

Holiday Tree Lighting is Back!

BY MICHELE TARANTO

There were so many missed events during 2020 due to COVID-19 health restrictions. One beloved celebration that was cancelled last year was the Norwood Holiday Tree Lighting. As the country adjusts and resumes its traditions, so does the town of Norwood, and this opportunity to resume 'normal' activities will be a breath of fresh (and maybe nippy) air to kick off the holiday season!

It's a perfect long weekend. It launches Thursday with a lavish Thanksgiving meal, followed by masses of opportunities for retail bargains, and delicious leftovers. What could possibly top that? How about some well-deserved down time on Saturday, Nov. 28 to continue the celebration and further family time with a town tree lighting!

Norwood hosts a great afternoon free from the bustle of the crowds to offer an afternoon that has become a favored holiday tradition, The Holiday Tree Lighting! The fun-filled (and FREE) family



event will be held on Saturday, November 28, 1:30-4 p.m., on the Town Common and the Norwood Civic Center. The celebration includes a reindeer dash, horse-drawn hayrides,

festive entertainment, holiday readings, face painting, barnyard animals, a parade, and music. The afternoon concludes when Santa and Mrs.

TREE LIGHTING
continued on page 2

See Inside...
Our Holiday Guide



Winter Accessories Needed!

WBN's 6th Annual Mitten/Scarf Drive begins November 1.

BY MICHELE TARANTO

The response to this worthwhile event the past five years has been amazing! The Women's Business Network of Norwood (WBN) is asking Norwood residents again this year to search through those piles and tubs of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarfs to donate and help their neighbors keep warm this winter.

While many of the restrictions related to COVID have been lifted from last year, the residual effects of the pandemic continued through 2021. Financial implications and inflation

have resulted in financial consequences on individuals and families looking to make ends meet this year. Not only to simply pay mortgages, rents, and stock their pantries, but also providing warm accessories ahead of the winter months and provide gifts for the holiday season.

The WBN Annual Mitten/Scarf Drive will be held Nov. 1 through Nov. 30. Many thanks to the gracious owners of the following establishments who will host

MITTENS
continued on page 3

Jack Madden

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Nov. 13th and Dec. 11th at 1:00 p.m.
Reservations by Nov. 11th (for 11/13) and by Dec. 9th (for 12/11)

TREE LIGHTING

continued from page 1

Clause make their dramatic entrance and light up the Norwood Town Common!

The Reindeer Dash returns as children race around the Town Common and receive a set of antlers for participating. Face painting and holiday crafts will be offered on the common and barnyard animals will wait eagerly for visitors at the Civic Center. Horse-drawn hayrides will be also be available on the Town Common while local choirs will perform. The afternoon concludes with holiday readings, and a parade where Santa and Mrs.

Clause arrive and light up the Norwood Town Common for the holiday lighting.

Plan that holiday shopping and decorating around the Holiday Tree Lighting for a community celebration the entire family will enjoy and remember for years to come!

Saturday, November 28

1:30-2 p.m.

Reindeer Dash
Town Common

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Face Painting
Ornament Decorating for the Holiday Tree
Town Common



2-3:30 p.m.

Horse Drawn Hayrides
Town Common
Barnyard Animals
Civic Center gym, Nahatan St.

2-3 p.m.

Local musical choirs
Walter J. Dempsey Bandstand

3 p.m.

A reading of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
Walter J. Dempsey Bandstand
By Linda Rau

3:20 p.m.

Reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas"
Walter J. Dempsey Bandstand
By Selectwoman Helen Abdallah Donohue

3:35 p.m.

Parade leaving Guild Square to the Town Common

3:45 p.m.

Santa and Mrs. Claus turn on the Norwood's Holiday Tree Lights

Town Common

This schedule is subject to change, depending on weather.

Norwood residents would agree that no town unites like Norwood, and this year's holiday celebration is a great opportunity to connect with friends and neighbors and kick off the holiday season!



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MITTENS

continued from page 1

the donation boxes: Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect

St., Norwood, Murph's Place, 58 Broadway, Norwood; The Vanderbilt Club, 45 Vanderbilt Ave., Norwood; As Good As It Gets Café, 1210 Prov.-Hwy. (behind Petco), Norwood; Brookside

Café, 1260 Washington St., S. Norwood; Clean Remodel LLC, 50 River St., Dedham.

The first week in December, all items will be donated to the Norwood Food Pantry and the Home for Little Wanderers Thrift Shop, in Roslindale.

Since its inaugural year, this event yielded a tremendous response and the generosity of Norwood residents has warmed the hearts of WBN members. Many of the donated items were even handmade and quite a few were brand new with the tags still attached. The local networking group is so proud of the Norwood community as donations grow every year. Last year, there were too many bags to count filled with winter accessories that in turn were given to both worthy organizations. According to the Norwood Food Pantry Donations Coordinator, these donations are greatly appreciated and helped many Norwood families keep warm throughout the winter.

WBN is a networking group so referrals are important. They are loyal to their members and refer them whenever possible. Their bi-monthly forums also serve to collaborate and share ideas,

connect, build relationships, and develop a passage for all to draw inspiration. Through the years, WBN has earned a reputation not only as a referral and resource network, but also for contributing to the local community

For more information on WBN, email wbnofnorwood@gmail.com, or call 781-799-7068.

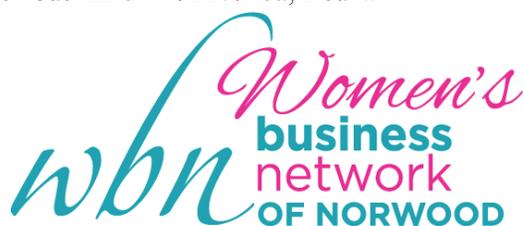
You can also visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wbnnorwood/, or visit their website at www.womensbusinessnetworkofnorwood.org.

Look for the decorated boxes in the locations listed above! All gently used, new, or handmade mittens, gloves, scarfs, and hats are graciously accepted.



**Healping Norwood Families
November 1 - December 1, 2021
Hats, Mittens & Gloves**

- Norwood Senior Center - 275 Prospect St., Norwood
- The Vanderbilt Club - 45 Vanderbilt Ave., Norwood
- As Good As It Gets Cafe - 1210 Prov. Hwy. (behind Petco), Norwood
- Murph's Place - 58 Broadway, Norwood
- Brookside Café - 1260 Washington St., Norwood
- Clean Remodel LLC - 46 River St., Dedham



Live Concert at Day House

The Morrill Memorial Library, in partnership with the Norwood Historical Society, is pleased to present a special evening concert, "Where, O Where is Light? From Darkness to Light with Rabindra-nath Tagore's Compositions" on Saturday, November 13, 5:30 p.m., at the Fred Holland Day House, 93 Day St.

Vocalist Maitreyee Chakraborty, sarangi player Suhail Yusuf Khan, and harmonium player Mona Roy will sing the compositions of Rabindranath Tagore, a late 19th century polymath of Bengal, India who received the Nobel Prize for Literature. As our world is slowly coming out of the darkness of the pandemic, we look for light within and outside us. Tagore's lyrics talk about the light of hope and peace. The words are poetic and the thoughts are universal. All songs will have English

translations. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Norwood, Canton, and Walpole Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. The event will take place in-person at the Norwood Historical Society. Light refreshments will be offered outdoors following the concert, weather permitting. The concert will also be broadcast live.

