

Norwood

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July 2021

The Voice of Your Community

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Inside...



The 4th is On! Well, the 3rd This Year!

BY BELLA CAGGIANO

Just six weeks to plan a grand parade; not enough time you say? Plenty of time for Norwood's A team! Yes, Norwood's grand Independence Day Parade will take place this year, with just a few slight changes. First, the event will be held on July 3rd instead of its traditional date on the 4th of July. Also, the parade will begin at 10 a.m., and the Firecracker 5K Road

Race will have a starting gun of 9 a.m.

"It was touch with the late notice and competing with other towns [to confirm entertainers]," Norwood Recreation Assistant Director Catherine Seastedt said. "Also, with 4th of July on a Sunday, there are churches on the route and we wanted to make sure we didn't conflict with that."

The Grand Marshal in the



parade this year will be the Cooper family, in honor of the Town's beloved Assistant Town Manager, Bernie Cooper.

"We felt it was important as we want to keep this tradition going," Norwood 4th of July committee member Maria Henry said. "I think it is a huge



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Aayushi Chauhan, Kusumita Savaram, Sana Dhillon, Angel Shah, Gauri Loomba and Poonan Loombaa

The Girls Who Care Club

BY DONNA LANE

If you thought our young people were sitting around playing video games during the pandemic, think again. Girls Who Care was established by Sana Dhillon in August of 2020 as an environmental sustainability club to educate, empower, and activate youth to help the communities they live in. Sana reached out to

her friends, all of whom have a passion for environmental sustainability, and asked if they would be interested in forming a club that would help to make a difference in each of their communities, recognizing the challenges we are facing with climate change and

GIRLS WHO CARE
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PARADE

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benefit to the town, especially after the pandemic. Especially after losing Bernie; he loved this parade. He would have been honored we were carrying it on. This is what makes Norwood Norwood.”

This year’s parade theme is Hometown Heroes. There will be a float designated to many of Norwood’s local unsung superstars who worked hard throughout the pandemic to ensure residents’ safety and health, and who provided services throughout the difficult year. Representatives will include a doctor, nurse, postal worker, teacher, grocery store worker, and others.

“We want to recognize them for all their hard work during the pandemic,” Seastedt said.

The Children’s Bicycle, Tricycle, Doll Carriage, and Historic Character parade this year will be incorporated within the main parade just after the fire trucks. Any



child who wants to participate should be at the First Congregational Church, 100 Winter St., at 9:45 a.m.

What will remain the same is the parade’s route. It will begin at the Coakley Middle School, down Washington Street, all the way to the Town Hall.

Due to time and scheduling constraints, the parade may be slightly smaller this year, however, with the hard work of the 4th of July committee and assistance from the Norwood Recreation Department, it will still be one of the hottest tickets in the area. At press time, six bands were confirmed, a hip hop dance group, a horse troop, fire and police vehicles, antique and military cars, and of course, Norwood’s staple, the Colonial Boys!

“The parade is a little smaller because the bands have not been able to practice because of Covid or not traveling,” Seastedt said. “They are also staying close to home. They said they definitely

want to be in our parade next year.”

The Norwood Firecracker 5K Road Race, however, is already slated to host more runners than previous years. With spectators lining the streets for the race and the parade, their cheers and encouragement marks this a 5K event like no other! The fee is \$30 and participants can register the day of the event.

On Sunday, July 4th, there will be a reading of Frederick Douglass’ July 5th, 1852 speech, at 2 p.m., at the Old Parish Cemetery, at the grave site of abolitionist and Unitarian minister Rev. Edwin Thompson. This event is sponsored by the Old parish preservation Volunteers (OPPV) and Progress Norwood. The event is free and open to the public.

Gratitude and thanks should be given to Norwood’s 4th of July committee. Without them, this grand event, which draws thousands of enthusiastic spectators to Norwood, would not be possible:

Maria Henry, Mary Cantarow, Martha Colamaria, Jim Henry, Lou Harris, and Travis Farley and Catherine Seastedt, both of the Norwood Recreation Department. And of course, a heartfelt thank you to Bernie Cooper who had given up so much of his time and heart to bring pleasure to Norwood residents and surrounding communities for so many years.

“We plan on honoring Bernie next year at the 150th anniversary,” Henry said. “Bernie is the face of this town. I don’t know if anyone realizes all the fun stuff was because of Bernie. We really want to honor him. Next year so we can honor him the way we should.

The 4th of July committee is still looking for volunteers the day of the event. For more information, call the Norwood Recreation Department at 781-762-0466. This is a great opportunity to share in what makes this event, and Norwood, the place where everyone wants to live!

GIRLS WHO CARE

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trying to make our planet more “green.”

These six young women, all of Indian heritage, enthusiastically agreed to work together and get involved in local projects. All had been working individually toward sustainability. They would now pool their collective ideas and talents to educate, inspire, and empower other youth to action.

Shillon’s first idea was to have recycling containers placed at all of the outdoor restaurant areas in town; however, some things couldn’t be recycled because of the grease, so the group decided to focus on the educational aspects of sustainability via Zoom presentations. It was especially difficult during the pandemic to do some of the things they wanted to do so they used technology as a vehicle to help get their message out. They targeted students younger than themselves, believing these youngsters would help to educate their parents to make changes.

They also created a presentation, with each girl presenting a topic: composting, microplastics, ocean pollution, reducing your carbon footprint, and products that will help the environment, to enhance their program. One of the statistics used in the composting segment is that Norwood residents place 1,100 tons of food waste in the trash each year, which costs the town \$200,000/year. (We pay by the pound for trash pickup.) By composting food waste rather than putting it in the trash, the money could be used more productively for the benefit of residents; and, the

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GIRLS WHO CARE

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compost can be used to enrich soils depleted by erosion, food, or other plant production.

The girls' first effort was to reach out to their local Indian School, which each of them attended to learn about their Indian heritage, culture, and languages. They presented their program via Zoom showing students how they can use resources in the environment responsibly so that future generations can also use these resources if they want to.

Who are these passionate, caring young women? Sana Dhillon is a sophomore at Ursaline Academy where she is also a member of her school's Green Club. A Norwood resident, she has volunteered with the Charles River Cleanup organization for a number of years, as well as the Big Help for Education group, a non-profit organization that helps raise money for education in India – improving education, building schools, and the like.

Kusumita Savaram is a Junior at Foxboro Regional Charter School and a resident of North Attleboro. She leads a chapter of the Young Democrats Club in Foxboro, working on policy and voter education. She also works with the Sunrise Movement in Boston, an organization that aims to reduce or eliminate all fossil fuels and non-renewable energy sources across the country (a.k.a. The Green New Deal), as well as several others.

Gauri Loomba is a Junior at Norwood High School. She is currently the vice president of the Environmental Youth Club (soon to be president), has assisted with many local cleanups, and partnered with Treeplenish, a non-profit run by Harvard students to plant hundreds of trees in Norwood at the High School and a number of other sites. Loomba is active in the Norwood Sustainability Commission, serving as their high school advisor,

and is working with the Town on a plastic bag ban. She is an activist for the Ocean Heroes, a non-profit program involving youth that “want to act to protect our oceans for people and creatures today and for generations to come.” The program teaches youth how to be activists in their own communities.

