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Spectacle was the name of the game this weekend, and while the weather didn't cooperate, Norwood still came out in droves to see this year's parade. **More photos on Page 7.**

PHOTOS BY JEFF SULLIVAN

July 4 Parade doesn't let rain rain on its parade

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The rain was light but constant on Saturday morning for the Norwood Fourth of July Parade on July 3.

Needless to say, many changes made this year's parade a challenge for organizers, as they had only about two months to prepare for the event that usually takes six. However, the more than 1,000 onlookers and participants who came out gave evidence to the notion that the parade was in no way diminished from previous years.

Fire trucks, police trucks, Town officials, marching bands, hip hop bands, little leagues, softball leagues, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Military Police, the Colonial Boys, unicyclists, Polish Lancers, car dealerships and more lent their vehicles, their feet, their instruments and their hooves to the parade's finery.

Norwood Police Department Chief William Brooks walked the entirety of the parade.

"I'm so glad they put it on," he said. "The Rec Department did a wonderful job. The excitement and enthusiasm from our supporters despite the weather is

great to see as well."

Resident and U.S. Navy Officer Monica Johnson said she's been in the Town six weeks, and in that time she said she can already tell Norwood's not like anywhere else.

"It's awesome," she said. "I've been to lots of parades in my life. I just moved here from D.C. because of a change in my deployment... It's just great to see a town come out like this. To me, moving here, it just shows that I moved to the right town. I've lived in 15 or 16 states and transferred a lot, but I'm very happy to have moved here."

Resident Marlene Cianci said she was very happy to be out and about during her favorite holiday. She said she noticed this year the parade is just a bit reduced, but she still loved it and said she was amazed to see so many residents out in the bad weather to support Norwood's celebration of the Declaration of Independence of the United States.

"I think it's fine," she said. "I mean, you can't get all the marching bands up here on such short notice, but it's amazing to see it happen. And it's just been filling up since we got here and it's been a great response. I just feel bad

when the bands don't have people to cheer for them, and we're glad to do that."

She added she was so happy to see the turnout after so many events had to be canceled last year.

"Without it last year I was really bummed, and without the fireworks in Walpole especially," she said.

Resident Anand Sabesan said he and his family feel the atmosphere at this year's celebration was somewhat unique.

Parade

Continued on page 3

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FOUR POINTS
BY SHERATON

Norwood



Garage variance sparks fairness debate on Florence Avenue

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) met on July 6 for its regular meeting at the Public Safety Building on Nahatan Street in Norwood.

The Board voted to continue a hearing on a proposal from Haydar Ali to demolish his current garage at his residence on 47 Florence Ave. and replace it with a larger one. Ali said he has a small car and a large truck, his wife has an SUV and they are looking to increase space because his two daughters are growing up fast, and parking on the street is at best a hassle.

Currently, Ali said he gets along fine with his neighbor. They go fishing together and have the occasional pool party at Ali's house. But the issue is that they share a driveway and they do not share similar working hours.

Ali said he has to get up at 5:30 a.m. for work and he said waking up the neighbors every morning at that time to move their cars from the shared driveway is not something he is prepared to do. So now, he takes fines for parking on the street.

The issue is that the current house and garage is a nonconforming use. ZBA Chair Scott Murphy had suggested at a previous meeting that the applicant come back with a special permit application and not for a variance – which Ali had tried before – but Ali's attorney, Mary Ann McKittrick, said the special permit process does not allow for increasing an existing nonconforming use, and therefore wouldn't be applicable here.

McKittrick said that Ali's current vehicles are part of his career and he needs a large Dodge Ram for his work.

The variance requested is for side and rear setback next to Ali's neighbor's property line. The garage cannot be moved further away from the property line with its proposed dimensions – which Ali said needed to be large enough for his current vehicles, otherwise he does not feel the renovation would be worth doing – because there is a pool in the way.

Murphy and ZBA member Paul Eysie pointed out that a variance does not give the Board a lot of wiggle room on what they can allow by variance. The conditions of the variance application must fall

into all three categories set up by the state: the Board must find that the project does not bring any substantial detriment to the public good, that current conditions for the proposal create a hardship on the proponent, and that any soil conditions, shape or topography conditions make it impossible to follow the zoning code as it stands.

The Board tried to find all these conditions, but to no avail. Murphy said he could almost get to two, but all three need to be addressed.

Members Mary Daly and Shannon Greenwell said they felt that allowing the variance for this would not be detrimental to the neighborhood, but Eysie said he felt the Board needed to enforce its regulations fairly for all applicants.

"I just feel like everybody should be treated fairly," he said.

But then McKittrick threw them a bit of a curve ball. She pointed to a neighbor at 41 Florence Ave. who had basically done the same thing in 2018 through a special permit. She said as far as she could determine, the existing nonconforming use of the 41 Florence Ave. garage – in this case its dimensions – were



The issue with this garage is that it cannot be moved further west, as it would impact the pool that was built before the Ali family moved in.

COURTESY PHOTO

expanded and that project was approved by the ZBA at the time.

It should be noted that at that time, no members of the current Board were on the ZBA.

"I don't know anything about that," Eysie said. "I don't know if he did it by right or if he had a special permit, a variance or what year."

McKittrick pointed out the neighbor's application was a special permit.

"I don't understand why it's a special permit," she said. "This is why I'm confused. We have an existing garage. It's slightly under 15 feet. It's not as close to

the side lot line. It looks as if this Board issued a special permit in that case, because they were replacing an existing garage, and the existing garage was nonconforming. But it wasn't along the same line... You definitely increased (the nonconforming use). I can't agree that it's fair. That's all I'm saying to you having seen this case."

The Board voted to continue the hearing so that members could familiarize themselves with the previous case and figure out whether or not the current application could be submitted as a special permit.



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NAC meeting virtually sabotaged

Grounded due to audio interference

Matthew MacDonald
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Airport Commission (NAC) met – via GoToMeeting – last Wednesday afternoon, June 30, for a regular monthly business meeting that was anything but.

There were approximately 25 virtual attendees – along with NAC Chair Mark Ryan, Vice-Chair Michael Sheehan, Commissioner John Corcoran, and Airport Manager Russ Maguire – but a handful of them led to the session’s premature adjournment, at just under the 15 minute mark, due to their audibly disruptive nature.