Space is limited; registration is required. Please note: Due to the lack of modern air handling or HVAC system in the Day House, all attendees are asked to wear masks properly while indoors. To register for this concert, call 781-769-0200, x2, visit the Morrill Memorial Library calendar at norwoodlibrary.org/morrill-calendar, or stop by the library reference or information desk.

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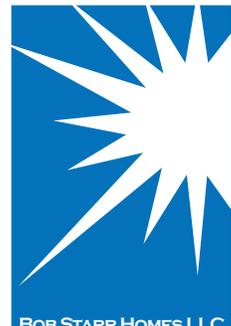
RECENT NORWOOD TRANSACTIONS

22 Geraldine Dr. \$435,000	89 Mylod St \$625,125	66 Queensboro Ct U:66 ... \$400,000
24 Rockhill St. \$420,000	15 Canterbury Dr \$650,000	211 Central St U:A303 \$427,500
162 Rock St. \$450,000	28 Greenwich Road \$650,000	140 Railroad Ave. U:B306.. \$390,000
99 E Cross St. \$475,000	43 Buckingham Road..... \$625,000	70 Endicott St. U:1605 \$540,000
26 Countryside Lane..... \$575,000	77 Norton Dr..... \$651,000	253 Nahatan U:15..... \$587,200
5 North Ave \$599,000	82 Norton Dr..... \$725,000	70 Endicott St U:504 \$592,500
491 Nichols St \$558,000	20 Birch Road..... \$740,000	253 Nahatan U:14..... \$599,900
149 Rock St..... \$565,000	15 Brewster Dr \$725,000	443 Neponset St. U:B \$735,000
146 Dean St \$517,500	11 Northplain \$835,000	443 Neponset St. U:C..... \$740,000
100 Elliot St \$569,000	54 Maple St..... \$822,500	32-34 West St..... \$670,000
62 Elliot Street..... \$575,000	22 Sherwood Dr..... \$820,000	231-233 Railroad Ave..... \$730,000
242 E Cross St \$550,000	5 Endicott St U:6..... \$280,000	74 Cross St. \$700,000
78 Bornwood Dr..... \$650,000	140 Railroad Ave U:B311 \$299,900	181-183 Winslow Ave ... \$1,000,000
136 Prospect St..... \$599,000	28 Davis Ave U:28 \$340,000	
4 Orleans Road \$575,000	140 Railroad Ave. U:B112.. \$170,000	



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Luminary Night Shines for its 20th Season

BY BELLA CAGGIANO

The Circle of Hope's Luminary Night was able to be held last year as it was an outdoor event. This year, as the world returns to a 'new normal,' it is more important than ever to remember those who have past and those who continue to need local help and support. The Circle of Hope's Luminary Night will be held on Saturday, December 4, 4-6 p.m. on Norwood's Town Common. The evening will have a few changes, but most importantly, loved ones will still be able to commemorate a memory for a loved one.

Another small change continues for everyone's safety this year and luminaries will not be available for purchase the night of the event. Residents can purchase a luminary in advance for \$5 by sending a payment to: COH, P.O. Box 421, Norwood,



MA 02062 or at Murph's Place, 58 Broadway, Norwood. A brief message of life, hope, and/or a loved one's name can be included in the envelope.

All residents are invited to the Town Gazebo in commemoration of loved ones and to support Norwood's compassionate community from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is a magnificent sight to stroll through the Town Common where walkways are radiated with luminaries and read the touching engravings commemorating an individual, message, prayer, or date as a symbol of life, hope, the season or in remembrance of others. Anyone attending is asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Even with stricter health precautions and financial burdens last year from the pandemic, residents clearly felt the importance of remembrance and aid with 1,800 luminaries 'lighting up' the Town Common generating an in-



credible glow of encouragement for the community. The fundraiser raised over \$10,000 for the Circle of Hope foundation.

"When it's done, it is absolutely beautiful," Circle of Hope member Lee Kennedy said. "It's very moving to see these candles and know that every one represents a person, prayer or event."

The Circle of Hope foundation was established in 1998 in memory of Norwood resident

Michelle Kennedy, who suffered from leukemia. Norwood residents united during her battle, many who did not even know her personally. The Circle of Hope established in her memory preserves that community spirit by donating fundraising proceeds to Norwood families who need assistance due to a catastrophic medical illness.

"The people of Norwood who support us are the actual Circle

of Hope," Kennedy said. "We do the fundraising and the people who support us allow us to do what we do."

Even residents not directly involved in the evening make a special trip to Norwood's Town Common to view this spectacular site and take a moment to remember someone close to them. This is an evening of communal celebration that truly delivers the spirit of the holidays.

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Federal Funding Available to Businesses Negatively Impacted by COVID-19

Application deadline is Friday, Nov. 5

General Manager Tony Maz-zucco announced that the Town of Norwood is continuing to assist more than a dozen businesses in town with COVID19 relief funding through a federal grant program. Late last year, a total of \$4,950,000 in grants were made available as part of the Micro-enterprise Assistance Grant Program to 23 cities and towns across the Metropolitan Boston Region that were adversely impacted by COVID-19. The funding was available through the Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 (CDBGCV) program, appropriated through the federal CARES Act of 2020.

The Town of Norwood received \$165,000 as part of the grant program, and nearly 85% of that funding (\$140,250) was disseminated to 13 Norwood businesses. The remaining funding was used for administrative expenses.

Not all of the 23 area municipalities were able to expend their grant funding in full, and as part of the program the remaining grant funding was able to be pooled together and made available to businesses located within municipalities. As of Wednesday, Sept. 22, a total of \$913,488 remains in the pool, and Norwood businesses now have access to those funds.

All eligible businesses in town, including the 13 Norwood businesses that received grant funding last year, are now eligible to apply for up to a max of \$25,000 in funding (up from the \$10,000 limit that was in place last year). Businesses in town wishing to apply for the program may do so by visiting www.norwoodma.gov/news. The deadline for applications is Friday, Nov. 5, at 5 p.m.

There are several eligibility criteria for businesses looking to apply for the grant, such as having a physical establishment in one of the 23 established cities or towns (of which Norwood is one), being a microenterprise (a commercial enterprise that has five or fewer full-time equivalent employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise), being able to document a loss of income equal to or greater than requested assistance due to COVID-19, and more. For a full list of eligibility criteria and more information about the grant process, visit www.norwoodma.gov/news. Ineligible businesses for the program include real estate rentals/sales businesses, businesses owned by persons under age 18, businesses that are chains, liquor stores, weapons/firearms dealers, lobbyists, or cannabis-related businesses.

“While many of us are starting to return to a normal way of life following a very difficult past few years, COVID-19 still remains in our community and we are still facing many challenges as a result,” General Manager Maz-zucco said. “One of the areas hardest hit by the pandemic has been local businesses, and we will continue to do whatever we

can to ensure our business owners have the tools they need to survive. These federal funds go a long way toward making that possible, and we encourage any eligible business in town to apply by the Nov. 5 deadline.”

The Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation is helping to administer and oversee the grant program.

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Gifts for Kids is Accepting Holiday Donations

BY BELLA CAGGIANO

Local families need your help. For many local residents, the holidays can be financially challenging, especially for families with children. It doesn't take much to put a smile on a child's face this season, and Gifts for Kids offers a great resources to make that happen.

Since 1990, this non-profit, all volunteer organization has reached out to the Norfolk County community to solicit donations for families who struggle to give holiday gifts for their children. Through their efforts and the generosity of neighbors, grants, organizational funding, and more than 100 classroom drives, Gifts for Kids provides support to more than 1,200 children annually. Families are identified by human service providers in the local area.

In previous years, donors were matched with individual children for specific gift items, however, with COVID concerns last year and precautions taken this year,

providing a happy holiday for as many local children as possible remains the same. Donations of all denominations are welcome. As a special Holiday Giver, the donor's name will be displayed on the organization's website and through social media and will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.

Supporter: \$250 will provide for 2 children

Neighbor: \$500 will provide for 4-5 children

Friend: \$1,000 will provide for 8-10 children

Champion: \$1,500+ will provide for 12-15 children

Online donations and more information on Gifts for Kids can be found on their website at www.giftsforkidsinfo.com, or checks should be made out to Gifts for Kids, and mailed to P.O. Box 464, Sharon, MA 02067.



the organization will again distribute gift cards to parents/guardians. Monetary donations will be converted into gift cards and delivered to affiliated social service agencies for distribution.

The process has changed, but the mission of Gifts for Kids of

Ice Cream Anyone?

Officers Hoyle and LaRoche, along with @norwood_fire_department, were on hand for the Friendly's Cones for Kids Campaign at the Norwood Friendly's in October. This event was in partnership with Easterseals which is a non-profit organization offering services to more than 1.5 million kids and persons with disabilities, and their families, as well as seniors and veterans. Officers Hoyle and LaRoche were a big fan of the ice cream!



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To learn more about our Tapestry Programming visit medwayseniorliving.com



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November 2021

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Tuesdays TWO FOR TUESDAY DINNERS \$50 (CALL FOR DETAILS)

Nov. 10 USMC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Nov. 11 VETERANS DAY - VETERANS EAT FREE (DINE IN ONLY - WITH PURCHASE OF AN ENTREE OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE)

Nov. 20 LIVE MUSIC WITH DEEJAY SARGE (MUSIC STARTS AT 8 P.M.)

Nov. 25 THANKSGIVING DAY
8 - 11 A.M. BAGELS & BEERS/PLATTER PICK-UP (PLEASE PRE-ORDER)
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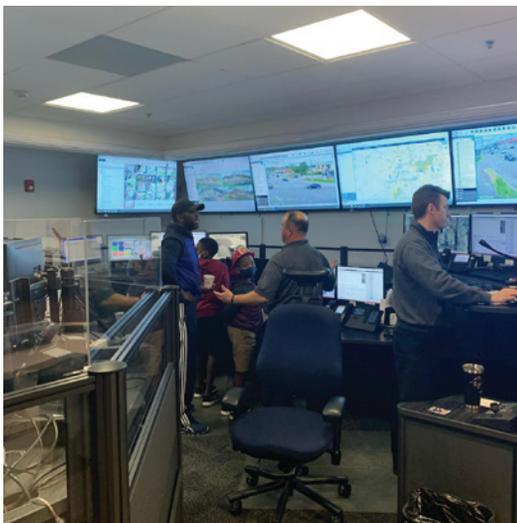
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Norwood Police Open House

It was a big turnout on Oct. 9 for the Norwood Police Open House. Those who attended were given a tour of the police and fire station including the communications center, the booking and holding cells, the gun range, and B.C.I. (Detective Unit).

Visitors were also offered hands on cruiser demonstrations as well as a chance to talk to officers, ask questions, and see the day to day operations of the Norwood Police Department.

This Open House was a great opportunity for NPD officers to meet members of the community and interact with the Norwood youth. A big thank you from NPD to everyone who made it possible!



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5PM - Rosetta's Re-opens for Full Bar & Dinner Menu (reservations recommended)

Thanksgiving Day Take Out Dinners

All below Thanksgiving Day take out dinner specials are served with, Caesar Salad, toasted ciabatta bread, and our homemade tiramisu

- Baked Stuffed Shrimp Dinner** jumbo shrimp, loaded with our homemade stuffing, served with mushroom-risotto and broccoli (\$30 per person)
- Rosetta's Pot Roast Dinner** tender beef, topped with brown gravy, served red bliss parmesan mashed potatoes and vegetable medley (\$30 per person)
- Turkey Dinner** sliced boneless turkey breast, our homemade stuffing, butternut squash, red bliss parmesan mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and brown gravy (\$30 per person)
- Baked Stuffed Chicken Dinner** tender boneless baked chicken, our homemade stuffing, red bliss parmesan mashed potatoes, vegetable medley and gravy (\$30 per person)
- Lamb Dinner** four lollipop lamb chops with a Dijon garlic rub and rosemary merlot demi glaze, red bliss parmesan mashed potatoes and vegetable medley (\$35 per person)

Additionally, Rosetta's entire menu, to include, individual meals, Family Style Platters, and Party Trays are available for Thanksgiving Day pick up

Please place your orders by: 5 p.m., Monday, November 22
Platters may be picked up Thanksgiving Day from 9 - 11 a.m.

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Norwood High Class of 2011 10-Year Reunion!

Class President Bill Rydzewski and Nicole Breen have planned Norwood High School's Class of 2011 10-Year Reunion! It will be held at Conrad's, Walpole. In order to have an accurate headcount, tickets must be purchased by Friday, Nov. 12. Cost is \$20 per person. Price of ticket includes fees for rental space as well as appetizers.

To purchase a ticket, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com>.

All Night Parking Ban Takes Effect This Month

Overnight parking regulations in Norwood will take effect this month. Between November 15 and April 1, there a parking ban on street parking between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

Parking on the street or in any municipal lot is a violation of the parking regulations and is subject to a \$20 fine.

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Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

to the nervous system via touch. NET is a tool that can be used to help improve many behavioral and physical conditions.

Debbie was suffering from shoulder and scapula pain that had developed without any trauma for many months. She had tried several medications to help ease her symptoms along with physical therapy and chiropractic intervention but her symptoms had not gone away. She was becoming increasingly frustrated. Upon our evaluation we determined that she had unresolved issues related to her

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If you are suffering from an unresolved health issue and would like to explore NET as a possible solution please call The Holistic Center at Bristol Square at (508)660-2722 and make an appointment with Dr Michael Goldstein. The Center is located at 1426 Main Street Ste #6 Walpole MA.

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Norwood Sports

Norwood Field Hockey Looking to get Back to Normal

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

After participating in a season unlike any they have ever had to deal with, and one they hope they never have to encounter again, the Norwood Field Hockey is looking to get back to some source of normalcy this season on the field.

“We finished around .500 last year during a season of adjustments,” Norwood Coach Alison Doliner said. “In addition to having to wear masks with their goggles, playing 7-v-7 instead of 11-v-11 took time to adjust during a crazy year. The girls are just ecstatic and happy to be back to normal.”

