



## Flying Turtles at Norwood Airport

By MICHELE TARANTO

When the Norwood Memorial Airport was built in 1942 to support the war effort, its role was clear: the two 4,000 foot runways would provide the Naval Air Station Squantum with a facility where pilots could practice take-off and landings. Once relinquished by the federal government and voted through Town Meeting to fall under Town's ownership, it was

likely intended to service private citizens, corporate flights, and training. But turtles?

On January 24, 13 sea turtles received the benefit of Norwood's local airport, when they were boarded onto a flight bound for New Jersey and Georgia. The rescued animals were transported by volunteer pilot Bryan Wilson through the Turtle Fly Too non-profit organization. The 12 Kemp ridleys

and one loggerhead came from the New England Aquarium. Four of the Kemp ridleys and the loggerhead disembarked at the Essex County Airport in New Jersey, and the remaining eight Kemp ridleys finished the flight to Dekalb-Peachtree Airport, in Georgia. The entire carefully coordinated project took five hours from Norwood

**TURTLES**

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## How About A Nice Walk Around Norwood?

By BETSY MILLANE

What a treat it is to walk, jog, or bike a trail. The natural beauty of New England can be found in the trails that skirt our towns.

What do the Norwood trails mean to you, I asked Marie Kidd.

"They meant an opportunity for the entire family to get out but stay local when Covid happened," Kidd said.

Kidd has four kids and this is something they can all do.

"It was the reason to get off the phone," Kidd continued.

John Muir described what a random stroll can do for the soul

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks," Muir said.

It takes a special someone to recognize this, but to go further, to work to provide these nature opportunities for the good of all.

In Norwood, that person is Joe Greeley.

Greeley started working on improving and expanding local trails around Norwood five years ago. He does a lot of hiking himself, and realized that there has to be a

way to engage the good people of Norwood to unwind in the woods for an hour or so.

It's his quest to identify and improve short hike areas. He realized that a 45 minute walk on your lunch hour can make you more productive, calm, refreshed and able to tackle your job with a renewed vigor.

That is where Greeley and 10 committed volunteers that make up the Norwood Trails Advisory Board (NTAB) come in. The committee reports to the Town Manager and bridges gaps on the projects with the aim being to enhance the experience of the walkers.

Joe Greeley, Chairman  
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**TRAILS**

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TURTLES

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to Georgia.

The animals each had their own private seat safely tucked away in banana boxes or crates, and while silent with their personal requirements, according to Wilson, all their personal needs were happily and successfully met.

“Turtle are more sensitive than humans to temperature variations,” Wilson explained. “The main concern is keeping the turtle warm, so they are loaded into the pre-heated plane while it’s still in the hangar. Then once the plane is fully loaded and the banana boxes with turtles are secured, the plane is towed from the hangar for immediate engine start.”

Wilson has been a private pilot for 31 years and owns his plane with three partners, all retirees interested in flying compassion flights for charity. They not only volunteer their time and aircraft, but also directly pay all expenses. According to Wilson, many airports and service centers will also waive airport fees and reduce fuel prices for these charity flights.

Last year, 38 turtles caught a



ride with Wilson who flew them to Orlando, Florida to Sea World, but Wilson and his partners also volunteer for other organizations who could benefit from their generosity. For example, they have flown for Patient Airlift Services (PALS), Angel Flight, and Veterans Airlift Command.

“Being able to help others by flying my plane doubles the joy of owning a plane,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s plane is faster than a typical volunteer aircraft, so he often chooses longer flights, such as flying patients from the Midwest or Southeast.

As one of 37 public use facilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Norwood Memorial Airport services a wide variety of uses: corporate,



charter, and personal transport, flight training, aircraft fueling and maintenance, medical evacuations, organ donor flights, law enforcement (State Police Air Wing), military and homeland security support, weather reporting, aerial larvicide (Norfolk County Mosquito Control), electronic newsgathering (ABC, NBC, FOX0, aerial photography and videography, U.S. Department



of defense research and development, and lastly, as we all know, animal rescues.

The state of Massachusetts had a lot to do with the founding of Turtles Fly Too. In 2014, sea turtles on Cape Cod beaches were stranded during a bitter cold snap. Pilots from around the country offered either their planes or co-piloting services Canada, England, and France. Typically, animals are brought by Wildlife sanctuaries to the New England Aquarium for medical care and stabilization and later transported, by ground or by air. But this year, the facility had already reached their 80-turtle capacity and was overwhelmed having already reached their emergency 80-turtle capacity. Kate Samp-

son, the sea turtle stranding coordinator for NOAA, reached out to Leslie Weinstein, founder and manager of True-Lock, an aviation fastener company, who had extensive ties to the general aviation community, and eventual founder of Turtles Fly Too.

It is estimated that more than 200 volunteer missions are flown from Norwood Memorial Airport with volunteer pilots each year. In addition to Turtles Fly Too ([www.turtlesflytoo.org](http://www.turtlesflytoo.org)), organizations served but not limited to include: Above the Clouds Kids ([www.abovethecloudskids.org](http://www.abovethecloudskids.org)), Pals Sky Hop ([www.palsflight.org](http://www.palsflight.org)), Angel Flight ([www.angelflighteast.org](http://www.angelflighteast.org)), Pilots N Paws ([www.pilotsnpaws.org](http://www.pilotsnpaws.org)), and STEM Aviation ([www.stemflights.org](http://www.stemflights.org)).

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TRAILS

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Tony Mazzucco, Norwood General Manager  
Holly Jones, Norwood Conservation Planner

The NTAB mission statement is simple and to the point: Explore, Educate, Encourage.

“If you build it, they will come,” Greeley said.

There are currently 8 trails marked and maintained by the NTAB. Maps are available online: [trails@norwoodma.gov](mailto:trails@norwoodma.gov).

The committee gets the word out about the work needed on the trails, and volunteers come out to help. The trails need to be “reinvigorated” from time to time, and they need helpers to do just that.

The hikers and walkers are interested. How to find the volunteers? This past Norwood Day, about 400 people stopped by the booth and wanted information on how to help, trails to take, and where to go next.

In June, there will be a library presentation to address just that question and more. “1- Where we are in the trails, and 2- where we want to go next with pro-

grams.” Joe said.

Greeley recently met a young couple who were new to town who have a dog and kid and wanted advice on what would be the best experience for them. They found their answer. A family with a member with mobility issues wanted a trail experience and Greeley was happy to advise them on an accessible one.

What are they working on now?

Greeley said they are working on 2-5 mile trails. He’d like to see a 20 mile route that would circle the town, “Our own emerald necklace”.

He’s also working on interacting with other trail committees to capitalize on their work to connect the existing trails.

How did he get interested in creating and maintaining trails?

On field trips through the West Roxbury YMCA as a 12-year old, he noted, but also on trips to the White Mountains with his family. His parents were outdoor people who fostered a love of camping and hiking and of nature.

TRAILS

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# The Pride & Joy of Norwood

By KAREN DE NAPOLI, LAURIE KEARNEY, AND LINDA RAU

Norwood has always enjoyed a musical legacy. The Norwood Brass band, formed in 1866 when Norwood was still part of South Dedham, had their own hall and gave summer concerts until 1891 on the original bandstand in the Guild Square Park. Many of the churches and ethnic groups in Norwood had their own bands and choirs, and these celebrations and parades were joyous and successful. During the 1960s, however, one group, The Norwood Debonnaires an all-girls Drum and Bugle Corps, was considered and touted as the pride and joy of Norwood.

The drum and bugle corps is similar in some ways to a marching band or a fife and drum band. They are descended from military bands that accompanied armies into battle. Fife and drum bands were active during the Revolutionary War in America, and drummers marching with armies go all the way back to ancient Greece and Rome, with leaders using the drums, fifes, and

bugles to herald commands.

In a drum and bugle (classic) corps, only drums and bell-shaped brass instruments were used and you could only play what you could carry. This is what made the drum and bugle different from a marching band, which had wind instruments, and a fife and drum corps that had no brass. Another difference between the bands was that a marching band was usually part of a school or college, where a drum and bugle, and occasionally a fife and drum corps, were considered free-standing organizations sponsored by American Legions, VFWs, or churches. After WWI, many veteran organizations formed senior drum and bugle corps, which allowed returning veterans to participate, and during the 1930s they added the junior corps which capped the age of participation at 21.

