

Low bids bring high hopes

Krystal Grow
Staff Reporter

Town officials were dealt a pleasant surprise last Friday morning as bids from general contractors interested in building a new Norwood High School came in lower than anticipated, amounting to a potentially huge savings for the largest building project in the town's history.

Architects from Ai3 estimated the total project cost at \$79 million, including \$5 million in non-reimbursable costs that the town will pay, but last week even the highest bidder didn't top the \$60 million mark for their base bids.

Of the six contractors pre-qualified to bid on the project, only three submitted bid packages by 11 a.m. Friday morning.

J and J Construction placed a high base bid of \$56,347,000, while Fontaine Brothers came in a close second with a base of \$56,081,000. Agostini Construction, the firm responsible for the Whitman/Hanson model school that the New Norwood High School will be based on placed the lowest base bid of \$53,468,200. The total project costs for the two lowest bidders are \$70,742,776 and \$68,129,976, but each price will be reduced by the \$6 million the town has already spent on design and feasibility studies.

Contractors, industry professionals and other local officials working on the project packed into the FinCom room in Town Hall to hear Norwood Purchasing Agent Kathy Carney open the documents. In less than 10 minutes, the bids were in and the room cleared as Town Manager John Carroll, Project Manager Tim Bonfatti and architects from Ai3 convened to discuss their good fortune.

"The bids were extremely favorable," Carroll said. "The town will save a lot of money."

Project Manager Tim Bonfatti said that the town couldn't have chosen a better time to seek bids for such a large project, as prices for construction services are lower than they have been in a decade.

"All of these firms see what's going on with the economy, and want to get work, so they are willing to take jobs at cost just to get a project in hand, which is really fortunate for the town," he said.

According to Bonfatti, the price of construction commodities has declined, leading to significant savings for those

Low bids

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Around and About



Cars go zipping down the track at this year's annual running of the Cub Scout Pack 171 Pinewood Derby. The event was held at First Congregational Church

COURTESY PHOTO



Alix Campbell and Kelsy Smith take a break from the runway at last Friday night's Senior Prom Fashion Show at the Coakley Middle School. The event was sponsored by the Norwood Post Prom Party Committee.

PHOTO BY PAUL ELDRIDGE



Vera Gately and her "Irish Eyes" are smiling last week during a St. Patrick's Day themed sing-a-long at the Senior Center

PHOTO BY PAUL ELDRIDGE

'Common Sense' presented to seniors

Krystal Grow
Staff Reporter

Norwood seniors had a chance to hear some alternative ideas on the proposed new high school project as the Common Sense Committee brought their show to the Senior Center last week.

The Common Sense Committee has stressed the importance of preserving the current high school and made their argument to local seniors who will be voting, along with the rest of the town, in the April 6 election on whether to approve an override that would fund the destruction of the current school and the construction of the new model school at the Nichols Street site.

"My biggest problem is tearing that building down," said committee Chairman Frank McKeown. "Look at all the other buildings in town. They're old and they're still in great shape."

In the presentation, McKeown and other members of the committee, including Finance Commission member John Hayes and Historical Commission Chairwoman Judith Howard, also took issue with claims that the new building can't be constructed on another site, the stated price the town will have to pay and the reasons why the old building can't be saved.

"I seem to be the only member of the FinCom that is bothered by the fact that we're going to spend \$5 million to tear down an \$11 million building," Hayes said. "I just don't buy it."

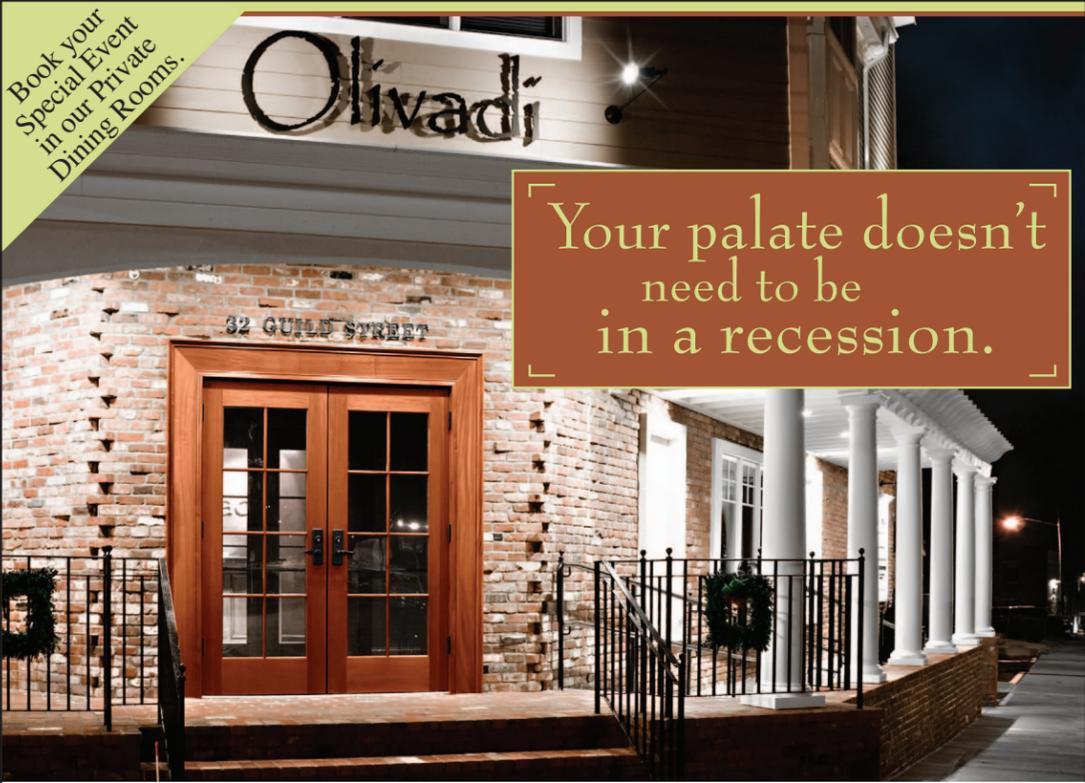
Hayes recommended that the town consider selling the current building to an area college or university as a satellite campus or administrative office building, but said he doubted that town would consider any other options than what is currently on the table.

McKeown referenced two conflicting assessments of the 84-year-old building that did not make a strong enough case to put the school before the wrecking ball. McKeown said a report issued by an independent firm hired by the Massachusetts School Building Authority in July of 2007 cited no specific issues with the building that deemed it structurally insufficient, and another report issued that September by the town that claimed the school was in need of

Seniors

Continued on page 4

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Group reviews reimbursement process

Krystal Grow
Staff Reporter

While the question still looms as to whether the town will approve spending \$35 million to build a new high school, members of the Permanent Building Construction Committee are already working to figure out how the state will pay their share.

In a packed meeting that included members of the Finance Commission, Project Manager Tim Bonfatti explained the Massachusetts School Building Authority's ProPay system, on which he was recently trained.

According to Bonfatti, the electronic system will allow the town to be reimbursed for eligible expenses within 15 days of submitting invoices, a vast improvement from the state's prior process that often took years to bring money back to municipalities. "We basically have to fill in a spreadsheet for every invoice, then they take that and do an audit," Bonfatti said.

PBCC member Paul Meyer said that the state would be tracking the invoices to make sure the proper point people in Norwood have stamped them before they issue a reimbursement payment. "Our invoices have to be approved and issued for payment before we can begin the reimbursement process," he said, "but this process isn't on a granular level. We can begin the process for money we've already spent."

The MSBA will review the monthly invoices, which Bonfatti said needed to clarify between eligible and ineligible costs, and that the state would issue payment by a wire transfer.

Through a series of flow-charts, Bonfatti explained the chain of command and the timeline the invoices must travel to make it to the MSBA and produce a payment back to the town.

In a rough draft of the schedule, Bonfatti anticipated the PBCC would meet to approve April invoices in mid-March. The Project Manager will submit the request to the MSBA, who will begin a preliminary audit while the invoices and state issued forms travel to the town accounting department and the Board of Selectmen for signatures. The complete package including the required forms and signatures would then also be sent to the MSBA, who will complete a final audit and issue a wire transfer back to the town.

But the first round of payments could present some problems if the process hits a snag and is delayed. PBCC member Ed McKenna said that there is a state law that sets a definite timeline for the town to pay for the work being done.

"The state law says we have to pay within 15 days and can be charged one over prime for every day we are over," he said. "By this schedule, we will be three days overdue by the time we get reimbursed."

Bonfatti said there would still be time to adjust the schedule and work out the kinks to avoid any extra costs.

"The first time through is going to be difficult, but once we get into the system it will get easier," Bonfatti said.

McKenna said he wanted to make sure the money being sent

Payments

Continued on page 3

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Norwood dodges foreclosures in tough housing market

Krystal Grow
Staff Reporter

While the housing market is on shaky grounds, few Norwood homes are in danger of foreclosure, and finance officials say the cause is conservative financing.

Norwood Bank President Christopher Dixon, Town Treasurer Bob Maguire and Finance Commission Chairman Allan Howard all said that the town is weathering the storm now because local government and small town service at community banks have avoided the high risk mortgage and finance practices that have so many large financial institutions in trouble, and are causing record numbers of homes to fall into foreclosure.

"We've always been very conservative here," Dixon said. "We never participated in the subprime or other funky mortgages. We gave loans to people who qualified for loans, but a lot of these brokers were fixing their documentation to

make people qualify when they didn't. At a community bank, we don't do things like that. Our standards have always been in place."

However, even the strictest requirements cannot prevent delinquent payments, but both Dixon and Maguire said they are more likely to work with homeowners than to foreclose. "We try to work with owners and the banks to offer payment plans," Maguire said. "We don't have any formal programs in place to handle these situations, because it's not as big of a problem here."

The city of Boston has used Community Development Corporations in each respective neighborhood to help combat the foreclosure crisis, but in Norwood, housing hardships are typically dealt with on a case-by-case basis between local banks and town government.

"We really try to work with people to get them back on their feet if they're having trouble," Dixon said. "Of course delin-

quencies hurt us, and we need people to make their payments, but we can offer help that larger institutions can't."

The larger problem is that people are waiting too long to get help, Maguire said. Dixon agreed that while there have not been any instances of full foreclosure in Norwood, there have been a few close calls. "Unfortunately, what happens is that people who get behind on their payments don't contact us," Maguire said. "There's definitely a stigma about it, and people don't want to come forward and talk to us, but most of the time, the bank hears about it first."

"We have definitely dealt with people who are in danger of going into foreclosure, but they need to talk to us instead of burying their heads in the sand," Dixon said.

For many on the foreclosure fence, the recent approval of President Obama's stimulus package included a huge allot-

Foreclosures

Continued on page 6

Payments *continued from page 2*

back and the invoices being sent in are monitored to avoid confusion as the town works through the payment and reimbursement process.

"It worries me that if money keeps getting wired in every month with a different number or code, we'll be paying all these bills with different numbers. We have to be able to track this," he said.

FinCom member Joe Greeley said the PBCC should stick to bricks and mortar, and let the money matters work their way through the proper channels.

"With your PBCC hats on, you're not really responsible

for tracking reimbursement unless something gets kicked back," he said.

"But we're the first people who get called to the Selectmen and the FinCom when they want to know where the money is," said PBCC member Dick Weiner.

Meyer said the PBCC would only have issues if there were discrepancies in the amount of money the town receives as opposed to the anticipated amounts, and recommended that the committee track invoices at their weekly meetings instead of letting a month's worth of invoices pile up.

Chairman Ted Callahan said that in the initial stages of the process, submitting invoices in one fell swoop would be the simplest way to get the state the information they needed.

"The point is well taken, but we don't want to gum up the works with all these invoices," he said.

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Editorial

SO LONG, FAREWELL...

In response to the unsurprising departure of State Sen. Marian Walsh from the seat she has held since 1992, we offer the following: Don't let the door hit you on the way out.

That may sound harsh. But the reality is that Walsh has made searching for a new job more of a priority than nearly anything else we have seen her tackle in recent months.

Week after week, there has been no shortage of rumors about Walsh and the many new gigs — including a judgeship — that she was supposedly up for. In each case, rumor after rumor, it was her cozy relationship with Gov. Deval Patrick that was said to be the catalyst.

Finally, after months of searching, the \$75K a year pol found what she was looking for, a \$100,000 raise.

Walsh, whose district includes Norwood, Westwood and portions of Boston, will vacate her post to accept a position as assistant executive director of the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority, a position that had previously gone unfilled for 12 years. Though the assignment comes with a hefty, hefty pay raise, we are assured that it is not a taxpayer-funded post. That hardly matters though.

Let's review Walsh's recent accomplishments, such as they relate to street-level constituent needs.

(Cue "Jeopardy" theme).

If nothing comes immediately to mind, there is good reason for it. In Norwood, the overwhelming issue of the day is the construction of a new high school. It is a massive undertaking. But yet, we see, not massive enough to warrant even a token appearance from Walsh. Her input: zero. Her assistance: zilch. Her deemed interest level: nada.

Head deeper into her district, over to Boston. There, Walsh has successfully re-routed traffic from Dedham through the streets of the Hyde Park neighborhood, much to the horror of those residents. In West Roxbury, an ambitious plan by State Rep. Mike Rush's ambitious plan to restore Havey Beach was laid to waste by Walsh's intentional lack of support. Rush may be a gentleman, in that he has told the media he bears no ill will for Walsh's determination that the plan needed more work. But some insiders are quick to point out that Walsh's opinion had much to do with a hissy-fit over not being consulted from the get-go.

Some thanks this was for Rush who, some of you may recall, tried to help Walsh's husband, former District Judge Paul Buckley, pad his pension back in 2007. Rush submitted a bill that would have allowed judges to count military service toward their pensions, a move that would have added \$30,000 to Buckley's annual pension. The bill passed in the House, but failed to make it past the Senate. Yet again, though, it was Deval to the rescue. He appointed Buckley to a nearly \$109,000 position as commissioner of the Department of Industrial Accidents.

Even if you are a Walsh supporter, consider the fact that she is going to cost your municipality money it cannot afford to spend.

Norwood town officials are unsure of the exact cost of a special election. According to Town Accountant Bob Thornton, the town first needs to determine when the state requires the election to take place. If it can be scheduled during a regular, general election, the costs are minimal, but if an election needs to be held for the specific purpose of filling a vacant senate seat, the price tag could be higher.

We've all heard stories of Walsh's alleged political courage. Of how she stood against Cardinal Bernard Law and for gay marriage, despite her staunch Catholic upbringing. But here is courage for you, Walsh will not so much as return a phone call to follow-up on her terse resignation announcement. In fact, we are so used to being rerouted to consultants and underlings, we're not even sure we can say anymore what her actual voice sounds like.

Walsh's departure will set in motion a flurry of would-be candidates who have eyed her office longingly for a very long time. We can only hope that whoever replaces her, will think more about the voters than his or her own career path.

Walsh was once someone predicted to have a wonderful career in public service. It is a shame that, in the final analysis, so much potential was wasted.

Norwood Record

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Seniors *continued from page 1*

serious repair.

"What are we supposed to believe," McKeown asked. "The point is that there are contradictions between what the Working Group says we need and what the report says."

McKeown went as far as to say that town officials and members of the Committee of 21 make it appear as though total reconstruction on the current site was the only option after having exaggerated the deficiencies of the building. "The impression I get is that they are building all of this up so they can replace it," he said. "They keep telling us they can't find another site, but I'm going to say they don't want to find another site."

Howard, as chair of the Historical Commission, stressed the architectural value and aesthetic importance of the Greek

Revival style school built by famed architect William G. Upham.

"We have in our midst the very core of who we are," Howard said. "If a building in town is old, do we just tear it down? That's not who we are."

Howard said that the MSBA only gave the new building a 50-year life span, and that given the longevity the current building has shown, should be preserved.

"That school was built to last. The new school will be built for 50 years, and it's going to take 27 years to pay it back. Norwood High School is 30 years beyond the 50 year mark, and given the attention it deserves, could go on another 50 years," she said.

Howard also pointed out that the town would be responsible for interest payments on

the \$73 million figure that will go before town meeting next week, not on the town's share of \$35 million. She said that although the tax impact appears minute according to charts and graphs provided by the town, the average Norwood resident will still feel the financial burden of the new building.

"They say our property tax rates are lower than other towns, but they don't show you the demographics," she said. "Norwood's average income is lower than those of other towns."