Poonan Loomba, the youngest member of the group, is a 7th grade student at the Coakley Middle School. She is also an Ocean Heroes activist, a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and a well-spoken advocate for environmental sustainability. She also works with Big Help for Education.

Angel Shah is a Junior at Walpole Senior High School and a member of its student council. She also performs a lot of local community work with the Town of Walpole and outreach to residents of the community.

Last, but certainly not least, is Aayushi Chauhan of Norwood who is a freshman at Boston Trinity Academy. Chauhan is a member of her school's Green Club and is working on social justice and special needs outreach, and helping to educate students in her school about climate change.

To date, the club has presented to 150 students. Their message is that everyone can make a difference – even if it's just by doing one small thing. The Girls Who Care emphasize that the students are the ambassadors of tomorrow; the club gives them the tools and knowledge so they can spread the word.

The girls have also spread their message to relatives and friends in India. All of the girls have traveled to the home of their ancestor at least once.

“There's a lot of pollution and climate change in India and the people seem to think it's normal,” Poonan said. “I honestly don't think that's the case. If we teach people who are from there we can help them to see and realize

the change they can make – even if it's very small.”

“Exactly, and they can tell their cousins and family members about the presentation we gave to them and how they can make a difference in their village or wher-



ever they live in India,” Dhillon agreed.

Their mission statement?

“It's less a statement and more about the three main things we're focused on: advocate, educate, and empower; those are the three ways we've been trying to focus our environmental action in the community,” Kusumita stated.

It's not easy to form a new group, but for these young women their similar concerns

made it seem easy.

“We knew [it would be a lot of work, but] we could also make it fun by working together because we're all friends,” Dhillon said.

The young Poonan chimed in with her rationale for joining.

“The realization of what's going on in the real world ... opening your eyes and seeing it all, and coming to the realization that you want to make a difference ... it resonated with me,” Poonan said.

“It's not just us,” Kusumita interjected. “Our entire generation as a whole has an increased sense of civic duty. I think part of that fact is that we have access to so many resources today and so much information that it's a lot harder to turn away from an issue, be-

cause you have to face it, because you have to see all these pictures, and you have to speak with people who have experience with it.”

The pandemic helped to heighten the group's sense of responsibility. Kusumita said it best.

“The pandemic really just gave us the space to actually realize that we don't have to just sit around ... we don't have to accept things the way they are ... we

have the time and the resources to actually do something,” Kusumita stated.

And they are doing something! In addition to doing Zoom presentations of their education program, the girls are raising funds to help ocean conservation efforts. Because of the pandemic, they couldn't do some of the usual fundraisers. Instead, they have created a magnet that depicts their sustainability initiative with graphic symbols of composting, recycling, clean water, no chemicals, no plastics, renewable energy, and its central theme: save the world. They have been offering these magnets for a donation of \$5 each – more if you can, less if you can't – to those who want to help with their mission. They are close to reaching their first goal of \$500 which they plan to give to the New England Aquarium for their ocean conservation efforts.

If you would like to help this group of talented young citizens who are advocating for environmental sustainability, you can contact them at wearegirlsthatcare@gmail.com or on Instagram at [girlswhocare_](https://www.instagram.com/girlswhocare_).

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Eagle Scout Project Brings Handicap Accessible Tables to Norwood's Town Common

By LIZ HUGHES

If you've been down to the Town Common lately, you may have noticed the addition of two new wheelchair-accessible picnic tables to be used and enjoyed by those who need them. These serviceable resources were part of Eagle Scout Daniel Sorensen's give back to the community.

Sorensen, an 11th grader at Norwood High School, spent much of his adolescence and childhood with the Boy Scouts, starting as a Cub Scout, then taking a break before becoming a Webelo, and eventually stepping up and crossing over to Boy Scouts at age of 11.

"It's definitely shaped my childhood very much and I've done it a long time and I enjoyed it," Sorensen said.

Today, he's a member of Troop 42 in Norwood.

What really pushed Sorensen to work toward Eagle Scout was his upcoming move to Denmark this summer.

"I'm probably going to be done with scouting in America," Sorensen said. "Why not end my scouting career in America by getting that rank and knowing that I at least achieved something very few scouts achieve."

Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in the Boy Scouts of America program. Less than 10% of scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout.

Sorensen developed the idea for the wheelchair-accessible picnic tables when he was working on his Eagle Project and researching the best way he could serve his community. That brought him to the Town Common and he started to think of ways to improve it.

"We have so many tables during the spring and summertime when we expand the commons," Sorensen said. "Why not make wheelchair accessible tables to give people with handicaps the ability to enjoy the town common as well."

From there, things took off. He reached out to Town Manager Tony Mazzucco and DPW Director Mark Ryan who helped with moving the project forward, as well as with sourcing materials for the project.

"He (Sorensen) had an idea for an Eagle Scout project to build handicap accessible picnic tables which was a wonderful idea," Ryan said. "Actually, he had three different ideas of designs and Daniel and I agreed on the one he eventually built."

The town even helped out with securing the materials as well as helping cover some of the costs. Sorensen sold fabric face masks for \$5 each to raise funds toward the project bringing in about \$400.

Ryan said they helped Sorensen with the pricing of materials and costs, then they ended up splitting the cost of the project with him.

"The DPW picked up part of it and those monies raised went to the Norwood Fund to help families in Norwood in need," Ryan said. "It was a win-win for everyone. He built something people can use that need handicap access plus he raised funds for the Norwood fund."

Once the project was approved, Ryan said they arranged to pick up the materials and deliver them to his house to be built, as well as giving him the same stain used on other tables downtown so they look similar.

Sorensen got help from his



local Boy Scout Troop with building, painting, and sealing the tables. When they were finished, DPW employees picked the tables up and helped get them installed on the Town Common. They also put placards on the tables to let visitors know they are handicapped accessible.

The whole project from idea to fruition came about rather quickly. Sorensen said he began

talking with town officials in February and the tables were on the common by May 26.

"Now there are two wheelchair-accessible tables at the Norwood Town Common that are open and ready to be used," Sorensen said. "Just come on down to the Town Common and enjoy the environment, enjoy the food, and enjoy the community."

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All K-5 classroom teachers have shared all of the program details with students before the

school year ended. A paper copy of the program was given to each student. There are additional materials available for students to access on the NPS website on the Summer Learning Plans tab - Elementary <https://www.norwood.k12.ma.us/.../nps-summer-learning-page>.

If you have questions, email Jill Milton, Elementary Mathematics Coordinator at JM-



ILTON@NORWOOD.K12.MA.US or Stefanie West, Elementary English Language Arts Coordinator at SWEST@NORWOOD.K12.MA.US

Canine Cool Off!



By BELLA CAGGIANO

Temperatures reached 93 degrees on Sunday, June 6, but the high heat did not curb the enthusiasm and attendance at the Bay State Animal Cooperative (BSAC) Annual Car/Dog Wash!

A special thanks goes out to BSAC's partnered veterinarian and Roz at the Dirty Dawg Wash



Norwood residents have come to look forward to this day where both Fido and their car receive a good spring cleaning and are more than happy to support this worth cause.