Norwood's drum and bugle corps was started sometime around 1933 under Fr. Doherty and Fr. McAleer at St. Catherine's Parish. It was initially comprised of girls and boys, and after

the untimely death of both Fr. Doherty and then Fr. McAleer, the corps remained somewhat inactive. In 1938, Fr. Walsh was made pastor of St. Catherine's. Fr. Walsh was a classically trained musician and made great improvements, not only to the school and parish, but their musical groups. He formed the award-winning choir, a marching band, and the all-girls St. Catherine's Drum and Bugle Corps.

The St. Catherine's corps was active as part of St. Catherine's Parish through the 1940s into the 1950s, but sometime during the late 1950s, the corps was no longer sponsored by the parish. In 1957, the corps sponsorship was taken over by American Legion Post 70 and became the Norwood Debonnaires. This new sponsorship began over a decade of competitions that saw the Norwood Debonnaires repeatedly win and bring home



championship titles, local and national, to Norwood.

In the 1957-1958 drum and bugle corps competition year, the new Debonnaires won the Class C Championship of the Catholic Youth Organization (C.Y.O.) circuit. In 1961, the corps, because of the Class C wins and increased membership, moved up to the more challenging competitions in Class B. The corps entered 18 competitions, coming in first-place 16 times and securing two second-place spots. That same

year, they also won championships in the Class B Eastern Mass and C.Y.O. circuits. These astounding wins and performances moved the Debonnaires into the Class A bracket, and they became the only all-girls drum and bugle corps to compete against all-boys corps in New England.

The phenomenal success of the 'Debs,' as they were fondly known, was the result of hard work, dedication, daily and nightly practices, and a spirit of harmony and comradeship that followed them from their prac-

**DEBONNAIRES**  
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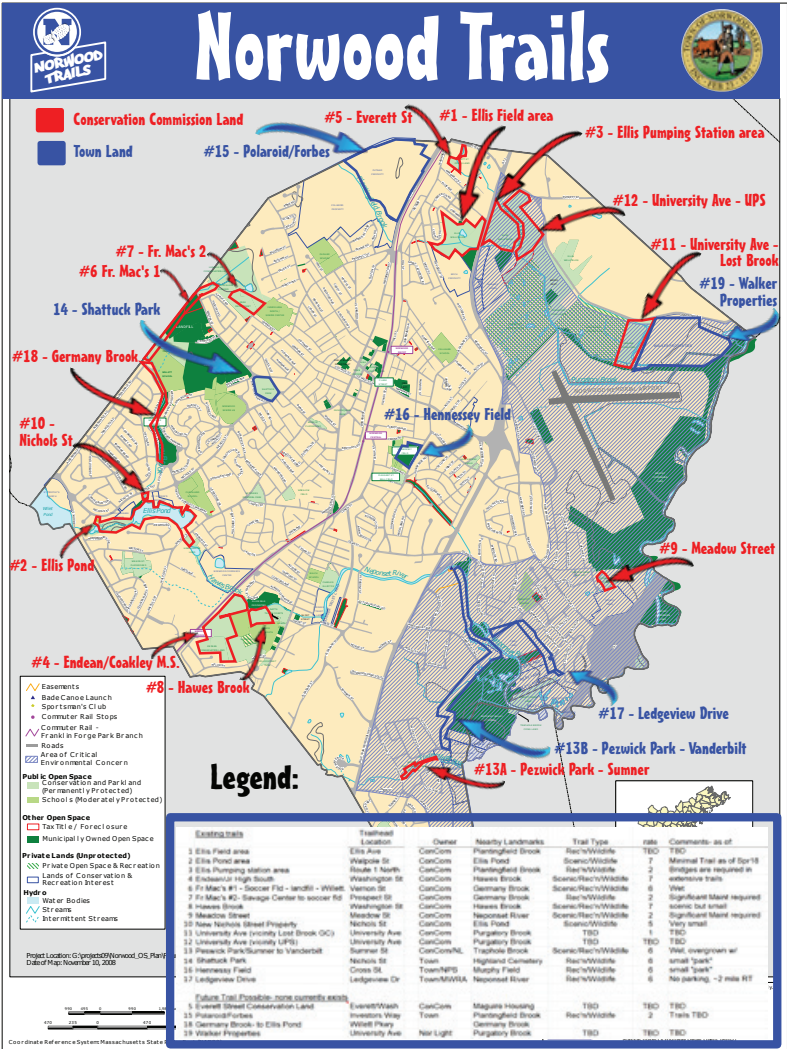


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TRAILS

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He feels it is his responsibility to share this love with others, acting as a bridge builder to them. “Leave it better than you found it” is his mantra.

The committee is dedicated to meeting once a month and devoted to community walks. They clean up invasive plants where they find them.

Once they held a walk and 75 people showed up, which was a wonderful and a positive surprise. People are always interested in knowing where to go next.

I asked how they deal with the doggie poo bag problem, a situation this writer often encounters on her walks.

Greeley graciously said they are on a mission to educate people to take care with their dog waste. The committee gives resources to the DPW to provide adequate trash opportunities for the dog waste. They also educate about pet etiquette,

exhorting his fellow walkers with dogs to be “good neighbors” and clean up after their pets, use leashes, and train their dogs to return to the owners on command. The core of this is education and respect for the trails and others.

Greeley’s hosted, in this vein, about 15-20 trail clean ups. He’s always surprised by what they find, but did not divulge more. He only conveys the need for respect for open space. By getting the community involved, they teach people to pay attention to how to make the trails enjoyable to all. Again, it comes down to respect.

How does the committee raise funds for such initiatives?

The Women’s Community Committee, for example, pitched

in and raised money needed to purchase a bench.

As I bicyclist, I wanted to know if these trails were bike friendly. He responded that they are trying to identify multi-use trails. They want to accommodate all who want to enjoy nature: those with walkers, wheelchairs, strollers, runners, and bikers. The aim is to keep the stress out of the excursion and to improve the experience for all.

For more information on Norwood Trails or the committee, visit [www.norwoodma.gov/government/committees\\_boards/trails\\_advisory\\_committee](http://www.norwoodma.gov/government/committees_boards/trails_advisory_committee) or email [trails@norwoodma.gov](mailto:trails@norwoodma.gov).

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We too have determined these creatures to be atypical and adoption is not a great option, but long term fostering fits their needs. What makes a cat a long-term foster cat in our opinion, depends on many factors. In some cases, the cats can be aggressive towards humans, but love fellow kitties. In some cases, the cat is rescued with one or more diseases, injuries, or ailments that most adoptive parents are not looking for. In some cases, the kitties were rescued or surrendered for all the right reasons, but in the end, were determined to be creatures who would not do well in the general human population.

Like all things, the ability to sustain a long term foster cat's existence, depends upon resources, and many, many sacrifices. Sacrifices and resources shared by the long-term foster caretakers and our organization. We need sponsors to help us help them for the entirety of their lives, and with the best quality of life.

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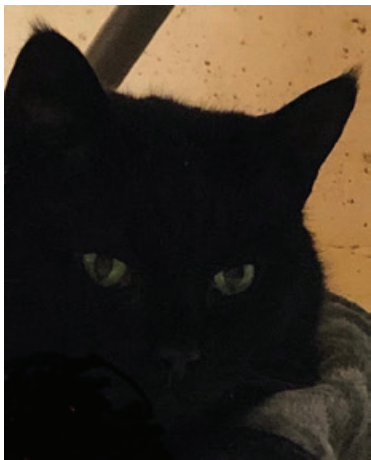
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Swansea is a feral cat that lost her leg due to a raccoon attack. Bay State Animal Cooperative responded to a call in 2010 by a



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kitten was killed and the mom's rear leg was torn to pieces as she fended off the raccoon. BSAC rescued the remaining kittens and Swansea, the name we later gave her. She received the veterinary care and amputation she needed, and has lived in long-term foster care ever since. Since she is feral, she does not allow human interaction but enjoys her fellow feral house mates. Swansea's care and medical expenses are ongoing. At her estimated age of at least 15, senior medical expenses and care are on the horizon. Hoping this year's bloodwork and exam are uneventful and she continues her retirement in her long-term home in Florida with her fellow feral friends.

Swansea is available for sponsorship. Maybe there is someone out there who could give a regular monthly payment to help with expenses for either of these two precious cats? She is happy and well cared for in an environment just made for them and their friends who also receive medical care, food, shelter, litter, and love for their remaining years.

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## Meet Meemee! A BSAC foster since 2017

Meemee is about 11 years old and was found in an outdoor cat colony. She and her colony mate



Candace came to live with other unadoptable semi-ferals under the long-term care of BSAC. During a very expensive dentistry to make Meemee more comfortable, our vet just discovered a tumor in her mouth that cannot be removed. As is our mission, we will stand by Meemee. She has been doing great!

