

The Norwood Record

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Above, dressed in silver white at the Class of 2009's graduation ceremony on Sunday left: Michael Frasca is congratulated by Class President Jesse Shaughnessy. Bottom right: Stephen Cottens receives his diploma.

PHOTO BY ZALINA McGUIRE

A final salute Both students and school conclude history

Jonathan Seltz
Staff Reporter

Norwood High School's Class of 2009 graduated on Sunday, marking the town history on Sunday, as they became the last class to graduate from the original high school building.

The fate of the school was a background theme on Sunday, as the ceremony was held on the front steps of the school for the first time in more than 20 years, due to the start of construction on the school's football field. But while the school made guest appearances in speeches and proclamations, the focus of the day was firmly cemented on the graduates and their

future.

Dressed out in blue and white caps and gowns, the 248 graduates received their diplomas and awards as nice a send-off as anyone could have expected. The sun shone steadily at bay and a cool breeze kept the hundreds of spectators comfortable on the study expanse of the school's lawn.

"The fact that Norwood's original "School On The Hill" will soon be but a memory was not lost on the graduates on Sunday."

"We must realize, as the citizens of the town did, that there is a time for memories and a time for moving forward," Valedictorian Matthew Davenport said in his speech. "In the end, these

memories are not preserved within these walls, but rather exist within our minds and our hearts."

Davenport peppered his speech with references to the past, as he was tired to locations around the school, treating his classmates and the audience to a guided tour of the school as it will always remain for him.

"But for me, what I remember the most, as I pass through the hallways, the stairs, the rooms, is how well my life continues to be important today," he said.

He also passed along some of his own advice to his classmates, reminding

Graduation
Continued on page 8

Subpoenas a prelude to asphalt plant court date

Demand seeks
40 years of
town records

Jonathan Seltz
Staff Reporter

While both sides still await the scheduling of a hearing date, the parties for, and against the planned development of the Norfolk Asphalt Plant are at the center of some preliminary legal wrangling.

The town and property owner Jerry Lorusso are both still waiting for a court date to be set in Massachusetts Land Court, where the parties will determine where to uphold a Zoning Board of Appeals ruling that the plant has been abandoned for the last 22 years and, therefore, cannot be reopened for the same use.

In meantime, residents and town employees have been subpoenaed and deposed by lawyers representing the plant, and at least two requests have been made under the Freedom of Information Act for nearly 40 years worth of information on the project.

The Norfolk Asphalt Company has made several appearances before the town's Zoning Board of Appeals seeking permission to reactivate the site, which has not produced asphalt since 1987. Building plans for Mark Charette ruled that the site was abandoned in August of 2007, and the ZBA has upheld that ruling on every appeal, including the most recent one in August of 2008.

In September of 2008, Jerry Lorusso, said the Zoning Board of Appeals for its most part court date has approached, Lorusso and Edgewood Development Company have been compiling what they see as necessary information.

Among those subpoenaed was Louis Santos, a founding member of Stop the Norfolk Asphalt Plant (SNAP), a community group opposed to the plant. Town Engineer Mark Ryan and Town Planner Stephen Costello.

"I was in there for four hours," said Santos. "The only thing they asked me was 'who put you up to it?'" I told them

Apophatic
Continued on page 8

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Graduation

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Graduates look back

Jonathan Seitz
Staff Reporter

Norwood High School's Class of 2008 received special recognition before their parents and peers on Friday afternoon in the Charles A. Hayden Gymnasium. The honors were part of the annual Class Day, held in advance of the Graduation light-hearted hour.

Class President Jesse Shulman opened the ceremony with first speakers, greeting the class and setting the tone for the afternoon.

"We all walked into Norwood High as young adolescents," he said. "We now leave as young men and women. Our life and our world have changed, will be significant and dramatic, that transpired while they attended the

event was a celebration of the class' four years at Norwood High School, where students make friends, meet milestones, and honor achievements and peers on Friday afternoon in the Charles A. Hayden Gymnasium. The honors were part of the annual Class Day, held in advance of the Graduation light-hearted hour.

