

NFD deploys diver to rescue driver stranded on Route 1A



The Norwood Fire Department (NFD) reported around 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday that Upland Road had become almost completely inundated with flood water. On arrival, the department reported finding one vehicle completely submerged in the water, with a single occupant who had self-extricated already, but was unable to get to safety. The NFD reported the occupant was unable to swim and was hanging onto a tree, and so firefighters deployed a rescue swimmer in a survival suit to remove the person, who was then transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. At the time of publication, the road remains closed from Washington Street to Everett Street.

PHOTO BY NORWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT



The ZBA approved this new sign on the left proclaiming Boch's ownership of the dealership.

COURTESY PHOTO

Zoning Board approves Boch signs

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted unanimously on Tuesday, Jan. 2, to approve a new sign for the Boch Maserati dealership at 441 Boston Providence Tnpk.

This marks a return of the Boch name to Route 1. Readers may have noticed its absence along Route 1 recently due to the current company owning the former Boch dealerships wanting to change the names to bring more brand recognition across its New England and Delaware locations.

Many of the old Boch dealership signs are changing over to Nucar. Boch sold most of his dealerships a few years ago – but still owns the land – to DCD Automotive, which has now changed its “doing business as” name to Nucar. Boch representative Michael Clemmey said at the ZBA meeting that the idea is to keep Boch’s name on the Automobile.

“We want to get Boch back on Route 1; we’re kind of missing it right now,” he said.

“Boch, the name of the family that owns and runs this dealership, is well known certainly in automotive circles here,” said

Boch Signs
Continued on page 4



There is a slew of meetings, events and important dates coming up in Norwood for the first months of 2024.

COURTESY PHOTO

Looking ahead in 2024: important dates

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Can you believe it’s the second week of 2024 already? (unless you’re reading this later of course).

The calendar for 2024 is already forming, and there are some big dates on the horizon for the Town of Norwood. So shake off the snow and take off your gloves, it’s time to mark the calendar.

First up is the Special Town Meeting, which is tentatively set for Thursday, March 21 at

6:30 p.m. at the Norwood High School Auditorium. The meeting has a secondary date of March 25 for any unfinished business from the first day.

It’s important to note because in the past, Town Meeting almost always started on a Monday. Town Manager Tony Mazzucco said there were scheduling conflicts that led to start on a Thursday. One of the big items expected on this agenda – though nothing is set in stone until the Warrant is finalized – are plans involving the Hennessey Field

stormwater and retention basin project, as well as the MBTA Communities Act (3A) zoning initiative.

The Board of Selectmen will vote place the proposed zoning change onto the Town Meeting Warrant for March, and more public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Norwood’s Town Planner will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall to discuss 3A.

Looking Ahead to 2024
Continued on page 6

Parking, affordability and signs: the Planning Board’s focus

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Planning Board met on Jan. 8 at the Norwood Senior Center in a hybrid format and voted to approve its proposed zoning articles for the upcoming March 21 Town Meeting (TM).

The biggest discussion focused on the MBTA Communities Act, also known as 3A. The legislation requires that all municipalities with certain public transportation infrastructure (like MBTA Commuter Rail Stations) to rezone for multi-family units as an as-of-right use (no Zoning Board of Appeals or Planning Board approval required) near said infrastructure. The state’s formula found that Norwood needed to rezone to accommodate 2,000 more units.

The Norwood MBTA Communities Task Force and the Planning Board have been working on this for at least the past year and held several public information sessions and outreach dis-

Planning Board
Continued on page 2

Planning Board *continued from page 1*

cussions in an effort to include resident input on the proposed zoning change. And while the Town can submit later than March 2024, it does have to be filed by the end of the year and approved by a Town Meeting vote, which leaves May and November of this year to get it all straightened out should the Special TM in March not approve the plan.

Town Planner Sarah Dixon and the Board discussed the parking minimums for the proposed zoning, which encompasses the Norwood Central District (from Norwood Central MBTA to Norwood Depot, basically in a narrow line) the Central Business District (Downtown around the Common), and the Windsor Gardens complex.

As the new zoning was originally written, the two downtown districts would have a parking minimum of 1 space per unit and the Windsor District would have 1.5 spaces per unit. Some Planning Board

members said in previous meetings that that was too little parking in the two Downtown districts, and asked what an increase of 1.25 spaces would look like.

Dixon said she had reached out to apartment complexes in Norwood and Walpole to see what their parking ratios looked like, and also submitted to the Board the MAPC Perfect Fit Parking Study (<https://perfectfitparking.mapc.org/>) for more information on increasing parking space ratios.

“And so when we run the numbers on the square footage of what it would look like to add that much more surface area and parking in those two districts (1.25), and my recommendation, given that the increase would result in over two acres of additional impervious asphalt in those areas, which are the smaller of the districts and located in pretty critical areas with respect to the police and fire station, our Downtown, and the Meadowbrook Water-

shed, my personal recommendation is to stick with that one-for-one,” she said. “I think the numbers and the research support it.”

Planning Board member Joseph Sheehan – along with members Ernie Paciorkowski and Debbie Holmwood, disagreed.

“Down by Forest Hills, I go by that area on the train all the time,” Sheehan said. “I’ve been on the street recently, and I don’t think they require much parking, if any at all and it’s a bit of a problem. Certainly, if you said to a builder, ‘How many spots do you want?’, if they don’t have to do it they may not. In Jamaica Plain, it’s very congested when you drive down that way. I’m always mindful of really, of having enough spaces without getting crazy.”

It should be noted that Forest Hills is situated at the meeting point of Washington Street, Hyde Park Avenue, the Arborway and the Amtrak/MBTA rail corridor, which are all commuter arteries for personal vehicles, trucks, buses, trains, bikes and pedestrians. It should also be noted that there are parking ratio requirements as stipulated by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (formerly the Boston Redevelopment Authority) that hover around .5 spaces per housing unit in that area, though the .5 requirement has been a relative norm for most of the city for the last few years. The surrounding large developments of 3694 Washington St. and 3593 Washington St. have .5 and .6 parking ratio requirements, respectively. However, the recent 1789 Centre St. development in West Roxbury has a 2-to-1 parking space-to-unit ratio, so everything’s relative.

“Nationally, the trend is to require far more parking than

is ever actually utilized, and you see that every time you go to a grocery store, or a Target, or wherever you see these large lots with tons of empty parking spaces most of the time,” Dixon said. “How do we get away from that and make that balance to provide exactly as much parking as we need?”

Dixon suggested that to do that, you make the minimum a maximum so that the market will decide how many spaces are created based on how many units the developer can build. The Planning Board, again, did not agree. However, the members, with the exception of Holmwood, agreed that a 1.1 ratio of parking spaces to residential units would be acceptable.

Dixon said 1.1 was reasonable, but made a last appeal as well.

“Parking spaces cost more money, which decreases housing affordability, because those increased costs get transferred to the market rents or the cost of the condo. It reduces the amount of open space you can potentially have, the greenspace, the outdoor amenity space that we heard a lot of feedback about and so that’s important,” she said.

Dixon went on to say prioritizing parking will, eventually, leech resources from other priorities. Developers, banks and/or investors only have so much money they’ll want to throw at a project.

“We’re trying to find that perfect balance and it’s not a clear answer,” she said. “And you guys are doing a great job at capturing those considerations, but I will say, the numbers that were originally put in front of you were backed by research of utilization of housing complexes not in Boston, but in the ‘burbs where we are, which showed that actual utilization was under a 1-for-1-ratio, it was closer to .75. Just again, for frame of reference,

that’s kind of what the research says. And I think when things aren’t clear to me, I go back to the numbers. I feel numbers don’t lie; look at the data, look at the research, look at what it shows. That’s where the one-for-one came from, but I think the 1.1 is a modest adjustment that addresses some of those concerns, but 1.2 and 1.25, you’re starting to push up against the limits of what those other priorities were.”

The Board approved the 1.1 ratio 4-1 with Holmwood against. The documentation and fine print of all discussed above can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3atuyc47>

The Board also looked at affordability requirements of the 3A regulations, and voted to change those requirements. The base 3A zoning from the state requires 10 percent of any project to be income-restricted affordable units, but allows a municipality to require up to 20 percent. Originally, the written regulation required anything with eight units or above to be 20 percent affordable, and the Board voted to increase that to 16 units or above, as it was felt eight units with 20 percent affordability, along with all the other requirements in the zoning, would make a project unfeasible.