Not only was it a year of uniqueness, but the incoming freshmen playing in their first season on the varsity squad never really got to play a high school field hockey game as it was meant to be played. Last fall, it was a game of spacing on the field instead of a game of position; now it's back to basics.

“The now class of sophomores are a great class and always asking questions and our captains this year were fantastic in leading the team over the summer to get the team back to normal,” the Mustang Coach said. “The younger kids had played a different game last year during Covid so the captains were instrumental in helping them get back to playing the game the way it should be played.”



The senior quad captains who not only got the girls ready for the season but will also be leading them on the field, are twins Shannon (center mid-field) and Delaney (center back) Gover, Maddy Barry (left mid) and Talia Fruci (goal). All four captains have been on the varsity squad since their freshman campaign and have been a consistent part of a team that went to the playoffs while understanding the tradition of Norwood field hockey.

In addition to the senior captains, Doliner will also be relying on four other seniors to bring experience and knowledge of the game to the field while passing down the way the Mustangs run their field hockey program.

Starting center forwards Jenna Costa and Bella Lirette, along with forward Sarah Welch and midfielder Lizzie Cardini, are all dedicated athletes to the sport and the Norwood coaching staff is hoping that the seniors will be

the examples on and off the field.

“These girls are not only dedicated to the sport, but the town and the youth program while keeping our tradition strong,” Doliner said.

Through the early part of the fall season, defensive left back Meredith Cannon has really stepped her game. According to the Doliner, she worked extremely hard during the offseason and had brought it to the field in an obvious fashion. Abbie Lee is bringing speed and versatility to the Mustang's midfield.

Two other athletes that Doliner is looking to help the team this year are Sophie Krusz and Georgia Davey. Krusz is also an ice hockey player that brings great hand and eye coordination to the field as well as strong stickwork, while Davey is a junior defender that gives Norwood versatility. She is also another one that works hard at practice and brings it to the game.

Newcomers to the team are sophomore Lindsey Rogers and junior Caroline Forest. Rogers, typically a forward, has been assessing her skills at defense and thus far has given the defensive unit a sense of speed. According to Doliner, it's not easy being a newcomer but Rogers has done everything that the team has asked of her in the early goings. Forest, who has been on the junior

varsity team, is making her first appearance on the varsity squad; she brings an athleticism to the team's forward line.

Along with Rogers and Forest, Doliner also has six freshman who have impressed the coaching staff with their drive and willingness to work hard. Those incoming first-year athletes are Emily Spadorcia, Bridgette Connelly, Shea Larkee, Ava Hines, Bridgette Sopel, and Ava O'Neil.

As in the past, Norwood is looking to be competitive in the Tri-Valley League while reintroducing themselves to their opposing foes once again this fall.

“With the way things were set up last year due to Covid, we didn't see a lot of the regular league teams,” the Mustang Coach said. “We only got to play an abbreviated schedule against teams that were close distance wise, so we basically haven't seen a good amount of the league teams in almost two years.”

With everything up for grabs within the TVL this fall, with teams not knowing exactly what they are up against, one bad game could spell disaster. Despite entering the first round of games against the league blind, Norwood is looking to be competitive while battling it out for the top spot within the league. If all things go as Doliner plans, the Mustangs goal would be to win the TVL.

35 'Trots' Around Norwood!

BY MICHELE TARANTO

For Norwood runners, Thanksgiving is not just a time to lounge and enjoy a massive meal. While the ovens are gearing up for the biggest feast of the year, the Annual Turkey Trot gives an opportunity to tour Norwood neighborhoods just before it is stripped of its magnificent fall foliage in this pre-holiday event. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, athletes lace up their sneakers with Norwood's infamous pre-Thanksgiving tradition.

This year is exceptionally special. Last year's trot was cancelled due to COVID-19 related health restrictions. It was a holiday standard that was surely missed by local runners, and a most welcome

return this year. The 35th Norwood Turkey Trot again be live this year on Sunday, November 21, 11 a.m., beginning and ending at Norwood High School, 245 Nichols St. Non-refundable pre-registration ends November 18, 11:59 p.m., with a \$30 race fee. Cost is \$35 the day of the event. Register at www.runsignup.com. The Kids Trot hits a signal gun at 10:30 a.m., and is FREE!

Once Halloween is over, the anticipation begins to build. For over three decades, Turkey Trot participants hold their Thanksgiving cravings and adults, teenagers, kids and families “trot” their way through the familiar streets of their hometown. Athletes are invited to run individually or with a team.

Young runners can even join the event with the Kids Trot that begins just prior to the main race at 10:30 a.m. There will be a 100-yard dash for kids five years old and younger and a 1/4 mile run for kids nine years old and younger. These events are free, but must be registered at www.runsignup.com. Unfortunately, this race is for two-legged runners only, no dogs are allowed on the course.

The four-mile route is both challenging and charming as it leads runners down Nichols St., winding around the Willett Park-

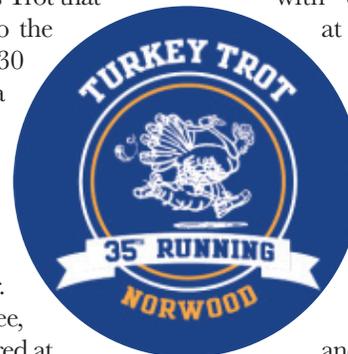
way neighborhood and finishing with cheering crowds at Norwood High School. In previous years, the race has included over 700 participants, many who call Norwood home and some travel from as far as Cape Cod and northern Massachusetts. Computerized timing will be provided by Harrier Race Management.

Runners of all ages are welcome to participate in the race. Cash awards will be presented to the overall top three male and female finishers (top team M & F,

top master M & F, top senior M & F) and medal awards for the top three male and female finishers in each age group (no double dipping). Long-sleeve t-shirts will also be given out to the first 200 pre-registered runners.

Not a runner? Join in the fun by grabbing a lawn chair and cheering on your local athletes, especially the homes along the race route! Who knows, you may be so motivated, you'll find yourself soon training for next year's trot!

For more information or to register for the Norwood Turkey Trot, call the race director at 617-610-0084, or email wingedfootrunning@comcast.net, or visit www.runsignup.com.



Norwood Sports

Dylan Hamwey: Running to Another Level

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

A lot of high school athletes get involved in a secondary sport to stay in shape for their primary sport. Such is the case with Norwood's Dylan Hamwey, a basketball player first, and runner second. The now junior had never taken part in any type of running prior to his freshmen year at Norwood High School, now he finds himself a main piece to the Mustang cross country squad.

"I began playing basketball in second grade and it has been my number one sport since," Hamwey said. "When I was playing for my AAU basketball team, Mass Premiere, I was looking for something to do to stay in shape for basketball season and my coach told me that running was a perfect way to do so. I decided to try it out and found that it was something that I wanted to take to the next level."

Hamwey found that high school cross country practices were not easy that freshmen campaign, but still he pushed himself to be the best. Unfortunately, his mother had to interject to remind him that winning wasn't everything.

