courts have been a huge hit with our tennis community," Superintendent of Recreation for Norwood Recreation Department Sam White said. "In addition to the youth tennis programs, the community has been at the courts every night."

According to White, the tennis courts next to the Coakley Middle School were in need of some repair and updating and hadn't had anything done to them in 40 plus years.

In the same vicinity of the tennis courts, Hawes pool opened last month. The Recreation Department usually uncovers the pool two weeks

prior (early June) to allow the public to indulge in the facilities. Unfortunately, White and his co-workers found issues following the removal of the pool cover and took some extra taken time to rectify the problems.

"We found complications in the pump room due to a pipe freezing and eventually bursting," White said. "With the complications, we had to get another pool pump and although we found one rather quickly we came across another issue with a corroded part and we needed to get an entirely new pump."

The Rec Department secured the pump and installed it, however, having the pool cover removed and not functioning during June, a lot of pollen has gotten into the water and the elements have contaminated the pool and couldn't allow the community into the water until it was treated and brought up to code. The Hawes pool was brought up to standards and the Norwood community finally got to experience and enjoy some summer fun. With the pool opening 12-7 p.m., daily, swimming lessons also started getting underway as well as open swimming for the residents when

there are no lessons going on.

While the tennis courts and pool are now functional, White noted that they have an ongoing project behind Balch Elementary School where an architectural firm is working on fixing the bathroom house as well as installing a ramp from the parking lot to the fields as it is not ADA accessible. The superintendent is anticipating a fall completion.

But no rest for the weary, the Recreation Department has just concluded another highly successful adult softball season, is in the middle of golf clinics, and in the upcoming months, will have the Norwood Stingray Swim Team getting underway, youth tennis programs, adult pickleball, as well as a flag football league starting up in the fall.

During the winter, Norwood's famous floor hockey program, which has been in existence for over 40 years, will get underway in the Civic Center gymnasium. Residents can see all the programs the Recreation Department has to offer by visiting the Town of Norwood website, www.norwoodma.gov, click on the departments tab, and navigate to recreation.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 2
**Sunday Concerts on the Common
Norwood Town Common
6:30 p.m.**

Norwood's own JBTS Big Band brings big sounds to the Town Common! Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic and enjoy!

Aug. 3
**American Red Cross Blood Drive
Knights of Columbus, 572 Nichols St.
1-6 p.m.**
**Carillon Concert: Joey Brink Performing
Norwood Town Hall
6:30 p.m.**

Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts.

Aug. 4
**Norwood Farmers Market
Norwood Town Common
12-4 p.m.**

Note the time change. The market is running earlier to accommodate National Night Out.

**National Night Out
Town Common
5-8 p.m.**

This annual community-building event is hosted by the Norwood Police Department as part of a national movement to connect residents with local law enforcement. Meet Norwood's law enforcement, cruiser displays, emergency vehicle tours. Complimentary refreshments.

**A Discounted Love Letter:
Paying Homage to Building 19
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.**

In this conversation, co-authors Randy Cogill and Tripp Underwood share the story behind Have a Cheap Day, their coffee-table book chronicling the best Building 19 ads from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Through personal stories and insight gleaned from the colorful characters who shaped this beloved local institution, they'll explore why this junky store continues to live on in so many New England hearts.

Aug. 5
**Sensory-Friendly
Wednesday Movie
Morrill Memorial Library
9:45 a.m.**

The August movie in the Sensory-Friendly Wednesday Movie series is Paramount Pictures' *SpongeBob SquarePants: Search for the SquarePants*, rated PG.

**Teen Craft Movie Club: Dead Poet's Society
Morrill Memorial Library
6 p.m.**

Love movies? Love crafting? Come to the library to craft with friends and also watch a movie on the big screen! Every week there will be watching a new movie in the Simoni Room, with some light refreshments provided. This week, the movie is "Dead Poet's Society" (PG).