Andrew Adams, reading

from a speech written by Harrington Katinas, onto the school's achievements in sports from that year. Taking over for the Sophomore year, Berlyn Lai was called to the stage and invited to dance for the first time, and of the execution of Saddam Hussein that year.

Alistair Brockmeier

recited a poem he wrote when they were "no longer no

big babies" and learned to drive, with the irony and temptation of receiving their driver's licenses. They also began the process of applying for college.

"The only thing worse than taking the SAT" he said. "Taking it twice and getting the same score."

Finnian Jansen Camill

recounted the events of their most recent year, complete with the

Cross Day

Continued on page 6

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Summer is playtime in town

Jonathan Seltz

Staff Reporter

With the arrival of summer, some of the most popular diversions in Norwood will be returning for the season.

Openings largely through private donations, and under the purview of several different town departments, the town's slate of summer activities includes parades, concerts and summer camps. Fortunately, Norwood residents can thank the generosity of town leaders and fundraisers, big and small, for almost all of these programs.

Among the most popular of the town's activities will be two more months of the Concerts on the Common and the weekly Carillon concerts from town hall.

Concerts on the Common has been a volunteer-led program in the town for the last 16 years, according to organizer David Tunc. He said the concert program started after the town put the gazebo on the common and a group of volunteers decided that it would be perfect for weekly performances.

"We said, 'Wouldn't it be great if we could do this every Sunday?'" Tunc said.

The concert will feature 11 free concerts, held each Sunday from June 28 through Sept. 6, from 7 p.m. The music lineup features band performances, with popular performers including the German "Oberlander Hofmusik Band" on July 12, the Boston Pops on July 26, with music from Ron Stone and the Milestones.

Tunc said that the concerts have only grown in popularity over the years, due mainly to being rebroadcast on Norwood Public Access on Saturdays. They've also had more and more young families come out for them, making the town common with lawn chairs and picnic baskets every Sunday.

"I've got a lot of people who order Domino's and have it delivered to the common," he said.

They've been able to put the concert on thanks to donations from many Norwood Companies, including the Norwood Bank, the Norwood Senior Center and Women's Club, Analog Devices, and plenty of others.

The other main concert series features the classic sounds of the band, the Norwood and Carlton Bells. According to Assistant Town Manager Berrie Cooper, the town's Carillon, the oldest un-restored instrument of its kind in the country.

Norwood's Carillon bells were dedicated in 1928 by Wm. F. Tilney in 1928, the same year the band Hall was built. According to Cooper, the largest bell, the bourdon, carries an echo that "goes to those who gave their lives in the war to end all wars."

Although the town used to have a full-time Carillon player and held concerts throughout the year, they have been unable to sustain that pace in recent years. Instead, occurring mostly in the summer, with this year's opening every Monday from 7:30 p.m., from June 29 to Aug. 17, with a special concert on the afternoons of July 4.

Although some of the funding for the concerts comes from the town, a number of private donors contribute to the program as well. One of the largest donors has been the Norwood Women's Community Committee. Frequent donations are also given to the town's Carillon Fund.

This year, the town also received a \$10,000 donation from the late Jimmy Dobson, a long-time fan of the Carillon, in the amount of \$10,000. Cooper said that Dobson specifically requested that his donation be used for major repairs on the bells, which will have to be done, he said.

After retirement, Dobson will be moving to Puerto Rico's Market, which will take up residence in its usual location behind the Apollo Restaurant.

The market, a staple of Summer's past in Norwood for years, will run every Tuesday, from 1-6 p.m., from June 23 through Oct. 27, with 40 vendors across Massachusetts, selling fresh-from-the-earth produce and giving people a chance to meet the men and women behind the food.

"I think people are looking for fresh produce," said Shirley Hirsch, a vendor with Paradise Hills Farm, who serves as coordinator for the market. "They know us, and they've been coming to us for years. You can actually talk to them like family, and people seem to like that."

Robbins says that there were some major changes in the market this year, with most of the same vendors returning to the same location in the public parking lot along Washington Street.