"I am one that always wants to win, and my mother told me my freshmen year that winning was probably not going to happen right away, especially taking part in a new sport," Hamwey said. "But I wanted to win, and I wanted to win now. It gave me the determination and motivation to push myself even further."

Coach Matt Curran saw something in the young runner and was pleased at his grit to be the best in something that he just began undertaking.

"Dylan is the best cross-country runner I've had over the last three years," the Norwood Coach said. "He was strong as a freshman, improved as a sophomore, and is leading the way in the early goings of his junior year."

During his first year with the Mustangs, Hamwey found himself behind another freshman, Dylan O'Brien, in the early goings of the season. That year, the two Dylan's broke the Norwood freshman school record running on the Norwood course. O'Brien holds the record with an 18:34 time, but Hamwey is close behind him with a time of 18:48.

That first year also found the first-year runner not only invited to take part in the Invitationals, but the Tri-Valley League Meet as well, where he was named an All-Star for his performance.

"I didn't expect to win as I was a freshman going up against a lot of the top runners in the state," Hamwey said. "It was only to be used as an experience, one in which I could grow with."

During his Invitational runs, Hamwey had finishes of 24th and 10th, while finishing 25th at the TVL. With his decent stats for a first-year runner, Hamwey knew that if he wanted to improve he was going to have to run more during the summer months to get ready for his sophomore season.



"That first year I didn't know what to expect or how serious I would become with the sport or if I would even want to do more," Hamwey said.

Hamwey found his sophomore season to be much tougher than he expected, especially with all the Covid rules. Despite having to wear a mask while running, he was still able break 18 minutes with a personal best of 17:59.

With Covid numbers rising, the league was forced to cancel the League Meet, but the Norwood runner still managed to find himself named to the All-Star team once again.

"Being named to the All-Star team that year really meant a lot to me," Hamwey said. "I also realized that it wasn't going to be my last All-Star award."

Coach Curran couldn't have agreed more.

"Being named to the All-Star team his freshmen year was a surprise to all of us," Curran said. "But to be recognized again the following year by all the coaches, despite not having a league meet, was impressive."

Last year's cross-country season prepared the then sophomore for his basketball season in more ways than he could have expected.

"Having to wear a mask last season during cross-country season I think gave me an advantage during basketball season," Hamwey said. "I saw a lot of basketball players struggling with their stamina due to issues with breathing while playing with masks on. I found that I wasn't tired and felt that it was carry over from the cross-country season already haven worn the mask."

Coming into this year, Hamwey has been prepared to run in his third cross-country season, and although he has yet to win a meet, he has picked right up where he left off at the end of last season in terms of time. His goals are to once again become a TVL All-Star while looking to decrease his time, and becoming a top 10 runner at the TVL Meet.

"I'm not exactly sure if it is possible, but there have been a lot of runners who have graduated since my last TVL Meet," Hamwey said. "It is definitely my top goal, but I am also finding myself as a leader to this young team hoping to help them improve their times while winning some meets."

Although college is still a few years away, Hamwey is hoping to continue his athletic play on the collegiate level although it will most likely be on the basketball court instead of the woods for a cross-country team.

"It (running) is in my mind, but my first priority is basketball and I'm hoping to play in college," Hamwey said. "However, if I don't make the basketball team, I do want to play a sport in college."

Once again, Coach Curran firmly believes that if Hamwey wants a future in running, it will definitely be there for him.

In addition to cross-country, Hamwey also runs track during the spring season. He primarily runs the 2-mile where he has a personal best of 10:33, which he posted at the Sectionals. While it was cross-country that got him interested in running, the junior finds track to be a better interest.

Coach Curran has also said that in addition to being an impressive cross-country runner, Hamwey is a much better distance runner for the track team.

"He is an incredible distance runner," the Coach said. "In the 2-mile in the Divisional Meet, he ran a 10:33, the best time at Norwood in some eight or nine years."

With the rest of the season in front of him, Hamwey is looking not only for that third All-Star award but hoping to get to the post-season and showing the rest of the TVL he is a top 10 runner.

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Calendar of Events

The Community Calendar was prepared a few weeks before the August 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.

Nov. 3

**Alphabits! (Virtual)
Morrill Memorial Library
10:30 a.m.**

Alphabits is a fun, engaging way for kids to learn their letters! Each week, we will talk about two letters of the alphabet and read stories, sing songs, and more around those letters! This program is for preschoolers and it will be hosted virtually via Zoom. Registration is required. Please contact the Children's Department if you have any questions at 781-463-0146 or norchild@minlib.net.

Nov. 4

**Norfolk County Mental Illness
Family & Friends Support Group
The Grange, 28 Rockwood Rd.
(Rte. 115), Norfolk
7-9 p.m.**

Mental illness is a label for a variety of diseases of the brain. Often it strikes in late adolescence, devastating the afflicted person and the family. 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. All families are welcome in the South Norfolk Area who are dealing with mental illness and their loved ones. For further information call Ray at 508-668-2941. Cooperation of all in observing the Covid-19 precaution of wearing a mask while indoors during the meeting is appreciated. This is the meeting that used to be held in Norwood Hospital.

Nov. 5

**Library Community Listening
Workshop
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m.**

Your input is needed to make sure the Morrill Memorial Library is aligned with Norwood's

future. We are creating a long-range plan and want it to reflect your needs and desires. Let the library staff know how they can best serve you. No registration required.

**Kid's Night at the Civic
Civic Center
6-8:30 p.m.**

Parents take the night off while kids join the Civic staff for a night filled with games, crafts, and more! Pizza and juice is provided. For grades 1-5. Cost is \$20 per child. Registration required. To register, visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info> or the Civic Center.

Nov. 6

**Library Community Listening
Workshop
Morrill Memorial Library
9:30 a.m.**

Your input is needed to make sure the Morrill Memorial Library is aligned with Norwood's future. We are creating a long-range plan and want it to reflect your needs and desires. Let the library staff know how they can best serve you. No registration required.

Nov. 7

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

The Morrill Memorial Library's popular Musical Sundays series is back with a concert by the Steve Rudolph Trio. This popular trio is guaranteed to get your toes tapping as they apply their distinctive jazz styling to some of the best of American popular music - from classic Big Band tunes to Frank Sinatra to Elvis. Norwood's own pianist/vocalist Steve Rudolph will be accompanied by Ririka Tokushige on Sax and Barry Lit on drums. To sign up, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar, call 781-769-0200 x2, or visit the reference or information desk.

Nov. 9

**Women's Business Networking
Meeting
8 a.m.**

The Women's Business Networking (WBN) group is a non-profit organization for women in business or residents of Nor-

wood 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 Women's Club Meeting
Knights of Columbus, 572 Nichols
St.
12:30 p.m.**

Entertainment by singer/entertainer Tommy Rull. A light lunch will be served. Guests are welcome. Any questions please call Trina at 781-762-8173 or Nancy at 781-762-8892.

**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 norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/.

**Improving Mental Health (In-
Person and Virtual)
Morrill Memorial Library
7 p.m.**

As part of the **Fall Sustainability Series**, the Morrill Memorial Library has teamed up with co-sponsors Progress Norwood, Together Yes, and Norwood Community Media to host behavioral analyst, Meg Martineau, in a presentation about how to maintain mental health while acknowledging troublesome state of our world.