Hayes agreed the price tag for a new school was too much to ask of many residents already struggling to make ends meet. "I don't think they realize how many people are living on the borderline," he said. "It's all about the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.' It is as simple as that."

Letters to the Editor

HEART OBSTACLE COURSE WINS 1ST PLACE!

To The Editor:

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Thank you for your time and effort.

Michelle Pacetti-Fitzgerald
Physical Education
& Health Teacher

KEEP EXISTING SCHOOL

To the Editor:

I live across the street from Norwood High. Every day when I get the mail, I look over to the school. It literally takes my breath away. Some want to replace Norwood High with a "model school."

Historically and architecturally significant buildings should be preserved and, when necessary (like now) be renovated and updated to code. Renovating the school would keep it in its same location and save the athletic fields at the "school on the hill," a major aspect to a student's high school experience. There are other important considerations that need to be acknowledged.

1. Whitman-Hanson is situated on 60 acres of land set back from the street; the closest neighbor being 1/4 mile away. Norwood High is situated on 20 acres of land and neighbors directly abut school property. New construction will greatly impact these homes. The area is known for ledge and a high water table, yet, when neighbors asked for

written reports of each, to confirm or refute, none was given.

2. The front façade of Whitman-Hanson is covered with veneer; however, the back of the school has no veneer, but is made of cement masonry units exposed to the weather, which will deteriorate over time. This may be a reason why a new school is meant to last only 50 years. Norwood High is covered with bricks that completely surround the school. A demolition contractor will keep all its valuable copper, steel girders, and bricks for resale if it is torn down.

3. Norwood High is a south facing building and receives direct natural light. When properly designed, student classrooms should face the south side. However, in an architectural drawing of the proposed new school, the gym takes up practically half of the front of the school, not classrooms.

4. Large classrooms are proposed in the new design, but studies have shown that students are better educated with small classes with fewer students. One reason why parents who can afford it send their children to private schools is smaller classes with fewer students. On a personal tour of Norwood High, there was a large math class sitting in one small classroom, where right down the hall there was an empty much larger classroom. This is an easily fixed scheduling problem.

5. In the recent report Town Meeting Members received, it states the existing school has 187,000 square feet. However, Norwood High has "231,258 square feet of floor space and can accommodate up to 1,425 students." The quote is from the Commission on Public Secondary Schools' report to the principal of Norwood High on school facilities. This exceeds the 227,500 square feet of the proposed new high school. (Today,

there are less than 1,100 students, which is 325 fewer than capacity). Fact: NHS is larger than the proposed high school.

6. The same report states the debt exclusion will be 25 years. However, if one were to add up the payback years 2009 through 2035, it adds up to 27 years on a school that is supposed to last only 50 years.

7. The "how much" of this whole project is questionable. While the Article on the Warrant for Special Town Meeting on March 23 has no funds specified, the Motion authorizes the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to "appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds" \$73,138,965. But residents are told that the town only needs to borrow \$35.4 million. The Motion further authorizes the Permanent Building Construction Committee to carry out the project — the same committee that is responsible for all public buildings, including the Police and Fire Station. Further, the Article states that "any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town. . ." (Emphasis added). The grant is \$43,779,874. Be prepared to add the interest and the overrides to the \$79 million.

8. The ballot question to Norwood Voters on April 6, 2009 has no money value included — no actual dollar figure. The voters will be voting blindly.

There are many who believe that there will be much regret if this proposed new "model school" passes, for the students themselves, for parents who are thinking of college expenses for their children, for seniors, and for those who believe, as I do, that the value of the Future is found

Letters

Continued on page 21

Residents question Zimble clean-up plans

Jennifer Santos
Staff Reporter

Residents told the Norwood Health Department that they were tired of facing the dust and debris around their home, pollution they believe is a direct result of the former Zimble Drum Site and former Winslow Tannery, located at 61 Endicott St.

Residents voiced their concerns at a meeting last Thursday night.

The soil at the Endicott Street property, near the Walpole line, is contaminated with arsenic and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In the 1950s, the site was once used as a place to store old wires and tannery equipment.

Other contaminants of concern in the soil are extractable petroleum hydrocarbons, a heavy weight oil, and heavy metals such as lead, chromium, copper and arsenic.

Valerie Saber, a resident on Lane Drive, presented photos taken of her yard to Peter True, the site's current owner. Saber

said she has mounds of dirt in her yard that prevent her from opening any windows in her home.

Saber also said that the property fence has fallen over several times causing damage to her sprinkler. Saber said she has seen several people cut across her yard while the fence is down and is concerned for her daughter's safety when she plays outside.

True told Saber that he had not been made aware of the problem, but after looking at the photos, he said he would further look into the issue. True asked Saber why she had never tried contacting him earlier but Saber responded, "I've called a few times and I leave messages but no one ever returns the calls."

"We understand that the windblown dust is an issue but it's not an environmental issue, it's a nuisance problem," Al Ricciardelli of GZA GeoEnvironmental said. "The owner is going to spray a product on the soil which is an adhesive-type material that will

help to hold the sand in place," Ricciardelli said.

"The fabric fencing around the perimeter is blowing through to the neighborhood," Planning Board member Bill Bamber, said. "Open your eyes man! We're talking hazardous waste, a hazardous area and everything is being exposed, it's a half hazard area that's being done on both of the [sites]," Bamber said.

Marco Brancato, chairman of the Planning Board, said he plans to draft a letter to the Board of Appeals so the town can hire its own engineer to work with the members involved in the site clean up.

"My main concern is that this affects so many people," he said. "When the job is complete, we all want to feel good about it."

The group plans to have the site cleaned up by September 2009. "We have no plans to build over the land when the contaminants have been removed," True said. "It is going to stay just the way it is until we get financing."

Low bids *continued from page 1*

in this buyers' market. He said that the multiple levels of contractors, subcontractors and vendors are all offering lower prices, which adds up to a major deal when it comes to compiling a bid. "Those commodity prices are a major source of our costs, and they have dropped about 6 or 7 percent in the past four months," he said.

Carroll said he and other individuals close to the project would now work to revise the project budget and present a revised amount to town meeting members next week. "We have to establish what the eligible costs are based on that bid," Carroll said, "but there will be substantial savings and we will be going to town meeting with a significantly lower number."

That new number will be split with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, who will share in the benefits of a favorable bidding climate.

While it is nearly settled that the town will choose Agostini as the general contractor of record, based on the bids, Carroll said there is one detail the town must clarify before sealing the deal and awarding the multi-million dollar contract.

Of the three firms, Agostini was the only bidder that did not identify unit prices for the cost of materials including stone, concrete, metal and other building supplies, which sparked Fontaine Brothers to submit a bid protest to the town and possibly the State Attorney General. Unit prices from Fontaine Brothers and J and

J varied from \$15 to \$75. Carroll said he did not anticipate the unit prices presenting a snag in the bid price, but that the town is still being conservative in their estimates and will present Town Meeting members with Fontaine's numbers to ensure the lowest possible cost and to prevent the possibility of another request from town meeting.

"We are using their numbers so in the event that the bid protest ends up at with the Attorney General, and we loose, we will be covered," Carroll said. "If we take the low bidder and we loose, we will have to go back to town meeting and ask for more money."

Although Carroll said he was "99.99 percent sure" that Agostini would be the general contractor approved for the project, the town would work from Fontaine's \$64,742,776 figure, which still presents the town with a substantial savings compared to the \$73 million estimate for reimbursable costs. Carroll said that if Agostini is approved, the town and the state will split an additional \$2 million in savings.

Bonfatti said that after reviewing Agostini's bid, Town Counsel felt that the lack of unit prices would not significantly alter the price. "The unit prices aren't part of the bid, but we don't anticipate them being an issue," Bonfatti said. "The bid contract says we, the town, can waive unit prices, and we usually end up going back to negotiate better prices anyway."

Unit prices typically vary, Bonfatti said. He added that the town does not foresee Agostini charging unreasonable unit prices after the contract is approved, and that the town was still getting a steal for its money. "It's still an amazing time to do this," he said.

A letter outlining the bid offers will be sent to Town Meeting members this week.

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Walsh seat is open season

Joseph Mont
Scott Wachtler
Staff Reporters

After months of rumored job offers, State Sen. Marian Walsh, whose district includes Norwood, Westwood and portions of Boston, has made it official that she will vacate her post to accept a position as assistant executive director of the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority, a \$175,000 a year position and one that had previously gone unfilled for 12 years.

Walsh, who did not return calls from the *Record* seeking comment, issued only a short statement thanking voters for their support over the course of her more than 20 years in office. No timeline has yet to be made public as to when she will officially leave office.

"I want to foremost thank my constituents for their support and friendship through my years of elected public service," Walsh wrote. "I am eternally grateful to them. I am very excited for the opportunity to join the team at HEFA as they continue their mission of expanding citizen access to quality education, healthcare, human services and cultural opportunities."

Walsh was first elected as a State Representative in 1986. She was elected as State Senator in 1992.

The Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority helps to provide low-cost, tax-exempt financing to nonprofit institutions for capital projects.

Liam Sullivan, spokesperson for HEFA, confirmed that Walsh has agreed to a \$175,000

salary offer to take the position of assistant executive director—a position that has gone unfilled for several years.

"Senator Walsh has been on our radar since at least last summer," Sullivan said. "The hiring of Senator Walsh is part of a larger initiative that we are undertaking which is reaching out to other state agencies and authorities like ourselves to offer our expertise, to collaborate and to share resources to see what sort of efficiencies can be made. The hiring of Marian Walsh will help implement this initiative."

Sullivan said Walsh's expertise as someone with highly skilled knowledge in governmental operations and relations will be an asset to their organization. Sullivan called HEFA

Walsh

Continued on page 7

Foreclosures *continued from page 3*

ment for homebuyers in trouble, and potential buyers who are holding out for a good deal.

Maguire said that although the stimulus money has been geared towards banks, he believes it will ultimately benefit local homeowners.

"We're hoping the money will start to spread out and help people, and stimulate the economy by giving young people the chance to get out there in the housing market," he said. "Hopefully, it's not like the packages that used to be offered. Some of those mortgage packages were absolutely horrendous."

Dixon said that the stimulus package would, in theory, help the average homeowner or the first-time buyer, but that the benefits were in the eye of the beholder.

"It's all in the eyes of who you talk to," he said. "It's a great opportunity for a first time buyer, but if you talk to some-

one trying to sell a house, it's not looking so great. First time buyers are looking at lower values and borrowing less, but they are having trouble making a down payment and meeting the higher underwriting standards."

Maguire said the money from the stimulus package could eventually help troubled homeowners, but that it would be filtered before it is distributed.

"It's indirect at best," he said. "The money goes to the banks, not the individuals. People have to contact their mortgage companies and break things down, but the package is basically two-fold; it benefits those in good standing and those not in good standing, but in my opinion, it's a great time to buy property."

"We find that a lot of first time buyers are still on the fence," Dixon said. "They're waiting for the prices to go down, but people who want to sell can't because the values

have gone down."

Dixon said the structure of the market has shifted substantially, creating a standstill in the market and stalling the stimulus effect of the federal funds. He said that in the past people have bought properties at the low end of the market with the intention of moving up by either adding or renovating their homes, or selling their property to purchase a more valuable home.

"That has completely stopped," he said. "People don't have the equity anymore, and are either waiting for values to go up, and they aren't going to go up."

Property values may be down, but hopes are still high in Norwood, as finance officials are breathing a sigh of relief amidst a national crisis.

"We've been lucky," said Maguire. "We haven't felt the pinch like a lot of places have."

"It's like there was an earthquake, and we're far away from the center," Dixon said. "Not that it isn't still tough out there, but we're definitely in better shape than most."

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Walsh *continued from page 5*

“A quasi-public authority” that receives a fee for their services and does not receive any taxpayer funding. He said HEFA is a small agency that employs 15 people and should be held up as a model for successful state government.

“We achieve a great deal for such a small organization. We were the largest issuer of state bonds last year and we were the sixth largest issuer of bonds in the nation,” he said.

Walsh’s decision will force the municipalities she serves to hold a special election to replace her. Within hours of her announcement, two candidates had already announced their intention to run and several others are either rumored to have interest, or say they are mulling the prospect.

Waiting in the wings, ready to pounce on the news was Walsh’s colleague from West Roxbury, State Rep. Michael Rush.

“I will be a candidate,” Rush said last Thursday, the day Walsh made the announcement. “It is a tremendous opportunity. I wish Senator Walsh all the best in her future endeavors. For me, it’s a wonderful opportunity to continue the work I’ve been doing here on Beacon Hill.”

Rush said in the last three years he’s been working for his constituents in Norfolk and Suffolk counties on a variety of local and statewide issues.

Rush said now was the right time for him to build on the work he’s done in the House, but on a larger scale in the Senate.

“I know the process very well, both budgetarily and legislatively,” he said. “It is something I’m very interested in doing. I want to continue the energy level I’ve brought to my job in the House to the Senate side and work with my colleagues in both branches of the House and the Senate.”

Since it is an off-year election, Rush is able to retain his House seat pending the outcome of any Senate run.

Bob Joyce, a West Roxbury resident, ran against Walsh during her last run. He said he will once again seek the seat. Joyce,

a social conservative, took issue with Walsh’s support of same sex marriage. He has more recently been in the news for his boycott of the Boston Phoenix newspaper, citing its display of prostitution ads as a reason that local stores should refuse to carry it.

“For far too long, good people in this district, and throughout our Commonwealth, have borne the costs of our politicians’ excesses,” he said. “Today we witness yet another disgraceful example of at least two high-ranking elected Democrats, Senator Walsh and Governor Patrick, conspiring to allow greedy hands to dip into the coffers of public and/or quasi-public agencies. As a result of this latest outrage, Massachusetts taxpayers will suffer further substantial financial detriment which, although obscure to some, is quite real. When, and whether, this type of outrageous behavior will end is entirely up to the voters.”

Boston City Councilor John Tobin, whose district includes West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, said he was considering a run for either State Senate or the State Representative seat that would open up if Rush were to succeed.

Tobin, though best known in his role as a City Councilor, has past experience at the State House as an intern, Research Director of Local Affairs and a staff position with State Rep. Kevin Honan (D-Allston).

“Whoever runs for this seat, and ultimately wins it, will be the most prepared person,” Tobin said. “These are huge shoes to fill. Whether people admired Marian Walsh like I do, or they didn’t vote for her, one thing that is universal about her is that she always, always came prepared. She was smart as a whip and she knew the issues... she has my utmost respect and admiration and I obviously wish her the best of luck. She’s been a force in this neighborhood for over 20 years politically. People in this district have come to expect excellence. And, even if they disagree with her on an issue, they knew she was a straight shooter

and she was a person of her convictions.”

Other rumored candidates include former Boston City Councilor Jerry McDermott, who now lives in Westwood. McDermott did not return calls seeking comment. State Rep. Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham) is another name touted as a potential candidate, as is State Rep. John Rogers of Norwood, although the latter has told media sources, through a spokesman, that he has no intention of running.

As for Republican candidates, Barney Keller, spokesman for the Massachusetts GOP, said that several officials in his party are considering the upcoming election. He declined to name any of those potential candidates, but did take the opportunity to slam Governor Deval Patrick for Walsh’s appointment.

“Creating a job for Marian Walsh doesn’t count as one of the thousands of jobs that Gov. Patrick promised to create in Massachusetts,” he said. “Instead of rewarding supporters with high-paying jobs, the governor should focus on creating jobs for the thousands of unemployed. Unemployment is pretty high right now, 30,000 people lost their jobs last month. It is clear that [Patrick’s] goal is to reward his political supporters with jobs first, before anybody else. Its endemic within the Democratic party. This is what you get when you have a one-party state.”

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The Record Book

FREE YOGA

The Healing Moon Wellness Center will be offering a free week of gentle yoga series on Thursdays, at 11 a.m., through April 23, at 1 Walpole St. (across from Conrad's Restaurant) to anyone who is experiencing financial difficulties or unemployment. Instructors will donate their time. Donations of non-perishable foods for the local food pantry are accepted, but not required. Call Marcia Putnam-Todd at (781) 769-1121 to register. For more information, visit www.thehealingmoon.com.