Since her diagnosis, Meemee continues to reside with other long-term foster kitties in sunny Florida. Meemee moved with her 5 friends and forever human. Consider sponsoring Meemee! Your funds can go towards keeping her as comfortable as possible.

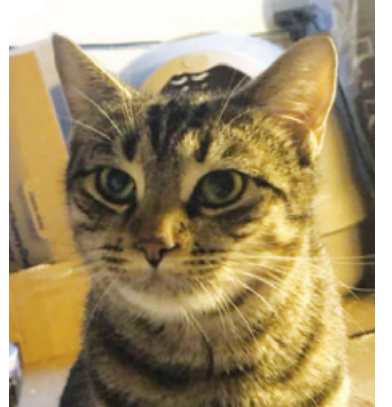
## Meet Maude - Available for Adoption

Maude is a sweet, quiet little girl who had babies very young. She is a wonderful mother but needs a chance to be a kitten herself when she is not busy mothering she likes her toys and getting

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Thank you again and if you do not hear from one of our volunteers in a reasonable amount of time please do not hesitate to reach back out to us!

[www.baystateanimals.org](http://www.baystateanimals.org)



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DEBONNAIRES

continued from page 4

tice sessions at Elks field and the Norwood Armory to the competition arenas. Under the direction of manager Wallace McDonald, Walter Aspinwall, Joseph Waple, Francis Connolly, Robert

for the National Invitational, and in 1967, successfully defended their championship on the Mayflower Drum and Bugle circuit.

The Debs, with their hard work and precision drills, made it all look easy. Hard work and dedication to the corps and each other as part of the whole, and

will reminisce that performing with the Debs was one of the best times of their lives. Besides all that they earned to enrich their own lives, they brought fame and notice to the town of Norwood, and truly were the Town's pride and joy.

The Norwood Historical Soci-

Norwood Historical Society archives St. Catherine of Sienna parish 100th-anniversary book Wikipedia: Drum & Bugle Corps (Classic) Yamaha Music USA – Marching Through Time website. DCX -Drum Corps Xperience -website.



Parquette, and others, the girls learned their craft to perfection.


Traveling throughout New England on the Mayflower circuit in the mid-60s, the girls competed in over 30 competitions and were undefeated champions for three years, which included going up against some all-boys corps. In the summer of 1965, they ran a fundraiser, raffling off a car, to be able to compete in the National Open in Chicago, IL. Although they did not win, their drum quartet placed 12th in the nation against older and larger corps. The Debs traveled extensively in New England, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Canada, and Washington DC. They brought home many first-place trophies including the World's All Girl Championship held in Bridgeport CT, in 1965. That same year, they competed in, and won first place, at the National Petticoat Review, held in Pittsfield, MA.

Besides competing on many circuits, the Debs also participated in local ceremonies, like the Labor Day Parade in Boston, performed at local American Legion and VFW ceremonies, as well as hosted their own music festivals and exhibitions in Norwood. They traveled to Washington DC

their outstanding musical skills, brought accolades to them wherever and whenever they performed. They learned skills that carried them throughout life and made friendships and memories that never faded. Many women

ety is proud to preserve and share artifacts and memories telling the history of the Debs.

Sources: Incredible thanks to Kathy Mullen, a proud Deb, for her memories, scrapbook, and friendship.



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### MODERNEYES Business spotlight

cient, modern way,” says Stetson.

As the name suggests, Modern Eyes employs innovative equipment and software to collect more data in a shorter period of time than many other eyecare practices. “The seamless integration of the diagnostic technology with medical records really saves time,” he says, “This equipment allows us to capture more comprehensive information and provide better, in-depth eyecare—and all more efficiently for patients, whose modern lives are busier than ever.”

Actually, these tests can also help diagnose and monitor non-eye conditions. “It’s the only way you can see the state of blood vessels and nerve tissue first-hand, without performing an invasive procedure,” says Dr. Stetson. “The diagnostic data is



able to reveal hidden conditions that can literally save a patient’s vision or, in some cases, their life. For example, we have a 3D imaging machine that can map blood flow in the eyes, which is very important in a lot of different eye conditions, including glaucoma and macular degeneration. It is also vital for managing diabetes, which can be both sight- and life-threatening.” In addition, this diagnostic information can be shared with the patient’s primary care physician or other providers to help better manage their overall health. “On the other hand,



**MODERN EYES**  
*continued on page 10*



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# Living Healthy

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Dr. Rochelle Bien & Dr. Michael Goldstein

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Case No.: 2022DR001368  
Division: FAMILY

CARLYNE JOY ST FELIX, Petitioner  
-and  
CHARLES ST FELIX, Respondent.

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lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address on record  
at the clerk's office.**

## A VIEW FROM THE HILL

### Term Three Troubles!

BY AUSTIN HENRY, NORWOOD  
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

The school year is broken up into four terms, and each term typically has a varying level of difficulty due to different events going on throughout the year.

Term 1 of school is usually pretty easy as teachers are just starting out the curriculum and school ends up being review heavy.

Term 2 is a little more difficult but it's broken up by endless four-day weeks and holidays. This makes Term 2 a lot less difficult.

Term 3 is usually the hardest Term as it is when teachers reach the most difficult time in their curriculum and is often plagued with long drawn out five-day weeks where the sun sets an hour after school lets out. All of this together makes Term 3 the biggest headache for many students.

Term 4 on the other hand features the end of many curriculums and isn't all that difficult especially as the curtains close on the year.

At Norwood High School (NHS), students are right in the smack dab middle of Term 3 and the pressure is on!

Junior Stefanie Kurtiqi is feeling the gravity of this most diffi-

cult quarter of the year.

"It's just a lot of work," Kurtiqu said. "I know a lot of people were saying that as February break approached they were getting a lot of work. It's a little overwhelming."

This is often the case for many students in this third term, especially when you spend most of your time inside, and you come outside and it's cold, dark, and wintry. All of this contributes to an anxiety and almost claustrophobic feeling for many students.

"I've had more homework than I expected," Senior Will Morrissey said.

Being a student myself in Norwood I have definitely felt the difference in homework between this year and the Covid years. For seniors, this is the first normal year and for many this can lead to an unexpected and overwhelming level of work.

Although there is difficulty, many NHS students aren't doing too bad at all!

Junior Aiden Ciavattone, doesn't seem to feel the pinch of the Term, but it seems time management may be his key to success.

"The work at school is fine to be honest," Ciavattone said. "I

rarely do homework because I get stuff done during WIN (an allocated block of time on Tuesdays and Thursdays for teacher help) or studies. English this year kinda sucks (he's giving an independent reading assignment plus entering a writing contest and another video project)."

The seniors do have a little bit of an interesting twist on the third term as it is their last full term.

"Well to be honest, senioritis is really kicking in, but at the same time I feel proud of myself for making it this far!" Senior Payton Otto said.

Senioritis refers to the loss of motivation felt by many at the end of their senior year. In the third term, this is definitely being felt as many will soon find out what college they are going to. So once you've been accepted into a college, high school seems obsolete.

"The classes I am taking are easy enough for me that I can somewhat relax and coast through the rest of senior year," Senior Evan \_\_\_\_ commented.

All this being said, Term 3 can be a mixed bag of sours and sweets for the students of Norwood High School!

### MODERN EYES

*continued from page 8*

the human side of medicine is still very much needed, and a physical examination of patients is irreplaceable. Machines can see things that our eyes cannot detect, but there are always fine details that the human eye can see that computers cannot," says Dr. Stetson. "Both are needed to ensure that our patients receive the best care."

After 15 years serving patients as an optician, Dr. Stetson trained at the New England College of Optometry, where he received a doctorate in optometry and a master's degree in dry eye and ocular surface disease. He went on to complete his Ocular Disease residency at Boston Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, Brockton Division, which greatly influenced his commitment to ef-

ficient patient care and communication. "The way that the VA healthcare system is, everything is integrated; you've got your specialists and PCPs - all the data is shared to provide the best 360-degree care for people with complicated conditions," says Stetson.

"One of the things I take very seriously and pride myself on is patient education. I want patients to be informed on what exactly is going on with their eyes and what different conditions mean for their ocular and systemic health," emphasizes Dr. Stetson. "My goal is to maximize each patient's visual potential and maintain their eye health, whether they are 5 or 125."

The friendly and knowledgeable Modern Eyes team also includes co-founder, Christina Stetson, MBA, who provides marketing and strategic support; practice coordinator Adamarie

Carrasquillo, who brings her extensive medical knowledge and organizational skills to the office; and experienced optician Eliott De Jesus, RDO, who ensures patients receive the best lenses, fit, style, and service on the eyewear that they choose.