Meg Martineau is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who obtained her Ph.D in behavior analysis from Western New England University. She has provided behavioral and social emotional consultation to students and teachers for the past 11 years, and currently works in Newton Public Schools. She is also an Environmental Leader at New England Behavior Analysts for Sustainability where she devotes her time to disseminating behavioral principles that will help the world heal from the climate crisis. This workshop will be offered in a hybrid format,

with both an in-person and a virtual option. For either format, registration is required. To sign up, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar, call 781-769-0200 x2, or visit the reference or information desk.

Nov. 10

**Alphabits! (Virtual)
Morrill Memorial Library
10:30 a.m.**

Alphabits is a fun, engaging way for kids to learn their letters! Each week, we will talk about two letters of the alphabet and read stories, sing songs, and more around those letters! This program is for preschoolers and it will be hosted virtually via Zoom. Registration is required. Please contact the Children's Department if you have any questions at 781-463-0146 or norchild@minlib.net.

**FREE Homebuying Seminar
Four Points Sheraton, 1125
Boston Turnpike (Rte. 1)
6 p.m.**

If you are a first-time homebuyer, or even someone looking to buy/sell, or downsize, all your questions can be asked and answered in this seminar. Presented by Michele Taranto, Suburban Lifestyle Real Estate, Megan Kelly, Vice President, Senior Loan Officer, Rockland Trust Bank, and Paul Lugten, Real Estate Attorney. To register for this FREE event, email megan.kelly@rocklandtrust.com or call 781-799-7068.

Nov. 13

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

It's time to get ready for Christmas! The thrift shop will have all kinds of Christmas decorations for the home, beautiful jewelry, lovely gifts. Also, great clothes for the family so you'll look great for all occasions! And for those last-minute shoppers, there will still have Thanksgiving items available - last chance!

**Live Concert: "From Darkness to
Light with Rabindranath Tagore's
Compositions"
Fred Holland Day House, 93 Day
St.
5:30 p.m.**

Vocalist Maitreyee Chakraborty, sarangi player Suhail Yusuf Khan, and harmo-

nium player Mona Roy will sing the compositions of Rabindranath Tagore, a late 19th century polymath of Bengal, India who received the Nobel Prize for Literature. All songs will have English translations. The concert will also be broadcast live. Light refreshments, weather permitting. Registration is required. To register, call 781-769-0200, x2, visit norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar, or stop by the library reference or information desk. Due to the lack of modern air handling or HVAC system in the Day House, all attendees are asked to wear masks properly while indoors.

Nov. 14

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

Women in World Jazz, who will perform their show "Hear Their Voices." Women in World Jazz will deliver a performance that will feature musical styles ranging from blues and jazz, to Latin, Brazilian, Caribbean and Middle Eastern - all with African roots. For this event they will applaud artists such as Mahalia Jackson and Miriam Makeba, who were active in their countries' Civil Rights Movements. Women In World Jazz is an award winning, international ensemble, bringing together some of the finest world and jazz musicians, each with an extensive performing and teaching background in New England. To sign up, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar, call 781-769-0200 x2, or visit the reference or information desk.

Nov. 16

**Crafts, Kids, & Seniors
Norwood Senior Center, 275
Prospect St.
11:30 a.m.**

This cross generational event takes place the third Tuesday of each month. Kids will enjoy a new activity with a senior volunteer. Today's activity: turkey placemat & music mash. For ages 1.5-4 years old. Cost is \$5. Registration required. To register, visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info> or the Civic Center.

CALENDAR

continued from page 12

Nov. 17

**Turn the Page – “There, There”(In Person)
Morrill Memorial Library
10 a.m./6:30 p.m.**

The group will be discussing “There There,” a novel written by Tommy Orange.

Copies of the book in regular, large print and audiobook are available at the circulation desk. Note that there are morning and evening sessions. Please email Patty Bailey if you have any questions, pbailey@minlib.net or call 781-443-8864.

**Cookie Dough Class
Civic Center
7 p.m.**

Build essential skills, then learn some tips and tricks, and bring home 3 flavors of cookie dough for the freezer! For ages 16 and up. Cost is \$25. Registration required. To register, visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info> or the Civic Center.

Nov. 18

**Holiday Creations
Civic Center
7 p.m.**

Make 2 cards this session. For ages 16 and up. Cost is \$10. Registration required. To register, visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info> or the Civic Center.

Nov. 19

**Kid’s Night at the Civic
Civic Center
6-8:30 p.m.**

Parents take the night off while kids join the Civic staff for a night filled with games, crafts, and more! Pizza and juice is provided. For grades 1-5. Fee is \$20 per child. Registration required. To register, visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info> or the Civic Center.

Nov. 20

**Holiday Card Making
Civic Center
9:30 a.m.**

For ages 6-10 years old. Cost is \$10. Registration required. To register, visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info> or the Civic Center.

Nov. 21

**35th Annual Turkey Trot
Norwood High School, 245 Nichols St.
11 a.m.**

The 35th Norwood Turkey Trot again be live this year! Non-refundable pre-registration ends November 18, 11:59 p.m., with a \$30 race fee. Cost is \$35 the day of the event. Register at www.runsignup.com.

**Musical Sundays Concert Series:
Sonny & Perley
Morrill Memorial Library
3 p.m.**

Popular duo Sonny and Perley returns to the Morrill Memorial Library as the third concert in our Fall 2021 Musical Sundays concert series. Their program highlights the material from Sonny and Perley’s Jazz repertoire, the Great American Songbook with selections from the 1920s through the 1980s, International Cabaret, and Bossa Nova. Sonny and Perley interpret and perform in their own inimitable artistic style, incorporating elements of education, history, art, culture, audience engagement, intimacy, and artistic creativity. To sign up, visit www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar, call 781-769-0200 x2, or visit the reference or information desk.

Nov. 22

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

Nov. 23

**Women’s Business Networking Meeting
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, con-

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tact-3926@toastmastersclubs.org For more information, visit norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/.

**Titles on Tap Book Group (Virtual)
7:30 p.m.**

The November title has yet to be announced, stay tuned!

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. Visit the library’s website at www.norwoodlibrary.org and follow @titlesontap to learn more.

Nov. 25

Happy Thanksgiving!



Nov. 27

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

It’s time to think about Christmas, and the thrift shop has just what you need - great gifts including beautiful jewelry priced just right for your pocketbook. There will be Christmas decorations and plenty of warm clothing. Something special for the holidays -

baked goods. Come early before they’re all gone!

Nov. 28

**Holiday Tree Lighting
Town Common
1:30-4 p.m.**

Kick off the holiday season on the Norwood Town Com-

mon! The afternoon will include hay rides, entertainment, arts & crafts, a parade, face painting, holiday readings, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause as they light the Common holiday tree! FREE for all.

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Pet Corner

Lost Cat: Feral Rescue:

This kitty broke out of a basement plexiglass window sometime on 10/13. She is feral and



will be hiding and should not be chased or approached as she will run. If you see a flash of a cat anywhere near Windsor Rd or anywhere on the Prescott side of RT 1 PLEASE message me immediately.

