

Prefecta del Guayas



One of the many outreach teams Norwood-based Global Smiles has put together to perform cleft palate surgeries around the globe.

COURTESY PHOTO

Bringing smiles around the world

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Global Smile Foundation (GSF) sits in a kind of small, unassuming office across from the Norwood Memorial Airport.

The company shares the building with an electrical company and a flight school, and you'd be forgiven if walking in you thought it was simply an office for a small company or nonprofit with a corresponding reach. But then, you go back just a little further, and you see several shelves filled to the brim with medical and surgical supplies, and it's then you might think there was something bigger going on. And you'd be right.

GSF President Usama Hamdan worked out of his office – and for a bit in the Norwood Hospital – for decades providing surgical care, mostly involving cleft palettes. In 2008, he started the Global Smile Foundation, which now provides cleft palette care to Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador and Lebanon (and other countries when governments and global stability allow) to provide hundreds of surgeries to children every year.

"It is not what you take with you, it is what you leave behind," he said in an email.

The team works out of the small Norwood office and, according to Director of Development and Marketing Lisa Crist, they used to have a much smaller office than that to collect donations of funds and medical equipment to get the outreach



teams ready for their trips overseas.

Medical care for cleft palette is not only rare in these countries, it's extremely expensive. It's also one of the most common birth defects in the world, and affects one in every 700 live births on average. In some parts of the world it's more common than that.

"In the Middle East, it's one in every 400 live births and it's getting worse because of all the geo-political crises, they just don't have the medical infrastructure," Crist said. "It's just collapsed, in many places, and these poor families don't even have basic care, let alone for cleft."

The team pointed out that cleft isn't singularly a cosmetic problem, as it can affect dental

health, open up the patient to infections, affect speech development and can have social, cultural and psychological ramifications as well.

"Children who are born with cleft, they cannot access the same social services that are available to everyone else," Crist said. "Babies need special bottles to feed; they need more enriched food because they're born underweight to begin with and they can't always go to the educational programs or do the other activities because they get made fun of. There is a real superstition in some places around cleft."

Crist added sometimes those superstitions affect the

Global Smiles

Continued on page 5



Pro-Life supporters came to Norwood to rally this past Sunday.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

Pro-Life Standouts comes to Norwood

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Pro-Life Standouts group held an anti-abortion rally with about 15 participants on Dec. 29 in front of St. Catherine's of Siena Church on Nahatan Street in Norwood. The rally was organized by Pro-Life Standouts' Gabriel Dionisi, who said this is the second time he brought the rally to Norwood from his hometown of Westwood.

"I live in Westwood and I'm from the local area; this started in 2020 on Election Day," he said. "I got some friends from my church to go in front of a polling place and hold signs that said, 'Vote Pro-Life.' It was a lot of fun, it went really well and I thought we should do that more often. So we started doing standouts every month or every other month and just kept going with it."

Dionisi said over the years, the organization has held standouts in Westwood, Dedham, Needham, Bridgewater and at St. Catherine's last year. He said St. Catherine's gave them permission to hold the rally outside the church, but the church was not participating in the actual rally itself.

"We did get approval to stand in front of the church, though they are not officially endorsing us," he said. "It's a great location."

Dionisi said he and others felt it was important to spread the

Pro Life Rally
Continued on page 6

Morrill Library rehab moving forward

ESL programs picking up steam

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Norwood Morrill Memorial Library Board of Trustees met for its monthly meeting and Morrill Library Executive Director Clayton Cheever said he had some updates to regarding the building's repairs, renovation and rehabilitation.

The genesis of the necessary repairs was when the library and the Town tried to paint the inside of the building. During the inspection phase, it was found that water was infiltrating the building, reducing painting to just a part of a much bigger picture. This required the Library to request more funds to fix the underlying issues from the Capital Outlay Committee, in addition to the \$660,000 that was appropriated for the re-

Library Repairs
Continued on page 4

Norwood lights the night for Chanukah

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter



Rabbi Mendy Horowitz lit the Menorah on Sunday to the delight of about 80 patrons for this year's Chanukah celebration in Norwood.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

The Chai Center Chabad of Canton held its six-annual Chanukah celebration on the Norwood Common on Sunday night. Chai Center Rabbi Mendy Horowitz and co-director of the center Rivka Horowitz (his wife) gathered up several Chai Center members, as well as about 70 residents of Norwood and beyond, to light the large Menorah on the Town Common.

Rabbi Horowitz said there were maybe a bit fewer people at the lighting than usual.

"Thank you all very much for coming and being here tonight," he said. "I think maybe some people who should have been here tonight were a little worried about the rain and other weather conditions, but look, we have another Chanukah miracle, the weather cleared up. It's beautiful!"