This fun-filled (and often wet) event has become a yearly tradition in town where washing is not the only choice on the menu. It is a one-stop canine spa day where dogs not only received a refreshing wash, but also had the opportunity to receive their rabies vaccination, microchipping, and a canine pedicure with nail clipping.

for generously offering their skills and time as well as the many volunteers who gave up their Sunday to generate funds for the cat rescue group. None of this would be possible without their efforts.

Last year, the event was postponed until September due to Covid restrictions. While still a success, this year's contributions from the generous residents of Norwood, made for the event's most successful year! Keep an eye out for posters, advertising, and online notifications for next year's wash and more opportunities to assist the Bay State Animal Cooperative in helping homeless or feral cats, rescuing and adopting their precious felines.

For more information on the Bay State Animal Cooperative, to make a donation, or learn about adoptions, visit www.bay-stateanimals.org.



On June 10, Norwood's Honor Guard represented the Norwood Police Department at the funeral for Worcester Officer Emmanuel Familia. Familia died in the line of duty Friday June 4th while attempting to rescue a teenager from drowning.

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 Christopher Felix Perriello
 Andrew James Perry
 Jade Ruth Perry
 Marco Benito Petrillo
 Joseph Carmelo Petruzzelli
 Tiziana Pinto De
 Souza Nascimento
 Sylus Prasad
 Jennifer Ann Puzey
 Matthew William Quinn
 Rachel Kennedy Rafferty
 Rusali Rajbhandari
 Fabian Ramaj
 Jonathan Jesus Ramos Cornejo
 Nichole Rayshawna Randolph
 Nyree Darly Summer
 Denise Resignac
 Justin Jared Ring
 Matthew Robert Ritchie
 Anjealis Franchesca Rodriguez
 Gabriella Rodriguez
 Katherine Josephine Rogers
 Murphy Katherine Rowan
 Gustavo Henrique Ruberth
 Jake Russo
 John Francis Ryan
 Christian Mykhal Sales
 Jasmine Marie Samulonis
 Leilany Sanchez
 Mea Lynne SanGiacomo
 Hector Luis Santos Suazo
 Matthew Edward Schick
 Karl Joseph Schletzbaum
 Kymauri Jeremiah Seams
 Connor Everett Segreve



Norwood High School

Class of 2021

*Graduation
 Ceremony*

Sunday, June 6, 2021

1:00p.m.

H. Bennett Murray Field - Norwood High School

Khushi Nilesh Shah
 Baneen Sahib Shakarchi
 MacGregor Judge Sharkey
 Sydney Cait Sharkey
 Vivienne Lee Sharkey
 Jared William Shea
 Jack Domenic Silletti
 Grace Evelyn Smelstor
 Justin Bunryu Smith
 Megan Danehy Sople
 Nicholas Peter Spadorcia
 James Thomas Spellman
 Ryan Daniel Steele
 Grace Elizabeth Sullivan
 Kevin Christopher Sullivan
 Michelle Hanna Tannous
 Jayda Ann Taylor
 Jordane Christine Taylor
 Jedadiah Thor Tinlin
 Alison Kailey Trahon
 Pyotr Makana Umbay-Guliaeff
 Isabelle Diane Vitarisi
 Sydney Joan Waitekus
 James David Whelan
 Kevin Louis White
 Ryan William White
 Liam James Wilson
 Nathan Dominic Wroe
 Sydnie Wu
 Deysi Aracely Yanes Umanzor
 Katie Maribel Yanes
 Bryan Yuen
 Dylan Joseph Zalanskas
 Dante Alonzo Zaldivar
 Ashley Judith Zammito

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Live Music Returns to the Norwood Town Common!

By BELLA CAGGIANO

The 2020 free music series were unfortunately postponed due to crowd restrictions from Covid-19. This summer, however, music lovers can rejoice as live music is returning to the Norwood Town Common!

As in previous years, the Town Bandstand will host two concert series; now in its 27th year, Concerts on the Common

will resume on Sunday evenings and Summerfest, celebrating its 41st season, will be held on Wednesday nights.

All performances are free and open to the public. So, bring your own seating, pack dinner or snacks, grab neighbors and friends, and enjoy those magical musical sounds under Norwood's starry skies!

SUMMERFEST

- July 14th - Rick Barron and the Quavers
 - July 21st - Boston's Erin Og
 - July 28th - Roundhouse
 - August 4th - PanNubean Steel Band
 - August 11th - Southbound Train
 - August 18th - Veronica Robles All Female Mariachi Band
- Concerts are held on Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:00.

Concerts on the Common

- July 18th - Sharon Community Band
 - July 25th - Roy Scott Big Band
 - August 1st - South Eastern Massachusetts Community Concert Band
 - August 8th - Westwood Swing Band
 - August 15th - Tom Nutile Big Band
 - August 22nd - Oberlaendler Hofbrau Band
 - August 29th - Dan Gabel and the Abletones
- Concerts are held on Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00.

All concerts are sponsored by community organizations, businesses and the town of Norwood. For up-to-date information visit the town's concert page at: http://www.norwoodma.gov/residents/holidays_and_community_events/concerts.php



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[norwoodma.gov/residents/holidays_and_community_events/concerts.php](http://www.norwoodma.gov/residents/holidays_and_community_events/concerts.php)

Unfortunately, the Tilton Memorial Carillon is currently under repair so there will be no Carillon Concert on the Common series this summer.

This year's Carillon Series would have been dedicated to Bernard S. Cooper, former Norwood Assistant General Manager who sadly passed away last year. Cooper was a familiar face at virtually every Norwood event and worked hard behind the scenes so others could enjoy and experience Town celebrations. He was devoted to the Carillon Music Program and without his support Norwood residents would likely never have the privilege to learn the carillon history or listen to the unique sounds of this Norwood gem.

Norwood Public Schools Has Begun Its Equity Audit Work

The groundwork for the process began in the spring and will continue through the summer. At the beginning of June, the district held breakout sessions with representation from students, parents/guardians, teachers, the Norwood School Committee, district and school administration and the wider Norwood community. The participants discussed topics such as what diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging means to them; why it matters to Norwood Public Schools; and what they hope will occur as Norwood moves toward a more just and equitable future.

The shared understanding of and vision for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging provided by participants will help the district begin the Equity Audit and planning process.

The Equity Audit, facilitated by the nonprofit Mass Insight Education & Research, helps districts determine the necessary actions to meet the diverse needs of students, staff and families. According to Mass Insight, the process helps districts and schools focus on policies and practices that expand equitable access to quality educational opportunities.

The district's Equity Audit and planning process is expected to have several results. First, the district will gain a clear understanding of its current strengths and areas for growth regarding equitable opportunities for all students. This will be achieved by analyzing data and understanding the perspectives and experiences of Norwood Public Schools' stakeholders, particularly students, families, staff and historically marginalized populations.

Second, the audit will result in

actionable recommendations for improving equitable practices districtwide, both in the near future and long term. Thirdly, a strategic plan will be designed that will focus attention and resources on supporting Norwood's diverse students, staff, families and community and will move the district toward a more just and equitable state.

"We are excited that this Equity Audit work has begun and thank those who have already participated in the initial part of the process," Superintendent Thomson said. "Along with the many trainings and initiatives we have undertaken recently regarding diversity, equity and inclusion districtwide, this Equity Audit process will help us take a deeper look at the district to understand inequities and what we need to do to address them."