The Board voted to approve the warrant article for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to be an allowed use in the Town, so long as they are attached to the primary structure and follow certain other guidelines.

The Board voted to approve a warrant article changing kennel regulations.

The Board voted to approve new notification regulations for zoning changes in Town. Among other codifications, like requiring advertisements in local newspapers, all Town Meeting members with a zoning change in their district will get direct email notification. Any resident or business entity can also sign up for direct mailing notifications for a fee of no more than \$25 a year.

The Board also voted to allow the Enterprise Car Rental location at 597 Boston Providence Hwy. (just north of Pendergast Circle on Route 1) only two of its requested eight additional signs. The two they approved were the only ones actually on the Enterprise property and designated where patrons should drop off their rented cars once finished with them. The other signs were for wayfinding through the neighboring parking lot, and Dixon said the Planning Board doesn’t have jurisdiction to approve business signs on another entity’s property.



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Selectmen review migrant housing and apartment plan

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday night in a hybrid format and discussed two significant issues. The first is that the state is moving about 75 migrant families into a Norwood hotel for temporary shelter as they navigate the asylum process.

“The recent individuals being added to the state shelter system are here legally,” said Town Manager Tony Mazzucco. “They are here as part of a federal program where they have been granted temporary leave while they await an asylum hearing. I know we hear a lot of discussion about migrants and who is here legally or illegally. We, at the local level, cannot get involved in that. However folks being placed in our shelter system are being placed legally in a federal program.”

Mazzucco said the move to Norwood is to allow a consolidation so that the state can better manage the families as they navigate the process. He said 94 rooms will be taken at this particular hotel, which he did not name, with 12 families already housed in Norwood being relocated to this site and the rest being relocated from other municipalities. He said the state is currently renting out about 8,000 rooms across the Commonwealth.

Mazzucco said both the Norwood Fire Department (NFD) and the Norwood Police Department (NPD) have stated they do not believe this will lead to a significant increase in strain on public services. However, he said that having that number of families in one place can lead to some increased 911 calls, but again, he said there is no impact expected.

“That’s based on their communication, their research and their site visits to other towns,” he said.

Mazzucco said the state is offering hotels between \$100 and \$200 a night to house those families, with meals included. The state is also giving Norwood \$104 a day per stu-

dent being enrolled in the Norwood Public School District (NPS) and that they are looking at about 40 students being added. The state will also pay for required transportation. The state is currently only set up to pay Norwood’s 6 percent local option hotel/motel tax for 90 days, but is looking to figure out to pay beyond that.

“The law doesn’t have a provision for it, and given the state’s revenue concerns, I don’t know that that’s going to materialize,” he said.

He said Norwood garners about \$1 million in hotel revenue a year, and Mazzucco’s best guess is if the state doesn’t pay the tax beyond the 90 days the Town could lose about \$40,000.

“If the state pays the full rate on a fully-booked hotel for three months, we might actually make out this year,” he said, “though that’s not the goal.”

He added that at least two of Norwood’s hotels aren’t fully booked throughout the year and that potential customers may just move down the street to another in Town if they find their first choice is booked.

Mazzucco said they have been preparing for this since September, thinking Norwood would be a primary site for sheltering migrants. They have been working with officials from the Town of Plainville to prepare, and he wanted to thank those officials for the help they offered.

There is currently no timeline for completion of the asylum process, but did say that some court dates are set as far back as 2026.

In other news, Needham developer Paul McGovern came by to present his plan for 32 rental units at 923-929 Washington St. with 43 parking spaces to be located behind the building. McGovern said the property has been a blight on the Town for decades, and Selectman Bill Plasko agreed.

McGovern said they will be permitting and building through the Local Initiative Process (LIP), meaning the Town will be included and have input on

the project throughout the design and development process (for more info on LIP, go to <http://tinyurl.com/4aj59bbr>).

The current site, next to Mr. Frank’s market and gas station, is a two-family home and a “derelict” commercial property. McGovern said they have spent recent months cleaning out the commercial property, which he said was just full of trash and detritus.

“We’ve pulled out about 10 dumpsters of stuff and it is still filled with trash,” he said. “But we’ve taken the significant stuff out of it; we’ve covered

the roof twice now with tarps and sealed up the entrances. It was a hub for raccoons and various other residents, who weren’t paying rent.”

The project would encompass 36,956 square feet and will have five one-bedroom units, 21 two-bedroom units and six three-bedroom units. Two of the units will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and eight of the units will be designated as income-restricted affordable units.

McGovern said the number of parking spaces was maxi-

mized by moving the trash area inside. They are planning for a roof garden and solar panels to help beautify the building and provide power.

The Board was generally receptive to this proposal, and McGovern said they will be going through at least a Zoning Board of Appeals process, along with any other relevant boards for permitting the proposal. He said they will also be meeting with as many of the abutters as possible in the coming weeks, as well as the NFD, as the parking lot could present turning problems for fire trucks.



Community Meeting

Town of Norwood – Meadow Brook Channel Improvements Project

What: A community meeting to learn more about the proposed Meadow Brook Channel Improvements Project between Meadow Brook Road to Sixth Street in Norwood. Members of the project team will be available to help members of the community learn about the proposed improvements, potential impacts, and timelines.

When: Thursday, January 11, 2024 (6:30PM – 7:30PM)

Where: Nahatan Village Complex, Community Room (86 Nahatan St, Norwood, MA 02062)

Additional Information: Spanish and Portuguese language interpretation will be provided.

Reunión Comunitaria

Ciudad de Norwood - Proyecto de mejoras del canal Meadow Brook

Qué: Una reunión comunitaria para aprender más sobre el Proyecto de Mejoras al Canal Meadow Brook propuesto entre Meadow Brook Road y Sixth Street en Norwood. Los miembros del equipo del proyecto estarán disponibles para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad a conocer las mejoras propuestas, los posibles impactos y los cronogramas.

Cuando: Jueves 11 de Enero de 2024 (18:30 – 19:30)

Dónde: Nahatan Village Complex, Community Room (86 Nahatan St, Norwood, MA 02062)

Información Adicional: Se proporcionará interpretación en español y portugués.

Reunião Comunitária

Cidade de Norwood – Projeto de melhorias do canal Meadow Brook

O que: Uma reunião comunitária para saber mais sobre o projeto proposto de melhorias no canal Meadow Brook entre Meadow Brook Road e Sixth Street em Norwood. Os membros da equipe do projeto estarão disponíveis para ajudar os membros da comunidade a aprender sobre as melhorias propostas, os impactos potenciais e os cronogramas.

Quando: Quinta-feira, 11 de Janeiro de 2024 (18h30 - 19h30)

Onde: Nahatan Village Complex, Community Room (86 Nahatan St, Norwood, MA 02062)

Informações Adicionais: Será fornecida interpretação em espanhol e português.

Real Estate Activity Dip

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reports that Norfolk County recordings in December 2023 show a decline in the total number of property sales and mortgages compared to December 2022 recordings. This decline can be attributed to a limited inventory of new and existing property for sale and a housing market that continues to struggle with mortgage interest rates that meet or exceed 7%.

"The limited inventory of properties for sale has created a highly competitive market with fewer opportunities for buyers," remarked Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell. "Additionally, higher mortgage interest rates relative to what they were in 2020 and 2021 have made it more challenging for potential homeowners, especially first-time homebuyers, to secure affordable financing options, forcing some potential homeowners to put their dreams of purchasing a home on hold."

The Registry of Deeds recorded 8,015 documents in December 2023. This was 15% less than in December 2022 and a 7% decrease compared to November 2023.

"These declining numbers suggest a slowdown in the real estate market. A decrease in the number of deeds and mortgages, which make up a large portion of the total documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds, greatly impacts overall real estate activity," noted Register O'Donnell.

The total number of deeds recorded for December 2023, which reflects both commercial and residential real estate sales and transfers, was 1,235, down 3% from December 2022 and down 2% from November of last month.