Rabbi Horowitz said the fewer people just meant more glory and spoil for everyone else. "It just means more chocolate donuts, latkes and jelly donuts for all of you!" he said with a laugh.

Rabbi Horowitz said he wanted to thank Town officials, the Norwood Fire Department and the Norwood Police Department for helping to make the celebration happen. He also asked the gathered crowd to remember former Assistant Town Manager Bernie Cooper, who passed away in 2021.

"I would like to mention Mr. Bernie Cooper, of blessed memory, who was also instrumental in getting the Menorah started. He would go out to light the Menorah, even sometimes without me knowing it," he said. "It is a very special memory."

Rabbi Horowitz also asked those gathered to remember the late Aaron Greenfield, a Norwood mainstay, a Holocaust survivor and the person for whom the Menorah was dedicated. "His family dedicated this Menorah in his memory," Horowitz said. "He was a very special man who was also here as we started to kindle this Menorah."

Horowitz said the celebration is about doing mitzvahs (good deeds) and bringing more light and understanding to the world. "The world needs more light," he said. "Now more than ever, we need way more light. After Oct. 7 of last year, and with the rise of antisemitism globally and even in the United States unfortunately, the way to combat it is by adding more love, more kindness, more acceptance to all – after all, we're all God's children – and really this is the message of Chanukah."

That night was the fifth night of Chanukah and Rabbi Horowitz said that meant that the light was starting its victory over the dark. He said the previous night, the light and dark had the same number of candles. "But now we're five, which means the light has overpowered and gone forward!" he said.

Speaking of five, Rabbi Horowitz related the story of a group of Jews in about 167 BCE led by Priest Mattityahu and his five sons. He said the small group of Jews started a revolt against the Syrian Greek King Antiochus IV after he prohibited the practice of Jewish religion when he invaded and took control of Israel.

Rabbi Horowitz said it would have been the easiest thing in the world to sit back and lay low. "And according to the instruc-

Chanukah

Continued on page 6

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Cooper Park nears completion

Dedication scheduled for May 9

Matt MacDonald
Staff Reporter

On the frigid Sunday afternoon of Dec. 22, a hardy group of about a dozen residents – led by Assistant Director of Community Development Ilex Jones – gathered behind the Balch Elementary School (1170 Washington St.) to set out on a site walk of the Bernie Cooper Memorial Waterfront Park.

Construction on the park – bordered by the Neponset River, Hawes Brook, the Saints streets, and Eliot Field – began in May and is in its last stages – with its dedication scheduled for May 9.

As the group trudged across the snow-covered baseball field to a small portal in the outfield fence, it marked the start of the most recent event in what has been a lengthy and involved community process – going back to early 2018 – regarding the seven-acre parcel of land.

At that time, the privately-owned and undeveloped lot was under agreement to be sold to Boch Enterprises, which had intended to clear-cut the overgrown woodland to use for

open-air car storage. However, after sustained community pushback led by South Norwood residents, Boch gave the Town the opportunity to purchase the property. It did so in 2019 using \$338,000 of Community Preservation Act (CPA) money. Subsequently, more than \$750,000 of additional grant money and Town funds were used to finance the completion of the project.

On the far side of the fence, the group turned right, crunching its way along the river past a gaggle of geese at rest on the water and toward the park-in-progress – its newly cut trails all but indiscernible under the white winter blanket that covered them, with only tagged stakes sketchily outlining their basic contours and keeping everyone more or less on the right path.

Due to the lack of detail in the shrouded terrain and the heightened contrast of its bright whiteness against its surroundings, the site’s most remarkable aspect was its secluded openness. In comparison to the way the land had looked at the time of the first site walk – held in



About a dozen residents came out to tour the Bernie Cooper Memorial Waterfront Park recently.

PHOTO BY MATT MACDONALD

August of 2021, during the project’s conceptual phase – the difference was even more striking because, on that tour, most of the lot had been difficult to access or even see because of the overgrowth.

The park has two observation decks overlooking the Neponset (with a stepped ramp leading down to the riverbank next to each of them): one near Eliot Field and the other at the river’s confluence with Hawes Brook. From either, the view of

Cooper Park

Continued on page 6



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Library Repairs

continued from page 1

painting.

"I have exciting news on the maintenance and repair line," Cheever said at the meeting. "I got clearance to move forward with some architects who had given us a draft proposal to do a building study to figure out how to care for the envelop and existing conditions report, as well as doing the planning for what we need to do for the foreseeable future."

Cheever said they have completed a walk-through and will have a report in the coming weeks. "So we have some forward momentum on that, finally," he said. "They gave us that draft proposal, but they need to actually come out and see the building. They also asked us for how much detail we're looking for in that existing conditions report."

Cheever said the repairs currently thought necessary include – depending on the outcome of the building study – re-pointing of some of the masonry, sealing up the leaks in the foundation and some issues where stone and metal interact at the HVAC points (temperature changes, metal and stone don't all mix very well).