What is a Craft Movie Night? This is an event where some of the lights are left on in the and tables will be set up so teens can

work on their crafts while enjoying a movie. Subtitles will be left on, and light conversation will be permitted (this will not be a silent movie). This event is for teens in Grades 7-12.

**Summerfest Concert
Town Common
6:30 p.m.**

PanNeubean Steel is an ensemble delivering vibrant Caribbean rhythms with flair. Take a trip to tropics right here in Norwood!

Aug. 6
**Pig Party
Morrill Memorial Library
3:30 p.m.**

Come meet Gilbert and his friends! Learn all about pig behavior, training, and diet. See how intelligent pigs are! These rescued, highly trained pigs will steal the show! Space is limited, so please register today.

Aug. 7
**Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults
Morrill Memorial Library
10:30 a.m.**

Join the 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 our 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 ages 18+.

Aug. 8
Blessings Boutique Thrift Shop
First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.
10 a.m.-12 noon

Fall is just around the corner! Come in and discover great finds in the way of clothes, shoes, household items, books, jewelry, decor, and so much more! Cash only.

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

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

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 the design will be the same. 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.

Aug. 9
**Sunday Concerts on the Common
Norwood Town Common
6:30 p.m.**

The SheBop Swing Orchestra, an all-female group entertain, enrich, and expand the community through the power of jazz music. Their vision aims to be a catalyst for change within the jazz industry where gender equality is celebrated and diversity is embraced. Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic and enjoy!

Aug. 10
**Monday Movie Matinee
Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.**

If you love movies and want to immerse yourself in unforgettable cinematic experiences, Morrill Memorial Library is the place to be! Today's movie is *Broker* (Korean) (129 mins) — R. Sang-hyeon is a small laundry shop owner who also runs an illegal adoption business with his friend Dong-soo.

Since Dong-soo works in a nearby church, they steal babies placed in the church's baby box and sell them on the black market. But they are surprised one day when a mother of a nearly-abandoned baby returns and tags along, as she wants to see if the adoptive parents are worth it. (Source: Swank). Cast: Song Kang-ho, Dong-won Kang, Bae Doo-na, Ji-eun Lee, Lee Joo-young.

**Carillon Concert: Jonathan Lehrer Performing
Norwood Town Hall
6:30 p.m.**

Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts.

**Reverse Coloring for Adults: Relax and Create
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.**

Unwind and tap into your creativity with Reverse Coloring, a fun and relaxing art activity designed for adults! Unlike traditional coloring books, reverse coloring starts with the colors already on the page — your job is to draw the lines. Let the watercolor-style backgrounds inspire your imagination as you add shapes, patterns, or outlines to bring each page to life. Whether you're an experienced artist or just looking for a mindful way to relax, this stress-free program is for you. All materials will be provided. This program is free and open to ages 18+.

Aug. 11
**Norwood Farmers Market
Norwood Town Common
2-6 p.m.**
**How Norwood Advisory Trails Committee Builds Wooden Trail Structures
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.**

Learn how water crossing, boardwalks, and temporary walkways are designed and built by the Norwood Advisory Trails Committee, with a focus on the Meadow Street and Vanderbilt Street locations along the banks of the Neponset River. Members of the NATC will share

CALENDAR
continued on page 11

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CALENDAR

continued from page 10

stories and photos of the process of building these crossings, boardwalks, and walkways, as well as highlight how these upgrades to the trail systems benefit the Norwood community.

Aug. 12

Music with Sarah
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m.

Get ready to sing, dance, and move to the beat in this lively Music with Sarah class! Designed for young children and their caregivers, this interactive program is full of songs, instruments, movement, and musical fun that will have everyone clapping and smiling along.

Summerfest Concert
Town Common
6:30 p.m.

They say everyone is a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day, well, with Boston's Erin Og, every day is St. Paddy's Day!

Paint Nite for Kids
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

Join Ms. Nicole for a fun paint night! Follow along to create a masterpiece to bring home. Participants will be using acrylic paints, so wear appropriate clothing (it stains!). For ages 6 – 12.