She will need to be trapped. I am sick about this as she was going to be returned to her "outdoor" home. She knows nothing around here. Check under sheds, porches, cars, wood piles!!!!

Her left ear will look cut a crossed, as it is tipped intentionally. Recently spayed. These photos do not show her ear tip.

A Community Comes to Grayson's Rescue

Last month, Grayson, a domestic cat, found himself stuck up a tree at 55 David Terr. Grayson had been missing for nine days when he was spotted at least 40' in the tangle of branches. Word spread around Norwood in search for a bucket truck, the only means to reach poor Grayson.

Along comes hero Richard Blaquere, from RB Tree & Landscape, in Dedham. Only a tree



climber could maneuver his way to rescue poor Grayson....and that he did! Grayson is now safely

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home with his family, thanks to Richie, Maryellen Lennon-Arms for her faithful Facebook reach, and the Norwood community for their help and support!

Richie and Maryellen were interviewed by WBZ NewsRadio for their efforts!

For those who would like to support RB Tree & Landscape's efforts with future tree business, they can be reached at 857-505-9546.

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.

American Journey Wet Food

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Daylight Saving Times Ends Nov. 7

Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 2 a.m.! Get ready for earlier sunrises and sunsets!

5.9% Increase in Social Security Benefits for 2022

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 5.9 percent in 2022, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2022. Increased payments to approximately 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2021. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount

of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$147,000 from \$142,800.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal my Social Security account. People may create or access their my Social Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2022, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2022 are announced. Final 2022 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security's Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.



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Test & Stay Program for Unvaccinated Students and Staff Exposed at School to a COVID-19 Positive Person

Beginning Monday, October 18th any unvaccinated student or staff exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual at school will have the opportunity to take a BinaxNow rapid test, and if negative, remain at school. In order to participate we must have parent, or if over 18 your own consent to be tested. If you have already consented to pool testing you need not consent again. Please follow this link to give consent:

<https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>

This is how the program will work:

1. Those students/staff identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 positive individual while at school will go to the school health office. Parents will be notified by phone. If consent is not given students will be sent home to quarantine for either 7-10 days as we have been doing. If consent is given, the exposed individual will be given

a BinaxNow rapid COVID-19 test. This test uses a nasal swab. If negative the student will return to class. Positive individuals will be sent home and asked to take a PCR test to confirm results.

2. Daily rapid testing is required every day before coming to school for 7 days. This testing will be done in the gymnasium at the Savage Center between 6:30-9:00 a.m. It will be the responsibility of the parent to transport their student to the Savage Center, wait the 15-minute test time, and if negative, take their student to school. Anyone who converts to a positive test will be sent home and asked to take a PCR test to confirm results. Masks must be worn in the testing area.

3. The Test & Stay program applies to school activities only. There will be no testing on Saturday & Sunday. If not involved in a school activity all those identified as a close contact

should follow the rules of quarantining and remain at home.

4. High School students who may be participating in school sponsored sporting events on the weekend will be given special instructions for proctored home testing. The verified results of that testing must be shown to the coach before the student is allowed to participate.

*This program offers us the opportunity to keep students in class whenever possible while simultaneously protecting our school communities. It is not a general screening program. Please continue to not come to school when feeling ill. Please do not call or come to the school health offices and request to be tested for a possi-

ble outside of school exposure. Please do continue to feel free to contact your school nurse if you need guidance or information on keeping your family safe during this pandemic. Jill Driscoll, Nurse Leader, Norwood Public Schools 781-440-5843 or jdriscoll@norwood.k12.ma.us

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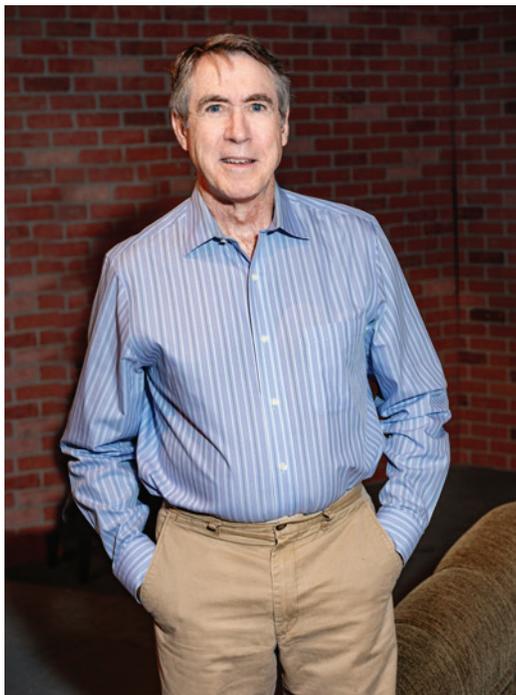
Norwood Actor Stars in "Sylvia"

Empty nesters Greg and Kate move into New York City where Greg brings home a stray dog he meets in the park. The only thing they know about the dog is her name, Sylvia, which is on her name tag. Greg is captivated by Sylvia, his interest bordering on obsession. A rivalry for Greg's affection quickly develops between Kate and Sylvia, providing the tension in what is otherwise a delightful comedy.

The Walpole Footlighters are thrilled to be able to reopen their theater with their production of *Sylvia* by A. R. Gurney.

Norwood actor Mark Adams stars as Greg, the husband who finds Sylvia in the park. This is Mark's third production with the Footlighters, having previously appeared in *Radium Girls* and *The Mystery of Miz Arnette*, but Greg is his largest role with the group so far. He expects audiences will enjoy this off-beat comedy.

Performances of *Sylvia* are at the Walpole Footlighters Playhouse at 2 Scout Road in East Walpole. Evening performances will be on November 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 8:00 PM. There will also be

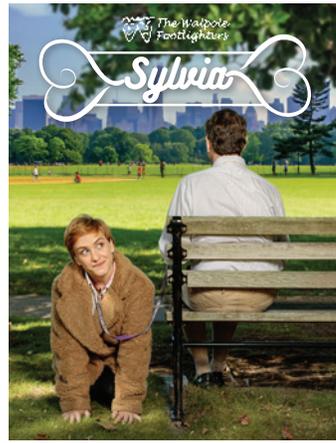


Mark Adams plays the role of Greg 'Sylvia.' Photo credit: Dan Busler Photography

matinee performances on November 14 and 21 at 2:00 PM. While proof of vaccination or a recent negative Covid-19 test is not required, patrons will be required to wear masks at all times while in the theater. Concessions will not be sold. Seating is limited to 160 to allow for space between parties, and the theater will be disinfected after each performance. Tickets are \$22 and all seats are reserved. Patrons are urged not to attend if they are not feeling well on the day of their performance, and tickets will be exchanged or refunded with no questions asked. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 508-668-8446 or purchase online at www.footlighters.com. This production is sponsored in part by the Walpole Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Discussions are available for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 508-668-8446 or purchase online at www.footlighters.com. This production is sponsored in part by the Walpole Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.





Sylvia

Written by A.R. Gurney
Directed by Vito Abate

Nov. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 & 20
8 p.m.
Nov. 14 & 21: 2 p.m.