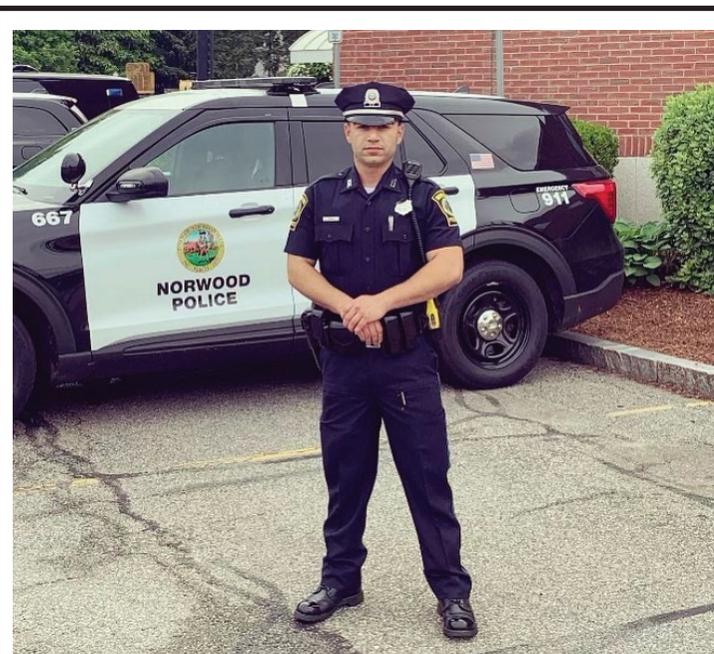
In the coming weeks and

months, the district will synthesize input from the session to develop a more concrete preliminary vision for equity that will guide the audit process. This vision will continue to be refined and expanded upon throughout the audit as additional stakeholders become involved.

From August-October, the district plans to conduct several activities to engage students, family members, school and district staff, board members and community members in sharing their experiences in Norwood Public Schools, including the extent to which they feel a sense of belonging and what they see as opportunities to strengthen equity within the district. These activities will include surveys, interviews, focus groups and more. Additional information on these opportunities will be provided to stakeholders as details become available.

We Are Open!

- Norwood Town Hall is open 8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday
- The treasury window is open 8:15am-3:30pm
- Only one door is currently open, please use the door to Memorial Hall (door closest to Washington Street)



Welcome Norwood PD's Newest Officer

Officer Viktor Sabha, is on the road and excited to begin his 12 week Field Training Officer (FTO) program. During his training, Officer Sabha will be accompanied and instructed by a training officer who will oversee and advise the duties and responsibilities of an officer.

Officer Sabha graduated from the Cape Cod Municipal Police Academy on May 27th and is eager to serve the town he grew up in. Be sure to introduce yourself to him if you see him around town!

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Norwood Sports

Changing of the Guard; Norwood Girls LAX

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Norwood girl's lacrosse tri-captains Caroline Davey, Maggie Curran, and Molly Mannering were lucky enough to play in their senior season for the Mustangs this spring after the previous year was cancelled due to Covid-19. While the seniors are looking to go out on top, they know that the team is in very good hands.

Mike Lodge had inherited the team from Chuck Allen, and although he didn't know all that much about the sport when his daughter first got involved some six years ago, he did familiarize himself with the game by watching older girls play so he could understand the game better. He was also coached on the game and was the Norwood Youth Lacrosse President. Now he's coaching the high school team.

In addition to having a new Coach on the sidelines, Norwood also has a very talented team on the field. Two freshmen, who also play club lacrosse for Mass Elite, have helped the Mustangs improve their game, and with the seniors moving on after the season is complete, look primed and ready to take control of the Mustang reigns.

Olivia Naughton and Olivia Lodge, or the two O's as they are referred to, have been playing lacrosse together since the third grade, and by the time they got to middle school they had joined Mass Elite.

"This team has only three club lacrosse players on it (the two Olivia's as well as Davey), the rest of the team is made up of a bunch of athletes that pick up their sticks in March and then put them down in June," the Coach said. "It's not to say they are not good; they just don't have the talent and knowledge that the three club players have."

The club players play the sport year-round and are continuously attending camps and clinics to make themselves better. Their counterparts play other sports throughout the year.

"This team is very athletic with each girl playing at least one other sport in addition to lacrosse," Naughton said. "They may not be fulltime lacrosse players like we are, but they are able to use their knowledge and skills

from their specific sport to make adjustments on the field that help the team."

Prior to the regular season getting underway, Davey and the other captains saw the skill that Naughton and Lodge portrayed while on the field and knew that they were best suited to take over the transition.

"This team had a lot of building to do, but with the addition of the two Olivia's club experience we knew that we could rely on them to help move this team forward after we leave," Davey said. "By playing club lacrosse it allows them to have a better insight on the game while on the field. They are the perfect choice to lead this team."

Although Naughton and Lodge were looked at as the successors to the Norwood lacrosse program, they knew that as freshman it wasn't going to be easy for them.

"I am a shy person and didn't feel comfortable saying anything to the older girls," Naughton said. "I still consider myself a shy individual, but the team understands that although we are freshman playing in our first varsity season, we do actually know what we are talking about and are here to help; nothing more."

Lodge agreed whole heartily with her friend.

"Yes, we do play year-round, but being a freshman, I didn't want to say too much and come across as a know it all," Lodge said. "As the season has gone on, the girls, of all ages, have not only bonded but have come together as a team that has all the pieces to be successful in the future."

With the team understanding that the two Olivia's were there to help, they too felt more at ease. Coach Lodge uses his three club players to help demonstrate whatever he is trying to get through to his team.

"Anytime I have a drill to go over I use Caroline and the two Olivia's to visually show the rest of the team what I am looking for," Lodge said. "The other girls are not dummies but I feel it makes it easier on them to see what we are doing using the club players."

Another freshman who has made a big impact with the team

is starting goaltender Charlotte McDonald. Although only playing in the Norwood Youth Lacrosse Program for a few years and having lost all of last year, she has shown that she too belongs on this team.

McDonald faced a blistering 35 shots against a very talented Ashland team in which she stopped 20. According to the Coach, making 20 saves in high school lacrosse is an unbelievable feat and she was defiantly getting in the Clockers' heads as she continued to turn aside their shots. Although the team eventually succumbed to Ashland's talent, the freshman was perfect in the first quarter stopping all eight shots she faced while her teammates built a 3-0 lead.

Norwood's junior class is not all that shabby either. Sam Reen, Hope Ford, Maddie Berry, and Reese Barnett hold down the team's defense while Ally Steeves and CC Venditti patrol the mid-field for the Mustangs.

"We are so lucky to have a good defensive core of juniors who have taken control," Davey said. "As a captain, I rely on them to keep the defense in check. Sam and Hope have done a phenomenal job leading that core."

Naughton interjected that the team was lucky to have a club player in each part of the field that in turn helps set up the play and keeps things moving in a smooth fashion.

At the time of this writing, Curran was leading the team with 26 points; sophomore Caroline Forrest had tallied 20 points with Davey (19), Lodge (17) and Naughton (16) right behind her. While the two freshmen have been able to put up points for the Mustangs, one has to recognize they are still young players and have had their share of ups and downs throughout the season.