In November, Cheever said the Library was conducting minor stopgap repairs to make sure the damage doesn't become more extensive and they have run smoothly, in his words. He said they are using funds from the Capital Outlay appropriation for painting, and the final report will be cleared by the office of Town Manager Tony Mazzucco.

"I expect a quick turnaround on that," he said.

Cheever said the architects involved are the same ones working currently on the "massive" library redesign in Belmont, which, according to the Belmont Library Foundation, is Oudens Ello Architecture.

"I have a friend there, the director Peter Struzziero and he referred me to Conrad (Ello) who is a principal at (Oudens Ello) so that's exciting," he said. "It is good news and one of the things that is bringing me joy."

In other news, Co-Director of the Literacy Department Kirstie David gave an update on the library's English as a Second Language program. The library is serving two different offsite programs. She said currently they are hosting English classes at the Four Points Sheraton for employees there.

"Not just for job-related English, but for their lives," she said. "We were approached by their general manager, Shoumala Ghosh over a year ago and it was at her request that we started up the program there and it's gone very very well at the hotel."

David said the students who show up are paid during their classes as if they were on the clock for their job. She said the other offsite program is for migrants sheltering at Norwood's hotels, which works when they're there, but the current state of the shelter systems means stability for those residents is not easily attainable.

"That has had considerably more challenges as people are trying to grapple with finding permanent housing and jobs; things are a lot more chaotic over there," she said. "We have had some amazing tutors who dove right into the challenge. We have served 38 students over there this summer, and we started up a second round. It is experiencing some challenges."

David said Governor Maura Healey's declaration of limits on sheltering at said facilities to nine months (and now has pitched a plan to drop that down to 30 days to six months depending on circumstances [<https://tinyurl.com/3v9swev5>]) has led to more students leaving for, hopefully, more permanent housing.

"Which is great, we like to hear that people are finding homes in those situations, but we are losing students as that happens," she said. "So it's kind of constantly in flux. We have had some great support from (Norwood Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program coordinator) Liz Hogrell, who has drummed up some childcare volunteers for us too."

David also said the homebound delivery program is working as intended. She said they don't have a huge number of clients who need the service of books delivered to their homes – which isn't the worst thing in the world – but the need is still there. She said in some instances they are delivering 10 books a week to residents in Town.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ykz6bwk9> or call 781-769-0200 option 4.

Letters to the Editor

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

To the Editor:

In the Norwood Record dated December 12, an article entitled "ConCom approves tree cutting" covered drainage going from downtown into the Meadowbrook and some tree issues (BTW a good part of Town drainage issues is catch-basins/drains have not been cleaned out townwide in a decade or more.). Trees absorb 10 gallons of water per trunk diameter; bare ground, bushes, and grass do not. I tried to access the web address cited for this project. The URL signature had expired.

I was appalled and disgusted that our conservation agent agreed to cut down trees with girths greater than 3 inches which are used for roosting by tricolored bats. WHY ???!!! because they should be cut before the species might be put on the endangered list in January 2025!!! This is so conservation backwards; unconscionable. "Oh, we better hurry up and cut those trees down before this bat is put on the endangered species list!"

Does this Town not care about the unique flora and fauna existing here? Do we not care about providing habitat for a

possible endangered species??? Is this not counter to what conservation is all about??? It's bad enough that they cut down WAY too many trees in Bernie Cooper Park.

Tricolored bats eat about 500 mosquito-sized insects in an hour. With encephalitis scares and other mosquito born illnesses, we should be encouraging bats NOT DESTROYING what limited habitats they have left. AND don't go there — bats are NOT primary carriers of rabies nor do they seek to attack human beings.

*Anne Mackiewicz
District 7 TMM*

THE CALL OF THE WILD

Long ago I wrote a novel about the greatest, largely forgotten story in hockey history. In 1905 a rag-tag group of hockeyists from the gold mining town of Dawson City, Yukon had challenged the mighty Ottawa Silver Seven for the Stanley Cup. In mid-winter they traveled four thousand miles, first through wilderness, before boarding boats and finally trains to reach Ottawa, where they became infamous as the team that traveled furthest to lose by the most in Cup history. When time came to re-enact the odyssey, this time the opponent the Ottawa Senator's Alumni, my book was used as a blueprint for the journey and I was invited to accompany the modern day argonauts. The following are my (admittedly polished) journal notes from the trail's second night:

There are moments that imprint imagination; trawlers chugging into Victoria at sunset; haunting stillness of mountain cradled Lake Louise—and Dawson City assembled, cascading applause upon native sons setting out once again to challenge the Ottawas.