Dr. Stetson moved to Norwood six years ago with his wife, Christina, to care for his grandparents. He's happy to call the area home. "Norwood is a special place. It's amazing how many people are involved in the community here, and we want to be a part of that."

Modern Eyes is located at 696 Washington Street in Norwood. For more information, visit [www.moderneyesnorwood.com](http://www.moderneyesnorwood.com). Reach out for an appointment at (781) 352-4849 or [info@moderneyesnorwood.com](mailto:info@moderneyesnorwood.com).

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# Norwood Sports

## Norwood Swim & Dive State Qualifiers

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY

Under the guidance of co-coaches Kate Curtin and Jen Dwyer, the Norwood swim and dive team has two girls that have qualified to continue taking part in their aquatic events following the regular season. Sophomore Colleen Sisk will take part in the 1-meter diving and junior Ana Santana Alcantara will swim the 100 backstroke in both the South Division Section and the Division 2 State Tournament.

Sisk joined the team last winter as a freshman very new to the sport of diving, and never having taken part in the event prior to landing on the Mustangs squad. Despite the fact that Sisk had never attempted a competitive dive, the then freshman was very anxious about giving the sport a try, and according to her coaches, she progressed considerably last winter.

In order to qualify for the Sectionals, a diver needs to score at least 185 points on two occasions, and 195 points twice to gain access into the State Tournament. A diver also must have 11 qualifying dives with a 5 (out of 10) or better.

Knowing that she was very close to those marks last year in her inaugural diving season, Sisk spent a lot of time training with her club team out of Duxbury. The work obviously helped as

the sophomore qualified not only for the Sectionals but the States as well in the first three meets of the season.

"That's about as fast as you possibly can do it," Curtin said. "I was super impressed about her from the get-go, but she has totally dominated and continued to

However, the Norwood coaching staff has used the sophomore in some sprint free-style events to help the team in events.

"She has a great team-first attitude and will do what it takes for the team," Dwyer said. "She is a role model for the team and we are looking for her to continually



Santana Alcantara, left and Colleen Sisk, above.

improve. She is one that we can depend on for points each meet as she is consistently in the top of her event. She is also our only official diver (to be classified as an official diver one must perform six dives safely in different categories)."

Sisk knew right away she was interested in diving, but never thought of herself as swimmer.

perform at her best while improving her scores."

Sisk's best dive to date is a 206.18 and will compete against 18 other girls in the South Sectionals in the diving event.

"As a sophomore and being the first person on the team to qualify gives her the opportunity to participate in her first tournament," Dwyer said. "I'm very excited to see what she does, especially only being a sophomore having another two years to improve upon her skill. She will also get a feeling for what the post-season is like and how to compete on this level."

Santana Alcantara enjoys swimming events and thrives on improving her craft. The junior swimmer is new to Norwood after moving to town in August from Brazil where she was a competitive swimmer.

"When Ana first came to us we really didn't know much about her and her swimming background, but we were soon impressed," Curtin said. "She has been really excited about swimming for us right from the start and was eager to get started with the serious competitions. Her sights were set high as she was

looking to qualify for the Sectionals and the States."

Alcantara excels in the 2 IM, 100 fly, and the 100 backstroke, and has also helped the team out in the 200-medley relay, and both the 200 and 400 free-style relays. In the relays, the junior will swim the backstroke in the 200 medley and being one of the better sprinters on the squad, will swim a later leg in the free-style relays.

In able to qualify for the Sectionals, one needs to achieve a 107.44 or less and a 105.98 for the States; Alcantara was closing in on these qualifications in a mid-January tournament.

"During the Ashland meet on January 13, she swam a 105.63 in the backstroke, cutting a good 3-4 seconds off her previous time," Dwyer said. "This was very impressive as we were just getting back from winter break and it takes a lot of hard work to do this. It was a thrill for her qualifying for both the Sectionals and the States with that swim; the entire team was behind her as she breezed through the water."

The Norwood coaches noted that while Alcantara was unaware of her time while in the pool, her teammates knew that

something special was happening and they continued to cheer her on. It wasn't until she was told about the qualifying time that the juniors' eyes lit up.

"She was just focused during this meet and looking for that Sectional qualifying time; we hadn't seen her get close to the State time prior to this meet," Dwyer said. "To get them both on the same day was a very special moment that we will not forget. She is a very versatile swimmer in the sprinting events, and then for her take part in a relay to help the team is a critical component to her dynamic personality."

In the South Sectionals, Alcantara will compete against 19 competitors, where she is ranked 12 in the group. Being that she'll be swimming against other talented swimmers in that 104-106 range should push her. Anything can happen when you are going up against athletes with similar times and Alcantara should be able to use that to her advantage.

At the MIAA South Sectionals, Sisk finished 17th in the 1 meter diving, while her teammate Alcantara took 12th place in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:05.92.

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# Norwood Sports

## TJ Wyman: Norwood’s Junior Wrestling Captain

By Christopher Tremblay

Junior Norwood High School wrestler TJ Wyman got involved with wrestling in middle school where his dad was a coach. He found that he liked the contact

“TJ was a wrestler in junior high school and when he got to the high school we were involved with covid and things got moved around,” the Mustang Coach said. “It would have been nice to

According to Wyman, the camps were a really good experiences to see how the top wrestlers took to their craft. The exposure to better wrestlers allowed

“I figured that I’d have a better season than last year, and although I’ve already won 25

matches, I expected to be better,” Wyman said. “There were a couple of losses that I should have won.”

Having already qualified for the Sectionals, Wyman will be working on his skills to achieve the goal of making it to the All-State Tournament, but in order to do so, he must perform better at the State Tournament than he did last winter.

“He did a lot of off-season work to get better,” McDermott said. “Once the season started, we realized that he was deserving of being a captain as everyone not only listens to him, they respect his performance on the mat.”

McDermott went on to state that he believes that his junior captain will not only get to the States, but this year will go further and hopefully advance into the All-States.

Wyman likes his Coach’s thinking and whatever happens this year, he believes he’ll do better next year as a senior.

“Next season I am hoping that I can win a State Championship; everyone around me says that it’s a realistic possibility,” Wyman said.



that comes with the sport as well as being able to put moves on his opponent and then pin them to the mat. As a wrestler on the Mustang squad, the now junior decided to forgo his freshman year of the sport due to the Covid Pandemic, but looking back, he wished he hadn’t.

“My freshman year was the Covid year and wrestling was moved from the winter to spring, where I played baseball, so I didn’t wrestle that season,” Wyman said. “But now, looking back, I should have gone the other way and instead of playing baseball I should have wrestled. I feel by not wrestling that year I got behind and had to re-establish myself the next year.”

Norwood wrestling coach Bill McDermott also wishes that Wyman would have taken part in the wrestling season that year, but he knew that he played baseball in the spring and that was his sport at the time.

have his talent on our roster, but he played his normal sport that spring and rightfully so.”

During his first season as a varsity wrestler in is sophomore campaign, Wyman wrestled at 220 lbs., and although he felt that he was undersized for the weight class, he had himself a pretty decent season.

“That first year didn’t go exactly as I was hoping for,” Wyman said. “I thought that I would have been able to go further in the state tournament. I won a few matches but didn’t place. The experience really helped me to take my game to the next level this year though.”

Prior to this season getting underway, the Norwood grappler took part in a couple of camps over the summer to help improve his wrestling. He also continued to wrestle when ever he got the chance right up until the beginning of football season.

him the chance to put his skills to the mat and see where he actually fit in with the elite grapplers.

Coming into his second season with the Norwood squad, Wyman was looking to qualify for the Sectionals with the hopes of advancing into the State and All-State Tournaments. Although still in the early part of the season, the Norwood junior has already achieved the first part of his goal and has qualified for the Sectional Meet.

Wrestling in the 220 pound weight class once again this winter, Wyman has finished second in the Devin Ness Tournament and captured the top spot at the Whitman-Hanson Tournament, and at the time of this writing he was 25-5 on the season.



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# Spring Blooms in Art

By MICHELE TARANTO

Just in time to welcome Spring, 2023, the 17th Annual Art in Bloom will take place on Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, March 26, 2-5 p.m., at the Morrill Memorial Library. The is the second year the library is hosting the event and admission is free with no registration required to view this special exhibit.

“We are pleased to be part of the garden club’s annual ‘rite of spring’ and look forward to seeing the students’ artwork coupled with their expression in flowers,” Library Director Clayton Cheever said. “We thoroughly enjoyed hosting last year’s program and we’re looking forward to seeing what this year’s artists will do.”