"You have to remember that they are only freshman playing in their first year on the varsity team and because they are freshman they have struggled at times to be consistent," the Coach said. "However, the team understands this and during our most compet-



LACROSSE
continued on page 11

Norwood Sports

Athena Alexopoulos; Pitching Norwood to the Top

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Norwood High varsity softball pitcher Athena Alexopoulos is playing in her sophomore season for the Mustangs, and although it is her second year in the high school, it is only her first on the field due to the Covid pandemic that shut down sports for about a year. Alexopoulos was all set to join the Mustangs last spring before the pandemic and is now finally getting a chance to play in her first varsity season.

"This is only her first year playing softball for us," Norwood Coach Carol Savino said. "Losing a whole year at this age makes a big difference in their development, but now that she has some game experience, next year should be a lot better."

According to Savino, the young hurler is not an overpowering pitcher that records a lot of strikeouts, but she does have a decent drop pitch when it's on. When the pitch is working, Alexopoulos creates a lot of groundouts. The sophomore also bats leadoff for the team.

"As our leadoff batter she's hitting around .620," the Mustang Coach said. "I knew that she could swing the bat, that's why she is our leadoff hitter."

The Norwood native began playing t-ball in the fourth grade, but after a few years her parents thought it was a good idea to move her over to softball. Originally, she found the transition to be a little hectic trying to hit and catch a much bigger ball, but she eventually got use to it and now has no issues with the differences.

During her initial years of playing softball, she found herself rotating to just about every position on the field, however, when kids began pitching to one another instead of the coaches, no one wanted to play the position.

"No one wanted to try it, so I decided to take it on," Alexopou-

lus said. "At first I didn't know what I was getting myself, into but soon found that I really liked it. There wasn't a lot of competition, and you are always involved in most plays in some way."

It was around eighth grade when she was attending the high school softball clinic when Coach Savino told her it would be a good idea to joining a club team if she was serious about playing high school softball. Soon after Savino's guidance, hooked up with the Mass Drifters out of Taunton, a team she is still playing for on a regular basis.

The play of club ball is a much faster game in terms of pitching, something that she was not use to. Playing club ball has also helped her transition to high school play.

Entering Norwood High School, Alexopoulos, who also swims and plays soccer for the Mustangs, was really looking forward to her first year on the softball field. As she prepared and participated in captain's practices, she and her teammates were gearing up for the season when Covid began circling just before tryouts were to begin. The MIAA originally put the season on hold trying to figure out what was going on while waiting for word from the Governor of the State.

"I was personally upset that the season was suspended, but I held onto hope that we 'd eventually played as softball is my primary sport," the sophomore recalled. "I kept practicing my pitching, hitting, and fielding waiting for the day we would get back onto the field and play. Unfortunately, the start dates kept getting pushed back later and later and before you knew it summer was here, and I lost my entire freshman season.

The Norwood freshman was very disappointed with her lost season, but she knew that she just had to let it go and move past it.

figured it out."

As the season is quickly coming to an end and the tri-captains will soon be parting ways, the Norwood girl's lacrosse team seems to be on the path to success.

"The future is bright with this



During the late summer, she did play in some local tournament games for the Mass Drifters, but that too was much different than what she was used to in the past. All the games they did get to play not only had to be local, but they would play the same team over the weekends.

"After getting to play a few games late last summer, I was hoping that we'd have a season this year," Alexopoulos said. "As restrictions started to become less and less, I was getting excited that we'd have a season and I would be able to show my abilities. Losing that first year was tough so it was very important that we'd have a season this year."

Coming into her first varsity season, Alexopoulos wanted to get into the circle and pitch to the best of her abilities, even though she was splitting time in the circle with junior Katelyn Flynn. Along with her co-pitcher, she wanted to help the team win and become successful. At the time of this writing, the Mustangs were 7-6. During their seven wins, Norwood had impressively outscored

team," Lodge said. "We have a solid group of sophomores and juniors who have a lot of potential to help this team qualify for the tournament and that's what we'll be looking to do."



their opponents 72-23, while staying competitive in their six losses, losing four games by a single run and one game each by two and three runs.

As her first season is coming to an end, the sophomore is looking forward to the future with her teammates on the field.

"I want to improve my pitching, hitting, and fielding [playing the outfield when not in the circle] during the off season," Alexopoulos said. "I believe that we will continue to be competitive throughout the rest of the

season and am looking forward to the next two years with this team as we continue to grow and become a better team."

Getting the chance to play for the high school was a big opportunity this year and most likely having a regular summer season with the Mass Drifters should help Alexopoulos' game giving her and the Mustangs a chance to not only become competitive once again, but hopefully have a shot at the Tri-Valley League Title and a district championship.

LACROSSE

continued from page 10

itive game of the season against Norton when the two Olivia's hooked up to score the sideline erupted. It seems that they have





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Calendar of Events

The Community Calendar was prepared a few weeks before the July publish date. In consideration with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and state and federal guidelines regarding public gatherings, some of these events may have been postponed or cancelled. It is recommended to call to confirm the event status before attending.

The South Norfolk Mental Illness Family and Friends Support Group will NOT hold its April monthly meeting. Pandemic-related restrictions are still in force. The South Norfolk Mental Illness Family and Friends Support Group is composed of such families who find mutual support and join together to advocate for their loved ones. For further information call Ray at 508-668-2941.

July 3

Norwood Firecracker 5K Road Race

Norwood Town Common
9 a.m.

Registration available the day of the event. Cost is \$30.

Norwood 4th of July Parade

10 a.m.

While on a different day, the parade route will remain the same; Coakley Middle School, down Washington St., to Walpole St. through Norwood Center and ending at Norwood Town Hall. Grand Marshal this year is the Cooper family in memory of Assistant Town Manager Bernie Cooper. The parade's theme this year is Hometown Heroes.

July 4

Reading of Frederick Douglass' July 5th, 1852 Speech

Old Parish Cemetery
2 p.m.

The reading will take place at the grave site of abolitionist and Unitarian minister Rev. Edwin Thompson. This event is sponsored by the Old parish preservation Volunteers (OPPV) and Progress Norwood. Free and open to the public.

July 5

Take & Make: Summer Crafts

Morrill Memorial Library
All Day

Families can pick up prepared materials to create a fun, easy craft! Crafts are geared to preschool aged children but are fun for slightly older kids too! Please register for the number of kits you need. Due to high demand, we will hold materials for registered patrons until the following Monday. If registered patrons do not pick up their crafts within the week, the materials will be made available to people on the waiting list. Please be sure you receive a confirmation of your registration before you pick up your materials. Call the library at 781-463-0146 if you have questions.

July 7

Pop-Up Library

Oldham School, 165 Prospect St.
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pop-Up Library is back! Get outside and join the traveling library of kids books at different Norwood public schools this summer. Every Wednesday, the Pop-Up Library will be available for kids and families to browse and checkout books outside. Bring your library card.

The Stranger in the Mirror: An Author Conversation with Liv Constantine

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual
7 p.m.

The Morrill Memorial Library and other Boston area libraries are partnering with Haley Booksellers to offer a discussion with writing duo Lynne and Valerie Constantine, aka Liv Constantine, for a thrilling conversation about their new book *The Stranger in the Mirror*. Acclaimed author Hank Phillippi Ryan will facilitate the discussion.