LUCY THE R.E.A.D. DOG

Lucy the R.E.A.D. will be visit Norwood on Saturday, Mar. 21, from 10-11 a.m., at the Morrill Memorial Library. Lucy is a trained companion dog who loves to listen to children read, and she even turns the pages of her own

book! This program is especially enjoyable for beginner readers. You may bring your own book or borrow one from the library. Please register at the children's desk of the library, or call (781) 769-0200, ext. 225.

PETER PAN PRODUCTION

One hundred South Area Solomon Schechter Day School of Norwood students will perform the classic "Peter Pan" in an all Hebrew musical production on Sunday, March 22, at noon and 7 p.m., and Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m., at the YMCA in Stoughton. Tickets are \$10 each, \$36 for a family of four. For more information, call (781) 769-5555 or visit www.sassds.org.

THRIFT SHOP HOURS

The Women's Community Club (WCC) thrift shop is open

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at 1194 Washington St. Donations of clean, saleable clothing and small household goods are accepted during retail hours and also on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The thrift shop is a non-profit, all volunteer organization and all proceeds help support local charities and civic groups.

DOUBLES TENNIS

Adults, 18 years and up, can participate in sessions running from May 2 through June 22, and Aug. 31 through Oct. 12, at the Coakley Middle School courts. The women's league will meet on Mondays, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and the men's league will meet on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$25. If interested, mail a check made out to the NCTA and send it to Doug Woolley, 118 Fulton St., Norwood, MA 02062, Attn: Men's/Women's Doubles League. Checks must be received by Apr. 22. Please note, these leagues are for intermediate or advanced players with a NTRP rating of 3.0 or above.

ADULT TENNIS ROUND ROBIN

Adults, ages 17 and up can participate in an adult tennis round robin on Wednesday evenings, from April 29 through Oct. 7, at the Coakley Middle School courts. Beginners are from 5:45-7 p.m. and advanced from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$15. If interested, mail a check made out to the NCTA and send it to Doug Woolley, 118 Fulton St., Norwood, MA 02062. Personal information should include name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.

CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS MEMBERS

The mission of the Norwood Cultural Council (NCC) is to promote excellence, access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all residents of Norwood. The Cultural Council has been an advocate for the arts and arts programming in Norwood for about 25 years, first as the Arts Lottery Commission and later as the Norwood Cultural Council. The NCC has had a long history of guiding and funding cultural programming in our community. Our primary function is to award grant monies to individuals and organizations in Norwood and the broader community who are dedicated to keeping our town a culturally rich and economically vital place to live and work. For example, we grant funding for enrichment programs at the elementary and middle schools, music and dance programs at the Senior Center, artists demonstrations and lectures for the Norwood Art Association, the carillon bell concerts you hear on Monday nights in the summer, and lectures and programs at the Morrill Memorial Library. We are funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Town of Norwood, and by the money that we raise as an individual organization. The group meets on the third Tuesday or Thursday of every month, at 7:30 p.m., Room 11 in the Town Hall. If anyone is interested in joining the Norwood Cultural Council, we can be reached via email at norwoodculturalcouncil@yahoo.com. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. Upcoming meetings are on Thursday, March 19 and April 16 in the Norwood Town Hall. We meet on the bottom floor in Room 11. If you are interested in learning more about us but can not make this meeting, please feel free to e-mail norwoodculturalcouncil@yahoo.com.

GOOD FRIDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church will hold its annual Good Friday Vacation Bible School on Friday, Apr. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at 24 Berwick St. Children age four to fourth grade are invited. Hear the Story of Good Friday and how God's love for us shines through the darkness. There will be stories, crafts, music, games and worship. A mid-morning snack is provided. This is a free event open to all children. Students are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to help stock the shelves at the Norwood Ecumenical Food Pantry. Registrations are due by April 3. Call the

Church Office at (781) 762-9457 to register children for this event.

CABIN FEVER PARTY

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Norwood VFW will be hosting a Cabin Fever Party on Saturday, April 4, from 8 p.m. to midnight, at the VFW at 193 Dean St. Put winter behind you and enjoy a buffet dinner, dancing with DJ Joe O'Neill, raffles and a cash bar. Cost is \$10 per person. Tickets are available at the VFW or at the door. All proceeds will benefit the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW programs.

COAKLEY RECYCLING DAY

The Norwood Recycling Committee and Coakley Middle School will be holding a special "Spring Cleaning" Recycling Day to benefit the Norwood Food Pantry and the school on Saturday, April 4, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the school's lower parking lot (near the tennis courts), off Washington Street in South Norwood. Shred your old paper tax records and other personal papers. Doc Shredding Corp. will secure and shred paper-based items for a \$5 per box donation to the Norwood Ecumenical Food Pantry or an equivalent non-perishable food donation. Doc Shredding Corp will permanently destroy and recycle your unwanted personal data discs (CDs and DVDs), floppies or hard drives. Doc Shredding Corp will shred all discs and hard drives. Fees apply and may vary according to weight. Drop off redeemable cans and bottles and donate the deposit to the Food Pantry. Give unwanted keys to "Keys for Hope" to benefit the Food Pantry. The Coakley Middle School is also hosting a community paper drive. Wanted materials are all your old newspapers, magazines, and junk mail, but please no cardboard and no plastic bags. Drop off all your papers at the Abitibi containers in the lower parking lot of the Coakley Middle School. The paper drive generates money for Coakley Middle School teachers and students. CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS will collect old inkjet printers, laser printers, cell phones, PDA's, iPods, cameras, laptops, DVDs, video games and GPS systems. Visit their Web site www.cartridgesforkids.com to learn more. The Coakley Middle School is hosting a special community drop off of these materials in the lower parking lot by the Abitibi containers only on April 4, between 8-11 a.m. Proceeds benefit CMS. There will be a \$10 charge for each Television and Computer CRT/Monitor, but no charge for other electronic items.

The Record Book
Continued on page 20

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To our readers:

The Norwood Record is very pleased to present to you this pull out section of our newspaper dedicated to answering many of the questions our readers have regarding what is, potentially, the largest construction effort the Town of Norwood has ever undertaken.

Over a course of 6 weeks this newspaper requested and received from our readers all of the questions presented in this issue. The questions were then turned over to Board of Selectmen Chairman Michael Lyons, who graciously agreed to take responsibility for distributing them to the proper boards and committees overseeing the process of this project's progression and aggregating the answers.

It is important for all to note that the answers printed in this issue are the EXACT answers provided to us. No editing of any kind was done.

Finally, a thank you to all of our readers who participated in this process, and to all involved in providing answers. The Norwood Record hopes this section is a valuable tool for all who will cast a vote at both Town Meeting and on the April ballot.

1. Has enough thought been given to considering another location for the new school so that the old school could be sold, leased or utilized by the Town in another capacity?

ANSWER: At various times in the process of the study, questions arose as to whether the new high school could be built at another site. This would leave the present high school and land vacant and, ostensibly, available for another use. But after years of study the Board of Selectmen, which is the "eligible applicant" in the MSBA process, voted on August, 26, 2008 to designate 245 Nichols Street as the site for the new school.

There are three major arguments against relocating the high school.

1. We would lose \$45 million in MSBA funding and would be set back in our planning for a new high school for years because the agreement we now have is specific to the present site on Nichols Street.

2. There is no other site in Norwood which could accommodate the new high school. Studies have been made of five possible

sites but all fail because of restrictions such as size, topographic problems, environmental problems, geographical location, etc.

3. While building a new high school at another site would leave the present school building vacant and potentially available for another use, there are numerous problems with deciding on that use.

A. Age & Space - The existing building goes back to 1920 and now contains 187,000 square feet. Any further use would immediately bring into play new building code requirements involving provisions for handicapped access throughout (the facility now contains several half levels between floors); structural changes to meet new building codes; decisions about what to do with the aging auditorium, gyms, etc. All this would mean an expenditure of many, many millions of dollars to bring the facility up to codes, no matter what the use.

B. Neighbors & Zoning - Depending on the use proposed, there would be issues with the neighbors who are now used to the school but would most certainly question any

other proposed use.

C. Norwood's famous "School on the Hill" - so revered by all of its graduates - would be gone forever from the site on Nichols Street where it has stood for 90 years.

2. In the event that the tax override is defeated, what course of action will be taken to meet the accreditation requirements for the high school?

ANSWER: School and system officials and the local governing body have been reminded that the high school has been on warning since January 2005. Since warning is not a permanent status, the upcoming bond vote in the spring is of critical importance to the school's future accreditation status. In a letter dated October 29, 2008, the Commission is requesting that the High School Principal submit a Special Progress Report by May 1, 2009, providing detailed information on action taken on the results of the bond vote to fund the construction of the new high school and provide an updated construction timeline. There is no other course of action available to us that would allow the school to meet accreditation standards in less than four or five years.

3. What would be the rate per \$1,000 of assessed value for residences? For businesses? (Not the average).

ANSWER: For residences, the rate is \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. As an example, for a house assessed at \$300,000, the property tax increase over the cost of the project would be approximately \$117 per year (300x0.39). The business rate is \$0.74 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, so a business at \$300,000 would receive a property tax increase of \$222. For further information, specific to your own situation, go to www.newnorwoodhighschool.com.

4. Why would you destroy a building that has an assessed value of over \$10M?

ANSWER: As with any evaluation

that compares building renovation to new construction, the "value" of the existing building structure was considered in the MSBA's assessment of renovation versus new construction; however, some clarification is needed to best respond to this question:

1. "Assessed Value" is generally defined as the dollar value of an asset assigned by a public tax assessor for the purpose of taxation. Since the High School is a public building, it is not subject to taxation and therefore the term "assessed value" is not appropriate; regardless, the school does have "value".

2. The school is an asset comprised of both land and building structure; however most of the value is in the land (\$3.6 million), which the Town would have taken advantage of in both new and renovation options, so this portion of the school's value has no effect on the evaluation.

3. The value of the High School building structure was considered in the cost analysis of new and renovation options; in fact, there is no way of doing a proper evaluation of the two options without taking into account existing value. What needs to be understood, however, is that the existing building's value is reduced significantly by the cost to repair, strengthen and modify the existing building as required to meet the needs of the new school. Under almost any scenario such improvements would cost many millions.

Although parts of the building could have been salvaged under the renovation option, there are many other substantial costs for renovation that must be considered and which were evaluated in detail by MSBA. When all items were considered - savings from the value of the existing building, cost to modify, cost to provide temporary accommodations, etc. - MSBA decided that renovation was not an option and that MSBA would only support and fund new construction.

5. Westwood High sits on 60 acres of land; why would you try to fit such a large school on only 20 acres? What is the impact on sports program?

ANSWER: The 22+ acres of land at the current high school location is the largest available parcel of land in Norwood that can accommodate the new school and it has been deemed suitable by numerous groups, neighbors, design professionals and Town representatives. It should be noted that such land parcels, such as in Westwood - assuming the 60 acres is correct - are not always the buildable area. They often include land that is not used by the school, either because it's not needed, or because it can't be utilized due to wetlands, zoning or other regulatory requirements. The Town Engineer has publicly shown why no other sites are suitable on a number of different occasions.

The only field that is 'lost' in the new building project will be the football practice field. Norwood has the benefit of having town fields that can accommodate the high school athletic program for all games and practices. The Athletic Director has developed a detailed spread sheet on file where teams will play and practice during and after construction.

6. What tax implications will be incurred, not only immediately but in the future? Can we get some actual numbers rather than percentages?

ANSWER: Tax tables have been developed that show the average property tax increases over the life of the project. The debt exclusion override that will be voted will cover the entire cost of the project. There will be no additional overrides in the future to finance this project. For specific information, go to www.newnorwoodhighschool.com.

7. Does the population in Norwood warrant the need for a new and bigger school? And if so, do all students check out as Norwood residents?

ANSWER: One of the first criteria MSBA checks when first working with school districts is current and projected enrollments. MSBA has verified that the 227,500 sf school is appropriate for the projected enrollments.

The model school that is being built will accommodate 1,100 students. The original design was for a building to house 1,300 students.



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The present population of the high school is 1001. The population will be closer to 1,100 next year since the Class of 2013 is larger than the present freshman class of 2012. But beyond that our projections, verified by MSBA analysis, shows the population dropping off.

All of our students live in Norwood. Occasionally, because of custodial issues, the School Committee will allow a non-resident student to attend on a temporary basis.

8. If the construction of the new school goes through, how can we make sure that the students will not abuse or destroy whatever might be new at this point? As far as I hear, kids manage to do drugs and come to school under the influence at times, and our teachers are not able or willing to address the issue, either for fear or because they feel they are not sitters. Will we install cameras to attack this kind of behavior?

ANSWER: The current students at the Norwood Senior High School do not abuse or destroy the building, so there is no reason to expect this to happen. In fact, Whitman-Hanson found that vandalism decreased significantly with their new school, as the students took great pride in their new school. The new Norwood High will have a comprehensive security system that includes 134 video surveillance cameras to protect people and property.

A strong discipline code is in place at the high school and all issues are dealt with fairly, firmly and consistently. The new facility will have more security cameras since that will help curb any vandalism to the building. Administrators and teachers are vigilant and do deal with these issues in the appropriate way.

9. What about the residents who have chosen not to have any kids, or whose children are all grown up, is there an equitable way to distribute this future tax burden?

ANSWER: Massachusetts law requires that each community's tax levy be shared in proportion to the assessed value of residential and commercial property. There is no other way that the tax levy may be apportioned.

10. What about the economy, does it warrant this kind of project?

ANSWER: In spite of the economy being in a down cycle, both the bidding climate and the bond market are very favorable towards this important project. With fewer public and private construction projects on the immediate horizon, contractors are hungry for work. Similar situations in the past have resulted in prices lower than estimated. Bonding costs are also low relative to historic levels. Norwood has an excellent bond rating and this should result in a very favorable interest rate. These conditions will not continue indefinitely and any delay will likely result in higher costs to the taxpayer.

11. What route will all the big trucks take to bring materials to the high school? We live on Elliott St. which is an easy access from IA to Nichols St. Is this street going to be a cut through to get to the high school or will other streets share the burden? There are a lot of little kids and elderly

on this street and we all know that these trucks can't stop on a dime. With all the noise and pollution that these trucks will bring, it will not be a pleasant time. The street is in bad shape already. It would be a complete mess in a short time.

ANSWER: Obviously for a project as large as the construction of a new high school, materials will have to be transported to and from the site. And, given the fact that the high school is located at 245 Nichols Street, some local streets leading up to the site will have to be utilized in the process.

A significant amount of planning has gone in to developing vehicular routes for the project, anticipating that the construction materials might come from almost any direction. Routes 128, I-95, One, 1-A and 109 are the main arteries leading to Norwood.

Locally, the streets which the contractors will use and which have been approved by the Police and Fire Departments and the Town Engineer are Geraldine Drive, Nichols Street, Shattuck Park Road, Nahatan Street and Neponset Street. Elliott Street will not be used.

12. What will be the cost of busing the high school athletes to the various fields around town while the high school fields are not available? What will be the continued cost for the athletes, i.e. baseball, that will not be able to return to the high school for competition. Will the athletes' parents be responsible for the cost?

ANSWER: It will cost \$68,000 each year for the two years while the new school is being built. The money is in the School Department's supplemental budget.

13. With the seniors hurting, prices and taxes going up, children applying to college, cost of food rising, if the override doesn't pass, why is there not an alternative plan?

ANSWER: To do nothing is an alternative plan - but not an acceptable one to the Town. This was clearly demonstrated in the 2006 election when the \$6M override to design this project was approved.

The proposed plan was the result of five years of study and substantial cost. If the override is defeated, those five years of study and cost would have to be replicated. And the likelihood of receiving the "deal" we now have with MSBA is probably zero.

14. Has it been considered to exempt senior citizens from the cost of a new high school? Many of them have paid for most of the schools now in existence. They are living on fixed incomes, which are being eroded by higher costs of food, electricity, water, etc.

ANSWER: See answer to question # 9.

15. When did the people of Norwood vote on building a new high school or renovating the current high school? It was not the vote for the \$6 million dollar override.

ANSWER: On January 23, 2006, Town Meeting appropriated \$6.0 million to design a "new" high school. Then on April 3, 2006, an override vote for "replacement" of the existing high school was approved by the voters.

16. Our property taxes in Norwood go up regularly, now add to that the estimated average of \$150 per year for the proposed new Norwood High School for the next 24 years. My questions is, how is the average Norwood homeowner going to be able to tolerate all of these increases all the while our properties are decreasing in value?

ANSWER: See answer to question # 26.