This community event is a colorful and innovative collaboration where high school students and the Norwood Evening Garden Club (NEGC) partner their designs through artwork and floral designs. The artwork is generated by Norwood and Walpole High School students coupled with interpretative motifs created by NEGC members.

The garden club members are not given any prior notification or hint of their assignment. They are, however, given a written paragraph from the student describing how they approached the project, the mediums they used, and the intent of their piece. Even the head of the NEGC is kept in the dark until the big reveal!



“Twenty pieces of art will be distributed to garden club designers via a lottery system,” Norwood Evening Garden Club President and Art in Bloom Co-

Chair Lois Walsh said. “I can’t wait to see the floral designs that our members create. Some of the interpretations will be challenging,



but I expect that the members’ arrangements will be as creative as the artwork itself.”

Norwood residents continually benefit from the talents and generosity of the Norwood Evening Garden Club, not only with their Art in Bloom event but from many other occasions where they share their love of plants and flowers with the community.

“Many of our members do not consider themselves floral designers, but I believe that each year they make increasingly beautiful designs, some of which are worthy of Boston MEA’s Art in Bloom after which the exhibit is pat-

terned,” Art in Bloom Bo-Chair Dr. Sheela Venkatesh said.

Members of the Norwood Evening Garden Club have been providing education and public beautification in Norwood and surrounding communities since their 1996 inception. The club welcomes novice and expert gardeners from Norwood, Walpole, Westwood, Dedham, Medfield, and Randolph. For more information on the Norwood Evening Garden Club, visit [www.NorwoodEveningGardenClub.com](http://www.NorwoodEveningGardenClub.com).

Pictured: interpretations from the 2022 Art in Bloom event



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# Start Solving the Vocational Admissions Problem: Improve Access, Create More Seats

February 8, 2023

It's no longer a secret that Massachusetts vocational-technical and agricultural high schools are a great option for students of all backgrounds who want to learn a trade and pursue a career. Unfortunately, there simply isn't enough space in these schools to accommodate the huge demand.

Right now, there are roughly 55,000 students in Chapter 74 state-approved vocational-technical and agricultural programs, with another 6,000 students on wait lists. At the same time, business and industry are crying out for skilled workers.

We can be proud of these schools. They excel in academic performance, graduation rates, and expanded programming that includes fields like environmental science; information technology; and medical, health, and dental assisting. Students excel because they enjoy the engaging, hands-on learning.

We are at a tipping point. With this lack of available seats and strong demand for vocational education, advocates, elected officials, and editorial writers are understandably con-

cerned about whether students are being admitted equitably into our schools. Vocational school leaders are, too.

The current debate is centered on admissions policies and whether the adoption of a lottery system is the silver bullet for fixing any inequities, real or perceived. The reality is that a lottery does nothing to address the lack of capacity and it does not guarantee desired enrollment outcomes.

As educators, we'd like to offer enrollment to everyone. We simply can't. We don't have the space. No lottery will ever change that. A lottery will just rearrange who sits in the seats, with 6,000 kids still on the outside looking in. With that in mind, we are working hard to conduct our admissions processes as fairly and equitably as possible:

-Since admissions regulations were revised by the state in 2021, 97% of vocational-technical and agricultural high schools have made changes in their admissions policies, personnel, or training. Clearly, our schools are serious about this effort.

-Grades are now less of a factor. Many schools now give equal consideration for grades of C or above, unlike before when student grades were more heavily emphasized.

-Disciplinary issues are now less of a factor. Minor disciplinary issues are no longer factored into the admissions process.

-Most schools require a recommendation, typically from a guidance counselor, and a brief interview to gauge a student's interest in vocational education. We are training interviewers on eliminating bias and are providing supports and accommodations for those applying, including easier access to interviews and translation services.

-The admissions changes only took effect recently so we have limited data to gauge whether the changes we've made are making a real difference. One year of data doesn't make a trend. Moreover, our schools have no access to demographic information about the stu-

dents who do not enroll. We need help from the state on this so we can make best-informed decisions.

-Finally, there's no guarantee that a lottery would actually help the protected groups of students that all of us want to help. In fact, simulations run by some of our schools have demonstrated that a lottery would yield exactly the opposite result. That is, a lottery would result in lower numbers of enrolled students in some protected groups (just as one school experimenting with a lottery recently discovered).

Vocational-technical schools are continuously striving to serve under-represented populations. Consider special education. Five of the 10 school districts in Massachusetts with the largest percentages of students with disabilities are vocational-technical and agricultural high schools.

While there is strong sentiment on the both sides of the lottery debate, what all advocates of high quality vocational-technical education can agree on is this: The state can do more to help vocational schools

and our potential students:

First, the state needs to make a massive capital investment in vocational school construction to create more seats. Second, our schools need unfettered access to our middle schools so we can inform students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, about the value of vocational education. Put another way, we need better access to reach the very students our detractors say are being excluded.

As demand for limited seats continues, we must work together to create opportunity and bright futures for all our high school students. Vocational-technical and agricultural high schools in Massachusetts will continue to do their part.

*Steven C. Sharek is Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, a professional association of educational leaders who administer and advocate for high-quality vocational-technical and agricultural education.*

Contact Information:

Steven C. Sharek

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# Norwood Senior Community News

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officers will be out in full force conducting traffic enforcement throughout 2023.

So if you see more officers pulling over cars, it's not your imagination. It's just the Norwood PD trying to keep everyone safe!

**An Excerpt from Kathleen's Outreach Letter**

Do you know about the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit?

The following information was taken from the Mass.gov website: "As a senior citizen (65 or older by December 31 of the tax year), you may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on your MA personal income tax return. The Circuit Breaker tax credit is based on the actual real estate taxes or rent paid on the MA residential property you own or rent and occupy as your principal residence. The maximum credit amount for tax year 2022 is \$1,200.

**Who is eligible**

- You must be a Massachusetts resident or part-year resident.
- You must be 65 or older by December 31 of the tax year.
- You must file a Schedule CB with your Massachusetts personal income tax return.
- You must own or rent residential property in MA and occupy it as your primary residence.
- For tax year 2022, your total Massachusetts income does not exceed: · \$64,000 for a single individual who is not the

head of a household; \$80,000 for a head of household; \$96,000 for married couples filing a joint return.

- If you are a homeowner, your MA property tax payments, together with half of your water and sewer expense, must exceed 10% of your total MA income for the tax year.
- If you are a renter, 25% of your annual MA rent must exceed 10% of your total MA income for the tax year.
- The assessed valuation of the homeowner's personal residence as of January 1, 2022, before residential exemptions but after abatements, cannot exceed \$912,000.
- The Schedule CB must be completed within 3 years from the last day for filing the return, without regard to any extension of time to file." I hope this was helpful.

Please reach out to me with any questions on information and referral or completing applications for housing and other programs. Have a great month! Kathleen 781-762-1201 x3 [krooney@norwoodma.gov](mailto:krooney@norwoodma.gov)

**Medical Appointment Transportation**

The Norwood Senior Center offer out of town medical rides to Norwood residents who are 60 and older.

Available Monday - Friday

A minimum of 72 hours (3 working days) advance notice is

required.

Rides are not guaranteed

Servicing Canton, Dedham, Walpole, Westwood, Foxboro, Newton, Norfolk, Needham

Caregivers are welcome to accompany rider.

Walkers and transport chairs are allowed but rider must be able to get into and out of the van independently. The van is not wheelchair accessible.

Masks are recommended while riding in any town vehicle.

New phone number for out of town rides: 781-762-1201, x6

**Dance on St. Patrick's Day!**

The Friends of the Norwood Council on Aging will be sponsoring their monthly Ballroom Dance, on Friday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day), 7-10 p.m., at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St., Norwood.

Music will be provided by DB Band. Coffee, tea & desserts will be served and there will be door prizes! Cost is \$12 per person. Newcomers welcome!

To stay up to date on 'Friends' events,. Visit their Facebook page at: Friends Of The Norwood Council On Aging.

**Visit Newport Playhouse in June**

Bloom Tours is taking participants to the Newport Playhouse and Cabaret Restaurant for a show and lunch! Price is \$139 per person. Sign up the end of March. For more information, stop by the Senior Center or call 781-762-1201.