"Property prices dropped significantly in December compared to last year, and the number of property transactions was also down, which may suggest that the property price alone is not the sole factor contributing to the decrease in the number of deeds recorded at the Registry," said Register O'Donnell.



Register of Deeds

William O'Donnell

The average sale price of commercial and residential properties for December 2023 fell to \$871,249, a 7% decrease compared to December 2022 and a decrease of 9% from November 2023. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 15% from last year and 14% from last month.

"Seasoned homebuyers are doubly affected by current market conditions, as they not only face higher borrowing costs but also have limited options to choose from. Additionally, although home loan interest rates are coming down a little but in some cases rates still exceed 7%, so these same homeowners are also less likely to refinance, leading to a decrease in the number of mortgages being recorded," said O'Donnell.

For the month of December, lending activity overall continued to decline from December of last year. A total of 1,124 mortgages were recorded, which is 19% less than last year and 4% less than last month.

"Those who took advantage of the lower interest rates in 2020 and 2021 are also less likely to refinance at current rates, and with property sales down, this results in a more pronounced decline in the number of mortgages recorded," said O'Donnell. "For individuals who are struggling to keep up

Real Estate Dip
Continued on page 6

Letters to the Editor

SENIORS IN NEED OF HELP!

To the Editor:

I propose that at age 75 there is a freeze put on senior's taxes. For example, if someone owes \$5,000 in taxes for the year at the age of 75, their taxes will remain as such until they either sell their home or die. It is true that there are several programs to help seniors with taxes, but many seniors are just above the income limit and cannot apply for those programs.

With all of the proposed projects throughout the town, it seems seniors are being taxed out of their homes. Seniors DO NOT have a weekly income and rely only on retirement funds, which are not a guaranteed amount and depend on the state of the economy, and this money has to last the REST OF THEIR LIVES. God forbid a catastrophic illness should hit; their savings would be wiped out

FYI: There is a 2-5 year wait for senior housing as there is limited housing for those of us 55 and older.

PLEASE HELP!

*Frances Kenney
Norwood*

WHY THE RUSH OVER 3A?

To the Editor:

As we enter the new year, Town officials are in a big rush to put their 3A development plans before Town Meeting in March. The question I have is, why? What is the big rush? This plan has gone from a suggestion to something that the state is forcing towns to do to. Now let's make it as big as possible and let's find ways to make developers as much money as possible.

If you watched the December 4 Planning Board meeting you would know what I am talking about. It went from the concept of the more apartments we build the more stores will come to Norwood which we all know did not and will

not happen, to let them have taller buildings with rooftop gardens for a city paradise. According to the experts, there won't be many cars in these complexes because everybody will be walking or taking the train. There will be very few children, even though these are referred to as multi-family apartments. There also will be no senior housing component in these developments. They are not allowed.

I would like to know how other towns are handling this. There are over 170 towns involved. Have we talked to any of them to see what their approach is? Also, a year ago Representative Rodgers and Senator Rush both said that they would see what they could do to ease the burden on the towns from this bill which they both backed. Have they done anything? I doubt it. I hope Town Meeting won't consider a vote on this issue in March. I think this is too important to push through without some very serious and real discussion. I would like to see Town officials consider what is best for Norwood, not what is best for Boston or the state and certainly not the developers.

*Henry Graham
Norwood*

SCIENCE IS EVER EVOLVING

To the Editor:

Science tells us the earth was a vastly different place when dinosaurs roamed the planet. One wonders how some contributors to these pages would have survived without the anonymity of the industrial age.

More disturbing though is this paper providing a platform to such a lengthy, disorganized espousal of fossilized "ideas." Doing so weakens our entire community and does nothing to foster meaningful discussion.

*Cashman Kerr Prince
Norwood*

Boch Signs *continued from page 1*

attorney representing Boch, David Hern. "This is one of the dealerships still run by the Boch family. Most of the others, as you know, were sold a number of years ago to DCD, now doing business under the name Nucar."

Hern said the company is requesting the sign change through the ZBA Special Permit process for two reasons. The first sign will simply say 'Boch' on the eastern facade's north side, and Hern said that is not only to show that Boch is keeping a presence on the Automile, but also to improve sight lines for drivers and make wayfinding to the dealership easier.

"The Maserati sign is their brand and style, but sometimes some of these signs that have a little bit of artistic flair to them are not so easy to read. But Boch?" he said. "You can read that. So if you're driving down the road, you'll see 'That's the place I'm looking for,' and it helps provide direction so people don't go sailing by and have

to figure out how to get back."

Hern said they are requesting two Maserati signs for the sides of the building, which, because of the curvature of Route 1 at this section, are more readily visible to drivers as they approach, and one identifying it as a Boch dealership for reasons mentioned above. One assumes the Boch Ferrari dealership right next door – the other dealership still run by the Boch family – could also help identify the spot.

The issue is the zoning law only allows one principal sign on the wall of any single business on Route 1. Hern said the code governing wall signs allows for each principal wall sign to take up 50 square feet or 5 percent of the building (if 5 percent of the building is larger than 50 square feet, the law allows for that rather than 50 square feet). He said the Boch sign and the Maserati sign combined would not go over that limit of 5 percent. The Boch sign would be about 14 square feet and, combined, would equal around 77 square feet.

"If the Boch sign were combined with the Maserati sign, I don't think we'd need relief, but because they're considered two separate signs, it's that Boch sign that requires relief," he said.

Hern cited the Norwood Zoning Bylaw Chapter 6.2.21 that allows the ZBA to issue a special permit for such a case as this, so long as it does "not result in substantial detriment to the neighborhood" (<http://tinyurl.com/3f2mm3x6>). He said he does not believe this will add a detriment to the neighborhood.

"We believe all of these signs are appropriate to the site to identify the dealer, to identify the brand, and in the case of the sign on the north side of the building, to identify the entrance to the building, which is a consideration when you're talking about secondary signs and what their purposes are," he said.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the new signs for the dealership.

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Looking Ahead to 2024 *continued from page 1*

The Planning Board will host a public hearing on the articles on February 12, at 7 pm at the Norwood Senior Center and online at the following Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/mhu-ifvs-njz>.


Another informational session for Town Meeting members will be held on February 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. (location TBD – check back on the town's website for details).

Planning Board staff will host Open Houses on Monday Jan 29 and Friday Feb 16 from 9-11 a.m. in Memorial Hall at Town Hall. Any members of the public are invited to drop by to preview the proposed changes and ask questions. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Planning Board staff will also host an Open Mic night on Monday, March 11 from 7-8:30 p.m. on Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/obu-tgtf-wbc>. This session will begin with a brief presentation on the proposed changes and then open to attendees for questions and comments.

The Annual Town Meeting is set to start on Monday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Norwood High School Auditorium. The second date is currently set for the following Thursday on May 16. This meeting will be more focused on the budget than anything else, and those dates are still tentative and not yet finalized.

In between those two is the



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Annual Municipal Election, set currently for April 1 (no fooling). Regular voting times are usually 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., though nothing has been announced at this time.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for office, the papers and necessary documents are currently available at the Town Clerk's Office at the Norwood Town Hall at 566 Washington St.

Completed paperwork to get on this year's ballot is due by next month, on Feb. 12.

Also, residents should keep their eyes peeled for upcoming meetings of the Norwood Public Schools Superintendent Search Committee. The School Committee Superintendent Search Subcommittee has been meeting since 2023 on this, but no dates have been nailed down as of yet for public meetings.

In terms of important events and traditions, the 2024 Dancing with the Norwood Stars is set for Friday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton on Route 1 in Norwood. The list of dancers has been announced, and in no particular order they are Sean Connolly, Meg Luizzo King, Nina Kelley, Emma Petracca, Sam White and Dave Dalton. Each dancer will be hosting fundraisers to support the Circle of Hope and the dance-off, so keep an eye on the Circle of Hope's social media at <https://www.facebook.com/NorwoodCOH/> to stay in the loop.