Talking Craft with Local
Author Thomas Bulen Jacobs
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.

Enjoy a conversation about the craft of writing with local author Thomas Bulen Jacobs, whose debut novella *Cyber-scion* is a cyberpunk sci-fi heist. Izzy Wasserstein calls it "... a delight, with engrossing world-building, vivid characters, and a plot brimming with cyberpunk twists and turns. Jacobs delivers a heist narrative that's propulsive, erudite, occasionally steamy, and always captivating." There will be a Q&A and a chance to purchase copies of the book at the end of the evening.

Aug. 13

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

The August movie in the Sensory-friendly Thursday Movie series is Paramount Pictures' *SpongeBob SquarePants: Search for the SquarePants*, rated PG.

Entrepreneurship 101:

Empowering Diverse
Entrepreneurs
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

Join the Morrill Memorial Library and the Town of Norwood Economic Development Department for an engaging and informative evening designed to support and empower entrepreneurs from all backgrounds. This special panel discussion will feature representatives from Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA), the Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce, and the Asian Business Empowerment Council, who will share insights into the programs, services, and resources available to help businesses start, grow, and thrive.

Attendees will learn about funding opportunities, mentorship, networking, advocacy, and other forms of business support tailored to diverse entrepreneurial communities.

Aug. 14

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

Join the 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 ages 18+.

Aug. 16

Sunday Concerts on the
Common
Norwood Town Common
6:30 p.m.

The internationally acclaimed Compaq Big Band is back in Norwood and brings the classics of the 30's and 40's. Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic, and enjoy!

Aug. 17

Carillon Concert: Margaret
Pan Performing
Norwood Town Hall
6:30 p.m.

Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts.

Adult Craft Program: Faux
Stained Glass

Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.

Using felt and simple crafting techniques, Rachelle Toth will guide attendees in making beautiful "stained glass" art pieces that look stunning and are fun to create. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or trying something new for the first time, this program is perfect for all skill levels — no experience needed! All supplies will be provided. If you attended the June program, please refrain from registering.

Aug. 18

Norwood Farmers Market
Norwood Town Common
2-6 p.m.

Community Conversations:
36 Questions for Civic Love
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.

This conversation-based event is designed to connect strangers and strengthen relationships between neighbors, library patrons, and people in our community. For 90 minutes, attendees will be paired with one stranger and each will ask the other a series of 36 pre-created questions, ranging from "Who was your most memorable teacher in school?" to "Who is an unsung hero in your community?" These conversations are aimed at connecting with and getting to know your neighbors and community.

Aug. 19

Turn the Page Book Group:
Happiness Falls
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m. (Virtual at 6:30 p.m.)

Connect with Patty Bailey and fellow local readers for a friendly and informal conversation of *Happiness Falls*, a novel written by Angie Kim.

"We didn't call the police right away." When Mia's fathers doesn't come home from a walk in the local nature preserve, she doesn't think much of it. He must've turned off his phone. Or his battery died. Or he probably stopped for an errand-but doing what exactly? Soon more questions arise and it becomes clear to Mia and her family that he is missing. Or is he? *Happiness Falls* is a mystery, family drama, and a novel of profound philosophical inquiry. New members are always welcome.

Summerfest Concert
Town Common
6:30 p.m.

Slapback is on the Town Common bringing their own unique

blend of rock, funk, and blues.

Great Reads MA Book
Discussion: "Nothing More of
This Land"
First Congregational Church,
100 Winter St.
6:30 p.m.

Join Morrill Memorial Library, in partnership with the Norwood Historical Society and First Congregational Church of Norwood for the first of two engaging discussions about the 2026 Massachusetts Great Reads title *Nothing More of This Land: Community, Power, and the Search for Indigenous Identity* by Joseph Lee.