The meeting began in typical fashion, with a brief AIP (Airport Improvement Plan) update by DuBois & King’s Jeffrey Adler regarding the obstruction removal from the Runway 28 approach and the ongoing Taxiway Delta relocation project.

However, about three minutes in, when Adler was summarizing the progress of the environmental assessment for the Airport’s paved safety areas and the Taxiway Charlie relocation, a modulated audio feedback began to interfere with what he was saying.

Its source was an unmuted attendee (the only live mic onscreen, aside from Adler’s) whose imageless square displayed the name “Mark Ryan” (the actual Mark Ryan was visible onscreen – and muted – in another square above it) and re-

placed another just signed off attendee that had showing the tag “FIRE MARK RYAN.”

The squelch went silent after about 10 seconds and then, about 20 seconds after that, a new, unmuted attendee appeared with the message “FIRE RUSS MAGUIRE,” which almost immediately was muted, shortly after which the microphone icon for “Mark Ryan” went green again and began feeding back for several seconds until that was muted as a new, green lit “FIRE MARK RYAN” square appeared onscreen.

As Sheehan was determining with Ryan that he was, in fact, not using a second line, the feedback continued as the microphones for both the “Mark Ryan” and “FIRE MARK RYAN” squares alternately opened and closed until the latter signed off and the sound momentarily went back to normal until “Mark Ryan” went green again, a new square (“REMOVE SHEEHAN”) popped up, “FIRE RUSS MAGUIRE” (which had been mute the whole time) disappeared, and “SHEEHAN AKA THE MILKMAN” suddenly appeared and then just as suddenly disappeared along with the Chair’s namesake square.

This continued as Sheehan – with Ryan’s permission – consulted with NAC legal counsel Mina Makarios regarding what to do about the ongoing disruption:

“Can we remove those people under the law?” he asked,



More seemingly derogatory names came up at the last remote meeting of the Norwood Airport Commission. COURTESY PHOTO

continuing on without audio interference. “And, if not, then Mr. Chairman, I’m going to make a motion to adjourn and ask that the meeting be rescheduled and that – now that COVID has lifted – [we] have it a live meeting. And these cowards can show up and attempt to play their juvenile games.”

“I wouldn’t recommend removing someone if they’re silently putting up a name like that,” Makarios advised, with slight feedback. “I think they may have a right to do at least that.” He added, however, that the constant audio interruptions were the equivalent of repeatedly talking out of order during a meeting, which could warrant removal.

Sheehan made his motion as similarly messaged squares continued to appear. Ryan, seconding it, said, “If this was in-person, these people would be asked to stop, and if they didn’t, they would be removed. We’ll see how brave they are at an in-person

meeting.”

“I can’t hear,” Corcoran said. “Every time Mr. Ryan speaks it’s just a screeching noise.”

Repeating his motion so that Corcoran could hear it, Sheehan punctuated it by saying, “That way we can be live so we don’t have to be subjected to this continued, juvenile, unprofessional behavior from the prison guard with the pilot’s license.”

Emailed the next day for comment regarding who he was referring to, Sheehan refrained, citing the ongoing litigation between Boston Executive Helicopters (BEH) and the NAC.

BEH President Christopher Donovan – reached by phone on Tuesday – did comment. Noting that he is a retired captain with the Massachusetts Department of Correction as well as a decorated air combat veteran of Iraq, he stated, “What he said is inappropriate. He should be removed. They have a documented history of retaliation against me.”

During a phone call last Thursday, Ryan considered the disruption intentional, noting that whenever Maguire would mute a live square, the hidden attendee would sign out and a new one would sign in – green lit by default – to continue the audio interference.

Maguire – reached by phone on Tuesday – said that the meeting was unmanageable “by virtue of the fact that I was unable to mute people that were not recognized by the Commission to speak.” He added that “there was just too much background noise.”

Ryan also stated that he had asked Maguire to find the source of the interference because of the disruptive nature of what had happened.

Maguire confirmed that, as of Tuesday afternoon, he had not yet completed this trace.

The Norwood Airport Commission typically holds its monthly business meetings on Wednesday afternoons. For more information, visit the Town website.

Parade *continued from page 1*

“My son’s enjoying it a lot, and it’s good to get the feel of how everybody is celebrating the day in their own way,” he said. “The weather is not so good, but it’s very good to see the enthusiasm in the celebration despite the rain.”

Resident Colin McPhillips said he and his family have seen more than a few parades in Norwood, but none where everyone still came out during the rain.

“I think the last time it rained they canceled it,” he said. “It’s really good to see the Town out today and it just shows the strength of the community here.”

Residents Cheryl and Glenn Calhoon said they actually used to live in Westwood, but would come out for the last 16 years from up Route 1A to see the Norwood celebration.

“We used to live in Westwood but I would drag him down here for this parade,” she said. “Now we live in Norwood and I still drag him up for the parade. I think because of Covid so many people came out today to support the celebration. And Norwood is just a great, great community. It feels wonderful to be out right now. It’s a little cold, but it’s great!”

“I agree with her, except you know the cold’s not bothering me,” said Glenn Calhoon with a laugh.

The Northeast Italian Band and the Saint Alfios Band came out to perform during the parade, and members Carol Kycha and Jonathan Finger said while this isn’t their first performance back since the pandemic, it’s one of the best.

“It’s great,” Kycha said. “Our first parade was on Memorial Day in Tewksbury. There were quite a few people in the center of Town for us and it was a lot of fun.”

Finger said his playing made it hard for him to focus on the revelers.

“I was too busy playing the wrong note to notice the crowd,” he said with a laugh.

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NFD Chief George Morrice stepping down



Norwood Fire Department Chief George Morrice announced he was stepping down at the most recent Norwood Board of Selectmen's meeting.

COURTESY PHOTO

Justin Roshak
Staff Reporter

Norwood Fire Department chief George Morrice will step down at the end of summer, he announced this week.

"As of August 31, I will be retiring as chief of the Norwood Fire Department," Morrice told the Board of Selectmen at their July 6 meeting. "I'd like to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve."

"I've been honored to serve the people of Norwood, the Town I grew up in," Morrice added. He wants to pursue "other interests in public safety". He did not say whether he had any particular next step in mind.