In the more immediate future, the Morrill Memorial Library has a couple of events this month detailing weather and how it can impact you and your home. The first is for Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. with the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) and will focus on green stormwater infrastructure.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m., the library is hosting National Weather Service Meteorologist Joe Delli Carpini to discuss the service and Norwood's winter outlook. It should be noted that the National Weather Service provides all the data for every weather prediction, and while different outlets may provide meteorological analysis, the National Weather Service is where they all get their data, so it might be a good first look for anyone who may, for example, want regular updates on predicted snowfall totals leading up to a storm (<https://www.weather.gov>).

Also coming up in January, the Norwood High School and the Norwood Historical Society are hosting an art exhibit at the Day House (93 Day St.) from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Students in the school's photography and advanced visual arts classes will be showcasing pieces based on what they saw at the Day House during a tour in the fall.

Looking back at last year, 2023 seems to be what most years were when taking stock of the old calendars: a pretty mixed bag.

Most impactful on the Town and the area was the devastating loss of Norwood Coakley Middle School student Tyler Lawrence in January of 2023. Lawrence was a 13-year-old seventh grade student who spent weekends with his grandparents in Mattapan. He was described as having a great sense of humor and a positive attitude by those who knew him. He was gunned down in Mattapan while visiting his grandparents. Csean Skerritt was arrested and charged with Lawrence's murder. Later in February, Lawrence's grandmother, Carol Lawrence, was found dead in her home from an apparent suicide.

The community came together on Feb. 5 to mourn Lawrence and keep his memory alive. Officials from Norwood and Boston met with residents and family to talk about Lawrence's impact on the community, and more than 450 people came out to celebrate his life.

More recently, State Rep. John Rogers presented a check for \$150,000 from the state budget towards the proposed playground at the Norwood Memorial Airport, to be named in memory of Lawrence. His mother, Remy Lawrence, and his grandfather, Stanley Lawrence, accepted the check on the Town's behalf.

Lawrence's death also indirectly resulted in the Norwood Police Department's adoption of Mustang Sally as the department's first therapy K-9 officer, as therapy dogs sessions were offered to students after Lawrence's death.

Moving on, the Norwood Hospital project had some major ups and downs this past year. First up was the topping off of the steel superstructure back in the spring. Around the same time, protests against the hospital moving its 62 psychiatric beds to Brockton sprung up (the plan to do so has now been rescinded, with no follow up presented at the date of publication).

An apparent stoppage of work by most of the subcontractors on the site was reportedly due to their not getting paid. The Town was then informed about a month or so after the stoppage was first noticed that work was resuming.

Also concerning construction projects, Norwood Town Meeting approved a zoning change to allow 150 apartment units to be built on Morse St., at the Space Center in South Norwood. The Space Center later announced in 2023 they would prefer to build 146 units instead, thus affecting the affordable housing numbers and the projected Town's subsidized housing inventory. If their request is approved, the additional units resulting from the

Space Center project may not help the Town stave off another potential 40B proposal.

On the public construction side, November Town Meeting voted to approve the Community Preservation Committee's recommendations which included a \$14-million plan for new water tanks over by the high school.

While some residents and Town Meeting members felt the towers were unnecessary or that they could be repaired, Public Works Superintendent Mark Ryan disagreed, stating the towers would need more money in repairs in a few years than what the full replacement would cost.

While not directly related to construction, the Town has been wrestling with the MBTA Communities Act, which is stipulating that all Towns with certain public transportation infrastructure be required to rezone areas near said infrastructure for more dense housing. The legislation, presented by former Republican Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker, is an effort to help tackle the state's housing crisis, which has seen prices skyrocket, keeping many prospective homeowners out of the market and pushing renters further and further away from the economic center of the state.

The idea is to create more dense zoning around transportation infrastructure so as to lessen the need for cars and therefore less parking requirements. Residents and officials continue to study how the legislation impacts Norwood, and are hopeful the Town can present a feasible plan at the upcoming March Town Meeting that will satisfy state requirements.

Did we miss something? Send an email to News@NorwoodRecord.com with the subject line "Letter to the Editor" to let us know!

Real Estate Dip *continued from page 4*

with payments, refinancing at a higher interest rate is not going to help."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds continues to closely monitor the foreclosure market. In December 2023, there were 6 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in December 2022, there were 4 recorded. The total number of notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, decreased from last year, going from 40 notices

in December 2022 to 26 in December 2023. This resulted in 35% decreases in the number of notices to foreclose.

"We all experience unforeseen events in our lives. Sometimes these events are beyond our control and can have a devastating impact on our finances. I would urge anyone struggling to pay their mortgage or who knows someone who is struggling to contact one of the non-profit organizations listed on our website, www.norfolkdeeds.org," said O'Donnell.

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 (617-770-2227) 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.

"The decrease in the number of documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds indicates a significant decline of

15% in real estate activity." O'Donnell concluded, "This could be attributed to various factors such as rising interest rates, a lack of available inventory, or elevated property prices. It will be important to monitor these trends and see how they impact the overall real estate market in the coming months."

To learn more about Registry of Deed's events and initiatives, like us on Facebook® at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on Twitter® at twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and Instagram® at [Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds).

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds is located at 649 High Street in Dedham. The Registry is a resource for homeowners, title examiners, mortgage lenders, municipalities, and others with a need for secure, accurate, and accessible land record information. All land record research information can be found on the Registry's website www.norfolkdeeds.org. Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center via telephone at (781) 461-6101 or email us at registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org.



The FinCom discussed special education finance issues coming to a head in the school system.

COURTESY PHOTO

FinCom hears issues concerning Special Education

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Norwood Director of Student Services Lori Cimeno came before the Norwood Finance Commission recently to discuss issues concerning a rapid increase in special education services required by the Norwood Public Schools (NPS) District.

Cimeno started with NPS' student eligibility number, which is the number of students who qualify for special education programming.

"Which you will see continues to increase each year," she said. "It continues to be a concern of ours that the number of students in our schools being

found eligible for special education continues to increase at this rate."

She said currently, Norwood has 933 students eligible for special education for the 2023-24 school year. For comparison, she said during the 2019-2020 school year, they had 722.

"So we are 200 kids higher in the five years I have been in Norwood," she said.

Cimeno said in terms of special education enrollment, the district has 205 students. She said that works out to about 20 to 21 percent enrollment of those eligible, and also represents a significant increase proportional to the overall eligibility.

There are currently approximately 3,400 students enrolled in the NPS. Back in November, the increased rate of special education eligibility was a motivating factor for a fund request from Town Meeting. At the time, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Strategy Charisse Taylor said the state average for eligibility is around 19 percent while Norwood was hovering around 25 percent. The proposed \$100,000 comprehensive review of School Department Student Services was passed, as it was pitched to figure out what Taylor said could be an over identi-

FinCom

Continued on page 10

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59 Austin Street, Hyde Park
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\$825,000 / Margie Vogt 617-212-7660



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Deaths

AMBRUSKEVICH



Jennie M. (Lewicki) Ambruskevich a lifelong resident of Norwood, passed away on December 29, 2023. She was 91 years old. Born and raised in Norwood, Jennie was a member of the Norwood Senior High School class of 1950. She was the dear and devoted wife of the late Chester Ambruskevich. Loving mother of Thomas V. Bernsen of Norwood. Cherished grandmother of Eric Bernsen and his wife Courtney of Boston. Dear mother-in-law of Lucia Arno-Bernsen of Belmont. Loving daughter of the late William and Stella (Kalukwicz) Lewicki. Funeral from the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home, 1248 Washington St. NORWOOD. Jennie will be laid to rest with her beloved Chester at Highland Cemetery in Norwood.