17. Is the money that the project is to receive monthly from the MSBA unaffected by the economy and shortages in operating budgets?

ANSWER: The MSBA has already dedicated the money applicable for the Norwood project within its five year capital plan. This money is already secure and is not subject to changes in the economy or state budget. Should the Town not approve the New High School, any successor attempt at securing money for a school construction project would be subject to future appropriation and, therefore, conditioned on future economic and budgetary conditions.

18. What is the projected additional cost of temporary relocation of sports venues, etc.?

ANSWER: The Town of Westwood has offered their facilities for football games during construction at no cost to the residents of Norwood. The only costs for the games played in Westwood would be the usual game costs incurred if a game was played on our site (police, custodians, ticket takers, etc.). All other sports teams will play their home games at a school field in Norwood. Other costs will amount to \$68,000 annually for the two years of construction.

19. Will there be an increase in the number of teachers, facility workers, etc.?

ANSWER: The only thing that would increase the number of teachers would be a significant increase in student enrollment. The present teaching staff would appear to be adequate for our present course offerings. The size of the facility may warrant an additional .5 custodian.

20. If the tax override passes will we see our real estate and excise taxes go up 2-1/2 percent? Are there any other taxes or fees increased also?

ANSWER: Only your real estate taxes will be affected if the debt exclusion override passes. There will be no impacts to any other taxes or fees. The tax table located at the website www.newnorwoodhighschool.com shows the tax impacts for your specific home valuation. On average, the property tax increase associated with this project is between 4 to 5 percent.

21. Who do we contact to oppose or agree with this override?

ANSWER: The override vote is scheduled for April 6. That is your opportunity to agree or disagree with the proposal.

22. If you lease the use of the high school for another purpose or sell it, it could be saved. There is land behind Jr. High North and South. If you build behind South, the buses would make one run for several students in one family and save money (for example, 8th

grade and 10th grade from one household).

ANSWER: This question is thoroughly answered in question #1.

23. Are my children's choices for college going to be limited because of a lack of accreditation?

ANSWER: The answer is simple. In a situation where a college is considering the applications of two equal students, but one is from an accredited high school and the other is not, the student from the accredited school has the clear advantage. It's tough enough for students to get into the college of their choice - why make it that much harder?

24. We live near the high school (Victoria Circle area) and have a water problem like many of our neighbors. We are concerned that blasting, etc. for the new school will exacerbate the condition. Has this problem been considered? Some people in the area think the flow of water can be diverted behind the school down to a brook that is in the area. This situation is very important us.

ANSWER: It is important to note that the New High School project will fix some existing problems related to water runoff from the current site. All rain water generated within the site limits of work will either be infiltrated into the ground (in the case of fields or other landscape) or collected in drainage and transported to the Town storm drainage system (in the case of roofs and parking surfaces). Due to the patchwork of systems on the current site, the same cannot be said at the existing high school. During construction, an extensive erosion control system will control any water runoff. All of these systems have been approved by the Town's authorities, including the Planning Board and the Town Engineering Department. There is no blasting anticipated to be required onsite.

25. Why didn't the Committee of "21" even consider successful remodels like Walpole, Canton, even Boston? Did they start with only acceptable solution - New School?

ANSWER: The School Facilities Task Force (aka the Committee of 21) did not instruct the original architect, SMMA, to investigate a new high school until they had received eight renovation options. In fact, a new high school was the last option reviewed after all renovation options were exhausted. Several high schools, including Walpole High, were visited with an eye toward renovation. Unfortunately, Norwood High School's configuration and age did not lend itself to renovation.

Also, see the answer to question #62.

26. It is understandable that real estate taxes will rise due to Norwood's new high school and we do realize the need for a new building. In the meantime, the valuations of homes are declining because of our faltering economy and the drop in home sales. My question is: does the Town have any plans to reappraise Norwood homes? If not, what is the process of requesting a reappraisal for my home as, I'm

sure, its valuation has dropped this past year.

ANSWER: The total real estate tax that the homeowner pays should not change if the valuation increases or decreases since the valuations of everyone's property would also change by the same percentage to reflect market conditions. As an example, if your tax bill in a given year is \$3000, but the assessed value of your home increases by 10%, then your tax bill would still be \$3000 since the other property in Norwood would also increase by a similar amount. What really matters is how your home is assessed relative to other homes in town, not what the actual dollar valuation is. If you are interested in a re-evaluation of your property, then you should contact the Town Assessor's office.

27. Usually, with a debt exclusion override, it's for 20 years. Why, when the presentation was made at the selectmen meeting and the school committee meeting, was the debt shown over 24 years not the usual 20 years. Where did the 24 years come from? Was this done just to show the debt to be slightly cheaper?

ANSWER: Towns can issue bonds for high schools for up to 25 years. The Town Treasurer's assumption is that for the first year we will issue Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) where we pay interest only, thus reducing the limit of the bond issue to 24 years.

28. Will the question on the ballot have a fixed dollar amount? What happened to the six million we approved for building plans - last year's 2-1/2 override?

ANSWER: The ballot question will not have a dollar amount per se but request an exemption from proposition 2 1/2 for this project. This language has been recommended by bond counsel and is consistent with Mass. Department of Revenue requirements. A positive vote for this ballot question as well as the town meeting article that lists a specific dollar amount is necessary to proceed with the project. A portion of the previous \$6 million dollar appropriation has been used for design services, and any remaining monies from there will be used in the construction project.

29. Will dollars allocated for the new high school be trackable? Put something in place similar to a plan vs. actual report showing dollars spent.

ANSWER: Yes, the budget will undergo extensive review during the construction period. All invoices from the contractors will be reviewed by the Owners Project Manager with a recommendation to the Permanent Building Construction Committee (PBCC) whether or not to pay. Change orders will be reviewed in a similar manner. The PBCC will issue a monthly update on the project budget.

30. Will the memorial bricks from the walkway be restored and where to?

ANSWER: All of the existing memorial brick pavers, benches and plaques will be salvaged and incorporated into the final design. The current memorial brick pavers will be reset into a memorial walkway which is a feature of the landscape in the front of the building.

31. How much will it cost to demolish and remove the present school?

ANSWER: The cost for abating the hazardous material in the existing school and demolishing the existing school has been estimated to be about \$3 million and is included in the \$79.2 million budget.

32. Why can't the new high school be located elsewhere?

ANSWER: See answer to question # 1.

33. What is Mr. Bonfatti's professional background/resume? Would you illuminate his qualifications? Does he have a contract with the town for the duration of the project or can he be re-assigned by his company at any point in time?

ANSWER: Mr. Bonfatti has been the Project Director responsible for the project since the commencement of the design phase in April 2006. While the contract with RF Walsh Project Management, Inc. ends effective April 30, Mr. Bonfatti will be pursuing the ongoing contract with his own firm, Compass Project Management, Inc. If selected by the PBCC, he has committed to maintaining an intense personal involvement with the project through its completion. In addition to being a 20 year veteran of the school building industry, Mr. Bonfatti is a licensed attorney and former chair of the Medfield School Building Committee which completed a large high school project on-time and on-budget in 2004. Incidentally, he is a 1978 Norwood High graduate.

34. Does the bidding process require that the Town of Norwood take the lowest bidder? Can any caveats be written into the contract that allows for penalties in the case of: malfeasance, non-performance or similar scenarios?

ANSWER: Under the Construction Reform Act of 2004, all Towns have the ability to pre-qualify general and filed sub-bidders. This is a tool which has not been available to Norwood prior to this project. The Prequalification Committee reviewed eight applications from general contractors and prequalified six. Therefore, while it is required to take the lowest, qualified bidder from the prequalified pool, the process has already succeeded in preventing two firms it deemed unqualified from bidding on the project.

35. Given the fact that this volunteer group is charged with significant responsibility for a project of this scale, if there is a punch list, do they have the authority to withhold payments until the list is completed in a satisfactory manner?

ANSWER: Yes. Under the contract, the Town can withhold a value equal to 1.5 times the value for any uncompleted work. In addition, if the work is not completed to the Town's satisfaction within a reasonable period of time, the Town can complete the work and charge the Contractor, and its surety, for all costs incurred.

36. As the project will be under 780 CMR, Section 116, will there be an architect on site also overseeing the quality of construction to ensure that the design matches the application?

ANSWER: There will be full time on-site representation from the Owner's Project Manager who is also a registered architect. In addition, the project architect will visit the site at least once a week to inspect the work and there will be regular inspections from all of the engineers involved in the design. Finally, there will be an extensive quality assurance process which involves significant onsite testing and inspection.

37. Will the existing desks/equipment/etc. be recycled in some fashion within the existing school system or auctioned off locally or on e-bay or offered to bid to the public?

ANSWER: Whatever furniture and equipment can be used in the new facility will be moved to the new school. Furniture may be used in the other Norwood schools and if there is additional equipment, there is a public bidding process to deal with surplus assets. Additionally, the "soft cost" part of the budget carries an estimate of \$2.8 million for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

38. Has it been pre-determined if the existing site is located on a large mass of rock, or other geologic residue which would affect the cost of excavating for the new footprint of the building?

ANSWER: There have been two separate geotechnical studies done involving over 14 borings. None of the borings have indicated the presence of ledge or other obstructions which would cause an increase in the price of excavation.

39. Within town government, will there be a specific person to forward comments or complaints to once the project has started? If any, who will that person be?

ANSWER: General comments should be referred to the Chair of the PBCC or the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. But, from a practical viewpoint, the Owner's Project Manager or the Town Engineer.

40. How will the funds the state will provide be distributed, on a periodic time-table/as needed/or on a pre-assigned basis? If the funds become liquid or non-available, can the state be held liable for misleading the taxpayers of Norwood?

ANSWER: The MSBA program provides Towns with reimbursement for the State share of eligible costs through an on-line monthly application process in the month following the month the Town incurs the costs. For example, if Norwood incurs eligible project costs totaling \$1 million in the month of June, the State will reimburse 59.21% of those costs in July. The State is committed to paying these costs as a party to the Project Funding Agreement.

41. Will there need to be an increase in staff?

ANSWER: See answer to question 19.

42. By going green, we assume that the costs to operate the building should be reduced - what kind of savings are anticipated - specifically? For example, 10 percent less than today's cost - 15 percent, etc.

ANSWER: The New Norwood High School will be a super-efficient building with highly insulated exterior walls, roof, and floor slab. It will include high efficiency light fixtures with daylight sensors that reduce the energy use from electrical lighting when enough daylight is present. The Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning Systems will be "Reactionary" systems that sense the level of occupancy activity throughout the building and respond accordingly. The building will include a 20,000 gallon rainwater collection system which collects clean water from the roof and uses it to flush toilets and urinals. All of these systems will result in a reduction of over 60,000kWh of electricity use and 600,000 gallons of water use each year, when compared to a typical modern building of the same size

and use. These savings alone are worth over \$100,000 per year. This does not mean that the new building will be less expensive to operate than the old building, as one must remember that the old building has inadequate ventilation, inadequate lighting, and no air-conditioning. Providing the required ventilation, lighting, and air-conditioning will obviously result in additional energy use. However, these costs are directly attributable to providing an appropriate educational environment for teaching and learning.

43. Why have Norwood residents/taxpayers not received anything from the Town showing a line item cost comparison for renovating the existing school and campus versus a similar item for item cost estimate for an entirely new structure and grounds. Aren't they both available at this time?

ANSWER: The MSBA performed this comparative analysis of both options in coming to the conclusion that new construction was less expensive and about twice as fast, with considerably less interruption. The decision was made in 2006 to proceed with a new building after evaluating eight renovation options and six new building options. A new building cost less, took less time, and was less disruptive than renovation. Town Meeting in January 2006 approved \$6 million for design of a new building at the site of the existing school and the voters in April 2006 approved the debt exclusion override. The MSBA reviewed the work done by Norwood and concurred that a new building was the correct solution. Also, see answer to question 62.

44. Are the state reimbursement figures on which the project is based actual, real and confirmed so, or are they presumed, assumed and not confirmed but only supposed by our Norwood school officials and selectmen.

ANSWER: The State reim-

bursement percentage - 59.21% of eligible costs - is actual. The project budget of \$79.2 million is based on actual costs for most of the soft costs - design, project management, etc. - and a project estimate for construction costs (which is the single largest portion of the budget). Fortunately, as a participant in the Model School program, Norwood will have the opportunity to know exactly the bid amount for the construction cost prior to Town Meeting and the Override Vote as the bids are due on March 13 - ten days before Town Meeting.

45. Has anyone on any of the committees talked with Tim Cahill? I have heard him say twice on radio that there is no money for building new schools, but that there is money for renovation.

ANSWER: Treasurer Cahill has been quoted in the Norwood Record on July 24, 2008 as saying the following about the New Norwood High School: "The old school can't be fixed," he said. "We did an analysis and we weren't swayed by any of the town's arguments one way or the other, and there's not a lot we think is salvageable. It's substandard in really severe ways and we realized it would be more effective to start from scratch." By entering into the Project Scope and Funding Agreement after a year of extensive review, the MSBA has indicated that they will only provide reimbursement to Norwood if it builds a New Norwood High School at the site of the current high school.

46. If this goes through, can the town get the money in an escrow account so it isn't left holding the debt if the money should be withdrawn or cut back?

ANSWER: As noted in question 40 above, the State is obligated to reimburse Norwood for 59.21% of eligible costs on a monthly basis. Since the reimbursement occurs essentially as the costs are incurred, there would be no need for an escrow account. The MSBA's

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share of the costs have been received already and are secure.

47. Is there any way to preserve the facade of the main building and go off the back or out back and use the building for offices/storage etc. When I worked for the state after the Consent Decree, the old ugly buildings became our offices and the clients lived/worked in renovated updated space. It's not really broken, probably stronger than what would be built today.

ANSWER: There were over ten renovation options analyzed prior to the MSBA's decision that a new high school was the most cost effective solution to replacing the current high school. Most of these options provided for maintaining the original 1926 building and facade. In each instance, the challenges related to renovation increased the cost of the project to such an extent that it exceeded the cost of a constructing a new high school. (Also see answer to #62)

48. Once the existing high school is demolished (if indeed that is what is to happen), I am curious to know how the property facing Nichols Street (the front of the proposed new school) will be used. I do not recall seeing a plan for landscaping this area, which is now quite beautiful.

ANSWER: The landscape design for the southern half of the site facing Nichols Street calls for a large pastoral field area which, except for the six weeks of the field hockey season, will essentially be open park area. Toward the northern portion of the front yard (toward Peabody Street), two boulevard-style walkways with granite stairs will be used as the main pedestrian access to the front door. In addition, there are a series of meandering paths (in the area of the current Peabody School) as an alternate means to access the front door.

49. With the banks not loaning money at the current time.

What happens if the override vote is yes but the Town Treasury can't secure the funding for the project?

ANSWER: This is an unlikely scenario. Norwood will obtain funding from the municipal bond market, not the banks. We have an excellent bond rating, one of the best in the Commonwealth and bonds issued by the town are considered a superior investment. In these difficult times, investors are looking for solid investments with minimal risk, and bonds are much more attractive than stocks.

50. Is the current Norwood High structurally sound or not? I thought the state has certified it to be structurally sound. However, when I look at newnorwoodhighschool.com site and check under "Why a new school?" I saw it has structural deficiencies. So, is the current high school structurally sound or not?

ANSWER: While the current high school is considered structurally sound by the codes that were in effect when it was built between 1924 and 1962, it would require significant structural strengthening and upgrades to meet new codes that would be triggered under even moderate renovation options. However, since the construction of all of the buildings which make up the high school, there have been numerous code changes which would necessitate major structural reinforcement should the buildings undergo any significant renovation. Mostly, these measures would be necessary to strengthen the building in case of earthquake, although several changes would be needed to bring classroom sizes up to current MSBA guidelines.

51. As a second opinion is there any way the committee may consider getting an estimate from a company other than SMMA, or Ai3 on fixing the 43 items on the NEASC list? There has to be other companies who specialize in renovating old building. Most people

get two or three prices from different companies before doing any work on their homes.