Roaring on snow machines down Front Street amidst wild cheers, we filed onto the Yukon River and moved east up the Klondike, then south on Bonanza Creek past legendary landmarks of the original gold rush, toward wilderness. And what a wilderness this is!

When we were giants running with bags overflowing with mountains, this is where we tripped and fell, spilling them across the

earth, the larger settling between Vancouver and Whitehorse, the smaller skittering as far as the Arctic Circle. It is into this mess of mountains we now entered.

Chugging, skidding, gunning machines we charge up mountain trails, hanging on for dear life traversing glaciers and sliding into switch backs, up, up, emerging onto a wondrous crest trail, jagged teeth of the Ogilvie Mountains sneering from the north, unending rows of smaller, rounded mountains stretching as far as eyes see in all other direction.

With sixteen snow machines hauling supply-loaded sleds and accompanied by five dog teams, we are a veritable expedition soon stretched as much as ten miles apart along the Yukon Quest trail. It is quickly apparent this will not be a Sunday afternoon whirl on the lake; accidents occur, machines slide off the trail landing sideways in deep snow, five, six men pull and push, and on we go.

It is stark beauty, multi-layered. Overwhelming all is the cold blanketing with its haunting stillness, the slide of a dog sled runner heard far and wide through vacant, deadened air, silence a staggering presence, a natural resource invaluable and unexportable, available free here to anyone willing to step outside. The mountains are stunning, forests sparse and occasionally burned over, affording views of snowy peaks above and winding, ice-encased river valleys below. But most beautiful of all are my fellow travelers.

The focus of hockey is usually the National Hockey League, and particularly the



Stanley Cup. But to say that all hockey revolves around the Stanley Cup is like saying all politics revolves around the President. For every kid off a frozen pond who plays on a Cup-winning team, there are tens of thousands more who will never come close. Herein lays the true essence of hockey.

Real hockey is parents driving kids in pre-dawn cold to skating lessons, or street hockey during short, dim-light, late afternoons. Real hockey is pee-wees and bantams and high school matches, and old-timer teams drinking beer in taverns late on a Wednesday night, furtively glancing at watches. Real hockey is a bunch of guys from Dawson City, that far-off community of eighteen hundred souls lost in the great Yukon Territory expanse, challenging for a rematch of a long-lost loss, four thousand miles away in Ottawa.

They've sold neckties, had bar nights, and held cos

Reddick

Continued on page 6

Global Smiles *continued from page 1*

whole family. “We’ve had moms tell us that they’ve been told they did something wrong and this is their punishment or that they’re cursed; I mean it’s heartbreaking,” she said.

GSF Operations Manager Beyhan Annan said that’s why they have to provide not just traditional medical care from several different types of physicians – surgery, dental, speech pathology – but also psychological treatment. “It’s not just the surgery that we’re doing, it involves multiple disciplines,” she said. “There is the surgery aspect, but there is also the dental aspect, the psycho-social aspect, the feeding and nutritional aspects.”

Crist said continuing care is the vital aspect of the program. While she said GSF and other organizations have developed procedures that encompass what would normally be several surgeries, there are further follow ups they have to do to make sure the surgeries were successful and that the child is ready to face the world. “In outreach settings a lot of the time they can’t come back five times,” she said.

Annan also pointed out patients need speech therapies, as children with cleft palates tend to learn how to form words with their mouths the way they are, and generally when they have the corrective surgeries things work differently than they were used to. So speech pathology is essential to make sure the child is ready for their first day of school.

Translators are a huge part of the outreach program too. On each outreach trip there are about 170 people involved, whether they’re going out or being recruited onsite, there are a lot of people needed to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Perhaps obviously, surgeons are needed, but the speech therapists, translators, dentists, pediatricians, local guides and more are required to make sure the continuum of care is complete.

“We have a huge amount of volunteers; they do a lot of translation for us as well as logistics because not every surgeon is going to speak Spanish, and certainly not at the level we need to interact with any level of sophistication. Like the rest of us too, we could probably order in a restaurant but we need a lot of translation support,” said Crist.

Crist added that they oftentimes need local translation, as regional slang can be so prevalent even native speakers can be confounded. “We had a research fellow from Mexico last year and when we went to Guayaquil, Ecuador, they were all laughing between themselves about what words were not working,” she said.

Annan added that the outreach teams often need translators as well, as the teams comprise members from several different countries. “We have traveling team members literally from all over the world,” she said. “Like Qatar, the United Kingdom, Mexico, India – they all join us; it is not just U.S. based.”

Global Smile Development Associate Casey Frey said they also work with outreach programs in hospitals and universities, like Boston Children’s Hospital, the University of Kentucky and Brigham and Women’s (Boston General Hospital) to train the next generation of outreach volunteers.