ANGSTADT



ERNEST S. passed away on Wednesday December 27, 2023, Ernest lost his hard fought battle after a short illness with his loving wife and step-daughter by his side. Born in Norfolk, VA, on November 29, 1960 to Ralph and Elizabeth Angstadt. His family relocated several times while he was young as his father served in the Navy. The family finally settled in Fall River, MA. A dedicated, hardworking and honorable individual, Ernie was an Information Technology professional for several corporations in the region over the years, most recently United Natural Foods. He had quite a few colleagues over the years that he counted among his many friends. A true sports fanatic Ernie loved football, collegiate and NFL as well. Weekends and late nights found him in front of the television as "there was always a game on somewhere". Ernie

leaves a legacy of love, honor and strength and his memory will be cherished by those who knew him, his loved ones and his extended family. He is survived by his loving wife, Lynne (McDevitt) Angstadt of Attleboro, MA who was grateful for every day they had together; his much-loved step-daughter Nicole Joia and her husband Scott of New Bedford, MA and his beloved granddaughter Gracie Joia of New Bedford, MA. He was also survived by his sisters: Patricia Angstadt of Fredrickberg, VA; Kathleen and her husband John Rezendes of Warren, RI and Margaret Dorgan of Leesburg, FL. He will be remembered fondly by his many nephews, nieces, and all their children. Ernie was pre-deceased by his parents Ralph and Elizabeth as well as his sister Judith Angstadt of Fall River and nephew Colin Rezendes of Warren, RI. Funeral from the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home, 1248 Washington St. Norwood, MA 02062. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at supportwoundedwarriorsproject.org, the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council at wrwc.org or Waterfire Providence at waterfire.org

MARCHIONDA



Albert D. Sr. of Norwood, formerly of Roslindale and Dorchester, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home on December 30, 2023. He was 91 years old. Albert was a proud US Army Veteran of the Korean War. He later worked for the First National Grocery Stores for over 30 years, before owning and operating Italiano pizza and sub shop in Roslindale along with his brothers and brother-in-law. Following retirement, he worked for his sons at Boschetto's Bakery in Roslindale and then at a local bakery in Walpole. Albert also kept busy, post retirement, working with his late friend Franny Folan of Folan's Landscaping. Albert was the dear and devoted husband of the late Antoinette (Mastro). Loving father of Nicholas Marchionda of Norwood and his late wife Joanne, Donna Powers and her husband Thomas of Norwood and Albert Marchionda Jr. of

Hyde Park and his late wife Robin. Cherished Grandpa of Kristen Femino, Melissa Sonia, Albert Marchionda, Jeffrey Powers, Devon Marchionda, Dana Powers, Michael Marchionda, Mark Powers, Claudia Marchionda and Nicholas Marchionda. Great-grandfather of Shea, Raymond, Violet, Albert, Michael, Ada, Stella, Mia and Luca. Dear brother of Lena Amichetti of Bridgewater and her late husband Tony, Joseph and his wife Jan of Brockton, and the late Guido, Anthony and Ralph Marchionda. Son of the late Nicola and Domenica (Balassonne) Marchionda. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Funeral from the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home, 1248 Washington St. NORWOOD. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Albert's memory may be made to the Circle of Hope PO Box 421 Norwood, MA 02062. Proud US Army Veteran of the Korean War. Albert will be laid to rest with his beloved Antoinette at Highland Cemetery in Norwood.

McCOLGAN



Donald Simon of Danby, VT, formerly of Norwood, passed away suddenly in his home in Danby, VT on November 8, 2023 at the age of 67. Beloved son of the late Robert M. and Aldona (Razulevich) McColgan. Devoted father of Aldona McColgan and Cherie Rodowsky. Brother of Robert J. and Zetta McColgan of FL, Richard and Nancy McColgan of Norwood, Stephen and Dianne McColgan of Plainville, Dennis McColgan of Attleboro, Anne (McColgan) and John Adams MD of Wrentham and Janet (McColgan) and Mark Sweeney of Norton. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews. Donald was born on August 19, 1956 in Norwood, MA. Donald was called "The miracle baby" at Boston Floating hospital because he was miraculously cured of Nephrosis. "Donny" as he was known, grew up on Garfield Ave in Norwood. After graduating from Boca Raton High School

Deaths

Continued on page 9

SCHMATZLER

Laura Ellen, of Norwood, formerly of Westwood, age 65, passed away on December 29, 2023 surrounded by loving family, beloved ones, and dear friends. Born in 1958 with Down Syndrome, her family was told to bring her home and love her, but she was not expected to live very long. In an era in which little was expected or considered possible for someone with Down Syndrome. Laura exceeded expectations. Now, 65



years later, hers is the story of a dedicated family, and loved ones, and an individual with curiosity, love and determination, and someone who was blessed with self confidence. Laura exceeded all expectations, including typical childhood developmental milestones. She had a wonderful sense of humor, and was up to trying new adventures. Laura attended a special nursery school in Norwood and then entered the Westwood school system when classes were separated for individuals with special needs. Blessed with two incredibly devoted teachers (Mrs. Dorley and Miss Jackson), she learned to read, write, and do basic arithmetic. During this period of time she also learned to swim with her friends at the Needham YMCA. In high school there were many cross educational opportunities for school activities between the special classes and traditional students – to the great benefit of both. She also became a Brownie and a Girl Scout. When Laura was about 10 years old she travelled with her family to visit her sister Natalie who was in the Peace Corps in Venezuela. Laura was also a huge animal lover and was blessed with a wonderful German Shepherd named Dino. Laura began developing an interest in art, and was enrolled in the Good Hearts art studio in Walpole, where she painted and also participated in exhibits. In 1980 Laura graduated in cap and gown from Westwood High School. She soon became an employee of Hire Enterprises, a workshop in Walpole, and later became a dedicated employee of Siemens company (formerly Bayer) of Walpole, specializing in piecework and assembly. Laura also worked a second job as an artist with Gateway Special Arts in Brookline and considered herself a "Master Artist." Like her father before her, she was a long term member of the Boylston Schul Verein German Club of Walpole, and was a regular on the dance floor at Otoberfest and Sommerfest, and a very proud German-American. Laura was also an annual June camper at Camp Fatima Special Needs Week in Gilmanton, New Hampshire. In later years, she became a regular traveler with Trips R Us, a wonderful special travel agency in Framingham, and made many exciting trips throughout the United States. Always up for social engagements, Laura loved spending holidays with family members, routinely sent a Christmas card to the President ("they work very hard"), insisted the family donate to Jerry Lewis and Muscular Dystrophy every Labor Day, was a regular bowler at the Norwood Sports Center, loved Lifeworks dances, days of "beauty", bumper cars, and enjoyed miniature golf. One very special trip she loved was to a family member wedding at Disney World, and Universal Studios where she got to experience the Harry Potter exhibit. She also had a fabulous 60th birthday party with family at the Chateau Restaurant (she called it the Shadow Restaurant) in Norwood and was the toast of the town. In 2004, Laura moved out of the family home in Westwood to the Lifeworks Chatham House in Norwood as part of a class action lawsuit representing special needs individuals. She was ready to live in an apartment and got to pick her own room, paint color and furniture. The family is most grateful to Lifeworks and the Chatham Street Group Home for all the love and support they have provided over the years. The family is also grateful to the Victoria Haven Rehabilitation Center in Norwood and to Old Colony Hospice for their help and dedication during the last year of her life. Laura was the adored daughter of the late Karl Heinz and Natalie Thomas Woodward Schmatzler, and the step-daughter of Joseph Walsh. She was the dear sister of Natalie Woodward of Norwood and the step-sister of Mary Walsh, Bill Walsh, Jay Walsh, John Walsh, and Michael Walsh. She is also survived by her Aunt Ann Woodward, her loving cousins from the Thomas, Woodward, Schmatzler, and Walsh families. Laura also leaves her dear friend and co-guardian, Paula Praeger, and the residents and staff of the Lifeworks Chatham House. Funeral from the Folsom & May Funeral Home, 85 Nichols Street, Norwood. Interment in Blue Hill Cemetery, Braintree. Donations in Laura's memory may be made to the Lifeworks Recreation Program, 789 Clapboardtree St., Westwood, MA 02090 or to Gateway Arts, 62 Harvard St., Brookline, MA 02445 would be appreciated.

Deaths *continued from page 8*

he entered the US Navy where he proudly served his country. He loved his family, friends and also had a great love for the outdoors. Funeral from the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home, 1248 Washington St. Norwood, MA. Burial at Highland Cemetery, Norwood, MA. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the New England Shelter Veterans Home 17 Court St. #2601 Boston, MA 02108 www.nechv.org

McMORROW

DAVID J. III "Skip" of Halifax, formerly of Norwood, passed away on January 2, 2024 at the age of 42. Beloved son of David J. McMorrow Jr. and Maureen R. (Wall) McMorrow



of Norwood. Loving brother of Brandon J. McMorrow and his wife Liz of Whitman. Cherished uncle of Brandon Jr and Natalie. David was a Corrections Officer at the Old Colony Correctional Center in Bridgewater. Skip worked for the MA Department of Corrections for 16 years. Funeral from the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home. Burial at Highland Cemetery, Norwood, MA. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the Circle of Hope Foundation P.O Box 421 Norwood, MA 02062.