ANSWER: There have been three other attempts by three separate architects to estimate the cost of renovating the current high school in addition to the SMMA estimates. Mount Vernon Architects undertook an estimate in 2000 which, equalized to today's dollars, arrived at a very similar conclusion as SMMA. In 2004, KLQ provided a one page summary estimate which arrived at a dollar amount less than either Mount Vernon or SMMA. However, that estimate did not account for several measures that would be needed to provide lasting value to the Town. For instance, they did not improve the structure to meet seismic requirements; provide for a new roof; replace the existing heating or electrical system; improve the auditorium; reconfigure classroom sizes to meet MSBA requirements; renovate the gymnasium or repair the building exterior. The last estimate, commissioned on instruction from the MSBA in 2007, was prepared by Preconstruction Associates. That estimate arrived at the conclusion that a phased renovation of the existing school would cost approximately \$20 million more than a new school and take twice as long to complete.

52. Can it be proven by a state, or fed study the loss of a high school accreditation will result in the loss of property/home values in a Town?

ANSWER: While there are no hard and fast numbers specific to Norwood regarding a loss of accreditation, that decision would surely spark a rightful outcry from parents or future parents that the quality of education being offered their children in the Norwood School System was being lowered by the loss.

And a recent publication by the National Association of Realtors is emphatic about the relationship between the quality of public schools and the value of homes.

"The quality of public schools influences where people buy a home and what they pay for it. Regardless of whether they have children, buyers care about the reputation of the local schools because they know that schools directly affect a community's vitality as well as a home's resale value."

And a recent survey performed by that association "showed that Americans rank quality of public schools second only to crime when deciding where to live. Poorly performing schools can limit the desirability of even the best housing stock while great schools can attract new life into the worst neighborhoods. Communities cannot thrive without attracting and keeping families who want good public schools for their children because no matter how magnificent the homes, residents will stop sending their children to underperforming schools when better public schools are nearby."

53. Any idea on when the Committee of 21 will start to work on the Coakley Middle School which, if I remember correctly, was suffering from many of the same issues as the current high school, which was the original order by town meeting. The last estimate I thought I heard on the Coakley to fix it was \$11-12 million. Just wondering if the state gets involved again with the Coakley if it might say to tear this school down as well and build a new one?

ANSWER: As was done with the High School, a "Statement of Interest" was also submitted by the Town to MSBA for the Coakley MS. The MSBA asked all school districts to identify their top priority and the High School was named. The High School is the right school to focus our efforts on based on accreditation, size, enrollment, age and condition. The Coakley is actually the newest school in Norwood (1974), and while it needs some upgrades, it doesn't compare to the problems at the high school.

54. What is going to happen to our athletes when we have no available fields to play on. Are there going to be buses for these athletes to travel every day to those fields? Are we as parents expected to leave our jobs to take our kids to practice every day? Are our athletic fees also going up? I understand that sacrifices have to be made, but why might the families of our town's athletes sacrifice the most?

ANSWER: Bus transportation will be provided for the football squad because of the equipment needed in that sport. Other athletes will walk to their venue or be transported by fellow students or parents. Keep in mind that all practice and game facilities are in the Town of Norwood and are reasonably close for student accessibility. Also keep in mind that this is a two year inconvenience and we all must 'keep our eyes on the prize' - that prize is a new 21st century facility for our students and our community.

Each year, the athletic fee assessment issue is discussed and reviewed by The Administration, Norwood School Committee, and the Athletic Director.

55. Has anyone given a price for an addition onto the complete back of the existing school? If that could be done, at about the same price as the taxpayers will have

to pay after the state money for the new building, there would be science and math labs and several other rooms. The rest of the old building could be renovated one room at a time later.

ANSWER: On April 5, 2004, an override question to do just that was soundly defeated. That defeat led to the current study and the recommendation to build a New Norwood High School.

56. Given all the recent news articles and public awareness, why would Norwood school officials risk endangering our children by allowing this extremely expensive synthetic turf to be installed at NHS, knowing in advance what the potential medical dangers are for lead poisoning (particularly when the proposed high school field is to be used and overly used for so many sport activities)? Real grass is going "green;" synthetic turf is artificial and a potential health hazard.

ANSWER: The synthetic turf specified for the Norwood high school will be the most environmentally-friendly and user-safe product available on the market today. The Norwood High School synthetic turf specifications do not allow for the use of inferior and lesser quality products or manufacturers which contain lead or other components which may pose a risk to the users. There is much debate about whether synthetic turf is more "Green" or environmentally friendly than natural grass. Synthetic turf does not have to be treated with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which environmentalists frown on. Synthetic turf does not require countless hours of mowing, which results in the burning of gasoline and the associated effects of global warming. There are numerous companies attempting to generate natural grass seeds which require less fertilizer, pesticide, and mowing in order to be more environmentally friendly. Unfortunately, these grasses cannot tolerate the effects of constant play, and are more suitable for decorative lawn areas. No natural grass can provide the same constant use that synthetic turf provides. Synthetic turf also provides a consistently smooth surface without divots, ruts, or rough spots. Many Massachusetts Towns that currently utilize synthetic turf rave about the benefits of extended daily use, extended seasonal use, and reduced maintenance costs. A synthetic turf field at the New Norwood High School can easily provide more than double the "Use time" of any natural grass field within the Town. This increased amount of available use, combined with the reduction in maintenance, seems to make synthetic turf an excellent choice for the Town of Norwood.

57. In March of 2008, the MSBA announced favorably on a new high school for Norwood. This despite the report of The STV Group, an independent architectural and engineering firm hired by MSBA to assess and evaluate the conditions at NHS, found no serious problems. For example: Under the heading...Building Structure the comment was "No issues were noted." Another comment: "While the building appears to be 'tired' and uninspiring, it does not appear to be obsolete and in need of total replacement." Further: "The building is generally well organized and the classrooms mostly

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of appropriate size with good day lighting and views.” Question: Why did all the powers that be completely ignore this STV Group report?

ANSWER: That was a statement made by one architect on a walk-through visit very early in the evaluation process before any actual designs were prepared or cost estimates done. STV Group was on an assignment by MSBA to visit hundreds of schools in Massachusetts to gain preliminary information about them. Subsequently MSBA hired other architects to look, specifically, at Norwood High. These architects concurred with ours that renovation was not a feasible option for Norwood. (See answer to # 62)

58. The 2004 override suggested \$12 million for the Middle School and \$18 million for NHS additions, renovations, etc. It was defeated. How did the Committee of 21 rationalize sidetracking the Middle School and determining that Norwood needed a new high school?

ANSWER: The Middle School was built in 1974; sections of the High School are almost 90 years old. The High School’s needs far exceed those of the Middle School.

59. When was the last demographic study done reflecting where most of the high school students currently live and where future students might reside? That should be taken into account in discussions of a location for the high school.

ANSWER: Since the recommended option was to keep the High School at 245 Nichols Street, there was no need for a demographic study.

60. Wouldn’t an educational complex be more beneficial with the middle school and high school sharing an area? The middle school could utilize the new, state-of-the-art computer, science, math labs as well as updated theatre arts venues, library, and athletic facilities. Perhaps a connecting corridor could unite the two buildings. Resources could be shared as could the instructors providing higher level course selections to those eligible.

ANSWER: There is no room at the current site, or anywhere in the Town for that matter, that could reasonably accommodate this concept.

61. When the schools in Norwood were analyzed over 5 years ago, the school committee proclaimed that the middle school was also in need of upgrades/renovations. It also had overcrowding issues. The committee insisted that the use of modular classrooms would be temporary, and they would be eliminated in 5 years and a more permanent cure found. We’re now dealing exclusively with the high school issue. Are we ignoring the deficits of the middle school? The educational complex idea would/could be a possible solution. Other towns have used this concept successfully.

ANSWER: The renovations needed at the middle school (built in 1974) pale in significance to those at the high school. (circa 1924)

62. Why would the Chairman of the Massachusetts School

Building Authority (MSBA) ignore the written evaluations and recommendations of two independent consultants of their own choosing who stated that Norwood Senior High School is structurally sound but needs moderate to major renovation?

ANSWER: He did not ignore his own consultants. The MSBA conducted a detailed inspection with an independent architectural consultant in 2007-2008 to determine the specific condition of the existing high school building. Based on that evaluation, MSBA stated that renovation is not a viable option and agreed that a new building is the recommended option. The MSBA Board unanimously approved the project. What this question refers to is a preliminary evaluation MSBA performed in 2005-2006 for all cities, towns and school districts in Massachusetts. It consisted of spending a day and a half in town and looking at all eight school buildings, so in reality it was nothing more than a windshield survey and a brief walk-through at each school.

The MSBA Chairman, his staff and his consultants agreed finally that renovation made no sense in the final analysis. Here is just some of the reasoning used in coming to that conclusion.

1. Renovation would cost more than the Middle School Option a. Over \$3.0 million would have to be spent on the careful and selective removal of hazardous materials in the building (Asbestos, lead, etc.) b. The entire existing building would have to be modified for full building code compliance as a result of the renovations c. The entire existing building would have to be modified for handicap accessibility to all areas d. The entire existing building would have to be modified to comply with current structural/seismic requirements e. Enormous interior demolition would be required in order to configure appropriately sized classrooms, science labs, and critical educational spaces f. The building would have to be renovated in sections or “Phases” because there is no alternate location for all of the students g. As a result of dividing the renovation project into multiple “Phases”, the time required to complete renovation would be almost twice as long (five years) as the time required to complete a new model school.

2. Renovation would displace and disrupt educational delivery for five years. a. With no alternate space available, students, faculty, and staff would be squeezed into inferior educational space as they have to vacate certain sections of the building for long periods of time in order to make them available for the contractor to renovate. b. With no alternate space available, students, faculty and staff would have to occupy spaces within the building directly adjacent to ongoing renovation activities; including the complications associated with noise, dust, hazardous material removal, security, etc. c. The new model school would be constructed behind the existing school, with faculty, staff, and administration moving into the new building in two years.

3. Renovation would require many compromises to the required size and spaces within the building. a. Due to the layout and con-

figuration of the existing building, they are many limitations with regard to the configuration, size, and adjacency of many spaces within the building. Expanded classrooms would be long and narrow. The sprawling nature of the current plan would continue to require extensive time for students to navigate between classrooms. A new model school will be compact, with appropriately sized and configured spaces. b. The renovated building would be almost 25,000sq.ft smaller than the minimally acceptable educational program.

4. A renovated building would not be as efficient to operate. a. The sprawling existing building configuration results in an enormous amount of exterior wall, roof, and window area. All of these areas translate into compromises in the heat loss and heat gain capabilities of the overall building envelope. Despite renovations, the exterior building envelope will never be as efficient as a new building envelope. b. Insertion of renovated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems into an existing building generally involves molding the systems to the available space within the existing building. This results in compromises to the efficiency and effectiveness of such systems. c. The efficient systems incorporated into the model school will result in operating costs savings of 200k-300k per year.

5. Renovation projects often result in the discovery of unanticipated building conditions - resulting in delays and added costs a. It is impossible to know what conditions will be encountered behind ceilings and walls when the renovation is begun. Design and Construction professionals generally recommend that at least 10% of the total project cost (In this case approximately \$6.0 million) be put aside to address unanticipated conditions encountered during the renovation of an aged facility, particularly one as old as Norwood High School. It is impossible to know the extent of these costs until walls, ceilings, and hazardous materials are removed during renovation.

63. What is the exact rate and amount of interest on the \$35.5 million loan? Why did the length of time of the loan change from 20 years to 24 years? What tax effect will this have on homeowners? Businesses? Seniors who own their homes? (Some may have additional expenses of a college education incurred after high school graduation, and there are more than 6,000 seniors here in Norwood out of a population of 28,000).

ANSWER: The interest rate chosen by the Town’s Bond Counsel, is 5 1/2 %. This is a conservative rate given the present market conditions and likely will be lower when Norwood actually borrows the funds. At that rate, the total principal and interest will be \$60,222,337. The tax impacts that have been calculated include both principal and interest costs. For the answer to the term of the loan, see answer to question #27.

64. Why has the MSBA set a life expectancy of only 50 years for any new public school? NCSC believes schools should be built to last.

ANSWER: The 50 year life expectancy for structures is a stan-

dard number used in engineering economic analysis when evaluating different alternatives. A new building built to modern building codes with proper maintenance will last for a longer period of time.

65. Why was a plan for renovation never seriously considered and never offered to voters? Why was the NHS 2004 Renovation Plan at a cost of \$18 million never reviewed for reconsideration as a comparison with the current proposed plan?

ANSWER: The 2004 Override was Not a renovation plan. Since no state reimbursement was available at that time, the plan was to build new science classrooms and renovate the existing science classrooms into regular classrooms. It was never a complete renovation plan.

The \$18 million (2004 dollars) plan was overwhelmingly rejected by the voters in 2004. That plan would also not address all the 43 problems referred to by New England Association of Schools and Colleges in their 2005 letter. In 2006, after a thorough review and discussion of 14 total alternatives, eight of which were renovation and six for a new building, town meeting and the voters approved \$6.0 million for the design of a new school building behind the current high school. Also, see answer to question #62.

66. Where, and at what cost, are the permanent practice field and the baseball field that Norwood High School athletes now have, but will lose as the result of new construction, to be relocated? How much will it cost taxpayers to bus or transport these athletes for the next 50 years if these fields are built elsewhere? Are these fields not included in the reimbursable items by the state?

ANSWER: Currently softball teams practice and play their games off-site at various fields around town. Costs are already included in the School Department’s operational budget. If any additional fields were needed, they would not be reimbursable by the MSBA

The baseball team will play at Peter Wall Field at the Balch School as they used to do up until

five years ago. The impacts from losing a practice field are minimal and easily mitigated. There will only be a conflict with the JV football team for 2 days per week for a period of 6 weeks in the fall. The JV team will practice at the Coakley fields. The cost will be \$1,800. No other town athletic teams will be impacted by the project.

67. Will school and town officials come back to the taxpayers in a couple of years with an override to relocate these fields and to bus athletes? Will they come back again for an operational override?

ANSWER: There will not be an override for field relocation. There are no plans, either now or in the future, for an operational override.

68. What about the plans for the other Norwood schools that are over 50 years old? Are they to be replaced, renovated, or are they to be repaired? When are these other schools going to be attended to and for how much? Is there a 5 or 10-year master plan for the systematic maintenance of all our schools?

ANSWER: The Director of Buildings and Grounds has developed, presented a 10-year capital budget and had it approved by the School Committee in 2007.

69. How much is the Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) being paid?

ANSWER: The OPM and his staff have been paid \$406,000 to date. It is expected that that total will increase to \$490,000 by the beginning of construction. Construction administration work by the OPM could total another \$1.5 million.

70. How much was Norwood’s former architectural firm Symmes, Maini & McKee paid for their feasibility study of Oct. 31, 2005 and their project report of January 2006 that are no longer needed?

ANSWER: SMMA was paid a total of \$315,000 for their work which has now been concluded. That number included a feasibility study early on in the study, plus ex-



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tensive traffic studies, conceptual designs, topographical studies, geographical studies, sub-geographical work, etc. With few exceptions, all of this information will be incorporated into the final product for the new school.

71. Studies have shown that even with a high grade of synthetic turf, it still is not "going green." Isn't grass the only covering for a "green" football field? Isn't there a large problem with the artificial/synthetic turf at Concord-Carlisle High School and other schools throughout the country? (See The Boston Globe, Jan. 19, 2009, page 1.)

ANSWER: The synthetic turf specified for the Norwood high school will be the most environmentally-friendly and user-safe product available on the market today. The Norwood High School synthetic turf specifications do not allow for the use of inferior and lesser quality products or manufacturers which contain lead or other components which may pose a risk to the users. There is much debate about whether synthetic turf is more "Green" or environmentally friendly than natural grass. Synthetic turf does not have to be treated with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which environmentalists frown on. Synthetic turf does not require countless hours of mowing, which results in the burning of gasoline and the associated effects of global warming. There are numerous companies attempting to generate natural grass seeds which require less fertilizer, pesticide, and mowing in order to be more environmentally friendly. Unfortunately, these grasses cannot tolerate the effects of constant play, and are more suitable for decorative lawn areas. No natural grass can provide the same con-

stant use that synthetic turf provides. Synthetic turf also provides a consistently smooth surface without divots, ruts, or rough spots. Many Massachusetts Towns that currently utilize synthetic turf rave about the benefits of extended daily use, extended seasonal use, and reduced maintenance costs. A synthetic turf field at the New Norwood High School can easily provide more than double the "Use time" of any natural grass field within the Town. This increased amount of available use, combined with the reduction in maintenance, seems to make synthetic turf an excellent choice for the Town of Norwood.

72. Why is the gym located on the south side in the most recent architectural plans of a new school? Shouldn't most classrooms be located on the south side for natural sunlight?