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# Calendar of Events

## March 1

**Frederick Law Olmsted's Life & Legacy**  
**Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)**  
**12 noon**

Enjoy a virtual lunchtime lecture from the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, entitled "Olmsted's Life and Legacy." While the world knows him today as the foremost American landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted would live a full life well before designing open green spaces. From a childhood in New England, Olmsted went on to practice farming, journalism, administration, and a number of other professions. Despite trying on many hats, everything Olmsted did in his life prepared him to become a landscape architect. Examine Olmsted's life from his early years up until his final days. To register, visit [www.norwood-library.org/morrillcalendar/](http://www.norwood-library.org/morrillcalendar/) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**First Aid Course**  
**Civic Center**  
**5:30 p.m.**

The goal of this course is to emphasize the importance of accident prevention, the need for first aid training, and appropriate first aid skills to utilize in case of an emergency. For ages 12 and up. Fee: Res: \$65/NR:\$75. To sign up, visit the Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St., or visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

**BHM Film Series: Till**  
**Morrill Memorial Library**  
**6:30 p.m.**

From the film's website, "Till is a profoundly emotional and cinematic film about the true story of Mamie Till-Mobley's relentless pursuit of justice for her 14 year old son, Emmett Till, who, in 1955, was lynched while visiting his cousins in Mississippi. In Mamie's poignant journey of grief turned to action, we see the universal power of a mother's ability to change the world." Rated PG-13 and runs 125 minutes. To register, visit [www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/](http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

## March 3

**Music with Sarah**  
**Morrill Memorial Library**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Join the Norwood CFCE for a morning of music and movement with Sarah Gardner. Little friends will have a chance to sing and

dance and try some musical instruments. For children from birth to Pre-K. This program is free but registration is required. To register, email your child's name and date of birth to Marie Kidd: [mkidd@norwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:mkidd@norwood.k12.ma.us)

## March 3

**Dr. Seuss Party**  
**Norwood Civic Center**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Do you like green eggs & ham? Come join this fun party to celebrate Dr. Seuss birthday! Crafts, activities and storytelling are included as well as snacks and refreshments. For ages 1.5-4 years old. Fee: Res: \$15. To sign up, visit the Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St., or visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

**Designer Bag Bingo**  
**Elks Lodge, Winslow St.**  
**7 p.m.**

Tickets are \$30 per person or \$250 per table. The evening will include raffles, door prizes, and bag sales! Local celebrity guest callers! Proceeds benefit the post prom committee. For more information, contact [NorwoodPostProm@gmail.com](mailto:NorwoodPostProm@gmail.com).

## March 4

**Mind Matters: Meditation Session 3**  
**Morrill Memorial Library**  
**10 a.m.**

This is the third in a four-part, in-person meditation series. Meditation can be beneficial for both the body and mind when practiced regularly. Some of the potential benefits of daily meditation include reducing stress and anxiety, improving focus and attention, improving sleep, positive effect on the brain, enhancing overall well-being. Ms. Rishi will explain briefly what meditation entails, and teach the attendees various meditation techniques that they can practice on their own. The sessions are not sequential, so please register for all or any of the sessions. For 18 years+. To register, visit [norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/](http://norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop**  
**20-30 Mylod St., Norwood**  
**Community Food Forest**  
**11 a.m.**

Shannon, the Food Forest Builder & Landscaper at the Boston Food Forest Coalition, will be leading a pruning workshop. Pruning is essential to maintaining good health and proper growth of trees, and

should be done during dormant periods. This workshop is intended to provide initial training to a core group of volunteers to help maintain the local food forest fruit trees as well as anyone who wants to maintain their own at home. It's free to the public and space is very limited. RSVP recommended. [facebook.com/events/1619353351852635](https://facebook.com/events/1619353351852635).

**VFW Post 2452 Meat Raffle**  
**193 Dean St.**  
**2-5 p.m.**

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The pre-buy allows for entrance in all ten drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the pre-buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5. Open to the public and everyone is welcome.

## March 6

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

For more information, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## March 7

**Author Talk: Isaac Fitzgerald,**  
**Author of "Dirtbag, Massachusetts"**  
**Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)**  
**7 p.m.**

Isaac Fitzgerald has lived many lives. He's been an altar boy, a bartender, a fat kid, a smuggler, a biker, a prince of New England. But before all that, he was a bomb that exploded his parents' lives--or so he was told. In *Dirtbag, Massachusetts*, Fitzgerald, with warmth and humor, recounts his ongoing search for forgiveness, a more far-reaching vision of masculinity, and a more expansive definition of family and self.

Fitzgerald appears frequently on *The Today Show* and is also the author of the bestselling children's book *How to Be a Pirate* as well as the co-author of *Pen & Ink: Tattoos and the Stories Behind Them* and *Knives & Ink: Chefs and the Stories Behind Their Tattoos*. The discussion will be moderated by Daniel Ford, host of the *Writer's Bone* podcast. This live online

event will be held on the platform Crowdcast. To register, first create a Crowdcast account or sign in with Twitter, Facebook, or Google. After you have signed in, click the "Save My Spot" button and use the password below. Register at [www.crowdcast.io/c/an-evening-with-isaac](http://www.crowdcast.io/c/an-evening-with-isaac) and the password is: dirtbagmass

## March 8

**Longfellow House-Washington's HQ National Historic Site: Past & Present Here Unite**  
**Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)**  
**12 noon**

An Introduction to Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS." What does a home reveal about its occupants, and about our shared history? The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House bears witness to the history of slavery in New England and the early free Black community of Cambridge, and George Washington's development as a leader. In the 19th century, it became the home of famed poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and a hub of literary and artistic life. More recently, the house reveals a rich history of the historic preservation movement. Learn more about this unique public resource, reopening for the season in May 2023. Led by Longfellow House Public Programs Manager Emily Levine. To register, visit [www.norwood-library.org/morrillcalendar/](http://www.norwood-library.org/morrillcalendar/) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Arts & Crafts Club**  
**Civic Center**  
**12:30 p.m.**

Looking for something fun and creative to do on a half day of school? Spark children's creativity through arts and crafts! The afternoon will include completing a project that explores paint, collage, drawing, and more. For grades 3-5. Fee: Res: \$70/NR: \$80.00. To sign up, visit the Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St., or visit [norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx](http://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx).

**Children's Social Skills**  
**Civic Center**  
**1 p.m.**

In today's fast-paced, high-tech society, teaching children manners is more crucial than ever. One of the most important jobs we have is to help children develop social skills. Be it a family gathering, a meal at a restaurant, or a quick trip to the grocery store, children can apply

soft skills in any social situation to convey confidence and courtesy. For grades 2-7. Fee: Res: \$65/ NR: \$75. To sign up, visit the Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St., or visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

**Teen Interview Prep Workshop**  
**Norwood Civic Center**  
**2:30 p.m.**

Interviewing can be a stressful experience for teens whether they are looking for their first job or going to their first college interview. In this workshop, teens will learn self-presentation skills and important talking points to help succeed at an interview. For grades 8-12. Fee: Res: \$70/ NR: \$80. To register, visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx> or the Civic Center in person.

**Norwood Junior Woman's Club**  
**Seeking New Members**  
**Conrads**  
**7:30 p.m.**

Interested volunteers can join next monthly meeting, meet the current members, and learn more about the organization. For questions, email [norwoodJWC@gmail.com](mailto:norwoodJWC@gmail.com).

## March 10

**Super Hero Party**  
**Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St.**  
**10:30 a.m.**

This party is one you will not want to miss! SUPERHERO's of all kinds are called to come to this AWESOME party! We will have arts & crafts as well as snacks and activities. Don't forget your costume if you have one! For ages 1.5-4 years old. Fee: Res: \$15. To sign up, visit the Civic Center or [norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx](http://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx).

## March 11

**Mind Matters: Meditation Session 4**  
**Morrill Memorial Library**  
**10 a.m.**

This is the fourth in a four-part, in-person meditation series. Meditation can be beneficial for both the body and mind when practiced regularly. Some of the potential benefits of daily meditation include reducing stress and anxiety, improving focus and attention, improving sleep, positive effect on the brain, enhancing overall well-being. Ms. Rishi will explain briefly what meditation entails, and teach the attendees various meditation techniques



## CALENDAR

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that they can practice on their own. The sessions are not sequential, so please register for all or any of the sessions. For 18 years old and older. To register, visit [norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/](http://norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

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

Choose their own special treasures from nice selections of clothing, shoes, kitchen items, linens, jewelry, books, all at great prices.

**Home Sellers Seminar**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
1 p.m.

Thinking about Selling your house but not sure where to start? This seminar for Home Sellers may be for you! Topics will include understanding your home's value, pricing, and preparing your home for a successful sale. There will also be talk about the current market conditions and their experience in marketing and negotiating an offer. To register, visit [norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/](http://norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**VFW Post 2452 Meat Raffle**  
193 Dean St.  
2-5 p.m.

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The pre-buy allows for entrance in all ten drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the pre-buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5. Open to the public and everyone is welcome.