NOLAN

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen J., 66, of Kewaunee, WI, loving husband of 43 years to Kathryn (Weiss) Nolan, passed away peacefully in Newtown, CT with his family by his side on December 27, 2023. He was born in



Norwood, MA on September 18, 1957, a son of the late Paul and Margaret (Falconer) Nolan. Besides his wife Kathryn, Stephen leaves his children Andrea Hoover and her husband Chad, Michael Nolan, John Nolan and his wife Erica, his sister Anne Marie Finneran and her husband Chris, grandchildren Nolan and Brett Hoover and Raymond Nolan, and several nieces and nephews. A graduate of Norwood High School Class of 1975, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and his Master's Degree at Webster University. Stephen served 23 years in the United States Army. Beginning his service with the 82nd Airborne, he deployed to Grenada in 1983. He went on to command a battery with the 1st Battalion 76th Field Artillery Regiment in Schweinfurt, Germany and an MLRS battery with the 10th Field Artillery Regiment in Bamberg, Germany. Serving with the Marine Corps out of MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, he deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia in 1993. He

subsequently went on to deploy with the 21stTAACOM out of Kaiserslautern, Germany to Croatia in 1998. Stephen retired out of the 5th U.S. Army at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas in 2002, receiving the Legion of Merit. Following his retirement from active duty, he worked for the Department of Defense as a Congressional Liaison at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon his retirement in 2021, he received the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal. In his free time, Stephen enjoyed traveling with his wife Kathryn, where they fished around the world, spending time with his grandsons, and hunting with his beloved dogs Penny and Nina. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 11:00am DIRECTLY at St. Stephen Church, 6948 Main St. Trumbull, CT. Interment with Military Honors was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 in the Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, N2665, County Rd. QQ, King, WI. 54596. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his name may be made to Stephen's favorite charities Smile Train, Inc. (www.smiletrain.org) and Tunnel to Towers Foundation (www.t2t.org). For on-line condolences, please see Stephen's obituary at: www.beecherandbennett.com.

TAEGER

Larry Robert, a longtime resident of Norwood, died Thursday, December 28, 2023 at his home in Norwood at the age of 92. Bob was born November 17, 1931 in Trout Creek,



Michigan, a son of Aili H. (Piirto) and Larry Arnold Taeger. After high school he attended classes at Boston University before being inducted into the Air Force during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge from the service in 1955 he married Ruth Doris (Iarrobino) and initially pursued a career with the Yale Company in Wellesley and later with Northland Industries in Wilmington, as a hydraulic repairman, and finally with Eastern Industries in Norwood. Bob was a member of the Norwood DAV, and frequently attended Veteran's events. He was an active member of Orient Lodge, AF & AM of Norwood, the First Baptist Church of Norwood, and he volunteered at the Norwood Food Pantry. He was the husband of the late Ruth Doris Taeger who predeceased him in 2021. Bob is survived by his son David R. Taeger, and his wife Cathi, of Norton, and his daughter, Bonnie Taeger-Kimball, and her husband Mike, of Quincy. He was also the father of the late Mark A. Taeger. Bob was the brother of Jane Aileen (Taeger) Wiljanen, and her husband Wayne. He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters-in-law Clifford, Jacob, Matthew, and Myrna Taeger, Lloyd Marvin and Virginia Taeger, Gerald Wilbert Taeger, David Allen Elroy, and Sharon Taeger. He also leaves his five grandchildren, Nadine, Jimmy, Kristi, Carly, and Ramona, and his two great grandchildren, Amelie and Lisanne. Funeral from the Folsom & May Funeral Home, 85 Nichols Street, Norwood. Interment in The Gardens at Gethsemane Cemetery in West Roxbury. Donations to the Norwood Food Pantry, 150 Chapel Street, Norwood, MA 02062 would be appreciated.

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Obituary Policy

The Norwood Record publishes obituaries from information supplied by funeral homes. Relatives and friends also may supplement information by e-mailing to news@norwoodrecord.com by Monday at 1 p.m. Photos also will be accepted.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
NORWOOD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

In accordance with the requirements of Norwood Local Bylaw Article 47 Section 2.1, the Community Preservation Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood, MA 02062. This meeting will be held in a hybrid format where Committee members and the public may choose to attend in-person or remotely using Google Meet at: <https://meet.google.com/hda-kniw-eya> or by dialing in at: 402-946-0125 Access Code: 547 694 165#.

This public hearing is the third of three hearings being scheduled to accept questions and comments on applications for CPA funding. The proposed projects under consideration at this hearing include: (1) funding to restore the blue room fireplace at the Fred Holland Day House; and (2) funding to improve the park parcel at the corner of Washington and Mylod Streets. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Community Development Department at Town Hall during normal business hours.

Joseph Sheehan
Chairman

Norwood Record: 1/11/24, 1/18/24

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE **DOCKET No. NO23P3548EA**

Estate of: Patricia Marie Willett **Norfolk Division**
Also known as: Patricia M. Willett
Date of Death: September 03, 2023

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate and, by Petition of **Petitioner Fred T. Willett, Jr. of Burnt Hills, NY**
a Will has been admitted to informal probate
Fred T. Willett, Jr. of Burnt Hills, NY
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Norwood Record: 01/11/2024

Monday, January 1

0835 Phone - PD-Unwanted Party Spoke With Location/Address: CVS Pharmacy - Nahatan St Business line caller reports that a black female in her 50's or 60's wearing an orange shirt, and white sunglasses has been asked to leave the store and she is refusing to leave. Workers report she is an on-going issue and has been asked to leave prior. She has not been trespassed from the store. The female party left prior to officer's arrival. Management has been spoken to. Female party has been spoken to. Advised of letter of disinvite.

1655 Phone - PD-Breaking & Entering Report Follows Location/Address: Norwest Dr 911 caller reports her neighbors from the upstairs apartment are trying to break into her apartment. She states her boyfriend pushed them back out into the hallway. She described them as a really big man, and two women. She says she did not see any weapons. RP reports the only interaction she has had with her upstairs neighbor was yesterday they went to tell her neighbors to turn the music down. Units clear. All parties were spoken to. Incident investigated.

Tuesday, January 2

0254 Initiated - PD-Suspicious Activity Services Rendered Location/Address: CVS Pharmacy - Nahatan St 667 reports party asleep behind the building, possibly same party who was transported this morning Male party verbally trespassed from CVS. Courtesy ride is being given to male party back to the station.

1414 Phone - PD-Disturbance Report Follows Location/Address: Oxford Rd Business line caller reports that she met a male party from a dating app and now the male party is not letting her leave. She cannot separate herself from the male party.

2101 911 - PD-Motor Vehicle Complaint Report Follows Location/Address: Bos-Prov Hwy RTE 1 South F350 Color white; MA REG 7WKP20. MV all over the road. Unable to keep marked

lanes. Traveling in BDL and riding too close to other operators OFC has vehicle stopped. Requested a second cruiser. Tow requested. HQ placing the call. Don and Wally's en route for the vehicle. NWD 667 standing by for a tow. Tow has vehicle. NWD 667 clear. Arrest: Basmajian, Abraham Address: 160 Washington Street, Apt 9, Plainville, MA Age: 62 Charges: OUI-Liquor OR .08%, 3rd Offense Negligent Operation Of Motor Vehicle State Highway—Traffic Violation

Wednesday, January 3

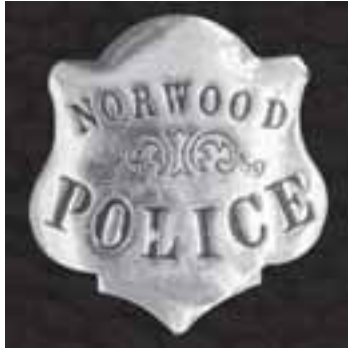
Thursday, January 4 0801 Phone - PD-Animal Complaint Animal Control Notified Location/Address: Rock St Caller stating there is a skunk in her driveway that is twitching and jerking, appears to be unwell. ACO Briana responding.