ANSWER: The gym is the same side as the Model School, Whitman Hanson Regional High School. The classrooms are designed to utilize maximum daylight.

73. According to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) written report to Norwood school officials, the capacity for the existing school is 1,425 and the actual count is about 1,100. How can school and town officials say that Norwood High is overcrowded?

ANSWER: The capacity of the senior high school was never 1425 students, although during the years it was severely overcrowded it might have had that many high schoolers within its walls.

The actual count in 2008-2009 is 1001. The school is designed for 1100.

74. According to the MSBA, renovations receive 5 percent more in reimbursable state funds. Did they change their own rules?

ANSWER: MSBA rules have not changed. The additional 5% for renovations continues to be part of their program. However, Norwood was able to take advantage of the MSBA Model School Program that gives an additional 5% for participating in that program.

75. In January 2009, town officials had all town-owned buildings re-assessed. Norwood High is assessed for over \$10.7 Million. The replacement value of the school building alone would be in the \$25-35 million range. Together with the cost of demolition (\$3.5 million in 2005) and hauling away the debris, the town would be destroying an extremely valuable asset. (The demolition contractor would keep all the valuable copper, steel girders, the antique bricks on the edifice, and all the other items of value for resale and profit). Why would Norwood taxpayers allow such a valuable architectural treasure to come under the wrecking ball and crane?

ANSWER: According to the our architect, demolishing the current school will cost \$1,063,062 and removal of Asbestos-containing materials, hazardous materials, and lead from the existing school will cost \$1,750,000 (Total \$2,813,062). The purported "assessed" value of the building is a meaningless number in this analysis. What is important is not what has been spent in the past on the building but what must be spent in the future to address the needs of the high school. Keeping the existing building requires that another site be found for a new school

and the studies have shown that such a site does not exist. Even if one was available the inherent delay would result in added costs to the taxpayers, and there is no guarantee that MSBA would still fund the project. If a developer actually did purchase the building, the extensive renovation costs would mandate that a massive project be built to recoup the costs. The neighborhood impacts would be enormous and change the character of the entire area.

76. Why are school and town officials trying to squeeze such a large high school building on such a small piece of land causing high school students to lose two very important athletic fields? Have the concerns of the neighbors whose homes directly abut school property been addressed satisfactorily?

ANSWER: The current 22 acre site is the largest town-owned property that best fits the new building, which is 40,000 square feet larger than the current school. There have been several meetings with the High School neighbors. Their input has been very valuable and their concerns such as drainage, traffic, parking, lighting, noise, etc have been incorporated into the design. There will more meetings with the neighbors and if they have any additional concerns, they will also be addressed.

Only the baseball field will be eliminated from the site and, as stated previously, the baseball team used the field at the Balch School up until the past several years. The green area in front of the building will be used for girls' field hockey. The supposition behind this question is that there are other sites available, but the analysis has shown that there are no viable sites in Norwood large enough for a new

high school. Norwood is a small town of approximately 10 square miles and the large developable parcels have already been built on. There have been a number of meetings with neighbors, both as a group and individually, to discuss issues such as drainage, parking, traffic, construction scheduling and lighting. The current proposal addresses their concerns.

77. PARADE Magazine chose to include a photo of Norwood Senior High School in their national publication on Sept. 28, 2008. Did its editors believe the existing Norwood High was the most beautiful high school in America representing the ideal hometown high school?

ANSWER: Many of us were surprised to see the picture of Norwood Senior High School appear in the September 2008 Parade Magazine along side an article about high school reunions but we disappointed that article made no reference to Norwood nor did the author have any connection to Norwood or the High School. The existing Norwood High School is an attractive building when viewed from a distance. However, what lies behind those walls is not up to current standards as evidenced by the accreditation warning from NEASC. MSBA has stated that the building cannot be renovated and unanimously approved the construction of a new Norwood High School at the site. The new building will incorporate many of the distinctive architectural features from the old building.

Hopefully in September 2011, Parade Magazine will feature a photograph of the New Norwood High School proclaiming it one of the most attractive in America.

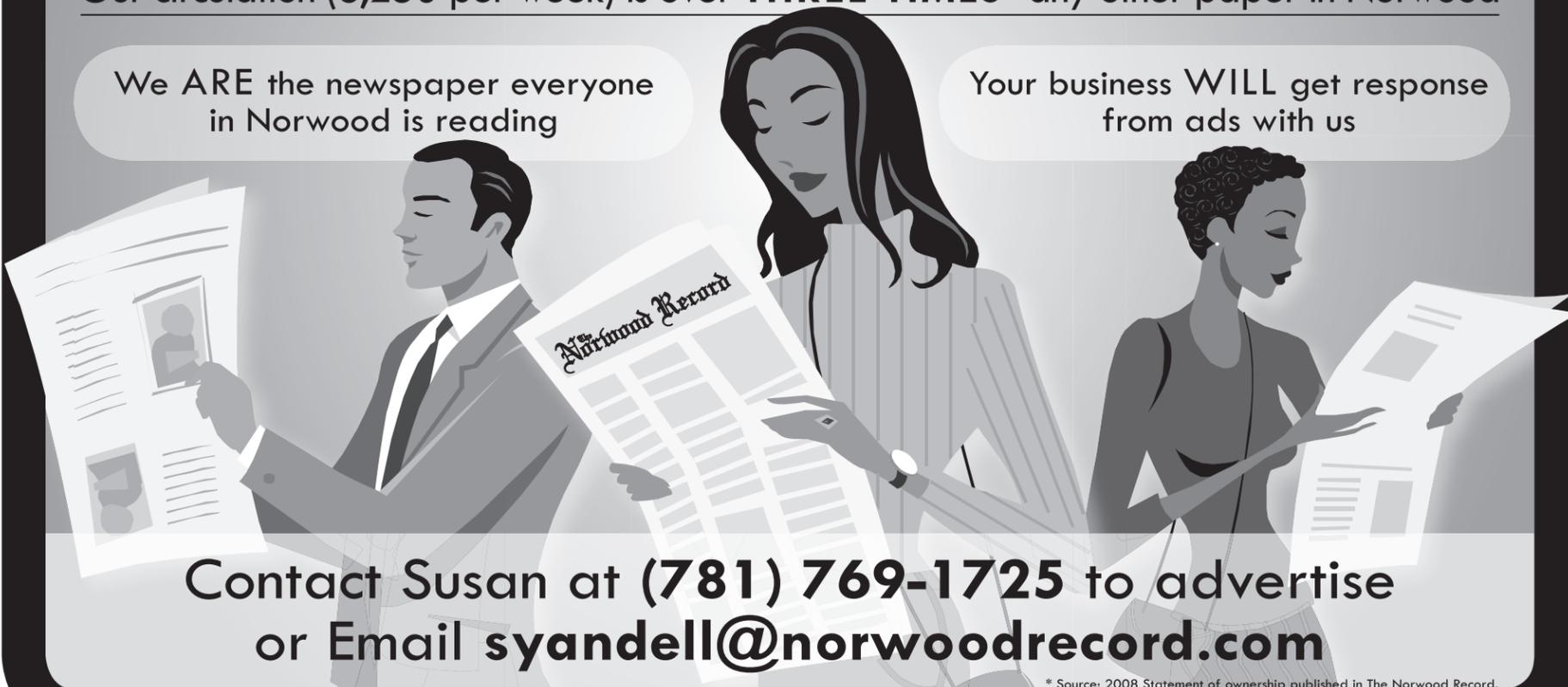
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Sports

Athletes in the spotlight at awards banquet



Girls' hockey award winners, Meredith Kiy (Most Improved), Taylor Donners (Unsung Hero), Kate Allan (Unsung Hero), and Ali Maloof (MVP). More photos appear on page 19.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mike Stoller
Staff Reporter

Norwood High recently rolled out the red carpet for its winter sports award winners. MVPs, unsung heroes, and most improved players were all recognized by their respective head coaches.

In boys' basketball, Matt Clifford was tabbed as the MVP, after a stellar season in which the star forward proved exceptionally tough in the paint despite often being double-teamed. Clifford was a main force in leading Norwood to its second straight state tourney berth. One of his biggest buckets came against Wellesley in the tourney clinching game. Clifford followed up his own rebound and made the ensuing foul shot to give the Mustangs a 49-43 lead with just 1:35 remaining.

"It hasn't been easy for Cliff down low," said head basketball guru Rich Cormier, after the win. "He's been getting double-teamed all year. But he made a big, big basket for us."

Meanwhile, as the unsung hero, Mike Goodwin, who was named next year's captain, often contributed with clutch defensive and offensive efforts. On the defensive side, Goodwin proved particularly strong in the tourney clinching game against the Raiders, when he guarded Wellesley phenom Evan Kulak.

"Mikey Goodwin, to see how he defended [Kulak], his defense was tremen-

dous, in particular in the second half," lauded Cormier.

Most improved player Mina Awad lit it up from three-point range, while also adding terrific defense. Against Whitman-Hanson in a Division 2 South tourney preliminary round loss, the senior drained three three-pointers in the opening half, and played "solid defense," said Cormier. "He had a terrific night," added the coach. "He came up so big. He just had a remarkable game."

Girls' basketball recognized the always reliable Emily Dixon, a junior, as the squad's MVP. Dixon, a co-captain and next year's leader, was the team's go-to player in the post, accumulating big scoring and rebounding numbers. One of her biggest nights came against host Natick in the opening game for both teams. Despite a 62-55 loss, Dixon poured in 18 points, while shooting a perfect 8-for-8 from the floor.

As the unsung hero, senior co-captain Jenn Canniff provided feisty defense, while most improved player Meaghan Troiano was often among the team's scoring and rebounding leaders. Troiano also combined with Dixon to hold the opposition at bay in the post. Against BSC rival Framingham, the much smaller Norwood squad had a difficult time stopping Flyers, but Mus-

Sports Awards

Continued on page 18

In five-overtime hoop thriller, Magic edge Mavericks for title

Mike Stoller
Staff Reporter

If you've already seen Boston College football legend Doug Flutie throw his famous Hail Mary pass for the 1,000th time, you may want to switch your allegiance to this game in years to come.

Hey, who needs ESPN Classics when you can have the equivalent in your own backyard? In — count 'em — FIVE overtimes (hello, UConn-Syracuse), the Magic edged the Mavericks, 48-46, to capture the Norwood town championship in the sixth grade boys' division.

The recent hoop thriller was filmed by Norwood Public Access (NPA) television, making this contest an "Instant Classic" for the local cable channel.

In what was arguably the largest crowd ever on hand to witness a basketball game at the Savage Center, the players slowly grew accustomed to the noise, as play started to heat up in the third quarter, after the Mavericks held a 14-11 lead at the half.

Brian Dittmeier drained a pair of buckets from beyond the three-point arc to push the Magic to a 25-23 lead, but the steady play of the Mavericks' Pat O'Brien, Dimitri Thaxter, and Joey Barrett kept things close to even, heading into the final frame.

The Magic stormed out quickly in the fourth quarter on baskets by Jack Riley, Andrew Bernazani, Colin Greeley, and Rich Whelan. However, Cullen Weidenaar and Jesse Flemming each scored for the Mavericks to tie the game again. Appropriately, the teams were knotted at 33-33, after regulation.

In an almost unimaginable sequence, four overtime frames ended with the score still tied. With both teams in foul trouble and nearly exhausted, Dittmeier hit several clutch shots and also earned the assists on other key points from Chris Heckmann and George Gereige in the extra sessions. Strong play on the boards from Rich Whelan, Jack Long, and Joe Bartucca also helped the Magic's cause. Steve Mulholland and James Driscoll, meanwhile, set the pace for the Magic with terrific hustle on defense.

The Mavericks responded in kind, hoop for hoop, as crucial overtime points were garnered by James Ferreira and Mike Murphy. And matching the Magic's strong defense were Prat Jakkaraju, Mike Maffeo, and Jaryd Antrim for the Mavericks. Joe Panetta also offset the Magic's play under the glass with countless rebounds on both sides of the court.

The game was ultimately decided in the fifth overtime, when the Magic prevailed by the 48-46 margin. Dittmeier fittingly dribbled the ball in, walking off the final seconds. The Magic stormed the court to celebrate, while the coaches on each side — Sean Porter and Chris Ryan for the Magic, and Pat Conroy and John McGowan for the Mavericks — congratulated all of the players on both squads.

Dittmeier scored a game-high 20 points for the Magic, while Bernazzani poured in 13. The Mavericks were led by O'Brien, Thaxter, Barrett, and Weidenaar who had 12, 11, 9, and 9, respectively.

Paul Clifford contributed to this story.

Tennessee prevails over BC in girls' hoop title

Mike Stoller
Staff Reporter

Tennessee outlasted BC, 40-31, to win the town championship in the sixth/seventh/eighth grade girls' division.

BC, coached by Norwood High hoop sensations Emily Dixon and Stephanie Perry, jumped out to a four-point advantage at the end of the first half. With Jessie Gorman running the point, BC

capitalized on early scoring opportunities courtesy of Julia Copponi, Olivia Philbrook, Kristen Flynn, and Kim Crockett.

Tennessee mentors Kelli Millin and Katie Lang, also athletes at NHS, made some halftime adjustments, and their squad made good on them at the start of the second stanza. Terrific rebounding

Hoop title

Continued on page 18

Sports Awards *continued from page 17*

tangs' first-year head coach Maureen Jennings praised the duo for a job well done.

"[The Flyers] had a very big post player, and Emily and Meaghan did a nice job containing her," said the coach, whose squad stayed competitive in the 58-45 loss. "It was a rough game, but [we] played hard."

The relentless Mike Verrochi was named MVP for boys' hockey. Verrochi and unsung hero Steven Mahon, both swift in the offensive zone, figured heavily in the scoring mix, while the Mustangs' other unsung hero, Chris O'Brien, proved to be a defensive cog, while helping to support the offense. After missing most of last season due to injury, Pat Cavanaugh was honored as the most improved player for his contributions at wing. The Mustangs made the Division 1 South tourney, before falling to Marshfield, 2-0, in the first round. Norwood clinched a postseason berth with an exhilarating 5-3 victory over nemesis Walpole on Feb. 4. "The kids played awesome," said head coach Bill Clifford, after the win. "Everyone was doing his job. They worked hard this year, and one of the main goals was to reach the tourney."

In girls' hockey, Ali Maloof was acknowledged as the team's MVP for an incredible campaign in which the star forward dominated in the offensive zone. Maloof often checked in with a hat trick or better, while also helping the defense immensely in shorthanded situations. Taylor Donners and Kate Allan were honored as unsung heroes for their Herculean defensive play - as well as Allan for her stellar efforts in goal in place of injured starter Jill Walsh - while most improved player Meredith Kiy went beyond expectations as an offensive stalwart. Head coach Bill O'Donnell saw the improved play by his team as the season progressed, as the Mustangs won five games, exceeding

their win total of four from last winter. "The goal during the season has been to compete, especially with teams that have won state championships like Wellesley," said the coach. "[We're] working hard and learning to compete against the very good teams, and that's something the coaching staff is really happy with."

Gymnastics saw MVP Manar Zaki contribute with personal-best tallies and help Norwood break team records almost on a weekly basis. "She has continued to increase her all around score....," noted assistant coach Nora Glynn during a mid-season stretch. Zaki was often supported by other top scorers such as unsung hero Jayme Igoe, most improved player Victoria Driscoll and the coach's award recipient Kellie McClure.

In Wrestling, senior captain Tom Julian took home the top prize as MVP, after a sensational season in which the star qualified for the state tourney along with unsung hero and newcomer A.J. Silletti and junior Matt Hennigan. Most improved players Aquie Moxam and Fady Beshay were honored for their heavy contributions in a winning season for the Mustangs, who doubled their win total from a year ago. Norwood finished at 12-11, after closing at 6-14 last year. "I think we have the potential," head coach Jim Asam said at the start of the campaign. With 10 juniors returning next season, Asam is looking forward to more great things next year.

Boys indoor track honored unsung heroes Stephen Curley and Robert Sheehan and most improved player David Girvan, while girls track recognized MVP Meghan Underhill and unsung heroes Kathryn Bernazzani and Kaitlyn Gatto. Boys' head coach Jim Forrest spoke for both teams, as girls head mentor Matt Curran and his wife were expecting a baby any day.