“They send their residents to come and train with us. They are not considered official surgeons or pediatricians; they are training with our team to get to

know the outreach setting and how they have to change around the model,” she said. “Students are only exposed to the U.S. way, but we’re going to low-income countries where things are super different.”

Crist, Annan, and Frey all said the point of much of their efforts is to get medical care in these regions to point where the interventions are no longer necessary.

“In San Salvador, we work at the Benjamin Bloom’s Children Hospital. That’s one of the few places that have a cleft team. We’ve been working with them on training and donations and things like that, but there are not enough of them,” Crist said. “They’re still a small team and they cannot handle the number of patients and the amount of surgeries. They’re amazing and we’re lucky to work with them, but it’s just that they don’t have enough.”

Crist said they work with sponsoring companies, medical providers and more to elicit donations of equipment and funds to keep the work going. “We work with companies all over the world, but especially in the United States, to get in-kind donations of things like sutures, medications, blades and all sorts of things I can’t even tell you because I have no medical experience,” she said.

GSF accepts donations of almost any kind, and also has an Amazon Wishlist (<https://gsmile.org/wish-list/>) you can purchase items the group needs for outreach.

Here in Norwood – and all over the country actually – the



Foundation offers volunteer opportunities for youth in the form of the Junior Board. Frey said the Junior Board is essentially a way for high school students to get their feet wet in a professional setting, as well as setting up college students – really no matter which major they’re going into – to build the volunteer habits to help them later in their careers.

“The whole goal of it is to maintain this interest in doing good and in building brighter, happier, and healthier smiles and futures,” she said. “And getting your hands dirty in ways that you can – with hope and intention – to grow and be able to come on these outreach programs with GSF as a medical volunteer, or whatever volunteer work you can do.”

Crist said they have worked with several local organizations to facilitate fundraisers, like the various local Rotary Clubs in the area, Norwood High School, Westwood High School, the Town, and more, and will be setting up a local fundraiser in Norwood in the coming months. Frey said this year they set up a booth at the Norwood Common for the Norwood Farmers Market every Tuesday, where she said she’s been able to in-

teract with residents on a much larger scale than the group’s previous outreach.

“It takes every kind of support, and people can get involved if and where they are comfortable,” Crist said. “In the past, we’ve had people come in to volunteer, but we really needed someone like Casey to work with them and make it more of a program to give folks more of what they want.”

“Purpose,” said Frey, adding that they do certify service hours.

Annan said she can always find work for those looking to do some good.

“There is always an opportunity for the community, especially the Norwood community, to come into the office and work with us,” she said. “We have had several students come in and pack medical supplies. We had someone from Westwood who used to come in and help me get ready for a trip out. There are always small tasks in the office that any age group can come in and make this their way of volunteering and giving back, even if they’re not willing to travel. We are totally open to that.”

For more information on GSF and to learn how to get involved or donate, go to GSmile.org

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Chanukah *continued from page 2*

tions of the Torah or the Bible, that's what they probably should have done," he said. "But they said, 'No no no, we're not doing that. We are not going to allow them to take away from us our God-given right to practice our religion the way we should.' And a small group of fighters took on the Syrian Greeks, and the great miracle happened that they won over this mighty army. And we have to remember why they went out to fight. It was for spiritual pursuit. Not for power. Not for money. It was just because they wanted to practice their religion freely."

Board of Selectmen Chair Bob Donnelly said he welcomed the lighting. "This is an event I know you appreciate us authorizing and approving, but we also want to thank you for coming here this evening, as you have in the past few years, to have this event," he said. "Thank you for recognizing Aaron Greenfield and Bernie Cooper, who were treasured members of the community. They are passed now and we miss them greatly."

Donnelly said he was thankful for the celebration

adding even more light to the Common. "As you see behind the light on the Common and the Gazebo that go around Downtown and all the way to South Norwood, Norwood puts a lot of pride in celebrating lights for Chanukah and the holiday season," he said. "Thank you again for coming here; the Menorah adds to the light and we appreciate it."

Resident Howard Swartz said he came out for a pretty simple reason. "Well, I'm Jewish and I want to celebrate the holiday and show my support," he said, adding this was the first time he came out to the Norwood event. "I'm impressed with the turnout. And so far the celebration, I'm very impressed. And I'm pleasantly surprised we got as many people as we did."

Resident Ellen Pulda said she and her family came out to support the local Jewish community. "I've come maybe four or five times, and I think it's just awesome," she said. "It's great that people come out and the Town puts this beautiful Menorah on the Common."

the dead ends of St. Paul, St. Joseph, and St. John avenues (there will be a park entrance at each, the main one being at St. Joseph) was unobstructed that day, which had not been the case prior to excavation and construction.

This extensive reduction of trees had been brought up during the Aug. 13 Board of Selectmen meeting, with Jones explaining that – primarily – invasive species had been removed to make space for both the park's new trails as well as the native species of flora growing in it.