1232 Phone - PD-Suspicious Activity Report Follows Location/Address: Residence Inn by Marriott - Norwood Park S Gun Found Under Mattress Caller states that while Housekeeping was cleaning room 411 that a firearm was found under the mattress. 667 retrieved the item and is taking an OF. It is confirmed the item is an airsoft gun.

1546 Phone - PD-Disturbance Arrest(s) Made Location/Address: Citizens Bank - Bos-Prov Hwy Possible bank fraud. Male - black hat black leather jacket light beard in back now. Male party trying to cash a check amounting in 1,500.00 666 returning to the station with one male party under arrest. Arrest: Serrette, Ashlee Marie Address: 1007 Hyde Park Ave Hyde Park, Ma Age: 21 Charges: Utter False Check Attempted Larceny

1648 Phone - PD-Assist Public Spoke With Location/Address: Maple St Walk in seeking advice regarding their neighbor at Maple St. who damaged a package that was delivered to the reporting party. On-going neighbor issue. They have been spoken too and advised of all options. Have also been advised to call when the neighbor issue is happening.

The Norwood Record

Police Logs**Friday, January 5**

1157 Phone - PD-Animal Complaint Services Rendered Vicinity of: Springvale Rd + Prospect St. Call for a wandering medium sized dog wearing a collar. Referred to Animal control (Henry).

1844 Phone - PD-Parking Violation Services Rendered Location/Address: Washington St. From HQ for a handicap parking violation, Honda Civic. Norwood 661 reports attempting to make contact with the registered owner of the vehicle and is unsuccessful. Parking ticket issued, all units clear.

2017 Phone - PD-Disturbance Services Rendered Location/Address: McDonalds - Union/Rte1 - Bos-Prov Hwy Caller states she is being verbally attacked by another female. Caller is in a black Denali and other female is in a newer black Suburban All started over the female parking in a handicap spot. Caller states the other female left but will wait for police. She has the plate and a picture. Norwood 676 reports speaking to the calling party. It appeared to be a verbal argument over a handicap space. Other vehicle left prior to units arrival, calling party advised, all units clear.

Saturday, January 6

0111 Initiated - PD-Suspicious Activity Services Rendered Location/Address: St Timothy

Church - Nichols St Norwood 663 reports checking on a vehicle. Norwood 663 reports that operator was taking a nap after work. All units clear. 0614 Phone - PD-Suspicious Activity Services Rendered Location/Address: CVS Pharmacy - Nahatan St Employees of the store called over to report a male party asleep inside the building, they would like him removed. Norwood 665 reports that party was moved along from the area, manager satisfied. All units clear.

1353 Radio - PD-Lost/Found Property Report Follows Location/Address: Avalon Apartments - Lenox St Call from HQ reporting party in the lobby requesting to speak to an officer regarding packages that have been possibly stolen.

1813 Phone - PD-Disturbance Services Rendered Location/Address: Hill St 5-6 teenagers fighting on Hill St. Parties include all boys and 1 girl, unable to get a clear description. The victim was last seen heading towards Roosevelt St. The group of teenagers were last seen heading towards Eisenhower St. One calling party stated 2-3 of the involved walked towards Neponset from Hill Street. Norwood 667 was able to make contact with one of the involved juveniles, Norwood 661 off with another involved juvenile at this time. Norwood 667 reports speaking with a juvenile's parents off of

Washington St. Norwood 667 headed to the address of another involved juvenile to speak with the parents. Norwood 667 reports a physical altercation occurred between 4 friends. No injuries at this time, Norwood 667 spoke to the juveniles and families and advised them of their options. All units clear.

1836 Phone - PD-Assist Fire Department Services Rendered Location/Address Juniper Dr 911 caller reporting a possible house fire. Norwood 664 reports a homeowner burning a Christmas tree, no house fire. All units clear.

Sunday, January 7

1230 Phone - PD-Assist Public Spoke With Location/Address: Ridgewood Dr Female party wants to report possible fraud. Female party was questioning a phishing phone call. She was advised to contact her bank or financial institution. No information or financials were given.

1454 Phone - PD-Motor Vehicle Complaint Gone on arrival Location/Address: Norwood Depot - Railroad Ave Sedan is described as doing donuts in the parking lot. GOA. Clear.

2246 Phone - PD-Suspicious Activity Services Rendered Location/Address: Bornwood Dr Caller reporting his neighbor's car is in the driveway running. Everything checks out, party was warming up her vehicle

FinCom *continued from page 7*

fication problem.

Cimeno said at FinCom that they are also tracking students who are both English Language Learners (ELL) and special education students, and that these students receive more attention in the identification process to make sure that their struggles in the classroom are due to special education needs and not because they are also learning English.

Cimeno then discussed students moving into the district.

"Those (students) are a big wildcard for the Student Services Department," she said.

She said students coming into the district fluctuate year-to-year, and so it is difficult to predict what the overall number will be in any given year. She said in the 2022-23 school year, they had 47 students move into the district who were already eligible for special education, and 10 of those came requiring transportation.

"The 2023-24 school year, to date, we have 33 students enrolled with (existing Individualized Education Plans [IEP]," she said. "The law requires us to take their IEP as-is and implement it as closely as possible to the IEP from which they are coming from (prior school district). I can tell you anecdotally, we have received a lot of IEPs from Boston and the service

structure is significantly stronger than ours is here in Norwood, due to the fact that they have significantly more resources in their district than we do. So it has been very difficult to actually implement some of those IEPs."

And Cimeno said this can lead to out-of-district placements, which leads to more transportation costs.

"We always try to meet the needs of the IEP in-district, but there are times that we cannot," she said.

Cimeno said they have also seen 18 students move into the district with existing out-of-district placements.

"This number is staggering," she said, and they currently have around 82. "We have made a very conscious effort to bring kids back from out-of-district and support their needs in-district. That to me is the biggest wildcard we have though; I mean 18 students in the last two years requiring out-of-district placements that we had no decision-making in is very difficult to respond to."

She added that they are now also working on a new IEP form the state that Ma wants implemented this year.

"I think it's going to take us two years to have it fully up and running and implemented and know what that impact really is," she said.

December Citizens of the Month!

Grade 8: Juliet Boucher, Chase Hogan, Michaela Canedo, Jaelynn Feliciano

Grade 7: Lydia Priebe, Riley Creamer, Emily Morgan

Grade 6: Juan Sanchez-Ledezma, Eluana Guedes De Melo, Julianna Ketchel

Congratulations to the December winners of Dr. Philip O. Coakley Middle School's Citizen of the Month. Citizens of the Month exemplify the school's mission statement and are chosen by teachers and staff.

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Morrill Library Events

Registration is required and free for all events below unless otherwise indicated. Sign up at norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar, or call the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200 x2.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN NORWOOD

The Morrill Memorial Library is partnering with the Town of Norwood and the Neponset River Watershed Association to offer a presentation about stormwater management in Norwood on Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00pm in the Simoni Room.

Join NepRWA Green Infrastructure Specialist, Anna Yie; Norwood Assistant Director of Community Development, Holly Jones; and Stormwater Utility Committee member, Alan Slater, as they discuss the impacts of climate change on stormwater and the changes we can expect to see locally.

Stormwater is the rain and snowmelt that flows off of roofs and pavements into pipes that discharge to waterways and wetlands. Many of those pipes were built in the 1920s and 1930s—when jazz was popular, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote, commercial radio took off, Charlie Chaplin delighted cinemagoers... and Norwood had more streetcars and less cars, more swamps and wetlands and less parking lots. Back then, Norwood's storms were not usually as big, and big storms were not as frequent, as they are today—and as we expect to see in the future. Norwood now contends with stormwater pipes and other infrastructure that just isn't big enough. Our pipes also don't do all the good things that the forests and swamps do, such as clean the runoff, store it, and help serve as a buffer for both floods and droughts. To be ready for the future, we have some catching up to do.