## March 13

**Paint Night**  
Civic Center  
6 p.m.

Art supplies will be provided to create your own personal masterpiece. Participants will listen to music, be creative, and have fun! For ages 6 years old and up. Fee: Res:\$25. To sign up, visit the Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St., or visit <https://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

## March 14

**Women's Business Networking Meeting**  
Workspaces Norwood,  
66 Winter St.  
8 a.m.

The Women's Business Net-

working (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](mailto:wbnofnorwood@gmail.com).

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

Tim Quinn with The Black Velvet Band will entertainment to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. A light lunch will be served. Guests are welcome. For questions, call Trina at 781-762-8173.

## March 15

**Turn the Page-'The Only Woman in the Room'**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
10 a.m.

The discussion will be on The Only Woman in the Room, a historical fiction novel written by Marie Benedict. Copies of the book in regular, large print and audio are available at the circulation desk. The eBook version of this novel is available on Hoopla.

Email Patty Bailey if you have any questions, [pbailey@minlib.net](mailto:pbailey@minlib.net) or call (781) 443-8864.

**Explore The Black Heritage Trail**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
12 noon

Enjoy a virtual lunchtime lecture from the Boston African American National Historic Site, entitled "Explore the Black Heritage Trail." The Black Heritage Trail showcases residences and community buildings associated with a Black community that thrived on, and near, the north slope of Beacon Hill before, during, and after the American Civil War. Throughout that time, this community struggled and organized for equal rights and access to equal education. Community members championed the movement to abolish slavery and even housed freedom seekers on their journey along the Underground Railroad. Led by National Park Ranger Shawn Quigley. Register at [norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/](http://norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/) or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Turn the Page-'The Only Woman in the Room'**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6:30 p.m.

The discussion will be on The Only Woman in the Room, a historical fiction novel written by Marie Benedict. Copies of the book in regular, large print and

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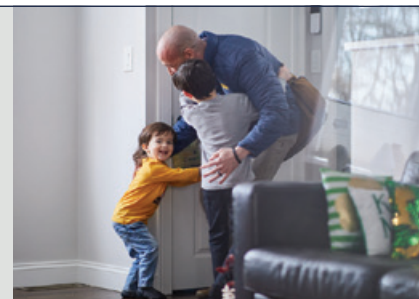
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audio are available at the circulation desk. The eBook version of this novel is available on Hoopla.

Email Patty Bailey if you have any questions, [pbailey@minlib.net](mailto:pbailey@minlib.net) or call (781) 443-8864.

## March 17

**Kids Night Out!**  
Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St.  
6-8:30 p.m.

Parents, take the night off! Kids, join Civic staff for a night of fun! The night will include group games, makes crafts, and more. Pizza dinner\* and juice provided. Open to participants in grades 1-5. \*Food not guaranteed for registrations made the day of the event. For grades 1-5. Fee: Res: \$20/ NR: \$25. To sign up, visit the Civic Center or visit [norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx](http://norwoodma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx).

**Friends March Monthly Ballroom Dance**  
Norwood Senior Center  
7-10 p.m.

Music will be provided by DB Band. Coffee, tea & desserts are served & there are also door prizes. Cost is \$12 per person. Newcomers welcome! For more information on events offered by the 'Friends,' visit their Facebook page at: Friends of The Norwood Council on Aging.

## March 18

**Celebrate Arab Mother's Day**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
1-4 p.m.

Did you know that in the Arab World Mother's Day is celebrated on March 21st at the beginning of spring equinox? This celebration was introduced by Egyptian Journalist Moustafa Amin in 1943. The tradition then spread to neighboring countries in the region. Join to learn about the history of Mother's Day celebration, and the customs and tra-

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## CALENDAR

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## CALENDAR

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ditions that Arabs and Arabs American carry on every year to honor their mothers, wives, and women. The event will kick off with a presentation about Arabic Culture, Mother's Day, and the role of women in the Arab World. It will be followed by a calligraphy workshop. Hajj Wafaa, an Iraqi American artist will hold the workshop and walk the audience through the art and history of Arabic calligraphy. Attendees will take home a small canvas with their name written in Arabic. The Canvas will be a great gift that you can take home or present to a loved one. The event will conclude with a craft and storytelling by one of the Center for Arabic Culture teachers. Participants will get to see displays of Arabic arts and fabrics, and will be able to sample tasty Arabic treats, while supplies last. All ages welcome.

**VFW Post 2452 Meat Raffle**  
193 Dean St.  
2-5 p.m.

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The pre-buy allows for entrance in all ten drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the pre-buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5. Open to the pub-

lic and everyone is welcome.

**March 20**

**Calm Your Mind: Mindfulness Workshop**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6 p.m.

The class will explain the concept of meditation and mindfulness followed by some techniques and exercises that will engage the participants. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**March 21**

**The Gilded World of Isabella Stewart Gardner**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
7 p.m.

The life of Boston's arts patroness typifies the lives of many of the wealthy and cultured Americans who lived during the Gilded Age of American history. This program will explore the details of Isabella Stewart Gardner's life, friends, travels and collections. She broke all kinds of rules while setting up her museum but perhaps we can understand this when we read her personal motto "It is my pleasure." She arranged things the way she wanted with relationships between objects that may at first escape us. What is left for us is to marvel at the space she created and filled with beautiful things. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**March 22**

**Stories From The Whaling Port**  
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)  
12 noon

Enjoy a virtual lunchtime lecture from the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, entitled "Stories from the Whaling Port." Discover the origins and historical significance of New Bedford's whaling port. When Quaker merchants moved their whaling businesses from Nantucket to New Bedford, they started a 100-year industry that forever shaped New Bedford's maritime culture. Learn about a daring arctic rescue in 1897, when ice closed in around 275 whalemen and left them stranded with limited supplies. An earlier version of the U.S. Coast Guard traveled 1,500 miles overland to bring the men food. Time permitting, hear stories about New Bedford's roles in the Civil War (54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry) and the Underground Railroad. Led by National Park Guide Rufai Shardow. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**March 23**

**Norwood Public Schools Fundraiser**  
Chateau Restaurant  
All Day

Visit a Chateau location for lunch, dinner, or take-out. Let the server or phone representative know you are participating in the fundraiser. For online orders, add fundraiser to the cart Norwood Public Schools. After the event, 20% of the total sales will be donated to Norwood High School.

**March 25**

**Blessings Boutique Thrift Shop**

**First Baptist Church, 71 Bond St.**  
10:00 a.m.-noon

Last chance to pick up what you need for your Easter celebration! Choose from beautiful clothes and shoes, Easter and Spring decor, jewelry, beautiful serving pieces for the table, and so much more. Come in and find what you need at bargain prices!

**VFW Post 2452 Meat Raffle**  
193 Dean St.  
2-5 p.m.

The price for each drawing is \$2. Ten drawings are conducted each Saturday. A pre-buy for \$20 is available during the week at the Post. The pre-buy allows for entrance in all ten drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the pre-buys need not be present to win. The prizes are generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 money raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5. Open to the public and everyone is welcome.

**Art in Bloom**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
All Day

Art in Bloom is an exhibition of Norwood and Walpole High School's students' artwork interpreted in flowers by members of Norwood Evening Garden Club.

**March 26**

**Art in Bloom**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
All Day

Art in Bloom is an exhibition of Norwood and Walpole High School's students' artwork interpreted in flowers by members of Norwood Evening Garden Club.

**March 27**

**Calm Your Mind: Mindfulness Workshop**  
Morrill Memorial Library  
6 p.m.

The class will explain the concept of meditation and mindfulness followed by some techniques and exercises that will engage the participants. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call 781-769-0200, x2.

**Winter Sports Varsity Awards Night**  
Norwood High School  
6:30 p.m.

The winter sports varsity awards night hosted by the NHS Athletic Booster Club/

**March 28**

**Women's Business Networking Meeting**  
Workspaces Norwood, 66 Winter St.

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](mailto:wbnofnorwood@gmail.com).

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

Titles on Tap, sponsored by the Morrill Memorial Library. Meets at Napper Tandy's in Norwood, in the left-hand-side bar. The January title has yet to be announced. Note, if meeting in-person unworkable due to weather or COVID concerns, it will meet virtually via Zoom. Please email Liz with any questions, [lreed@minlib.net](mailto:lreed@minlib.net). 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.