Then, on the defensive side, Tennessee's Sandy Lynch, Leticia Gomes, Kara Shea, and Nicole Marchant started to hold BC at bay, while Christina Hart and Kelly Duggan took over offensively, controlling the low post and combining for 13 points in the fourth quarter.

The league also thanked NPA TV for supporting Norwood basketball this season.

Paul Clifford contributed to this story.



Girls' indoor track award winners Katie Bernazzani (Unsung Hero) and Meghan Underhill (MVP). Not pictured, Kaitlyn Gatto (Unsung Hero).

COURTESY PHOTO

Noepel's three seals b-ball title

Exciting finish to seventh/eighth grade season

Mike Stoller
Staff Reporter

In a frantic ending to the recent Norwood town championship seventh/eighth grade boys' title game, Adam Noepel hit a buzzer-beating jump shot just inside the three-point arc to lead the Warriors to a stunning 51-50 win over the Bulls.

The Bulls sped out to an early first quarter lead by moving the ball around adeptly to the open man. Baskets by Mike O'Donnell, Ed Murray, Robert Wright, and Kevin Perry led to a 15-7 lead at the end of the opening stanza.

The Bulls withstood a Warriors rally in the second frame, increasing the pace of the game. Jake Ryan, Giovanni Santos, Alex Cubelli, Aidan Cullinane, and Sean Regan controlled the boards, while orchestrating a terrific fast break to get the Bulls to within one, 24-23, at the half.

However, the Warriors continued their overall dominance well into the third quarter, stretching their lead to eight points at 41-33. Using a magnificent fast break of their own along with supplying solid defensive pressure, the eventual winners staged excellent scoring opportunities that often found the net. Steve Chisolm, Sam McGrath, Sean Conway, and Eric Noepel led the squad in steals, while proving strong on defense, leading to lay-ups by Adam Noepel, who led the Warriors with 20 points.

The Bulls stayed within striking distance by controlling boards courtesy of Daron English, Dylan Martin, and Rodney Jean Marie, who scored a team-high 20 points. Determined to stay in the game, the Bulls increased

their defensive intensity in the last quarter, as evidenced by the play of Giuseppe Carchidi, Rylan Greeley, and Jared Conroy. Brendan Walsh stole the ball on two consecutive possessions, while English, at point guard continued to feed Jean Marie, the open big man, time and again to get the Bulls even closer. With less than 15 seconds left in the game, the English/Jean Marie duo worked their magic again to give the Bulls their first lead, 50-49, since the first half.

But the Warriors quickly moved the ball up the court, and found Noepel, who calmly released the winning shot just inside the arc to secure the win for the Warriors as time expired.

The league would like to thank Norwood Public Access (NPA) television for filming the game and supporting Norwood Basketball all year.

Paul Clifford contributed to this story.

Hoop title *continued from page 17*

by Sarah Morrissey, Veronica Alley, and Christina Hart propelled a string of fast break baskets by Alanna Keady, Amy Duggan, and Kelly Duggan, as Tennessee stole the lead at 26-22, after three quarters.

BC stayed within striking distance in the final frame, thanks to outstanding play under the glass by Nicole Butts, Gianna Pugliano, and Emily Clifford. Steady defense from Rachel Hubby and Rachel Wood created turnovers, leading to a few early hoops for BC.

Norwood Youth Football/Cheer offers \$500 scholarship

Norwood Youth Football & Cheer is offering a \$500 scholarship to a former youth football player and former youth cheerleader, who participated at least three years in the program.

Candidates must be a graduating high school senior and attending either a 2 or 4-year school in the fall of 2009.

Applications are available in the Guidance Office at Norwood High School and surrounding private high schools.

Application deadline is April 15.

For more information, call Tank Nardelli, president, at (781) 769-7057.

Calling all Coaches

The Norwood Record is looking to hear from all coaches and parents in Norwood about our local sports teams.

Have a tip or a story idea?

Call Mike Stoller at (781) 769-1725 or e-mail us at mstoller@norwoodrecord.com

CELEBRATING NORWOOD'S ATHLETES



Wrestling award winners, Aquie Moxam (Most Improved), A.J. Silletti (Unsung Hero), and Tom Julian (MVP).



Girls' gymnastics award winners, Jayme Igoe (Unsung Hero), Vicky Driscoll (Most Improved), and Manar Zaki (MVP).



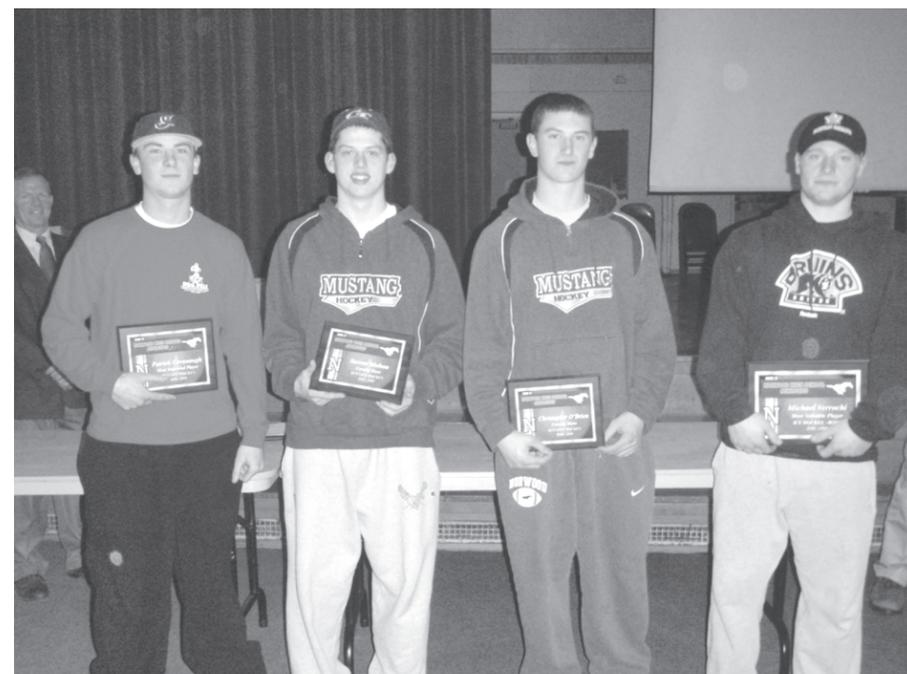
Girls' basketball award winners Meaghan Troiano (Most Improved), Jenn Canniff (Unsung Hero), and Emily Dixon (MVP).



Boys' basketball award winners Mina Awad (Most Improved), Michael Goodwin (Unsung Hero), and Matt Clifford (MVP).



Boys' indoor track award winners David Girvan (Most Improved), Rob Sheehan (Unsung Hero), and Steve Curley (Unsung Hero).



Boys' hockey award winners Patrick Cavanaugh (Most Improved), Steve Mahon (Unsung Hero), Chris O'Brien (Unsung Hero), and Mike Verrochi (MVP).

Letters *continued from page 4*

in both the Present as well as the Past. It is important to preserve our historic buildings.

Then there is the question of all the other schools. But that is another story.

*Judith Howard
Town Meeting Member
District 3*

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY *To the Editor:*

What an amazing opportunity we have on April 6.

A "perfect storm" of developments over the past few years and months have created a once-in-a-lifetime chance for Norwood residents to give their students an affordable high school they so desperately need and which generations to come will enjoy.

Think about it for a minute: A School Building Authority that's providing oversight and generous state funding. A new model school program, for which Norwood was chosen first in line, saving us millions of dollars. And a lousy economy that, with private development at a stand-still, makes now the best time in the last 70

years for publicly funded construction projects to move forward, saving us millions more in labor and material costs. Plus, with few if any competing projects on builders' agenda, it's a good bet the new school gets done on-time and on-budget.

Now is the time to act, to seize the day. Carpe high school. We've been given this brief shining moment where so many pieces have fallen into place; where the work of so many over the last five years is about to payoff for everyone who calls Norwood home, and for everyone who wants to see this very special town of ours remain special.

April 6 is the day when Norwood will vote yes for common sense. Vote yes for its future. Vote yes for our children. Vote yes for our town.

Joseph F. Ailinger, Jr.

SHOULD BE SECRET BALLOT

To The Editor:

To have a vote that is fair, where voters can vote their conscience, without being intimidated, the vote must be by se-

The Norwood Record

cret ballot. A person's vote can be influenced from intimidation by a supervisor, a peer or even a family member that can observe the way that person votes.

When we go to the polls to vote on election days, we elect presidents, governors, and legislators by secret ballot. Even our selectmen, town moderator, and town meeting members are elected by secret ballot. Town meeting in the past has had secret ballot votes and they will in the future. The voting for the new high school is of such importance that for it to be a fair vote, it must be taken by secret ballot.

*Robert Sullivan
Town Meeting Member
District 1*

FULL OF MALARKEY

To the Editor:

Your headline, "Seniors back new high school" in the 3/12/09 edition of the *Record* is pure, unadulterated malarkey (the definition of which is "speech or writing designed to obscure, mislead or impress; bunkum") as found in Webster's you -know-what.

In the spirit of St. Paddy's Day, I'll be thrilled to present you (Dennis, Krystal or Paul)

with the first Malarkey Award since St. Patrick supposedly drove the snakes from the Emerald Isle. WOW! What malarkey! And I'll bet that not one of you ever kissed the Blarney Stone. I thought that newspapers were supposed to print facts.

Shame on ye now for not printing the facts!

Frank McKeown

SAVE THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

To the Editor:

Should the new high school come to pass, I want all Norwood citizens to seriously try to save the main high school building. It has stood stately on the hill for decades, served thousands and has been a testament to the character of all that have graced its halls.

Many of those men and women went off to serve their country, some never returning.

The Armory became the Recreation Center, the Shattuck School serves as elderly housing, the fire station become a restaurant twice, the Junior High (fire damaged in 1969) is now a medical office building. The Dean and Morse houses remain. Even Norwood Hospital maintains all its building. The Junior High North has served many functions over the years. The Plimpton press building still serves a purpose.

The main high school building is as much a part of the Norwood landscape as any of Norwood's other awesome architectures. I have always admired the ingenuity of Norwood residents. There has to be a way to save that building and all that it represents. If this happens, please do not demolish this impressive structure of our heritage.

Faith MacPhee

Police Logs

Tuesday, Mar. 10

0738 phone. Larceny, report filed. Location/address: 95 Winter St. Caller reports her patio furniture is missing off her deck. N665 responded.

1104 walk-in. Larceny, report filed. Location/address: 87 Sumner St. Subject in station to report larceny of jewelry, last seen at Christmas time and just realized it is missing.

1107 phone. Susp. activity, report filed. Location/address: 140 Norwest Dr.

1140 911. Medical emergency, papers exchanged. Location/address: 46 Irving St. Request for ambulance. NFD handled.

1314 phone. Message delivery, no action required. Location/address: 64 Austin St. Canton P.D. requests notification made for death of relative. No one home, unable to deliver message.

1551 walk-in. Fraud, spoken to. Location/address: 67 Centennial Dr. Woman in station with possible scam check from Readers Digest. Officer spoke to her, no crime, junk mail.

1556 phone. Phone harassment, civil matter. Location/address: Radiator Express - 51 Morgan Dr. Report multiple phone solicitor calls. N664 reports caller will handle through F.T.C.'s" do not call" registry and then recall P.D. if calls persist.

1604 phone. Parking violation, gone on arrival. Location/address: 568 Block - Washington St. Report a Boston cab co.'s cab parked in stand. N679 reports gone, sign does not specify Norwood cabs only.

1707 initiated. Serve summons, services rendered. Location/address: 12 Old Farm Rd. No longer live there.

1710 initiated. Restraining order serv., services rendered. Location/address: 99 Bruce Rd. Hanley, Kathryn-no longer lives there.

1752 phone. Complaint of m/v, services rendered. Location/address: Roosevelt Ave. Caller re-

ported pc MA 613CJ9 traveling at excessive speed. N669 reports mv parked at home, unoccupied, N669 will make extra checks of area for remainder of shift.

1847 cellular. Susp. activity, report filed. Location/address: 111 Block - Lenox St. Report adult female having her 10 y.o.a. son solicit money for a flower made out of paper to help pay to fix an injury, injury is allegedly false. Units locate, spoke to same, N666 to file: 1). incident report; 2). 51A report.

1858 911. Accidental 911, confirmed accidental. Location/address: 83 Countryside Ln. Male stated misdialed.

2131 phone. Citizens complaint, spoken to. Location/address: 775 Norwest Dr. Caller reported his estranged wife entered his property without permission. Officer reported wife is on the lease and lawfully entered property. Caller advised.

2301 phone. Susp. person, services rendered. Location/address: Hilliar Music - 41 Cedar St. Two callers reported suspicious male party in the area. Party getting in and out of a gray minivan pc MA 815DC8. Officers reported party checking the area for his lost cat. Party advised.

2319 911. Medical emergency, Fire Dept. notified/respo. Location/address: 766 Norwest Dr. Party request ambulance then refuses to go to Norwood Hospital. NFD then speaks to caller's sister, she will transport him to a Boston hospital. 2341 2nd call, reconsidered, NFD, N661 sent, refuses help again and leaves w/family member.

2330 phone. Assist other police depart., services rendered. Location/address: 109 Olde Derby Rd. A. Boston Police requested notification to resident Mikel Jones about a purse found in Boston. Officer left message with party's mother.

Wednesday, March 11

0719 911. Medical emergency, transported to hospital. Location/

address: 843 Neponset St. Caller states girlfriend having stomach pain. N664, N662, NFD responded.

0730 phone. Report of fight, arrest(s) made. Location/address: Coakley Middle School - 1315 Washington St. Detective will file charges against three female students for a fight today at school. Juvenile arrest. Age: 13. Charges: a & b, School disturb.

0745 911. Medical emergency, transported to hospital. Location/address: Norwood Central - Lenox St. Harvard Vanguard states they have a client (fire fighter, Alan Vernon) at the Norwood Central having chest pains. N666, NFD responded.

0815 phone. Citizens complaint, spoken to. Location/address: 25 Centennial Dr. Lynne Narbut called inquiring about getting police reports. Says she is going to court today to speak to a judge because she does not want to involve the police.

0835 phone. Well being chk., spoken to. Location/address: 37 Dean St. 1st. Mother, Margaret Kilroy would likes 32 y.o. son's well being check. Mother and son have not spoken in several months. He has many medical issues. Officers spoke to him, he is fine and is on the 1st floor. Mother advised he is home and ok.

0954 911. Medical emergency, Fire Dept. notified/respo. Location/address: 92 Nahatan St. 8. VNA requests ambulance transport to Norwood Hospital for patient. NFD handled.

1015 radio. Warrant arrest, arrest(s) made. Location/address: Walgreens - 951 Bos.-Prov. Hwy. As a result of mvs, Luis Valentin arrested on warrant. No tow, passenger had valid license. Arrest: Valentin, Luis A. Address: 4 Chelmsford St., Methuen MA. DOB: 12/26/1967. Charges: warrant arrest.

Police Logs

Continued on page 22

Legal

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS WARRANT FOR TOWN ELECTION APRIL 6, 2009



TOWN OF NORWOOD

Norfolk, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Norwood in said County, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Norwood qualified to vote in elections to meet in the various voting precincts designated for their districts in Norwood on Monday, the Sixth day of April, 2009 at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following:

To choose all necessary Town officers. The following are to be chosen by ballot, namely: One Selectman for three years; one Moderator for one year; one Member of the Board of Health for three years; two Members of School Committee for three years; one Member of School Committee for one year (to fill a vacancy); two Members of the Finance Commission for three years; two Trustees of the Morrill Memorial Library for three years; one Member of the Town Planning Board for five years; One Member of Norwood Housing Authority for five years; Nine Town Meeting Members for District One for three years; One Town Meeting Member for District One for two years (to fill a vacancy); Nine Town Meeting Members for District Two for three years; Nine Town Meeting Members for District Three for three years; Nine Town Meeting Members for District Four for three years; One Town Meeting Member for District Four for one year (to fill a vacancy); Nine Town Meeting Members for District Five for three years; One Town Meeting Member for District Five for one year (to fill a vacancy); Nine Town Meeting Members for District Six for three years; One Town Meeting Member for District Six for one year (to fill a vacancy); Nine Town Meeting Members for District Seven for three years; Nine Town Meeting Members for District Eight for three years; Nine Town Meeting Members for District Nine for three years.