There is the possibility

that some guest vendors will join in on a week-to-week basis,

he said. But, for the most part, it is a steady market that Norwood has come to know and love.

Of course, in Norwood, it doesn't really pick up until the Fourth of July weekend. The parade can cost as much as \$50,000 to put on every year, with most of the money going to the local bands who march through town.

"The bands themselves are non-profits, and they raise most of the money for the day," Cooper said.

While the town does cover a portion of the costs, much of

Summer Continued on page 8

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Editorial

Letters to the Editor

HOW DID IT ALL HAPPEN?

To the Editor:
Construction and demolition are about to begin.

Last week, 175 registered voters made a decision to replace Norwood High with a smaller "model school." It will have 2 fewer athletic fields, and is planned to last for 50 years.

The total cost of the project, including land and soft costs, non-reimbursable items, and interest on borrowed money, will cost taxpayers more than \$80 million and take them more than 25 years to pay for it. Here's a comparison: The Westwood High School was begun about 1959. Many homes there are almost 50 years old. Should homeowners get ready to tear down houses built before their children have reached the end of their 50-year life expectancy — or renovate instead? Why? Will knowing the answer make any difference? Maybe not now, but it is something to think about — perhaps a later date when we start to wonder why and how they got involved.

Judith Howard
Norwood

TRIBUTE TO NUTTALL

To the Editor:
Father James Nuttall was born on July 10, 1936. He

should be remembered as he has reached the end of his 50-year life expectancy — or renovate instead? Why? Will knowing the answer make any difference? Maybe not now, but it is something to think about — perhaps a later date when we start to wonder why and how they got involved.

He graduated from Needham High School in 1954 and entered Boston College Seminary. He became a Confidant, immersing himself with the poor people, caring with them and even sharing the same as the poor. He taught and helped them irrigate their land and the hygienes of caring for themselves. When he taught them the virtues of order and family

people of Pakistan for three years as a missionary of the Dominicans Order. Father Nuttall died on March 28, 2009, only a few months after recovering from a stroke and heart surgery at a church at Holy Trinity in Wansipura. In addition to bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to the poor, he taught

them to be kind and honest. He became their Confidant, immersing himself with the poor people, caring with them and even sharing the same as the poor. He taught and helped them irrigate their land and the hygienes of caring for themselves. When he taught them the virtues of order and family

I'm sure the Norwood High School Class of 1954 will say that he was extremely popular of our classmates, who not only served the people of Pakistan but made this world a better place to live. We are grateful to God for Father JAMES NUTTALL to give us his talents ALL OUR LIVES!

Joe Billotta
Classmate, 1954.

Dennis

Students at the Prescott School are part of a pilot program where they are assigned netbook computers for their classroom.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN SEITZ

Prescott kids go techie

School chosen as test site for new 'Minis'

Jonathan Seitz
Staff Reporter

Students at the Prescott School have been taking part in one of the School Department's newest technology programs, one that could change the way students use personal computers.

The fourth and fifth graders at the school have been using HP Mini Note laptops, small, inexpensive computers in a range commonly known as "netbooks" since March, as part of a pilot program to test possible expansion to the rest of the school system. The computers are smaller than standard laptops, with 10.1-inch screens,

school desks.

"Basically, each school had a laptop cart," said Shuan Panella, desktop support specialist for Norwood Public Schools. "But they were too old to keep going. This was a less costly model."

It's the first time the district

wanted to get the latest and greatest model. The chipset is better and the battery life is longer.

Even though the computers cost less than \$500 each, the school didn't have to sacrifice cost of the rest of computer parts, she said.

On the technical side, the Mini Note uses an Intel XP-G3000 Gigahertz Intel mobile processor, with 2 Gigabytes of RAM, a 160 GB hard-drive and built-in WiFi. However, the school did not have enough CD-ROM drives, so the school had to purchase external ones for all the laptops.

"It's a pretty powerful notebook, really," Panella said.