**March 29**

**From Beals St. to the White House**  
Morrill Memorial Library (Virtual)  
12 noon

Enjoy a virtual lunchtime lecture from the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, entitled "From Beals Street to the White House." Receive a virtual tour of John F. Kennedy's birthplace home on 83 Beals St., as well as an exploration of his boyhood neighborhood, including the second home in which the Kennedys lived, their family church, and the school where a young John F. Kennedy received some of his earliest education. Learn how his mother, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, managed a large family, discover collection items such as John F. Kennedy's favorite childhood books, and explore the influences that shaped him as a child. Led by Lead Park Ranger Gabriella Hornbeck. To register, visit <https://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/> or call 781-769-0200, x2.



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# Real Estate Corner

## Good Deeds: State Of The Registry

By WILLIAM P. O'DONNELL

NORFOLK COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic lessened in 2022, the Norfolk Registry of Deeds was able to fully resume normal operations and increase its community outreach efforts. I am especially proud of our staff, who worked tirelessly every workday throughout the pandemic, allowing the Registry to remain operational.

The year 2022 saw some changes in the Registry's operations, some positive, some not. Despite the increase in the Registry's reliance on its information technology structure due, among other things, to a marked increase in the electronic filing of documents, the Norfolk County Commissioners decided to consolidate the Registry IT staff with the County and eliminate the direct-report, on-site Registry IT Department.

I greatly appreciate the voices and efforts of so many attorneys, real estate brokers, assessors, trade organizations, and just regular citizens who were concerned about the title to their homes becoming compromised and recognized the value in keeping the Registry IT Department as it had been for over 35 years. Technology drives so much of what goes on at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds, but you have to accept decisions, and I and my Registry senior staff are cooperating with the County to envision a plan that will not negatively impact Registry operations and services due to the elimination of its on-site direct report IT staff.

The Registry of Deeds is the principal office for real property records in Norfolk County. The Registry receives and records hundreds of thousands of documents annually. It houses more than 8.5 million land documents dating back to 1793. These land documents and the integrated Registry indexes to these land documents, dating back to 1793, are available to the public for on-line research at [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org). The Registry is a primary and indispensable resource for title examiners, mort-

gage lenders, municipal officials, homeowners, title examiners, real estate attorneys, genealogists, and others with a need for land record information.

The Registry operates under my supervision and management as the elected Register. I have held the position since 2002. In continuous operation for nearly two hundred and twenty-four years, dating back to President George Washington's administration, the Registry's mission has remained the same: to maintain and provide for accurate, reliable, and accessible land records to all residents and businesses of Norfolk County. The modernization initiatives implemented during my administration have created a sound business operation oriented toward quality customer service at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds.

The Registry of Deeds Customer Service and Copy Center continues to provide residents and businesses with quality service. These requests included the filing of Homesteads, accessing deeds, verifying recorded property documents, and assisting those in need of obtaining a mortgage discharge notice. Customers can contact the Customer Service and Copy Center at 781-461-6101, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In calendar year 2022, the Registry collected approximately \$67.3 million in revenue. Out of that money, more than \$57.4 million was apportioned to the Commonwealth, and more than \$9.9 million was disbursed to Norfolk County in the form of deeds excise taxes, recording fees, and surcharges. There was \$5,635,350 collected pursuant to the Community Preservation Act (CPA). In 2022 there were 130,051 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, a 33% decrease from 2021.

The Norfolk Registry of Deeds was the first registry in

Massachusetts to electronically record registered land documents in the Land Court section of the Registry of Deeds in 2017 and was crucial to remaining operational during the coronavirus pandemic. This year saw a record number of electronic recording filers, approximately 2,600.

In 2022, we shelved Registry of Deeds Book 40401. At the end of 2022, we were processing the documents for Book 41000. For the sake of security and redundancy, we store our documents in three different ways: hard copy, electronically, and on microfiche.

The internet library of images, accessible to the public through the Registry of Deeds' online research system at [norfolkdeeds.org](http://norfolkdeeds.org), continues to expand. Today, all documents dating back to the first ones recorded in 1793 are available for viewing. This digital collection also consists of more than 450,000 handwritten documents recorded between 1793 and 1900 that were transcribed and are available to the public for viewing and research.

Our website includes a genealogy page and a section highlighting land records of notable people, including United States Presidents, military heroes, noted authors, and leaders in their fields of education, environment, and law.

The Registry's website, [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org), routinely updates the public on such news as real estate statistics, answers to frequently asked questions, along with detailing of our consumer programs. Additionally, we also write a monthly column for various Norfolk County newspapers and their online websites. We also distribute a weekly press release to alert residents of the latest happenings as well as to remind them of our consumer services.

The Registry's free Consumer Notification Service allows any county resident to opt in to this free notification service and be alerted when any

land document – fraudulent or otherwise – is recorded against their name. Nearly 2,000 Norfolk County residences have signed up for this free service. For more information, please see our website at: [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org).

In 2022, we continued our partnerships with Interfaith Social Services of Quincy, Father Bill's & MainSpring of Quincy, the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System Voluntary Service Program, Circle of Hope in Needham, United Parish's Thrifty Threads, Suits and Smiles in Jamaica Plain, Inner-City Weightlifting, and New Life Furniture Bank of Massachusetts in Walpole on our 'Suits for Success' program to assist those who

are in need of clothing as well as household items.

Our Annual Holiday Food Drive continues to support food pantries in Norfolk County. On our website, there is a list of Norfolk County food pantries, as they have a need all year. It was a privilege to partner up with the United States Marine Corps on our 15th Annual Christmas Toys for Tots campaign at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds. Thank you to all of the residents and staff who helped make this program a success.

It is a privilege for me and my fine Staff to serve each and every one of you. Be well and healthy in this new year.

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# Real Estate Corner

## Real Estate Sale Price & Activity Down in Norfolk County

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings for the month of

January, 2023 indicate a continued decrease in overall real estate activity, with significant drops in mortgage activity and the average

property sale price as compared to the January, 2022 numbers.

In January, there were 7,461 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, a 36% decrease from January, 2022 and a notable decrease of 21% from December, 2022.

"The real estate market is still feeling the effects of inflation, even as it eases slightly," O'Donnell said. "High food and energy costs are limiting how much money customers can save. The number of recorded deeds, which is one measure of document volume, shows a drop in real estate sales from the previous year."

The number of deeds for January, 2023, which reflect real estate sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, was 1,034, a decrease of 24% from January, 2022 and a decrease of 19% from the previous month of December, 2022.

Sale prices for January appear to have dropped significantly compared to January, 2022. The average sale price in January was \$850,396, a 41% decrease from January, 2022 and a 9% decrease from December, 2022. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 62% from one year ago and decreasing 38% from last month.

"Consumers appear to have not adjusted to the spike in in-

terest rates and are less inclined to borrow at higher rates," O'Donnell noted. "Consumers may be hoping for lower interest rates even as the average sales price falls."

Overall lending activity showed a continued downward trend for the month of January. A total of 1,001 mortgages were recorded this month, 57% less than a year ago at the same time, and down 2% from last month.

"According to the data, we are recording significantly fewer mortgages, which could be the result of several factors that the country is currently experiencing, including the increasing cost of living and spike in interest rates," O'Donnell said. "These aspects of the economy can have an effect on the local real estate market."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely monitoring the foreclosure market. In January, 2023, there were nine foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in January, 2022, there were only seven recorded. Additionally, in January, 2023, there were 30 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, significantly more than the 18 recorded in January, 2022.

"The substantial increase in the number of these notices is

troubling," O'Donnell said. "It suggests that more of our neighbors may have financial difficulties in the future. We will continue to monitor these figures."

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," O'Donnell said. "Property sales prices appear to be declining as a result of consumers' unwillingness to purchase property with mortgage rates above 7%. With consumers paying a larger percentage of their paycheck on housing, we remain concerned about the trend of increasing notices to foreclose."

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, "like" them on Facebook at facebook.com/norfolkdeeds. Follow on Twitter and Instagram at @norfolkdeeds.

Wishing you a rainbow of happiness, good cheer, and a new home on **St. Patrick's Day!** It would be my pleasure to assist you with all aspects of the home buying + selling process!

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JANUARY 2023

Single Family | Townhome | Multi-Family |  
Condominium | Lot/Land/Farm


 **\$564K** Avg. Sales Price ↓ 5%




**\$599K**  
Median List Price  
↑ 7%



**98.49%**  
Sales Price / List  
Price Ratio  
↓ 2%



**12**  
No. of Prop. Sold  
↓ 46%



**35**  
Avg. Days on Market  
↑ 102%

Based on data from M.L.S. Property Information Network, Inc. for property type(s) single family townhome multi-family condominium Lot/Land/Farm in the price range \$0 - \$999,999.999 for the period October 2022 - January 2023. January 2023 stats are compared to previous 3 months' average. Source data is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.





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