Before Martha's Vineyard became one of the most iconic vacation destinations in the country, it was home to the Wampanoag people. Today, as tourists flock to the idyllic beaches, the island has become increasingly unaffordable for tribal members, with nearly three-quarters now living off-island.

Aug. 20

Communication Without
Limits
Morrill Memorial Library
1:30 p.m.

The library and Lifeworks will be hosting a monthly 'Communication Without Limits' conversation circle for ND adults. Are you looking for a safe and supportive way to connect with others? Join this group where every voice is heard! Conversations will be light-hearted and friendly. Practice social interactions, express yourself comfortably, and make

everlasting friendships. This is a structured and supportive group designed for adults with different levels of abilities. The group is inclusive and adapted for all communication needs (verbal, AAC, supported communication, spellers etc.).

Board Game Night
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 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! This For people aged 18 and up.

Aug. 22

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

Save yourself some money and get your family's fall clothes and shoes here! You can also pick up puzzles, books, household items, jewelry, fall decor, all at fabulous prices. Cash only.

Sewstainability StashShare
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Yes, it's called "Share" because that is what it is. No money changing hands, no trades to be made. "Shop," taking home donated craft and sewing items you think you might use. Bring a bag when you come, because you'll find some things you can't resist! Donations can be made during

CALENDAR

continued on page 12

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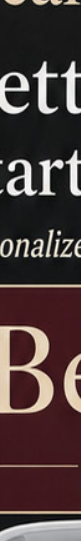
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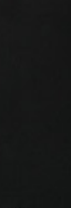


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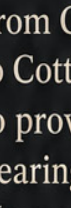


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CALENDAR

continued from page 11

our drop-off dates of Thursday, August 20 or Friday, August 21.

Aug. 23

**Sunday Concerts on the
Common
Norwood Town Common
6:30 p.m.**

Dan Gabel and his Orchestra is a band that transports its audience into the 1940's with its authentic look and music. Bring chairs, blankets, even a picnic, and enjoy!

Aug. 24

Monday Movie Matinee
Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.

If you love movies and want to immerse yourself in unforgettable cinematic experiences, Morrill Memorial Library is the place to be! Today's movie is *Black Bag* (93 mins) -R. A man's self-discovery journey intertwines with his duty to love and defend his homeland, leading him to three pivotal cross-roads in life. (Source: Swank)

Cast: Gustaf Skarsgård,
Cate Blanchett, Regé-Jean
Page, Marisa Abela, Naomie
Harris

Carillon Concert: Margot Lane & Jordan Scoville
Norwood Town Hall
6:30 p.m.

Best listening spots are on the Town Common or in the upper parking lot behind the Town Hall off Central Street. Tours of the bell tower are available after most concerts.

Aug. 25

Norwood Farmers Market
Norwood Town Common
2-6 p.m.

**Summer Memories Art
Workshop
Morrill Memorial Library
6:30 p.m.**

Summer Memories is a relaxing, creative, beginner-friendly, and hands-on art workshop led by Dimple Shah and designed for adults ages 18 and older. Its theme is inspired by the serenity of summertime. Participants will create two small 4"x4" canvas paintings, featuring a sea-green ocean and delicate pond lilies. This workshop is suited for adults seeking a creative break, a mindfulness activity, or an in-

roduction to acrylic painting.

Participants may paint one ocean canvas and one pond lilies canvas, or interpret the theme freely.

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

The August title was not determined at press time. 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.

Aug. 26

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

Join 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.

Summerfest Concert
Town Common
6:30 p.m.

The Squeezebox Stompers close out the 2026 Summerfest Concert series with their vibrant sounds of Cajun, zydeco, blues, folk, and original music.

Aug. 27

**Sensory-Friendly Lego Club
for Adults
Morrill Memorial Library
1 p.m.**

Join the L.E.A.D. students in this creative adventure. 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.

Aug. 28

Sensory-Friendly Art Classes for Adults

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 guides participants to create one-of-a-kind art projects, often utilizing recycled/repurposed materials and items found in nature.