Registration is required. To sign up and receive access via Crowdcast, a free online streaming platform, visit or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200, x2 or visit www.norwoodlibrary.org.

July 10

Blessing Boutique Thrift Shop

First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.
10 a.m.-noon

The boutique this month will offer lots of awesome clothes for your teenage boys and girls - the popular brands they love to wear. They also have great clothes for children and adults. Choose some great summer reading and nice items for the home as well. All at great prices!

July 12

Take & Make: Summer Crafts

Morrill Memorial Library
All Day

Families can pick up prepared materials to create a fun, easy craft! Crafts are geared to preschool aged children but are fun for slightly older kids too! Please register for the number of kits you need. Due to high demand, we will hold materials for registered patrons until the following Monday. If registered patrons do not pick up their crafts within the week, the materials will be made available to people on the waiting list. Please be sure you receive a confirmation of your registration before you pick up your materials. Call the library at 781-463-0146 if you have questions.

July 13

Women's Business Networking Meeting (Zoom)

Norwood Town Common
8 a.m.

The Women's Business Networking (WBN) group is a non-profit organization for women in business or residents of Norwood and surrounding towns. The group meet two mornings per month and in addition to providing referral business, the women share and support business ideas and community events/fundraisers. If you would like more information about the organization, call 781-799-7068, or email wbnofnorwood@gmail.com.

Norwood Toastmasters

Zoom Meeting
6:45 p.m.

The Norwood Toastmasters is dedicated to improving public speaking and leadership skills. They are currently meeting online via ZOOM. For log in, contact-3926@toastmastersclubs.org. For more information, visit

<https://norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

July 14

Pop-Up Library

Cleveland School, 380 Nichols St.

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pop-Up Library is back! Get outside and join the traveling library of kids books at different Norwood public schools this summer. Every Wednesday, the Pop-Up Library will be available for kids and families to browse and checkout books outside. Bring your library card.

Summerfest Concert

Town Common
7 p.m.

Rick Barron and the Quavers will kick off the summer series! Bring your own seating. Free and open to all!

July 18

Concert on the Common

Norwood Town Common
6 p.m.

The Sharon Community Band is back in Norwood to kick off the Concerts on the Common series! Bring your own seating. Free and open to all!

July 19

Take & Make: Summer Crafts

Morrill Memorial Library
All Day

Families can pick up prepared materials to create a fun, easy craft! Crafts are geared to preschool aged children but are fun for slightly older kids too! Please register for the number of kits you need. Due to high demand, we will hold materials for registered patrons until the following Monday. If registered patrons do not pick up their crafts within the week, the materials will be made available to people on the waiting list. Please be sure you receive a confirmation of your

registration before you pick up your materials. Call the library at 781-463-0146 if you have questions.

July 21

Pop-Up Library

Balch School, 1170 Washington St.

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pop-Up Library is back! Get outside and join the traveling library of kids books at different Norwood public schools this summer. Every Wednesday, the Pop-Up Library will be available for kids and families to browse and checkout books outside. Bring your library card.

Turn the Page Book Group-The Summer Wives

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual
6:30 p.m.

Turn the Page Book Group will be reading "The Summer Wives" by Beatriz Williams. The group will meet virtually via Zoom. Copies of the book in regular print and large print will be available to pick up at the library circulation desk. Also available on Libby and Hoopla. To register, visit www.norwood-library.org. Email Patty Bailey if you have any questions, pbailey@minlib.net or call 781-443-8864.

Summerfest Concert

Town Common
7 p.m.

Join Boston's Erin Og on the Norwood Town Common! Bring your own seating. Free and open to all!

The Fiancee: An Author Conversation with Kate White

Morrill Memorial Library-Virtual
7 p.m.

The Morrill Memorial Library and other Boston area libraries are partnering with Haley Booksellers to offer a discussion with author Kate White for a conversation about her new thriller, *The Fiancee*. Acclaimed author Hank Phillippi Ryan will facilitate the discussion. Registration is required. To sign up and receive access via Crowdcast, a free online streaming platform,

CALENDAR

continued from page 12

visit or call the reference desk at 781-769-0200 x2 or visit www.norwoodlibrary.org.

July 24

Blessing Boutique Thrift Shop

First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.

10 a.m.-noon

The boutique this month will offer lots of awesome clothes for your teenage boys and girls - the popular brands they love to wear. They also have great clothes for children and adults. Choose some great summer reading and nice items for the home as well. All at great prices!

July 25

Concert on the Common

Norwood Town Common
6 p.m.

The Roy Scott Big Band will bring the sounds of the big band era to the Norwood Town Common! Bring your own seating. Free and open to all!

July 26

Take & Make: Summer Crafts

Morrill Memorial Library
All Day

Families can pick up prepared materials to create a fun, easy craft! Crafts are geared to preschool aged children but are fun for slightly older kids too! Please register for the number of kits you need. Due to high demand, we will hold materials for registered patrons until the following Monday. If registered patrons do not pick up their crafts within the week, the materials will be made available to people on the waiting list. Please be sure you receive a confirmation of your registration before you pick up your materials. Call the library at 781-463-0146 if you have questions.

July 27

Women's Business Net-

working Meeting (Zoom)

Norwood Town Common
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 wbnof-norwood@gmail.com.

Norwood Toastmasters

Zoom Meeting
6:45 p.m.

The Norwood Toastmasters is dedicated to improving public speaking and leadership skills. They are currently meeting online via ZOOM. For log in, contact-3926@toastmastersclubs.org. For more information, visit

<https://norwoodtoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

Titles on Tap Book Group

Morrill Memorial Library-Zoom
7:30 p.m.

The July title has yet to be announced at press time. Titles on Tap is a social book group for readers in their 20s and 30s and for the young at heart. Visit their website and follow @titlesontap to learn more.

July 28

Pop-Up Library

Father Mac's Playground,
295 Vernon St.

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pop-Up Library is back! Get outside and join the traveling library of kids books at different Norwood public schools this summer. Every Wednesday, the Pop-Up Library will be available for kids and families to browse and checkout books outside. Bring your library card.

Summerfest Concert

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No Parking on Sidewalks

A message from the Norwood Police Department

The Norwood Police Department has been receiving complaints about vehicles blocking or parked on sidewalks. With the weather getting nice, joggers, walkers and moms and dads with strollers are out using the town's sidewalks.

When cars are parked blocking sidewalks, those folks need to go out into the roadway, which everyone knows is unsafe.

We are asking everyone's cooperation; please keep your cars off the sidewalks. Officers have been instructed to ticket all cars in violation.

Thanks for your cooperation.



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Pet Corner

Bay State Animal Cooperative

Meet Our Cats for Adoption!

If you are looking to adopt two cats, these are your guys! Oliver and Sebastian are so close BSAC is adopting them as a pair. If your household could provide a loving home for these guys, fill out an application at baystateanimals.org, click on 'Meet Our Cats.