Morrice joined the Fire Department 32 years ago. He was promoted to lieutenant, then captain, and has served as chief for the past three years. His tenure included what several members of the Board recognized as a time of uncommon crisis.

"I wouldn't have expected going through a global pandemic or evacuating the hospital," Morrice said.

Morrice said his non-emergency efforts had focused on improving the Fire Department's training, organization, equipment, and facilities.

"I do have to give credit to Deputy [John] Cody," Morrice said.

After he became chief, Morrice hired a second deputy chief, which allowed him to allocate more team hours to training. Norwood's two deputy chiefs, John Cody and David Hayes, will presumably be top candidates to fill Morrice's seat.

"I'd like to give a profound thank you to general manager Tony Mazzucco for supporting my vision at the department," Morrice said. "Without Tony's support I would have not been able to accomplish the many changes that have happened."

"It's been a pleasure working with you in a number of capacities for the past three years," Mazzucco replied. "We have an outstanding Department and you're at the top."

"I'm really sorry that you're retiring," said Selectman David Hajjar, who said the impact of Morrice's tenure would be felt for a long time. He praised the chief's efforts to improve professionalism and training.

"We needed a different way," Hajjar said of the time before Morrice became chief.

"I also wish you the best," Selectman William Plasko told Morrice. "It's well deserved time. You've been a great asset to the community."

"You have been through it all the past 30 years," said Selectman Helen Abdallah Donahue. "Throughout the time that I've known you you have been intelligent, kind, strong and honorable. How are we going to find another replacement? I'm happy for you, but I'm sorry for the Town."

"I guess you earned your retirement," she added.

Norwood Record

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OPINION

Airport is evidence why remote meetings have to end

It's over. It's so over. Not the pandemic itself, there are still reasons to maintain some caution while going about our everyday lives, but given the extensive knowledge we collectively now possess, there is no legitimate reason to continue public meetings in a remote fashion.

Many have argued over the last year-and-a-half that this country handled the Covid crisis in an ass-backwards fashion. Instead of quarantining the whole nation, they claim the country should have isolated only those considered "at-risk" and, in retrospect, there may be some legitimacy to that position. Shutting down this country's economic and social engines may have been far more detrimental to the masses than letting nature take its course on those with healthy immune systems.

At a minimum, at this point in time public meetings should now be mandatory on site with allowances only for those with legitimate medical reasons to attend remotely. That goes for public officials and those seek-

ing an audience. This newspaper noted over a year ago how hypocritical it was for the Norwood Board of Health, sheltered in their own homes conducting their meetings remotely, to tell the school department to "stay the course" teaching onsite. We meant it then and we mean it more strongly now.

The Board of Selectmen has seen the light, other boards not so much. The airport commission is a perfect example of continuing to take advantage at the public's expense. There are only three members of their board plus the manager. Three, yet they continue to hold meetings remotely. Are they kidding, how lazy can they get? Well, their laziness caught up with them when "remote" members of the audience decided to purposely disrupt their last remote video meeting, as detailed in this week's airport commission article found on Page 3. Remote audience members would continually pop up with new names like FIRE MARK RYAN and FIRE RUSS MAGUIRE while creating dis-

ruptive noise in the background keeping board members from conducting business. Vice Chair Michael Sheehan finally said, "Mr. Chairman, I'm going to make a motion to adjourn and ask that the meeting be rescheduled and that – now that Covid has lifted – [we] have it a live meeting. And these cowards can show up and attempt to play their juvenile games."

We completely agree with Sheehan that those causing the disruptions are cowards and juvenile, but Sheehan's own statement – NOW THAT COVID HAS LIFTED - backs our contention that they should have been meeting live to begin with.

Norwood residents should insist moving forward that public meetings be held live and in person to make sure their voices are legitimately expressed and heard by all others equally. Anything less than that at this point means public officials think their stay at home comforts supersede your right to be fairly represented. It's time for everyone to get off their couches and serve the public good. Any less and it's time for them to go.

Scammers set up fake Norwood Light website

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Online scams and ransomware have been steadily increasing in the past few months around the country, most notably shutting down the Colonial Pipeline, raising gas prices for the Northeast in the process. Now it's hitting a bit close to home for Norwood residents.

On Thursday, July 1, the Norwood Light Department reported that a fraudulent web site purporting to be the official site, presumably to obtain the personal or financial data of Norwood residents, was discovered.

According to Chief Operating Officer Daniel Morrissey, the web site was shut down by relevant authorities the following Friday.

"The fake website has been suspended and taken down," he said. "We did file with some agencies to make sure it was taken down and apparently it has worked out. I guess it said 'YourNorwoodLight.wordpress.com; I guess telling residents this is where they could pay their bills. I don't think we were the only utility with this issue either.'"

Morrissey said residents should

always double check the veracity of a web site when giving out personal or financial information.

"There are so many different people out there that use fake web sites to take your information and you really have to be very careful with it," he said, adding that phishing emails are a constant problem. "I think the Town Hall had somebody last week telling employees to update their passwords on the Town emails, but the Town IT people are usually very responsive and get notified very quickly when there's something unusual like that, sending out warning emails very, very quickly."

Morrissey said this is the first time that a fake website asked for payments, but it's not the first instance of a scam where someone's impersonating the department. He said years ago there was a case where emails went out that appeared to be from Norwood Light, but as soon as this was discovered he said the department followed up with residents.

"That was more through email, it wasn't as a way to process your bill payments," he said.

Residents should always double check the authenticity of a request for payment information. A good rule of thumb is

that if some company or representative is reaching out to you to ask for your payment information, it is likely a scam. If not, you can always go to a website or call the company itself to double check and make sure, but going through any links or websites suggested by the initial request – whether it be through email or the phone – should be treated with an extreme amount of caution.

Norwood Police Department Chief William Brooks said to always make sure any inquiries make sense.

"The best advice is never talk to anyone but Norwood Light," he said. "If a Norwood resident gets an inquiry from 'Eversource' for an electric issue, you know it's phony."

If you think you may have given your personal information to a scammer, contact your bank immediately and go through the last few transactions on the associated account with them. For the record, the Norwood Light Department website for paying bills is <https://www.norwoodlight.com/>. Accept no substitutes.