 REAL ESTATE CORNER

Is your home ready for fall? Why August is the perfect time to prepare

By MICHELE TARANTO

For many homeowners in Norwood and Walpole, August is a month of transition. Summer vacations are winding down, families are preparing for a new school year, and thoughts

New England’s strongest markets. Many buyers who weren’t able to purchase a home in the spring are still actively searching, and with fewer homes typically coming on the market after Labor Day, well-prepared

Even if selling isn’t in your immediate plans, August is the perfect month to protect your investment and prepare your home for the months ahead.

Start With the Basics
One of the first things buyers

- Inspect the roof for loose or damaged shingles.
- Service your heating system before the first cold snap.
- Replace worn weather-stripping around doors and windows.
- Repair loose railings, steps, or walkways.
- Pressure wash siding, decks, patios, and walkways.

REAL ESTATE

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begin to turn toward cooler weather. It’s also one of the best times of year to give your home some attention.

While spring is often considered real estate’s busiest season, fall has quietly become one of

properties have an opportunity to stand out. Both Norwood and Walpole continue to see competitive housing markets, with homes moving quickly when they are priced correctly and well presented.

notice is how well a home has been maintained. Small maintenance items completed now can prevent larger repairs later.

Take some time this month to:

- Clean gutters and downspouts.

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REAL ESTATE

continued from page 13

These simple projects help preserve your home's value while making it more appealing if you decide to sell.

Take Advantage of New England's Best Curb Appeal

One of the advantages of living in Norwood and Walpole is that our neighborhoods truly shine in late summer and early fall.

Perennial gardens are still blooming, lawns remain green with a little care, and mature trees begin providing the beautiful colors New England is known for. Fresh mulch, trimmed shrubs, a neatly edged lawn, and a welcoming front entrance can dramatically improve the first impression your home makes.

Declutter Before the Holidays

August is also an excellent time to begin organizing your home before holiday decorations and winter gear take over.

Go through closets, the basement, attic, garage, and storage areas. Donate items you no longer use and organize what's left. Not only will your home feel larger and more functional, but if you decide to sell, you'll

already be ahead of the game.

Think Like a Buyer

Walk through your home as if you were seeing it for the first time.

Would you notice peeling paint? A loose doorknob? Burned-out light bulbs? A cluttered entryway?

Often, it's the little details that leave the biggest impression.

Planning Ahead Pays Off

One of the biggest misconceptions is that homeowners should wait until they're ready to list before contacting a Realtor.

In reality, meeting a month or two before listing gives homeowners time to prioritize improvements, schedule contractors if needed, and focus on projects that will actually add value. Not every home needs a major renovation. Sometimes a fresh coat of paint, improved lighting, and a thorough cleaning make all the difference.

Whether You're Selling or Staying

Whether your goal is to move this fall, sometime next year, or simply enjoy your home for many years to come, August is an ideal time to tackle maintenance and preparation.

Our communities continue to be highly desirable because of their strong neighborhoods, con-

venient commuter access, local businesses, parks, schools, and active community events. Taking care of your home today helps protect both your investment and the character of the neighborhoods we all enjoy.

Fall Home Readiness Checklist

- ☐ Clean gutters and downspouts
- ☐ Schedule your heating system tune-up
- ☐ Inspect your roof
- ☐ Wash windows inside and out
- ☐ Pressure wash exterior surfaces
- ☐ Touch up peeling paint
- ☐ Trim shrubs and tree branches
- ☐ Declutter closets, basement, attic, and garage
- ☐ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ☐ Replace furnace filters
- ☐ Walk through your home as a buyer would

Whether you're preparing to sell or simply maintaining your home, a little work in August can pay dividends throughout the fall and winter. As Benjamin Franklin wisely said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That advice applies just as well to homeownership today as it did centuries ago.

Hello Summer! The Real Estate Market is Heating up!

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- Ellis M



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