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Proposal to Eliminate Registry IT Technology Department – A Disaster

October 15, 2021

Dear Friend of the Norfolk Registry of Deeds and Registry Users,

The Abrahams study delivered recently to the Norfolk County Commissioners recommended not to keep the on-site Registry Chief Information Officer (CIO) that has been funded and in existence at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds for over 20 years. This paid consultant is also recommending eliminating entirely the on-site Registry IT Technology Department.

These recommendations will be a disaster to the operations of the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. It will be such an unsound public policy decision to not have an on-site in-house permanent Registry CIO and a Registry IT Technology Department working in the Registry building for and with the Registry staff, Registry users and the general public.

As an independently elected official legally tasked with running the Norfolk Registry of Deeds I feel it is my duty to point out that the Abrahams recommendation fails to recognize that the Registry IT Technology Department has been instrumental in implementing numerous modernization initiatives at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. Technology drives services to Registry users and also protects the security of the data and land records that are used to authenticate the legal real estate title to your home and property. The solid foundation of technology at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds will crumble without a permanent on-site Registry CIO and without a Registry IT Technology Department. The Abrahams recommendation fails to recognize how essential and critical to the functioning of an independent and modern Registry of Deeds that an on-site Registry CIO and on-site Registry IT Department are.

The Registry IT Technology Department prior to the interference and influence of this Abrahams study had 2 full time permanent persons. Registry operations and Registry users deserve to have a permanent on-site Registry CIO and a Registry IT Technology Department physically at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds working on IT issues that come up on a daily basis. Not to fill permanently an on-site budgeted and existing Registry CIO in place for over 20 years and now to eliminate completely the on-site Registry IT Technology Department is unimaginable in this day and age of technology as well as cybersecurity risks and ransomware. It just makes absolutely no sense.

There will be disastrous operational results if the Abrahams IT recommendation is implemented that will negatively impact those that depend on the Registry for service – real estate brokers, banks, engineers,

home appraisers, builders, title examiners, lenders, attorneys, home owners and the general public. Without a Registry IT Technology Department there are countless bad outcomes that can take place. If you are as concerned about this matter as I am, please feel free to contact the people who will be considering the Abrahams study recommendations. Attached is a contact list for the Norfolk County Commissioners and the Norfolk County Advisory Board which represents each of the 28 communities of Norfolk County who will be considering these IT recommendations. Also, please feel free to contact your select boards, town councils and mayors who appoint these voting representatives to the Norfolk County Advisory Board.

This paid consultant and his team had never studied a Registry of Deeds in Massachusetts or anywhere else. Furthermore, since October of 2020 when Mr. Abrahams was engaged by the

Norfolk County Commissioners neither him nor his team ever even visited the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. Mark Abrahams as a consultant deals mainly with schools. This lack of familiarity and knowledge with Registry of Deeds operations is concerning as evidenced by Mr. Abrahams troubling conclusion to eliminate the established Norfolk Registry IT Technology Department and the dangerous negative impacts of that recommendation.

Let us hope better decisions and policies will come out of a full and vigorous vetting of the recommendations to eliminate the Registry CIO and the Registry IT Technology Department. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as the Norfolk Registry of Deeds deals with this unfortunate situation.

Sincerely yours,
William P. O'Donnell



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Real Estate Corner

Slowdown in Norfolk County Numbers

There appears to be a slowing down in the real estate indicators tracked at Norfolk Registry of Deeds in September, 2021.

“In Norfolk County, there were 15,436 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, which is a 10% decrease over last year’s September document volume,” Register

O’Donnell stated. “The numbers of mortgages recorded dropped from 4,639 to 3,761, representing a 19% decrease County wide from last year’s September numbers.”

Although there were less mortgages recorded, the total amount of money borrowed for mortgages County wide was well over

3 billion, a 75% increase compared to September 2020.

“While some of the mortgages are due to purchases and sales of real estate, other mortgages are due to refinancing existing mortgage,” Register O’Donnell

SLOWDOWN
continued on page 22



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Real Estate Corner

SLOWDOWN

continued from page 21

said. "Individuals have different motivations to refinance. Some refinance to reduce their monthly payments, others to take some years off their debt, while still others are using the money to pay for home improvements and other capital expenditure.

There has been a strong demand for housing, single family housing particular, coupled with a limited supply of available housing stock and historically low interest rates which could be motivating buyers to do what is necessary to secure housing. The communities of Norfolk County are desirable places to live which drives demand for housing. The number of deeds recorded in

Norfolk County increased when September 2020 is compared to September 2021. There was an 8% increase in last months deed numbers with 1,833 deeds recorded compared to last year's September deed number of 1,697."

One continuing cause for concern, however in Norfolk County, was foreclosures. A moratorium on foreclosures in place during the pandemic in 2020 was lifted on October 17, 2020. This moratorium was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely watching the foreclosure market.

"During September of 2021, there were 7 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of foreclosure processes taking place in Norfolk County," Register O'Donnell stated. "Additionally, there were 10 Notices to Foreclosure Mortgages, the first step in the foreclosure process, recorded here in Norfolk County. A foreclosure recording is very impactful on those being foreclosed on. September of 2020, there was 1 Notice to Foreclosure Mortgages and 2 foreclosure Deeds. These numbers remind us that some of our neighbors continue to face financial challenges. We will continue to monitor these numbers."

Additionally, for the past several years, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has partnered with Quincy Community Action

Programs, 617-479-8181 x376, and NeighborWorks Housing Solutions, 508-587-0950 to help anyone facing challenges paying their mortgage. Another option for homeowners is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at 617-727-8400.

"If you are having difficulty paying your monthly mortgage, please consider contacting one of these non-profit agencies for help and guidance," Register O'Donnell stated.

Homestead recordings by owners of homes and condominiums decreased this year at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in September. There was a 4% decrease in homestead recordings in September 2021, compared to September 2020.

"A Homestead provides limited protection against the forced sale of an individual's primary residence to satisfy unsecured debt up to \$500,000," Register O'Donnell explained. "It is great to see folks protecting the biggest asset most of us have, our homes. I would urge anyone who has not availed themselves of this important consumer protection tool to consider doing so. Please visit the Registry website at www.norfolkdeeds.org to get more information on homestead protection.

Available real estate inventory continues to be a constant source of concern in Norfolk County. It's especially been a problem for first-time homebuyers attempting to crack the market. Also, things may be slowing down compared

to past real estate indicators. The Registry of Deeds was operational every work day during the pandemic. The Registry of Deeds continues to be open to the public for business, however, that is being evaluated as the COVID-19 developments unfold. The drop-off box located outside the main entrance of the Registry Building for the time being will continue to be available for use by those members of the public who may not be comfortable in entering the Registry of Deeds Building. Land documents are being recorded electronically for many of our institutional users. We are also receiving documents in person, via regular mail, Federal Express and from those placed in our drop-off box located just outside our main entrance at 649 High Street, Dedham, MA."

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



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During this time of year especially, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the community of Norwood.

Thank you to all of my clients, colleagues, friends and family for making 2021 a wonderful year!

Your referrals and recommendations have all been greatly appreciated. Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Holiday Season ahead.

All my best, Your Local Realtor™

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