Suggested wetlands regulations made by Conservation Planner

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Norwood Conservation Agent and Environmental Planner Holly Jones met with the Norwood Conservation Commission (ConCom) on June 30 and discussed regulatory changes she believes would benefit the Town.

Nothing was decided concretely by the commission, as the night's thunderstorm knocked out the internet connection at the Norwood Senior Center where the commission was holding its meeting, but Jones said there were some updates she felt were necessary. Some of these are in either the Town's Conservation Bylaw but not in the state's Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) or vice versa.

"Although we regulate a riverfront area for intermittent streams, we don't have very much in the way of standards for what work in the intermittent riverfront area we might have to meet to be adequately protected," she said. "That is the main change to the bylaw I am suggesting."

Jones said she included some other proposed changes

to the regulations, including some regulatory discretion for the commission and some changes to the fee schedules for permits issued by the ConCom.

For the Riverfront Area regulations, Jones said they basically reiterate many of the regulations from the Wetlands Protection Act.

"The commission may allow the alteration of up to 5,000 square feet or 10 percent of a parcel that's in the Riverfront Protection Area (WPA), whichever is greater," she said. "Which is the same as the perennial riverfront in the WPA. The preservation of the first 100 feet of riverfront is unaltered, and then there's some exemptions as well for things permitted in the riverfront without having to meet those standards."

Jones said those exemptions include routine maintenance of roads, bridges, stream restoration, storm wa-

ter facilities, horticulture to enhance the health of vegetation in the riverfront, removal of hazardous trees, agriculture, soil and water remediation practices that reduce water contamination, and then footpaths and recreational multi-use trails.

ConCom members said they did not have any issues with these changes to the bylaw. Chair Stephen Washburn said he would like to discuss the changes to the fee schedule for permits. Jones said those changes are significantly varied, but added she's not married to any one spe-

cific change.

"It has been requested by several individuals to make the fee schedule include more even numbers," she said. "Right now the fee schedule has like a 16 cent per square foot fee," she said. "That's sort of the strangest one. For subdivisions too, it's \$2.16 per square foot, which doesn't come up too often but I think people have occasionally tried to pay in cash and that can get complicated."

Jones said she opted to lower the fees to lower numbers to create whole numbers.

"I know that the last time

you guys changed the fees, you raised them, so this may not be a change that you want to see," she said.

Jones said she lowered the fees because they are supposed to be proportional to the staff times involved.

"Which can sometimes be tricky to guess when a project comes before us and is different for different projects," she said. "Some of the fees we have, however, can be in excess of the staff time involved."

Jones said, for example,

ConCom

Continued on page 12



The Conservation Commission also discussed the elimination of some abutters notice fees since technology upgrades have made the process much less laborious.

COURTESY PHOTO

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The Norwood Board of Health met recently and discussed the current Covid rates in Town and how the department has been handling them.

COURTESY PHOTO

Board of Health reports Covid cases down, vaccinations up

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Board of Health (BOH) met on Tuesday, June 22 and discussed the current status of COVID-19 within the Town.

Health Department Superintendent Sigalle Reiss said as of June 10, the department had administered 2,758 doses, in a combination of Johnson & Johnson and Moderna.

“As of Wednesday of last week, 70 percent of our residents have had at least one dose, which is great,” she said. “About 63 percent are fully vaccinated. We continue to see people who got one dose continue to get vaccinated and we’ll see that number rise.”

Reiss said cases are way down too.

“In fact, since we started counting in March of 2020 it

has never been this low,” she said. “It’s fewer than five this week and it will be the third week in a row where we have fewer than five cases. We had some weeks where we had numbers like that when we began testing in March, but if you remember, testing was not as widely available as it is now, and so we probably weren’t capturing all the cases.”

Reiss said there are still large numbers of COVID-19 tests being administered, which means the Town is getting a very accurate count of the number of cases.

“I think as long as our case count remains low and our vaccination rate remains high we are in a good place,” she said. “The only thing I’d update aside from that is to talk about the Delta variant that’s been in the news a lot.”

Reiss said the biggest risk

for the Delta variant of COVID-19 is to unvaccinated persons. The variant is much more contagious than previous variants and, in some cases, has been shown to cause more acute symptoms.

“But the vaccines are holding up very well against this variant,” Reiss said. “So the message we keep issuing is to get vaccinated. That’s the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community.”

In other news, Reiss said the Town has been officially awarded a grant for about \$300,000 a year for up to 12 years from the state for regional public health. The Public Health Excellence Grant is actually being issued to several towns in the area, but Norwood will be housing two staff mem-

Board of Health
Continued on page 9



Newly elected officers of the Norwood Evening Garden Club (from left to right): Mary Ellen Heike, Vice President; Lois Walsh, President and Susan Cosman, Treasurer. Missing from photo is Katherine Wharton, Secretary.

COURTESY PHOTO

Garden Club elects new officers

The Norwood Evening Garden Club today announced the installation of a new slate of officers for a two-year term. Lois Walsh of Walpole was elected President; Mary Ellen Heike of Norwood was elected Vice President; Katherine Wharton of Norwood was elected Secretary; and Susan Cosman of Walpole was elected Treasurer. Ms. Walsh has selected her Board and says she is confident that with such a strong support team, the club will continue its 25-year tradition of being an asset to the communities it serves. At the annual meeting in June, Walsh said, “On behalf of all of the members, I want to give special thanks to Sheela Venkatesh for presiding over the club for the past three years.”

According to Ms. Heike, the new Programs chair, the Garden Club has an interesting lineup of speakers scheduled for this year, including talks and demonstrations covering garden design, native plants, container design, floral design, sustainability, garden pests and environmental topics. The Club plans to continue its Plant-A-Row for the Hungry campaign, as well its annual Art in Bloom event, where club members interpret the drawings of Norwood and Walpole High School art students. Most club programs and events are open to the public.

In addition to offering a variety of entertaining and educational programs, the Club will continue its significant civic beautification efforts for the towns of Norwood and Walpole. The Club’s most visible community contributions to date have been the design and care of the “Washington Street Corridor” which includes the beds in Norwood’s Guild Square, the Round in Norwood Center, the corner of Cottage and Washington streets at the Common, Hawes Pool Park in South Norwood, and the beds at the entrance to Bird Park in Walpole. They will also care for the Walpole Library’s rain garden.