Meet Oliver

Sebastian and Oliver: Sweetest bonded pair of "brothers" you may ever find! Sebastian is a bit shy without his "brother's"

presence but will warm up once he's comfortable in his own fur. Once comfortable they SEEK attention and your black pants will soon be covered in white!! These beautiful white and orange, five year olds needed to find a new future as not everyone in their original home was on board with cat ownership. It's best for them that they find a place that truly welcomes them. They love looking out the window at their foster home and settled in nicely. Seeking a safe, forever and **THEY MUST BE ADOPTED TOGETHER.**

CHARACTERISTICS: loving, playful, friendly
COAT LENGTH: Short
HOUSE-TRAINED: Yes
HEALTH: Vaccinations up to date, spayed/neutered

Meet Sebastian

Sebastian and Oliver: Sweetest bonded pair of "brothers" you may ever find! Sebastian is a bit shy without his "brother's"



presence but will warm up once he's comfortable in his own fur. Once comfortable they SEEK attention and your black pants will soon be covered in white!! These beautiful white and orange, five year olds needed to find a new future as not everyone in their original home was on board with cat ownership. It's best for them that they find a place that truly welcomes them. They love looking out the window at their foster home and settled in nicely. Seeking a safe, forever and **THEY MUST BE ADOPTED TOGETHER.**

CHARACTERISTICS: lov-

ing, playful, friendly
C O A T
LENGTH: Short
H O U S E -
TRAINED: Yes
HEALTH: Vaccinations up to date, spayed / neutered

Chewy Wish List

The BSAC has a wish list on Chewy.com for food and litter we use to help feed and care for our cats in foster care. If you would like to donate, please visit

www.baystateanimals.org, and click on Chewy Partner Page.
Purina One Healthy Dry Kitten Food
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American Journey Wet Food
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Bay State Animal Cooperative
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Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CLOSED Sunday**

Norwood PD in Training

On June 10, Norwood Police officers completed part of their bi-annual firearms training which included a qualification in their department firearm, off duty firearm, and patrol rifle. This is mandatory training for all sworn officers of the department. The training also included shooting on target from distances of 25 feet or more while using barriers for cover.



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Congratulations to our June Winners who will each receive a \$100 gift card to the Muffin House:

William Scotland, Veronica Paulson, Jane Sivacek, Geri Sprague and Jon Link

Go to norwoodtownnews.com and follow us on Facebook for new contest announcements!

norwoodtownnews.com

“In the Heights”

By BOB GARVER

“In the Heights” is based on the 2008 Tony winner for Best Musical that put Lin-Manuel Miranda on the map. It is not to be confused with “Hamilton,” the 2016 Tony winner for Best

Musical that saw Miranda conquer the world. The film follows characters from the largely Latin Upper Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights as they pursue their “sueños” or “little dreams.” Big dreams are unrealis-

tic, but with hard work and perseverance, sueños are achievable, though they’re not without their obstacles. Right now my sueño is that more people see this movie, because a second-place debut behind the third weekend

of “A Quiet Place Part II” is unfitting for such a superior affair.

Usnavi (Anthony Ramos) dreams of closing his meager bodega and moving to the Dominican Republic to take over his late father’s ramshackle bar. But this would mean leaving behind the neighborhood and people he cares about, like his cousin Sonny (Gregory Diaz IV), communal abuela Claudia (Olga Merediz), and longtime

crush Vanessa (Melissa Barrera), who herself dreams of leaving her dead-end job at a failing beauty parlor and becoming a fashion designer. While Usnavi and Vanessa want to escape the neighborhood, Nina (Leslie Grace) dreams of being welcomed back. She recently underwent a humiliating year at Stanford and doesn’t want to go back, even though her father Kevin (Jimmy Smits) sold half of his cab business for his own sueño of having his daughter go to a good college. Benny (Corey Hawkins) splits his sueño between his career at Kevin’s company and pursuing a relationship with Nina, but the rift between Nina and Kevin might force him choose between the two. And so the sueños go throughout the cast, from a trio of beauty workers (Daphne Rubin-Vega, Stephanie Beatriz, Dascha Polanco) who want their customers to follow them to their new location in the Bronx, to a piragua vendor (Miranda) who doesn’t want to lose his business to Mister Softee.

It would be nice if there were easy answers, and briefly it seems like someone may get one in the form of Usnavi’s store selling a \$96,000 winning lottery ticket. But the ticket is not claimed and it becomes apparent that life is not something to be fixed by shortcuts and windfalls. It’s much more likely that one will face a blackout, like the one that dominates the middle of the film. It takes compromises and hard decisions, often filled with uncer-

tainty. But making those decisions for and with the people you love makes them seem so right.

As with life, “In the Heights” has its heavy moments, but the hardships rarely seem forced or unrealistic, save for a rift between Usnavi and Vanessa that seems born out of a relatable case of self-sabotage. Most of the film is very upbeat, as the residents of Washington Heights never pass up the opportunity for a party. And by “party,” I mean an elaborate musical number filled with Miranda’s trademark blend of singing and rapping. I honestly had no idea rap could sound so beautiful until I saw a performance by the Broadway cast at the 2008 Tonys. As for the transition to film, it just allows for larger sets, more dancing, and cinematography and special effects that only enhance the spectacle. The only thing lost is that a trick with its framing device, which I suspect was pulled off better on Broadway, now seems like a flat-out cheat. But that inconsistency aside, this is a delightful, energetic film that can’t be seen soon enough. I predict that if you pass up the opportunity to see it now, you’ll regret it come Oscar time.

Grade: A-

“In the Heights” is playing in theaters and on HBO Max (but I strongly recommend seeing it in theaters). The film is rated PG-13 for some language and suggestive references. Its running time is 143 minutes.

Contact Bob Garver at rrg251@nyu.edu.



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As always, find us online at norwoodtownnews.com



Blue Hills Class of 1981!!

The Blue Hills Class is trying to get classmates together for our 40th Class Reunion. If you graduated at Blue Hills Regional High School in 1981, PM Joanne Donoian Bridge on Facebook with your email so you can add you to the list and get you details as soon as they become available.

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POOLS OPEN SATURDAY, JUNE 26th

Swim Passes/Day Passes

- Pool season passes are on sale at the Civic Center or online at <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=memberships>
- Day passes can be purchased at the pool ONLY. We will NOT accept cash/check and will have the ability to take credit card on site.
- Day passes can only be purchased day of.
- Pool passes for Hawes Pool include the Spray Park.
- Please bring identification with you to pool

Open Swim Times (After June 26th)

Monday to Friday: 1:00pm- 6:30pm
Saturday to Sunday: 11:15am-6:30pm

Pool Rules

Can be found here:
<http://www.norwoodma.gov/departments/recreation/Poolinfo.php>

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Norwood Recreation Department does offer swim lessons for more information please contact us at (781) 762-0466

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Seniors (Ages 62+) ~ \$15.00	One Adult Family ~ \$100.00
Adult & Children ~ \$35.00	Two Adult Family ~ \$120.00
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The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court**

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. N021P0789EA
Norfolk Division

Estate of: Pierre Richard Decker
Also Known As: Pierre Richard Robert Decker
Date of Death: 03/17/2021

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of
Petitioner Matthieu P Decker of Canton, MA
Matthieu P Decker of Canton, MA
Catherine M Decker of Leverett, MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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2021 Norwood Day Scheduled for September 18!

By BELLA CAGGIANO

Yes, the headline was correct; Norwood Day is back on the schedule this year! After a tough year of community cancellations in 2020, state crowd regulations have been lifted and the end of summer event

Norwood residents look forward to is back!

The 18th Annual Norwood Day celebration will be held on Saturday, September 18, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The Norwood Recreation Department is now accepting booth applications .