This presentation will cover some ideas we have about how we can act now to be ready for what may prove to be a stormy future. Discussion will include designs for stormwater improvement projects at the Savage Center and Cleveland School, as well as Norwood's proposed stormwater utility fee. A Q&A will follow the presentation.

Registration is required for this in-person event.

TRIVIA NIGHT!

The Morrill Memorial Library is excited to challenge you to a fun night of trivia on Tuesday, January 16 starting at 7pm in the Simoni Room of the Library!

Register as a team of up to 4 people, or really test your mettle and play solo. Questions will range widely in subject and increase in difficulty with each new round. Trivia questions are geared toward adults in content and challenge rating; this event is recommended for players 16 and older. We'll keep score over the course of the evening, but please note that we'll be playing for bragging rights only.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY MOVIE FRIDAY

The Morrill Memorial Library is offering an in-person sensory-friendly movie on the 4th Friday of the month for adults with intellectual and develop-

mental disabilities.

Join us for our Sensory-friendly Friday movie at the Library! This program will be held in-person in the Simoni Room on Friday January 26, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Our January movie in the Sensory-friendly Friday movie series is Disney's Elemental, rated PG.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY LEGO NIGHT FOR ADULTS

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to partner with the L.E.A.D. program affiliated with Norwood High School to host a Sensory-friendly Lego Club for Adults. Our January Lego club meeting will be held in-person at the library on Thursday January 25, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

Please join the L.E.A.D. students in this creative adventure. Just bring your imagination - we will provide the Legos. The Club is free, inclusive, and open to anyone ages 18+. It is specially designed for adults with different levels of abilities.

QIGONG CLASSES

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to announce a series of Qigong classes on four Thursday evenings in January with David Sholemson of 3 Body Healing Arts. The program is called 3 Body Qigong for Health and Healing and will take place from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm on January 11, 18, and 25.

David will be teaching the attendees the practice of 3 Body Qigong. This form of Qigong helps to energize your body, mind and spirit. It has been known to reduce stress, depression, and negative emotions by improving the flow of energy in your body and quieting your mind. This 4-week series will include body tapping, meridian stretching, practicing/learning to feel energy, and music meditation/sound healing. Start the new year with a positive plan to improve your health and re-discover that peaceful place within.

The class will be standing and seated as well as on the ground so please bring a mat. Movements can be adapted to be done in the chair. Please arrive 5-10 minutes before class as we will begin at 6:30pm promptly.

Separate registration is required for each session.

MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to launch Monday Movie Matinee, a film series starting on January 8. The se-

ries will run from January - May. The films will be shown on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 1PM. Movie dates are: 1/22, 2/12, 2/26, 3/11, 3/25, 4/22, 5/13. January movies are: A Man Called Otto (126 mins) and Asteroid City (105 mins).

THE WONDERS & WOES OF AI

Morrill Memorial Library is thrilled to announce that our very own Library Director, Clayton Cheever, will give a presentation, "The Byte Side of Life: The Wonders & Woes of AI," on Monday, January 29 at 7:00pm in the Simoni Room.

Ready for a tech-tastic experience? Embark on an exhilarating journey into the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI)! Join Library Director Clayton Cheever for a captivating exploration of the "byte side of life"—where we demystify the complexities, celebrate the wonders, and talk frankly about the risks of AI. This program promises insights, wonders, and a glimpse into the future.

NORWOOD'S WINTER OUTLOOK

The Morrill Memorial Library welcomes Joe Delli Carpini, the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service's Boston office in Norton, for a presentation "About the National Weather Service & Norwood's Winter Outlook," on Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00pm in the Simoni Room of the Library.

This presentation will begin with a brief overview of the National Weather Service, which is a federal agency located within the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In addition to issuing warnings and forecasts, Joe will also discuss some of the other duties that the staff at the Boston/Norton office is involved in, including climate data, research, and outreach. Joe will mention a few ways people can become involved in reporting weather to the NWS, and provide an update of the official NOAA Winter Outlook for the Norwood area. The presentation will review what a "normal" winter looks like for Norwood, see how snowfall and temperatures have trended so far, and discuss some of the global influences such as El Niño, which is expected to dominate through the winter. Finally, Joe will give a best "guess" as to how much snow can be expected for Norwood.

About the presenter: Joe Delli Carpini is a meteorologist, and is the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service's Boston office in Norton, Massachusetts. He has over 30 years of forecasting experience. He has been a Norwood resident with his wife Kelly and two children since 1996.

For the Record

FRIENDS MONTHLY BALLROOM DANCE

The Friends of the Norwood Council on Aging will be sponsoring their monthly Ballroom Dance, on Friday, January 19th from 7-10 p.m. at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St., Norwood. Music will be provided by the D B Band and the cost is \$12.00 per person for your Ballroom Dancing pleasure. Coffee, tea, desserts & water are served & there are also door prizes. We look forward to welcoming newcomers of all ages.

There is a Facebook page so you can check the status of events offered by the Friends: Friends Of The Norwood Council On Aging | Facebook

WOMAN'S CLUB FOOD DRIVE

On January 16th, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m., the Norwood Woman's Club will be collecting the following items in the Knights of Columbus parking lot, 572 Nichols St. or will accept checks made out to the Norwood Food Pantry. Everyone is invited to stop by with a donation.

Items particularly in need of include instant mashed potatoes (13oz), instant rice, tea (black, green or herbal), coffee (instant, regular or decaf), jams/jellies, crackers (graham, Ritz, Townhouse, Triscuits, Saltines) white albacore tuna or small canned chicken, pasta (ziti, penne, elbows, spaghetti etc) pasta sauce (tomato, marinara, tomato basil etc.), oatmeal (small canisters- instant and old fashioned).

MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT GROUP TO MEET

The South Norfolk Mental Illness Family and Friends Support Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 16, at The Grange, 28 Rockwood Road (Route 115) in Norfolk, MA from 7-9 pm. Mask if you will.

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.

We welcome all families in the South Norfolk Area who are dealing with mental illness and their loved ones. For further information call Ray at 508-668-2941.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERIES

Superintendent David Thomson is pleased to announce that Norwood Public Schools has partnered with McLean Hospital for a series of online events focusing on youth mental health.

Implemented during the 2022-2023 school year, NHS Leaders in Youth Mental Health Parent Series is an ongoing series in partnership with McLean Hospital meant to provide caregivers with information and strategies to navigate raising children and providing mental health support for them.

The series will feature a guest appearance by various McLean practitioners.

Events include:

Parenting in the Context of Anxiety: What Parents Need to Know to Support Their Children and Themselves: Jan.17, from 9-10 a.m. Understanding Transgender and Non-Binary Youth: March 8, from 9-10 a.m. Understanding Pediatric Anxiety Disorders and OCD: March 22, from 12-1 p.m. Partnering with Schools for Services and Supports: April 5, from 9-10 a.m.

In addition to this series, Norwood High School partners with McLean Hospital for clinical consultations to best support student mental health needs, staff professional development, and a private parent mental health series on topics of interest to Norwood families.

NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CAN IMPROVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Norwood Toastmasters Club, a not-for-profit educational organization is well into its 25th year! We develop communication and leadership skills for our members and the community at every level of ability. Guests are always welcome to come and see just how we do it! Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We meet from 6:45 until 8:30 p.m. at the Lydon Suite in the Norwood Civic Center, 165 Nahatan St. in Norwood, Massachusetts. Please visit our website: <https://norwoodtoastmaster.toastmastersclubs.org/> for additional information."

VFW MEAT RAFFLE


The Norwood V.F.W. Post 2452 hosts a Meat Raffle every Saturday from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The Meat Raffle is open to the Public and everyone is welcome. The price for each Drawing is only \$2.00. Ten Drawings are conducted each Saturday. A Pre-Buy for \$20.00 is available during the week at the Post. This 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 Drawings also include a 50/50 Money Raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5.00. The Norwood VFW is located at 193 Dean Street in Norwood. The Meat Raffle will continue every Saturday thru May.

The Norwood VFW is looking for new members. Veterans of the Gulf War, and personnel who have served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan are welcome to visit the post at any time or come to one of the Monthly Meetings which are held on the Fourth Wednesday of each Month from September thru May (Except December).

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