Because the Club meets in the evening, it draws members from a number of towns – Norwood, Walpole, Westwood, Dedham and several others. The Club is celebrating its 25-year anniversary welcoming novices, experts and all levels in-between. “Membership is open to anyone who loves gardening and is willing to further the Club’s goals,” said Walsh. “Our primary objectives are to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening, and to promote environmentally sound horticultural practices, civic beauty and the conservation of natural resources.”

The Norwood Evening Garden Club has won many awards at the local, regional and national levels from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, the New England Region of Garden Clubs, National Garden Clubs, Inc., the Boston and Newport Flower Shows and the Marshfield Fair. They have also won numerous awards from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and an award of distinction from the Garden Club of America. For more information about becoming a member of the Norwood Evening Garden Club or to learn about upcoming club programs visit www.NorwoodEveningGardenClub.org.

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Robert M., of Norwood, passed away on July 3, 2021, peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. He was 92 years old. Born in Boston, Robert was a proud member of the Boston College High School Class of 1946. Following High School, he joined the United States Coast Guard where he spent time at Ellis Island, before coming home and marrying the love of his life in 1960. Robert was a member of the Electrical Workers Union and worked for over 45 years for Boston Edison. Robert was an avid, even "hardcore," fan of all Boston sports teams, including the Boston College Eagles. He was a BC Football season ticket

holder for years, and Saturdays in the fall he would take his family to Chestnut Hill for the games. He enjoyed traveling to Green Harbor in Marshfield every year where he and his family would rent a cottage every summer, hosting extended family for large gatherings. They also traveled to Ogunquit, Maine several times a year and became "regulars" at the local eateries, so much so that the staff of the Maine Diner would send him and his beloved Mary Christmas cards every year. The Boston Globe Sports page was an ESSENTIAL part of his day, and he could not go without it, even threatening to leave the nursing home to fetch one, if they couldn't get one for him. Above all else, Robert was happiest surrounded by his loving family, especially his children and grandchildren. Robert was the dear and devoted husband of Mary (Toland). Loving father of Kevin G. Harkins and his wife Deborah of Medway, Robert P. Harkins, RET NPD and his wife Maureen of Norwood, and Daniel J. Harkins NFD and his wife Carolyn of Wrentham. Cherished grandfather, "Grampa" of Laura, Liana, Brian, Patrick, Alison, Lauren and Samantha Harkins. Dear brother of Richard Harkins of Weymouth, Ann Garrity of

Deaths

Norwood, and the late George Harkins, Sr. Margaret Harkins, Rose Harkins, William Harkins, Joseph Harkins, Helen Neville, Sr. Veronica Harkins, and Marie Monarch. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Robert's Funeral will be from the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home 1248 Washington St. NORWOOD, Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 10 a.m. His Funeral Mass will be held at St. Catherine of Sienna Church at 11 a.m. Visiting Hours will be held Friday, July 9, 2021 from 4-7 p.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Robert's memory may be made to Sisters of Charity at Marillac Residence, 125 Oakland St. Wellesley, MA 02481. Robert will be laid to rest at Highland Cemetery in Norwood.

KELTER

John J. of Norwood, passed away on June 28, 2021 at the age of 84. Beloved husband of the late Deanna D. (Bruneau) Kelter. Devoted father of David J. Kelter of Norwood, Patti-Jean Carchedi and her husband Michael of Mansfield, Paula-Jo Carchedi

and her husband Robert of Mansfield, Jennifer A. Cotter and her husband Michael of Norwood and Corey D. Kelter of Norwood. Brother of Robert Kelter of MD, Richard Kelter of Plainville, Noreen Boze of ME, Ronda Kelter of TX, Deborah Kelter of Attleboro, Patricia Kelter of Attleboro and the late Margaret D'Espinosa and George Kelter. Cherished grandfather of Robert, Michael, Brian, Jaclyn, John and Daniel. Son of the late George H. and Margaret (Buckley) Kelter. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. John was a 1953 graduate of Norwood High School and was also a longtime member of the Norwood Knights of Columbus. Visiting Hours will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 4-8pm at the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home, 1248 Washington St., NORWOOD, MA 02062. A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 11am at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Norwood. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley

St., West Bridgewater, MA 02379. www.kraw-kornackfuneralhome.com Family Owned and Operated 781-762-0482.

THOMAS

Dennis E., of Foxboro, formerly of Norwood, passed away on July 1, 2021. He was 71 years old. Born and raised in Norwood, Dennis was the loving son of the late Edward L. and Loretta (Corey) Thomas. Dear brother of Marlene F. Lupaczyk and her husband Brian of Franklin and the late Edward F. Thomas. Dennis was a Veteran of the United States Army. A funeral service will be held on Friday, July 9, 2021 at 10:00am in St. George Orthodox Church, 6 Atwood Ave., Norwood. Visitation will be held prior to funeral service from 9:00am - 10:00am in the Church. Interment to follow at Highland Cemetery, Norwood. Arrangements by Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home, 1248 Washington St., Norwood MA 02062 www.kraw-kornackfuneralhome.com

For the Record

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available every Thursday in the chapel from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and each First Friday/Saturday of the month for an All Night Vigil-6 p.m.-6:30 a.m. "Can you watch with me for 1 Hour?" (Matthew 26:40)

AUDITIONS FOR "SYLVIA"

The Walpole Footlighters are pleased to announce open auditions for "Sylvia" on Tuesday, July 27 and Wednesday, July 28 at 7:00 p.m. Call-backs will take place as needed on Thursday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Depending on the role(s) you will also be asked to sing. Actors should bring a headshot and resume or current photo and a list of all conflicts from August 26 through Nov 21. Auditions forms may be downloaded or filled out at the theater. Please plan to arrive by 7:15. Due to the fact that some actors will be

Calendar

Continued on page 9



Thank You Novenas

For Favors or Prayers Answered

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail!)
Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. *Grateful thanks. —K.B.*

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 9th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. My Prayers were answered. *In gratitude for helping me. —J.H.*

Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. *Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted. —D.J.*

All Prayers: \$22 (1 column x 3 inches)

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GOOD DEEDS: THE COUNTRY OPENS UP

It is not lost upon folks that America is opening up from various COVID-19 orders and restrictions as we celebrate the birth of the United States of America on July 4th. There have been four Presidents of the United States of America born in Norfolk County which was established by law in 1793. This fact has led to the designation of Norfolk County as the "County of Presidents." John Adams the second President of the United States, who hailed from Norfolk County, once said about celebrating the birth of this great nation, "It will be celebrated... with pomp and parade... bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other."