Parking concerns were also raised at that meeting. This has been the case throughout the community process, and Jones stated during the site walk that there will be a total of 11 parking spots for the three Saint streets entrances. Jones also touched on storm drainage – a major concern in that neighborhood – and noted that permeable pavers are being used, as

are rain gardens, to better capture run-off from the abutting streets, treat it, and aid its absorption into the ground.

There will also be a fourth entrance from Eliot Field that is closer to the Balch and its parking lot than the one used that day; it will provide more direct access to the park's play area and nature's classroom – both of which are finished, but which were difficult to see under the snow.

"The hope is, definitely, that the Balch teachers will use this area," Jones said, at one point, of the activation plans for the park. "I think it will mostly be used for education by the Balch. I know there is a summer camp at the Balch, as well as at Endean, so I hope that they would use it, too."

Connie Cooper, wife of the late Bernie Cooper, the beloved Assistant Town Manager in whose honor the park is being named, was making her first site walk and commented on

what she thought her husband might have made of the dedication.

"Oh, he'd hate it," she said, laughing. "He was into everything, but he didn't like to be the center of attention. He was a quiet person."

When asked if she thought that Bernie would have used the park for which he had so advocated before his passing on Jan. 24, 2021, her response was more reflective. "We have a campground down in Plymouth, and he would walk around the pond. He liked nature. He liked to be outdoors," she said, crossing back over the ballfield at tour's end. "He would come to this place."

Given Bernie's quietly unobtrusive closeness to everything, one can easily imagine that.

For more information about the Bernie Cooper Memorial Waterfront Park, contact Ilex Jones at either hjones@norwoodma.gov, 781-762-1240 x6065, or 781-384-9317.

Pro Life Rally *continued from page 1*

message against the practice of abortion and to bring people together in the process. "It's something I really enjoy and it's good to bring folks together," he said. "And I feel it's important to show other people that we care and that this isn't something we're giving up on. At the end of the day, life matters. Human life matters. We want these babies to grow up and contribute to the world and not be killed by abortion. Anything we can do to help change the culture is important. Just to save one life is a big deal."

Dionisi and participants led the group in prayer through the Rosery during the standout. He said residents from many towns came to support the group. "We try to get people from different Catholic parishes and young adult organizations in the Boston area," he said.

Dionisi said Sunday's turnout was good. "I'm grateful to everyone who showed up," he said. "I feel like it's good to send such a strong message, especially around this Christmas season when people are thinking about the birth of Jesus. We want to remind people how a great a blessing it is to welcome a child into the world and the importance of every human life."

Norwood resident Rita Russo came to support the organization. She said she is also the Campaign Manager of the 40 Days for Life Boston organization, which is a national organization that holds 40-day vigils for pro-life causes.

"I think the right to life is our most basic right, and all the other rights lose their meaning and value when you lose the right to life," she said. "It's a great turnout today, I'm pleased."

Russo said she's been in the 40 Days for Life for 12 years now. "It's a campaign that holds vigils and fastings outside of abortion facilities," she said. "It's offered in all 50 states now and something like 63 other countries. It started in Texas."

Russo said residents were upset in Texas about the apparent growing number of abortion facilities there. "They felt abortion hurts women, and it does hurt women; it's against a woman's nature to hurt her child," she said. "They were part of a group, the Coalition for Life, and they prayed about what they could do about the situation and they were inspired to hold a vigil outside their facility 24 hours a day for 40 days, because Biblically a lot of things happened in 40 days."

Resident Eric Estano spoke during the event, and said he came out because he is a "rationalist." "Everything, I believe, has to be real and it has to be rational," he said. "It's not be-

cause some book or church told me to do it, everything has to be real; everything has to be verifiable."

Estano said he believes the anti-abortion stance fits this description. "It's not just what a church tells us to do, it's not all what the Bible says, it's all real, and that's where the church and the Bible come from," he said. "For me, a lot of it is just growing up with this all around and seeing the world for what it is. Seeing life, seeing the science behind it, it all just clicks. It's perfect."

Estano said he believes many of the stereotypes around women in the workplace lead to views supporting abortion. He said women are oftentimes told they can't support a family and have a career, but he said his sister is an example of how that is not true.

"She is currently a nurse at Mass. General Hospital doing labor and delivery and has been there 25 years," she said. "She got as high as she could in her career there and through it all, she never had to say no to a child."

For more information on Dionisi and the movement, go to <https://friendsoftheunborn.org>

Reddick *continued from page 4*

tume parties to raise money. They've had casino nights and salmon barbecues and dances, the town's womenfolk unsung heroes, expending effort with barely a glimpse of glory.