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Priority it being given to 2019 vendors who had a June 28 deadline for submissions. The Norwood Day Committee will review all applications and make acceptance notifications in early August. Priority will be given to Norwood residents, businesses, and store fronts.

All money raised will be used to defray costs of the event. Checks should be payable to NORWOOD DAY COMMITTEE. Checks and applications can be dropped off at the Norwood Recreation Department during normal business hours, or mailed to: Norwood Day, c/o Norwood Recreation Department, 165 Nahatan Street, Norwood, MA 02062. Any food, beverage or item consumed by mouth must attain a Board of Health permit. A copy of the permit must be submitted to the Norwood Recreation Department by September 1st or you could forfeit your booth registration.

To obtain a Norwood Day application, visit www.norwoodma.gov/departments/recreation. Should you have any questions, contact the Norwood Recreation Department, 781-762-0466.

Real Estate Corner

Have All Your Mortgages Been Discharged?

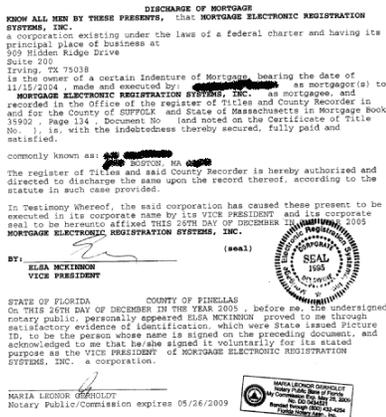
Register O'Donnell stresses the importance of a clear title.

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds, even during this Covid-19 pandemic, has been very busy recording land documents. In calendar year 2020, there were over 179,000 documents recorded at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds which was a nineteen (19%) percent increase over the year before. A sizeable portion of this document volume were the 45,669 mortgages recorded representing a fifty-four (54%) percent increase in calendar year 2020 over 2019. This growth has continued into calendar year 2021. During the five-month period from January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021, there were 85,046 documents recorded at the Norfolk Registry

of Deeds which is a forty-four (44%) percent increase over the same time period in 2020. A big part of this document volume was the 22,045 mortgages recorded. This represents a forty-nine (49%) percent increase in filed mortgages in this five-month period in calendar year 2021 over the same period in 2020.

Given this huge increase in mortgage activity Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell advises Norfolk County homeowners about the need to file a mortgage discharge 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 ever increasing tuition payments of our children. The borrowing of money involving real estate

CLEAR TITLE
continued on page 22



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Here are some of the reasons why you have seen Jill Kelly's signs around town this month! Are you ready to Right Size this Summer?



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Real Estate Corner

CLEAR TITLE

continued from page 21

leads to a mortgage being recorded against the title of that real estate.

When a mortgage has been paid off, a mortgage discharge document needs to be recorded

with the Registry of Deeds to clear a homeowner's property title relative to that loan. This is particularly important in light of the thousands of homeowners who have been taking advantage of historically low interest rates to refinance their mortgages. It should be noted a discharge is a document (typically one-two

pages) issued by the lender, usually with a title such as "Discharge of Mortgage" or "Satisfaction of Mortgage." During this busy period of refinancing your, old mortgages are being paid off. As a consumer, you want to make sure a discharge has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds which tells the world that that mortgage has been paid off.

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 makes sure all necessary documents have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

If you are looking to check your title and make sure all your mortgages have been properly discharged, Norfolk County homeowners can access the Registry's online records at www.norfolkdeeds.org. By going to the Online Research section of our website, you can verify that all mortgages associated with the property have been discharged. Please remember not having a mortgage discharged will result

in a title issue and thereby impact the process of selling one's home."

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 stated. "In other cases, financial entities have merged with another lending institution."

If a property owner needs to retrieve an original discharge of a mortgage and 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. Then find the BankFind tab approximately half way down the home page, put in the lending institution in question, then click on the lending institution link and you will be able to determine who has responsibility for the mortgage.

When recording a mortgage discharge, the original document is required. The Registry of Deeds by law cannot accept photo copies 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 to know they have clear title to their property, especially if they are contemplating selling," Register O'Donnell concluded. "Knowing what steps

need to be taken to ensure all paid off mortgages have been properly discharged will go a long way in giving the homeowner assurances that they have clear title to their property. 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, 8:30AM-4:30PM at 781-461-6101. These representatives have been trained in researching documents and are well versed on 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 at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow on twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and 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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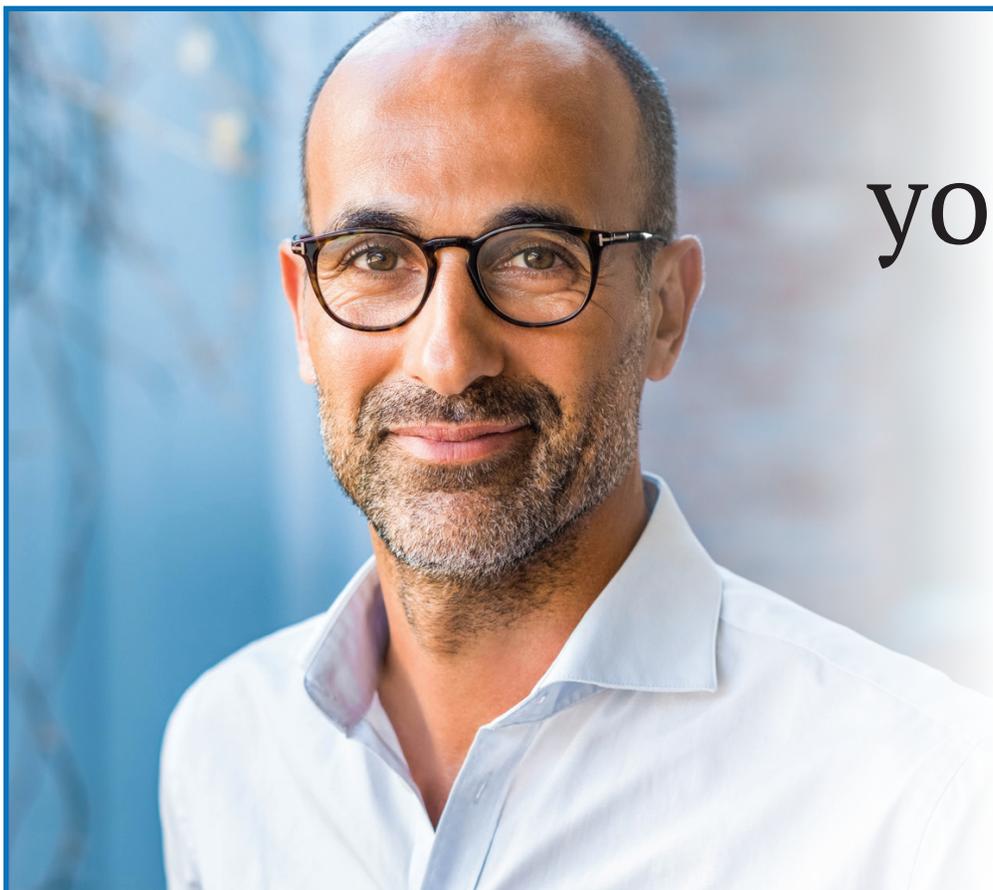
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