It always amazed me when reading the above quotation that President Adams had the presence of mind and insight to essentially predict how the United States of America celebrates its birth as a nation all these years later. The celebration of our freedoms will take on a new meaning this July 4th holiday as we return to pre-Coronavirus activities. All the "little things" denied due to the Coronavirus pandemic will hopefully be savored and



Register of Deeds
William P. O'Donnell

appreciated. Some of these "little things" may be running a road race, a cookout with family and friends, watching fireworks displayed in our local communities or enjoying the marching bands and floats of a July 4th parade.

The 35th President of the United States of America John F. Kennedy was born in the Norfolk County community of Brookline. President Kennedy spoke at Independence Hall in

Good Deeds
Continued on page 12

Board of Health *continued from page 6*

bers for what will be called the Norfolk County Coalition (NCC). "We should be receiving that funding next week," Reiss said.

The positions will serve Norwood, Walpole, Canton, Dedham, Milton, Westwood, Wellesley, and Needham. These two positions are basically facilitators and researchers that would be prohibitively expensive if one town were to hire them. Those positions include a community resource coordinator and an epidemiologist.

The Norwood Town Hall will house these two people

when they are hired, and BOH members said they were concerned about space. Reiss pointed out that these people will more often than not be going from town to town and won't really need too much space for a desk. She added that if the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that mobile work stations are ideal.

"What we want is more of a workspace than an individualized desk, but we'll find room," she said. "As a result of the pandemic, we've really found out that you don't need much of a desk and a printer anymore and a mobile workstation is best."

For more information on the NCC, go to <https://norfolkcounty8.weebly.com/>.

To advertise, call The Norwood Record at (781) 769-1725

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail!)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

—M.B.

Novena to St. Clare

Ask St. Clare for three favors, 1 business, 2 impossible. Say nine Hail Marys for nine days, with lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not. Publish on the ninth day. Powerful novena. Say "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified, now and forever, throughout the whole world. Amen." *Your request will be granted, no matter how impossible it may seem.*

Grateful Thanks —B.T.F.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail!)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

—P.L.D.

**NORWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Norwood Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing under M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, The Wetlands Protection Act and Norwood Bylaw XXV, including any amendments thereto on Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be conducted in person at the Norwood Community Media studio, 245 Nichols St door 22, and digitally using GoToMeeting. Public Participation may be accessed through your computer, tablet or smartphone <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/243297997>. You can also dial in using your phone, United States: +1 (669) 224-3412, Access Code:243-297-997

The Commission will hear a Notice of Intent from Lorenzo Quinones Torres, represented by Hooshmand Afshar of Taj Engineering. The proposed project is a 4 lot subdivision with 3 new single family homes and associated road and utilities in the Riverfront Area of Traphole Brook and the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland.

Project Location: 60 Union St. Map 15-1 Parcel 5

Holly Jones
Conservation Planner

Norwood Record: 07/08/2021

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Q) I am in the market for a new pick up and considering buying an American model. I want a 1/2 small rear door with a V/8. Can you suggest which would be my best choice? Should I buy or lease? —Steve

A) I did get to drive all 3 American pick truck. Each has a different feel and features. Start with the Ram (AKA Dodge). The Hemi puts a lot of punch into the truck backed by a bullet proof 8 speed automatic. A large center display that controls all inside features. Good quality interior fabrics and interior design. Ride height is now low for easy entry and exit. Power side steps power down when the door opens and retract when closed. The Ram has storage weather tight compartments on either side of the box over the rear tires. This does take some space from the box bed.

The GMC / Chevrolet powered by the 5.3 V/8 via a 10 speed automatic is powerful and quiet and the 10 speed transmission makes for a lower 1st gear and an increase in power. The optional camera system has been a big hit as well as the multi function rear tail gate feature. Just make sure there is not a high mount trail ball in the trailer hitch cause the high ball can hit the tail gate when opening the mid section.

Ford has redesigned the F series and it does have a nice look. Ford also uses a 10 speed transmission in some F series. The suspension has also been upgrade and much smoother even on the heavy duty 250 and 350. Like the other brands the interior has been upgraded including the center display and electronics. Ford does offer a quick heater option for us in the cold weather climate that is a worth while option. Power side steps are an expensive option and in my opinion well worth the price. A rear either hard or soft roll up cover is also a recommended option.

Leasing verses buying is a great question. It depends on how long you are going to keep the truck and if you can afford the payment. You can always lease the truck for 3 years then buy it at the lease end, or in some cases release it a second time. Most manufactures off a special lease rate to get you in the door. Check with 3 dealers because the lease rate can change, the dealer make up does effect the monthly lease payment. The bottom line is personal preference on the brand and size pick up you want.

Junior Damato, the "Auto Doctor," has agreed to field auto repair questions from Bulletin and Record readers. Please send your questions to news@bulletinnewspapers.com and we will do our best to get them answered.



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Monday, June 28

0628 Phone - Well Being Check Spoken To Location/Address: Murphy Field - Lenox Ave Caller reporting a black sedan parked. Female occupant inside appears to be asleep - request for well being check N678 reports party checks out - No issue.

0641 911 - Animal Complaint Other Location/Address: St Joseph Ave Caller reports dog jumped out of car window - Can't locate operator. N661 located both dog and owner - Dog appears okay.

0830 Phone - Well Being Chk Transported To Hospital Location/Address: Central St 1030 Phone - Well Being Chk *Report Filed Location/Address: Tremont St Not home. She did return here. Section 12 in the lobby around 1900 NFD transports.

1042 Phone - Susp Activity Services Rendered Location/Address: Rock St + Monroe St Caller reports that a man took a bicycle off the sidewalk and placed into his van. Upon investigation N666 reports no crime.

1532 Phone - Missing Person Services Rendered Location/Address: Engamore Ln Caller reports that a 2 yr old child is missing. Upon arrival, units located her in her bed.

2259 Phone - Noise Complaint Spoken To Location/Address: Washington St + Heaton Ave Caller reports loud music. N664 reports they will be shutting it down.