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Norwood Record

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• Web Site: www.norwoodrecord.com		
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June 11, 2009

Dean St. signals still a hassle for cars

Jonathan Seitz
Staff Reporter

The traffic signals on Dean Street, approaching Route 1, have continued to wreak havoc for Norwood's drivers, even though crews have been working for nearly two months to return them to full functionality.

Although the signals are no longer operating solidly, blinks warning lights, the sequencing for the intersection has yet to be properly established and that has had an impact on traffic flow, Town Manager John Carroll said.

"It is not working right," he said. "Everyone knows it's not working right, and we're working to get it fixed."

The signals go back to construction at the Staples shopping plaza near the intersection, Carroll said. The developer, Northgate Development, was responsible for installing and activating the new ones.

Prescott continued from page 4

"The only thing it really doesn't have is a CD-ROM drive," he said. "The Minis are also equipped with HP's '3D DriveGuard' system which stops the hard-drive in its tracks if it begins to drop to prevent the loss of data or other damage. The school also purchased 15-year warranties for the computers, though Panella says that agreements with the computer are very rare.

But of all, the computers are small enough to fit on a student's desk with a book or notebook along side it, Panella said.

"With the other program, we had 125 laptops," Panella said. "These now wasn't a lot of damage. They were used over five years later, and we're hoping that with these, they'll last at least another five."

So far, the Minis have been getting positive reviews from students and staff alike.

Fifth Grade Reading Teacher Tatia Stout has been a big fan of the laptops, using them with students for their reading groups.

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June 11, 2009

Day House has opened

Jonathan Seitz
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Record

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Class Day continued from page 2

and current senior class dean James Forrest.

However, the major difference in the class was to Spanish Teacher Paula Pelaggi, who dealt with scares of their own this year, as bomb threats and snow days cut into her classes.

"The class to which we are one of the last classes to graduate from the original Norwood High School coming in," Pelaggi said. "We also proud to restart the tradition of graduating in front of the building."

Collectively, the school year, also came to the podium for class yearbook dedications. Yearbook editor, Leah Schuster, Science Teacher, Evelyn Hardiman, a 20-year veteran of the department, Vice Principal Sean Kane, who served as the class' dean until his promotion,

for one or two, we're going to be in a new gym that seats 200 people, is air conditioned, and we won't have to worry about the heat," he said, before heading out the awards.

Afterwards, Senior Class President, Emily Gagnon, handed out ribbons to the class, while they thanked many of their teachers and friends for their work, while also sharing some inside jokes about their classmates from their four years together.

Pelaggi had a few words to share with the students, some of whose parents she taught early in her career. She urged the class to remember her lessons learned in her classroom, and to help others in their own capacities.

"I like you to make a pledge to yourself to lead a better life and be a better mentor," she said. "The greatest gift you can give yourself is giving."

There was also a school presentation by the School's Madrigals choir, including members of the Senior Class, who sang "Dona Gaudiam Schatz" "Remember" along with a traditional "Irish Blessing" song.

"My good news is that in a

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June 11, 2009

Home businesses could be impacted by zoning re-write

Jonathan Seitz
Staff Reporter

Members of the Planning Board and the Zoning Appeals discussed several major proposed changes to the town's zoning bylaws at a meeting on Monday night.

Monday night's meeting was scheduled by the Planning Board as a workshop to discuss the changes proposed by Mark Bowditch, a land use consultant hired by the town as a consultant for what could be a zoning overhaul.

The town has not done a zoning update since a review of the bylaws in 2004, even though it is recommended that they be amended every 10 years. Planning Board Chairman Paul Costello said:

In one of the most heated debates, the boards explored the idea of regulating "home occupations," for residents who have regular unrelated visitors. The idea, proposed by Town Planner Stephen Costello, would require that certain what can, and cannot do, on certain properties.

"Times change, and people do a lot more at home," he said. "What happened in 1990 isn't what is happening now. The world of telecommuting is exploding. Anything that's going to impact the neighborhood as far as increased traffic, for example, feel should be looked at."

At present, issues with people working from home have been limited, but they have been under the authority of the Building Inspector Costello said that

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