The players are taking a month off from their jobs without pay. They've been required to kick in a couple thousand dollars to secure a place on the team. And they've overcome the hardest challenge of all, convincing wives and girlfriends of the utter necessity to do this thing. These are the guys surrounding me now, lost in a million square miles of utter wilderness.

We rose this morning at our camp on the banks of Stewart River. It is forty degrees below zero. Twenty hockey players are chopping wood, melting snow in great blackened coffee pots, frying bacon, refilling gas tanks, repacking sleds, feeding dogs, taking down tents. My right ear is numb, my face frost bitten, I cannot close my right hand, rigid from constantly pressing an accelerator lever for two bitterly cold days. My entire body is sore from jolting and swaying on my snow machine. We face sixty-five mountain miles before reaching our next camp at Pelly Farm.

And there is no place on earth I'd rather be.

*"Don Reddick is a writer from Norwood.
He can be reached at donreddick534@gmail.com*

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Morrill Library Events

SENSORY-FRIENDLY ART CLASSES

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to partner with Norwood-based Lifeworks Inc to bring a series of art classes called Sensory-friendly Art Classes for Adults to the library. The classes will be held weekly on Fridays starting on January 3 and continuing thru June 27 from 10:30 am to 11:45 am in the Simoni Room at the Morrill Memorial Library.

Join the art instructor Stephanie Enloe for sensory-friendly art classes for adults, a program specially designed for adults with all levels of cognitive abilities. The attendees will get a chance to create an art piece in a sensory-friendly and inclusive environment.

The program is free and open to attendees aged 18+.

PUZZLE FACE-OFF!

Love doing puzzles? Want to test your speed against others? Come join us for a friendly puzzle face-off against other teams on Saturday January 11, at 2:30pm - 4pm in the Simoni Room.

Up to 4 teams will compete, with a maximum of 4 people per team. Feel free to name your team! Families are welcome to come as a team; children aged 10+ will count as a team member. One puzzle per team. Puzzles will be 500 pieces, and each design will be unique. Based on random luck of the draw, teams will get to choose their puzzles. Race will kick off at 2:30pm and will end at 4pm. The team with the most completed puzzle by the end of the race will be the winner. Winners will receive a small prize, and of course, bragging rights!

This program is free and open to all, but please note that the difficulty level of the puzzle design is most suitable for tweens, teens and adults. Please let only one team member register for the whole team. You will be prompted to enter the number of

participants in your team. Please do not register each member of your team separately.

MOVIE MATINEE MONDAYS

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to continue our Monday Movie Matinee, a film series starting on January 13. The series will run from January - April. The films will be shown on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Showtime at 1PM.

If you love movies and want to immerse yourself in unforgettable cinematic experiences, Morrill Memorial Library is the place to be! Join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons from January through April to enjoy an eclectic mix of movies. Movie dates are: 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28. January movies are: Barbie (116 mins) - Boys in the Boat (123 mins)

REMINISCENCE: REVISITING THE PAST

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to bring a unique program called Reminiscence: Revisiting the Past to the residents of Norwood. The program will be held on Wednesday January 15th at 3PM in the Simoni Room. Please join Steven Kiley, Home Care Consultant from Home Instead, as he takes the attendees through a Show and Tell program about artifacts from years past. With the background in Occupational Therapy, Steven uses the vintage artifacts found while metal detecting and bottle digging and has created a fun and stimulating Reminiscence Program. The vintage items are brought in and a Powerpoint presentation is conducted to add context.

ART JOURNALING WORKSHOP

Thanks to popular demand, Lynda will be offering her Art Journaling Workshop for Beginners a second time in January 2025!

Morrill Memorial Library is

excited to again host local artist Lynda Bassett, who will host an art workshop titled "Unleash Your Creativity: Art Journaling for Beginners" on Sunday, January 12 starting at 2:00pm in the Simoni Room.

Dive into the world of art journaling, where there are no rules—just endless possibilities! Explore paints, pens, collage, and words, in a fun and relaxed environment. You'll leave with your very own personalized art journal pages and a treasure trove of ideas to keep your creativity flowing.

No experience needed! All supplies will be provided - but feel free to bring any photos, stickers, mementos, or other things you'd like to use in your art journal. Attendees must be aged 18+.