Tuesday, June 29

0102 Phone - Assist Other Agency Services Rendered Location/Address: Tremont St DCF requesting officer's assistance.

0939 Radio - Assist Other Agency Area Search Negative Location/Address: [Wew] Route 128 Report H/R MVA, MA PC 576TR2 fled. BOLO to cars. Party following same lost sight, multiple areas checked by Westwood and Norwood units. S.P. Boston will handle incident.

1050 Phone - Assist Citizen Taken/Referred To Other Agency Location/Address: Richland Rd Report Norwood resident harassing his parents. N667 reports this is occurring in Dedham and Dedham PD is investigating same.

1102 Cellular - B & E Residence *Report Filed Location/Address: Wilson St Contractor believes some-

one entered home through dog door and stole tools.

1309 Phone - Citizens Complaint Spoken To Location/Address: Walnut Ave Camp staff reports 2 kids reporting abuse at the home. N666 spoke to all parties, no domestic, no abuse, misunderstanding.

1537 Phone - Assist Citizen Spoken To Location/Address: Rock St Resident upset about the construction on the street. N663 spoke to him, resolved.

1540 Phone - Citizens Complaint Spoken To Location/Address: Gazebo - Town Common - Washington St Movie set employee would like male party, known to PD, to move along so they can film. N674 reports just awaiting next MBTA Bus and he will be gone.

1755 911 - Threats *Report Filed Location/Address: Boch Toyota Scion - Bos-Prov Hwy Caller reports a former co-worker made threatening statements.

1900 Phone - Mischief (Kids) Area Search Negative Location/Address: Mobil Gas - Wash./Rr Av - Washington St Report of a party that took a candy cane from a movie set and was walking down the street.

2100 Phone - Missing Person *Report Filed Location/Address: Buckminster Dr Party suffering from dementia wandered away. BOLO to the cars and surrounding cities and towns. Walpole PD located that party Plimpton Street and Main Street in their town. N678 provided a courtesy transport for her back to the residence.

2203 Initiated - Well Being Chk Spoken To Location/Address: Vernon St Wellbeing check requested for a resident. Party does not live at that address anymore.

2359 Phone - Susp Activity Spoken To Location/Address: St Timothy's Church - Nichols St Two SUVs beeping horns near the rectory. Officers spoke to those parties and moved them along.

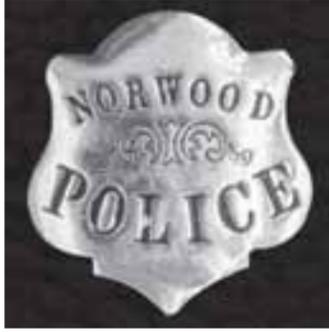
Wednesday, June 30

0828 Phone - Well Being Chk *Report Filed Location/Address: Day St Neighbor ordered breakfast for other neighbor, now not answering door/phone etc. NFD sent. N662 reports entry made, he was asleep, all ok.

0955 Phone - Well Being Chk Spoken To Location/Address: Walnut Ave Request

The Norwood Record

Police Logs



check of 2 kids that did not show up for camp. N666 spoke to mother, kept them home due to the heat.

1023 Phone - Assist Citizen Services Rendered Location/Address: Norwest Dr Caller reports his rear windshield is broken. N666 determined that a landscape crew caused the damage. Parties exchanged info.

1031 911 - Missing Person Spoken To Location/Address: Village Rd E Report 5yo missing. While getting information another family member found him sitting in family car. N667 confirmed all ok.

1058 Phone - Stolen Bicycle Services Rendered Location/Address: Rock St Report daughter's bike missing. Caller left message and she never called back

1145 Walk-In - Larceny *Report Filed Location/Address: Boston Executive Helicopters - Access Rd Larceny of a package.

1219 Phone - Well Being Chk *Report Filed Location/Address: Sturtevant Ave Report 4th party info of some concerning comments. PD makes entry into apartment and NFD transports to hospital voluntarily.

1403 Phone - B & E Of Motor Vehicle *Report Filed Location/Address: Batco Of Norwood - Pleasant St Report car entered and money missing.

1654 Phone - Larceny Under Investigation Location/Address: Ferrari Of New England (Dba) / Boch Luxe Inc - Bos-Prov Hwy Employee reports following a inventory check, a travel bag was discovered to be stolen by a party on camera. N663 called the reporting party and left a message.

1830 Phone - Well Being Chk Spoken To Location/Address: Subway - Lenox St Caller reports witnessing a verbally abusive patron who just left the property. Individual had been throwing food and tipping over chairs, concerned for the employees. Officer spoke to employees, they stated they are OK and declined to make a report at this time.

1838 Phone - Well Being Chk Spoken To Location/Address: Chapel St Party concerned for a resident who he has been unable to contact recently. Officers spoke to her, she is OK and does not wish to speak to the caller.

2250 Phone - Malicious Damage *Report Filed Location/Address: Summer Explora-

tion School - Washington St Glass admission alarm. N674 states the alarm was caused by a rock striking and breaking one pane of a two pane window.

2314 Phone - Well Being Chk Spoken To Location/Address: Engamore Ln South Coast Behavioral Center requests check of a client who made concerning statements over the phone. Officers spoke to that individual, he had been referencing something that had happened in the past but is now in good spirits.

Thursday, July 1

0821 Phone - Malicious Damage *Report Filed Location/Address: Hemlock St Report tire slashed.

1626 Phone - Well Being Chk Services Rendered Location/Address: 47 Chapel St - Chapel St Visiting nurse reports no one coming to the door. Officers made entry and state no one is home. Note left for resident.

2051 911 - Animal Complaint Services Rendered Location/Address: Village Rd E Dog outside barking for extended period. Officer states dog is now inside.

Friday, July 2

0855 Other - Warrant Of Apprehension *Arrest(S)Made Location/Address: Sturtevant Ave N662 places subject under arrest and transports directly to Dedham District Court.

0859 Phone - Assist Citizen Civil Matter Location/Address: Wickham Way Caller, in Boston at work, reports she has information that roommates have put her belongings out in rain and per agreement she still has time to move out. N665 spoke to all parties and the Leasing Office, all civil matters.