And to vote on the following question:

Question 1:

Shall the Town of Norwood be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to fund the design, planning, construction, equipping and furnishing of a new Norwood High School at 245 Nichols Street?

_____ Yes

_____ No

For these purposes, the polls will be open at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and shall be kept open until 8:00 o'clock in the afternoon when they may be closed.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof in ten public places in this Town seven days at least before the time and day of said meeting.

Given under our hands at Norwood this tenth day of March, 2009.

[Handwritten signatures]
Selectman of Norwood

Police Logs *continued from page 21*

1057 walk-in. Larceny, report filed. Location/address: Citgo - 960 Bos.-Prov. Hwy. @ 199 Dean St. Woman in station to report purse taken from car today.

1246 phone. Lost and found, services rendered. Location/address: 38 Tamworth Rd. Packages that have bedding items fell off a truck and the resident picked them up. Off. returns with them and was able to locate the business owner, Sleep Easy. Employee notified and they will make arrangements to pick up the property.

1515 phone. Assist citizen, taken/referred to other. Location/address: 129 Cottage St. Homeowner found a blk. lab. tied outside. NACO notified to pick it up.

1618 phone. Drunk person, area search negative. Location/address: 14 St. John Ave. Caller reported intoxicated party left on foot. Officers checked area, nothing found.

1817 walk-in. Larceny, report filed. Location/address: 10 George Willet Pkwy. Walk-in reported larceny of motorcycle parts.

1852 initiated. Vandalism, report filed. Location/address: Prescott School - 66 Richland Rd. Officer reported lawn damage near door 12.

1854 phone. Well being chk., report filed. Location/address: 94 Roosevelt Ave. Sister in North Carolina reports while speaking to mother on phone, could hear sister yelling in background. N665 reports no domestic, medical issues w/ daughter, report filed.

2031 911. Drunk person, protective custody. Location/address: 206 Central St. Caller reported party in a dark VW either drunk or experiencing a medical issue. NDF responded. Negoshians towed pc RI EH476. Transport to station. P/C: Beadles, Susan. Address: 8 Westgate Rd., Cumberland RI. DOB: 05/25/1959. Charges: protective custody.

2127 phone. Medical emergency, protective custody. Location/address: 25 Centennial Dr. 6. Caller requested ambulance. Caller sounded confused or intoxicated over the phone. Officer reported protective custody, transport to hospital. Summons: Narbut, Lynne M. Address: 25 Centennial Dr. 6, Norwood MA. DOB: 01/03/1976. Charges: a & b with dangerous weapon, protective custody.

2154 walk-in. Larceny, report filed. Location/address: Stop & Shop - 1415 Bos.-Prov. Hwy. Caller reported theft of wallet and charges on credit card.

2200 911. Domestic, arrest(s) made. Location/address: 724 Norwest Dr. Caller reported domestic. Officer reported one under arrest victim denied medical treatment. Arrest: Bradley, Jason. Ad-

dress: 724 Norwest Dr., Norwood MA. DOB: 08/10/1981. Charges: a & b. Summons: Campbell, Rebeca. Address: 724 Norwest Dr., Norwood MA. DOB: 10/01/1972. Charges: a & b.

2352 phone. Noise complaint, services rendered. Location/address: 17 Tremont St. Caller reported car horn noise in the area. Officer reported car alarm reset.

Thursday, Mar. 12

0057 phone. Susp. activity, spoken to. Location/address: Radford Warehouse, aka: Radford Transport - 675 Canton St. Truck drivers from Radford report suspicious male at top of hill all dressed in black. N677 locates party who lives on Canton St. out for a walk. (Stephen Pilot/11-6-54).

0214 initiated. Susp. activity, services rendered. Location/address: 15 Autumn St. Officer reports trunk open on car in driveway. Secured same.

0217 initiated. Building check, building checked/secured. Location/address: Workmens Hall - Wilson St. Lights left on. Building hand checked secure.

0604 phone. -Noise complaint, spoken to. Location/address: Kerry Pl. Caller from Pellana Rd. Reports truck on Kerry Place. N669 responded and spoke with employees.

0702 911. Suicide/or threat, report filed. Location/address: 125 Pleasant St. Caller states he stabbed himself in chest. N664, N662, N668, NFD responded. Med-flighted from Norwood Airport.

0932 phone. Animal complaint, taken/referred to other. Location/address: 26 Forrest Ave. Rabid skunk in yard. NACO handled.

1021 phone. Vandalism, report filed. Location/address: 20 Hickory Rd. Mr. Matinsen reports bottom of hp ramp to his home has been vandalized.

1304 phone. Assist citizen, services rendered. Location/address: 174 Gay St. Off. assisted the resident (plaintiff) while she removed property. No problems, she will remain with the defendant's mother.

1307 phone. Restraining order served, legal service made. Location/address: 137 Nahatan St. Off. responds to Dedham Court to pick up a 209A.

1424 phone. Susp. activity, spoken to. Location/address: Keegan's Norwood Jewelers - 1135 Washington St. Keegan's reports 2 males entered store, walked around and left. The store had customers. b/ male & Asian male are walking towards Dean St. Officers fio'd subjects who were in MA 195BW3. Checked ok. Spoke to caller.

1523 phone. Domestic, report filed. Location/address: Hannaford Market - 434 Walpole St. Witness

The Norwood Record

reports w/male shouting at a w/female and believes he hit her. They were on foot and heading toward Rite Aid on 1A. He was standing by til an officer arrived. Officer reports verbal only, See report.

1537 phone. Susp. activity, report filed. Location/address: McDonalds - 32 Broadway St. Manager reports male subject either smoking or rolling a marijuana joint. He is able to smell it. Person id'd, no proof.

1540 phone. Illegal trash disposal, report filed. Location/address: Delta Hospital Supply - 31 Astor Ave. Trash left in the dumpster that was not part of the business.

1616 phone. Larceny, report filed. Location/address: Morrill Memorial Library - 33 Walpole St. Caller reports past larceny. N662 to file report.

1631 phone. Kids gathering, group moved. Location/address: Gazebo - Town Common - 566 Washington St. Kids gathering at gazebo. N661 sent. Group moved.

1728 initiated. Domestic, arrest(s) made. Location/address: 635 Washington St. @ 7 Cottage St. N663 is flagged down by male party in a vehicle who cannot get another subject out of the vehicle. N661 sent. N449 responds. N663 places one male under arrest. See report.

Arrest: Collier, Terrence J. Address: 972 Norwest Dr., Norwood MA. DOB: 09/08/1983. Charges: A & B.

1756 initiated. Restraining order serv., services rendered. Location/address: 69 Valley Rd. Officer served restraining order in hand to Michael Pfistner.

1959 phone. Vandalism, report filed. Location/address: 106 Westover Pkwy. Caller reported unknown party tossed eggs at house. Officers checked area.

Friday, March 13

0029 phone. Susp. activity, services rendered. Location/address: Rojo - 69 Bos.-Prov. Hwy. Caller reports a ladder against building behind Rojo's by Access Road that leads back out to Everett St. that he states he didn't believe was there before. N665, N662 responded and checked roof where ladder was leaning. Nothing found. Officers removed ladder and laid on ground.

0537 911. Medical emergency, transported to hospital. Location/address: 389 Washington St. 6. Caller reports 25 yr. old male having seizure. N669, NFD responded.

0559 911. Medical emergency, transported to hospital. Location/address: 45 Rose Ct. Caller requests a transport to hospital for elderly male. N662 dispatched.

0610 phone. Lockout Fire Dept., notified/respo. Location/address: 39 Tremont St. Caller reports that he is locked out of vehicle which was left running. NFD notified

1121 phone. Threats, report filed. Location/address: 265 Prospect St. Worker received a threat via email and the sender's info was blocked.

1334 phone. Well being chk., services rendered. Location/address: 333 Union St. Jessica Johnson, girlfriend, concerned about boyfriend who lost his job today and is very upset, stated he should put an end to things. He lives in basement apt of house. She states he has a 22 caliber gun. Officers check home, he is not there, phone message left for him. David Day (subject) called dispatch to say he is at gas station getting sticker for mv he registered this morning. Westwood P.D. questioned individual in their town and believes he

is ok. Sgt. satisfied with results.

1429 phone. Animal complaint, gone on arrival. Location/address: 50 Ridgewood Dr. @ 3 Kenwood Dr. Caller reports raccoon roaming the neighborhood acting strange. NACO notified. Unable to locate animal.

1509 phone. Drug law violation, spoken to. Location/address: 36 Jefferson Dr. Strong odor of marijuana coming from apt. Officers spoke to resident and caller, no smells.

1546 phone. Assist citizen, spoken to. Location/address: 94 Hampden Dr. Resident reports attempted Internet scam. N679 spoke to resident, had not followed through on same so not a victim.

1822 phone. Fraud services, rendered. Location/address: 43 Lydon St. Caller reports he someone is trying to scam him. N665 sent. N665 reports not a scam. Advised.

2021 phone. Unwanted party, arrest(s) made. Location/address: 33 Florence Ave. Caller wanted her brother to be removed from her house. N665 and N663 responded, report filed by N665. Arrest: Hannon, Sean Patrick. Address: 33 Florence Ave., Norwood MA. DOB: 07/10/1983. Charges: larceny over \$250, b&e daytime and larceny over \$250, possession Class A.

2148 phone. Drunk person, protective custody. Location/address: 742 Washington St. @ 4 Guild St. Caller reports dk female stumbled out of vehicle. As a Result, N666 placed one female in pc and releases to a friend. Negoshians tows MA reg\$55MR83. P/C: Gearty, Donna. Address: 145 Coney St., Walpole, MA. DOB: 04/30/1959. Charges: protective custody.

2149 phone. Mischief (kids), services rendered. Location/address: 32 Harrow Rd. Caller reports someone breaking into his house. N662, N663, N668, N677 respond. no b & e, kids fooling around running around neighborhood. Parties satisfied.

Saturday, Mar. 14

0102 phone. Vandalism, report filed. Location/address: 33 Rock St. Caller reports guest leaving her home has 2 slashed tires and that hers and husband's rear tires are flat. N669, N665 responded.

0116 radio. Assist citizen, services rendered. Location/address: Krayzee Horse Pub and Grill - 1112 Washington St. @ 2 St. James Ave. N661 reports lock-out. AAA (Interstate) notified and responded.

0144 initiated. Susp. activity, spoken to. Location/address: Syms - 560 Bos.-Prov. Hwy. MA reg# CI74ER parked behind Syms. N665 responded. N666 reports local youths (fio'd) and sent on their way.

0208 phone. Susp. activity, spoken to. Location/address: Olde Derby Rd. A. Caller reports black Ford Explorer in parking lot running for past 1/2 hour. N663, N662 sent. All in order. 2 girlfriends in car talking. (MA reg# 689DC8).

0551 911. Medical emergency, transported to hospital. Location/address: 601 Lansdowne Way T4. Officer reports person transported to Norwood Hospital.

1158 phone. Animal complaint, taken/referred to other. Location/address: 9 Earle St. Resident finds injured rabbit. N.A.C.O. notified.

1212 walk-in. Fraud, report filed. Location/address: 32 Oolah Ave. 2. Bank account.

1222 cellular. Assist other agency, assisted party. Location/address: 61 Brookview Cir. Report housing authority set up the trans-

fer of a resident to another facility on Monday 3/16/09. Family member has arrived today and wants to take resident with them. N677 spoke to all parties and matter resolved.

1404 phone. Mischief (kids), gone on arrival. Location/address: 140 Railroad Ave. Report 3 w/m, teenagers, hanging around in alleyway at rear of building along railroad tracks, they do not live in complex.

1409 cellular. Domestic, arrest(s) made. Location/address: 160 Lane Dr. Contractor that was at home reports he believes the homeowners were involved in a domestic. As a result, N662 places subject under arrest, N670 transports to station. Arrest: Shaughnessy, John. Address: 160 Lane Dr., Norwood MA. DOB: 03/09/1964. Charges: a & b.

1425 phone. Missing person, report filed. Location/address: 700 Lansdowne Way T3.

1450 phone. Citizens complaint, services rendered. Location/address: Town Pizza - 20 Broadway St. Report convenient store owner placed 2 stickers on pizza shop owners mv. N677 spoke to all parties, matter resolved.

1628 phone. Assist citizen, taken/referred to other. Location/address: 41 Neponset St. Caller reports loose dog running around and she put the dog in the back yard. NACO notified.

1631 phone. Report of fire, papers exchanged. Location/address: Bistro 712 - 712 Washington St. Caller reports he can smell something burning but cannot locate it. N661 sent. NFD notified. No fire.

1752 phone. Drunk person, protective custody. Location/address: Nahatan St. Caller reports dk. male party walking towards Shaws. N668, N677, N661, n669 respond. As a result, one male placed in pc. NFD then transported male party to the hospital. P/C: Eckert, Brian M. Address: Grove St., Worcester, MA. DOB: 09/22/1949. Charges: disorderly conduct, protective custody.

1755 phone. Well being chk., services rendered. Location/address: 76 Hickory Rd. Caller reports her aunt was supposed to be at her house in Portland me at 2 p.m. and has not arrived. N663 went to Residence, female party is okay. Will contact aunt.

2022 phone. Threats, report filed. Location/address: 76 Walnut Ave. Walk in party reports that his ex wife has made threats to him and his pregnant wife. N666 to file report.

2046 911. Susp. activity, report filed. Location/address: 82 Hoyle St. Cell phone caller reports being approached and then followed by a person in a dark sedan. Caller advised to continue to the station where she was assisted by ofc. and sgt.

2216 phone. Noise complaint, spoken to. Location/address: Cleary, Joseph - 89 Earle St. Call for loud music. N677, N665 sent. Spoken to.

Sunday, Mar. 15

0137 phone. Drunk person, protective custody. Location/address: Norwood Hospital - 800 Washington St. Caller reports mother just left the hospital with her seven year old daughter and the mother is dk. N663, N662 to check area. N663 locates at Norwood Depot. As a result, one female placed in pc and released to her husband. See report by N663. P/C: Lima, Sandra. Address: 56 Adams St., Norwood MA. DOB: 09/03/1978. Charges: protective custody.

Weekly Property Transactions

2/2/09-2/27/09

BUYER	SELLER	ADDRESS	PRICE
NORWOOD			
Keeman, Wendy	Angelillo, Christopher E	315 Neponset St #67	\$132,000
Giampa, Diana M	Giampa, Diana M	31 Lancaster Ln	\$160,000
1406 Washington St RT	Neponset River RT	1406 Washington St	\$200,000
Booth, Russell A	Gordon, Wayne D	132 Winslow Ave	\$209,000
Fitzgerald, Francine	Perry, James A	407 Nahatan St #2	\$219,000
Harris, Colleen	Giglia, Salvatore	379 Neponset St #B	\$245,000
GMAC Global Reloc Svc	Brown, Gerald E	138 Vernon St #138	\$275,000
Fine, Abigail H	GMAC Global Reloc Svc	138 Vernon St #138	\$275,000
Noonan, John D	Johnson, Crystal L	909 Washington St #10	\$316,000
Mahmoudi, Djamel	Osullivan, Patrick	25 Saint Joseph Ave #2	\$329,900
Sichonidis, Michael	Achi, Leila H	65 Sturtevant Ave	\$362,450
Meimarides, Nikolaos G	Coan, Antonetta	56 Winfield St	\$400,000
Michopoulos, Aristotle V	Mcdonagh, Agnes	2 Nahatan Ct	\$400,000
EHKA Realty Co LLC	Kemalian Realty Inc	1500 Bos Prov Tpkc #12A	\$585,200

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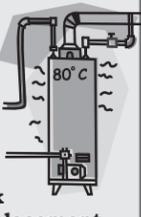
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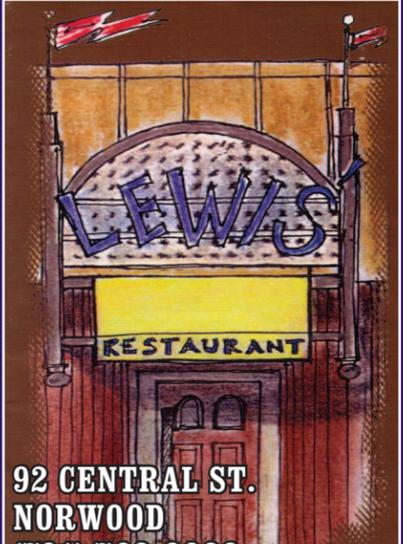
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