About the presenter: Lynda Bassett is a self-taught mixed media artist, and art journal creator. Lynda uses acrylic paint, collage, and words to explore herself and the world around her through intuitive art. She has been published in several art journaling magazines, including Brush Magazine and Strawberry Moon. She has also exhibited in a group art show in Boston. You can find her on Instagram @lynda1655.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY LEGO CLUB FOR ADULTS

Morrill Memorial Library is excited to partner with the L.E.A.D. program affiliated with Norwood High School to host a Sensory-friendly Lego Club for Adults. Our January Lego club meeting will be held in-person at the library on Thursday January 23, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

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

Deaths

DOLAN

Joan, Age 99, a long-time resident of Wellesley, MA, passed away peacefully, in hospice care, on December 21, 2024, at Sunrise of Norwood assisted living facility, where she had resided for the past six years. Joan and her siblings were born in Jamestown, New York and were the children of Dr. Michael E. Nolan and Mrs. Martha Nolan, both deceased. Joan was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Newton, after which she began a 50-plus year career as a librarian in the City of Newton and most particularly, as head of the Newton Highlands branch library, a job that she loved. Joan was a woman with many interests. She was an avid skier, speed skater and swimmer and along with her long-time companion, Bob Wilde, since deceased, was an enthusiastic lover of antique cars. Beyond this, she and her beloved twin sister, Nancy, were wholehearted dog lovers and even after her retirement as a librarian, Joan was a professional dog walker until her early 90s. Joan was predeceased by her twin sister, Nancy M. Clancy of Wellesley; her sister, Sue Dias of Wellesley; and her brother, Dr. Brian E. Nolan of Springfield, Illinois. She is survived by her niece, Margaret (Clancy) Lenox and Margaret's husband, Edward Lenox; as well as by other nieces and nephews. Joan, a life-long Catholic, was a parishioner of St. Paul Church in Wellesley. The funeral services for Joan at her request will be private. Gillooly Funeral Home Norwood (781)-762-0174 www.gilloolyfuneralhome.com

LARKIN

MARY C. of W. Roxbury, formerly of Norwood, passed away on December 22, 2024 at the age of 93. Beloved daughter of the late Thomas and Catherine (Geoghegan) Larkin. Loving sister of Josephine Casey of Westwood, Phyllis McDonnell of W. Roxbury and the late Bridie Knight and Thomas Larkin. Cherished Aunt of Marie Dormer, Phillip Knight, Christine Ernst, Suzanne Dickinson, Marie McDonnell, Raymond McDonnell, David McDonnell and Andrea McKenna. Mary was a Registered Nurse working at many hospitals and the VNA. She was also a long-time parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Norwood. Funeral from the Kraw Kornack Funeral Home, 1248 Washington St., Norwood, MA. Burial at St. Joseph Cemetery, W. Roxbury, MA. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her memory to the SMA Fathers, 337 Common St, Dedham, MA 02026-4030.



For the Record

MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT GROUP TO MEET

The South Norfolk Mental Illness Family and Friends Support Group will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 21, at The Grange, 28 Rockwood Road (Route 115) in Norfolk, MA from 7-9 pm. Mask if you will.

Mental illness is a label for a variety of diseases of the brain. Often it strikes in late adolescence, devastating the afflicted person and the family. The South Norfolk Mental Illness Family and Friends Support Group is composed of such

families who find mutual support and join together to advocate for their loved ones.

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

VFW MEAT RAFFLE IS BACK!

The Norwood V.F.W. Post 2452 on Dean Street in Norwood hosts a Meat Raffle every Saturday from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The Meat Raffle is open to the Public and everyone is welcome. The price for each

Drawing is only \$2.00. Ten Drawings are conducted each Saturday. A Pre-Buy for \$20.00 is available during the week at the Post. This Pre-Buy allows for entrance in all Ten Drawings conducted on Saturday. The winners of the Pre-Buys need not be present to win. The prizes are delectable, delicious, and generous portions of meat and chicken. The Drawings also include a 50/50 Money Raffle. A separate Winner Takes All Raffle is conducted at the end for an additional \$5.00.

The Norwood VFW is located at 193 Dean Street in Norwood. The Meat Raffle will continue every Saturday thru May. The Norwood VFW is looking for new members. Veterans of the Gulf War, and personnel who have served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan are welcome to visit the post at any time or come to one of the Monthly Meetings which are held on the Fourth Wednesday of each Month from September thru May (Except December).

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
NORWOOD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

In accordance with the requirements of Norwood Local Bylaw Article 47 Section 2.1, the Community Preservation Committee will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood, MA 02062.** This meeting will be held in a hybrid format where Committee members and the public may choose to attend in-person or remotely using Google Meet at:

https://meet.google.com/hda-kniw-eya
or by dialing in at: 402-946-0125 Access Code: 547 694 165#.

This public hearing is the first of two hearings being scheduled to accept questions and comments on applications for CPA funding. The proposed projects under consideration at this hearing include: (1) funding for roof replacement at the Washington Heights affordable housing complex; (2) funding to support a third year of participation in the Shared Housing Services Organization; (3) a transfer to the Land Conservation Fund; and (4) funding to conduct a feasibility study for the restoration of the Guild Pond property. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Community Development Department at Town Hall during normal business hours.

**Catherine Walsh
Chairman**

Norwood Record: 01/02/25, 01/09/25

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