Saturday, July 3

0435 Phone - Susp Activity Spoken To Location/Address: Windsor Rd Caller reports a vehicle that has been parked in front of his house since 2:30am and appears someone who might be sick and throwing. Another vehicle pulled up and occupant got out of his car yelling at the occupant of Car#1. N661, N677 responded and spoke to occupant (NY.Reg# HZL3406) who says she pulled over and fell asleep. Friend came to pick her up and take home her car. All in order.

1036 Phone - Assist Citizen Spoken To Location/Address: Warren St Advice give on a real estate transaction. Former renter has not vacated the property.

1432 Phone - Missing Person Services Rendered Location/Address: Winslow Ave Caller reports missing 5 yo. Units located him upon arrival.

1954 911 - Animal Complaint Gone On Arrival Location/Address: Coakley Middle School (Acct# 1378d) - Washington St Caller reports he observed a female party pushing her dog with her foot while walking the dog. N663 checked the area and did not locate.

July 8, 2021

2339 Phone - Assist Citizen Spoken To Location/Address: Upland Woods Cir Caller reports his wife will not let him into the apartment. N661 spoke to both parties and they have been advised.

Sunday, July 4

0036 Phone - Disturbance Spoken To Location/Address: Bird Rd Caller reports his wife is kicking the front door trying to get into the house, he does not want her at the residence. N663 gives one female a courtesy transport.

0044 Phone - Susp Activity Spoken To Location/Address: Jefferson Dr Caller reports a male party banging on her neighbor's front door. N678 reports all parties spoken to, all is in order.

0934 Phone - Assist Citizen Spoken To Location/Address: Rock St Reports knocking on the door at 8:30 AM but they left when she opened the door. She feels this is part of ongoing problems with the unit # 3 resident. Entry requested due to a court HPO hearing this week.

1422 Phone - Trespassing Services Rendered Location/Address: Guild St + Broadway Caller reports a man sitting on R/R bridge. Units asked to come down and advised him on trespassing.

1855 Phone - Fireworks Area Search Negative Location/Address: Woodbine Rd + Columbine Rd Caller reports loud fireworks.

2016 911 - Animal Complaint Could Not Locate Location/Address: Winter St Caller reports a dog is loose in the area. Residents are attempting to corral the dog. N666 responded.

2128 Phone - Fireworks Area Search Negative Location/Address: Redwood Dr Caller reports fireworks and a possible drone flying around. Upon arrival all is quite.

2140 Initiated - Fireworks Spoken To Location/Address: Murphy Field - Lenox Ave N680 comes across a group of individuals setting off fireworks and they have been moved along.

2146 Initiated - Fireworks Spoken To Location/Address: Lenox St Fireworks in the area. N677 spoke to those parties and they are done for the night.

2148 Phone - Fireworks Spoken To Location/Address: Rock Ct Fireworks in the area. N667 advised those parties to shut the fireworks down for the night.

2233 911 - Well Being Chk Taken/Referred To Other Agency Location/Address: [Sha] Edge Hill Rd Caller reports a female party was sitting in the road, when asked if she was ok she said yes and walked to the side of the road. Sharon PD notified.

2322 911 - Unwanted Party Spoken To Location/Address: Norwest Dr Caller reports she would like her mom's boyfriend to leave and he will not. N664 spoke to all parties they were advised and everyone was satisfied.

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Good Deeds *continued from page 9*

Philadelphia on July 4, 1962 stating, "For 186 years this doctrine of national independence has shaken the globe - and it remains the most powerful force anywhere in the world today. There are those struggling to eke out a bare existence in a barren land who have never heard of free enterprise, but who cherish the idea of independence. There are those who are grappling with overpowering problems of illiteracy and ill-health and who are ill-equipped to hold free elections. But they are determined to hold fast to their national independence."

The notion of independence was certainly challenged during the Coronavirus pandemic. Yet throughout this trying period as one who is tasked with leading the Registry of Deeds I saw Registry employees rise above difficulties and obstacles while demonstrating a commitment to excellence. Under trying circumstances with restrictions to one's notion of independence and freedoms the employees of the Registry of Deeds came to work throughout the pandemic to keep the real estate sector of our local economy viable. The Norfolk Registry of Deeds employees kept the Registry open and operational every work day during the COVID-19 pandemic since current Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker, who grew up in the Norfolk County town of Needham, declared a State of

Emergency back on March 10, 2020. Do you think the very first Governor of Massachusetts John Hancock who signed into law legislation establishing Norfolk County and the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds on June 20 1793 would have thought citizens would be facing such a deadly and impactful health crisis due to Coronavirus?

John Hancock is also another notable citizen born in Norfolk County who was one of Boston's leader's during the crisis that led to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War in 1775. John Hancock served more than two years in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence in his position as President of the Continental Congress. Famous for his rather prominent signature on the Declaration of Independence John Hancock was quoted as saying during the signing ceremony, "There his Majesty King George can now read my name without glasses. And he can double the reward on my head."

The bravery of those that came before us in creating, developing and preserving this great nation of ours should never be forgotten. We may celebrate the Fourth of July with hamburgers and hotdogs. Let us never forget the meaning of the words written in the Declaration of Independence as we hopefully put

the Coronavirus pandemic in the rear view mirror. The 41st President of the United States of America George Herbert Walker Bush was born in the Norfolk County community of Milton. President Bush stated in 1989. "After 213 years, Americans can say that the experiment is a resounding success. The Fourth of July is a time to rejoice in this success, which has inspired all who seek to break the shackles of totalitarian rule and breathe in the life-giving air of liberty."

Enjoy your liberties.

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, like us at facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds or follow us on twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds and 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, 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

ConCom *continued from page 5*

the abutters list fee could be eliminated altogether as there is now an automated system for abutter determination and notification.

"Whereas previously I had to type in every lot number abutter to confirm it in the assessor's database," she said. "So having a fee per abutter doesn't make sense."

Jones added that the fee maximum doesn't make sense now either. She said it's at \$12,000 per project, but since that's a significant percent of her annual salary, it doesn't make sense that any one project could take up that much of her time. So she recommended lowering it to \$6,000 as a maximum.

"Even \$6,000 would be a significant percent of my salary," she said.



Conservation Agent
Holly Jones

She said historically any filing fee coming close to \$12,000 has been because of the need for a peer review, and she said she would just like the peer review to require a separate payment rather than be included in the filing fee.

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