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For April 2022

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***Norwood's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Features Events for Every Taste***

It's the end of the first quarter of Norwood's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Already, celebrants have enjoyed a gala banquet, a skating exhibition with local and international talent, several major historical events sponsored by the Norwood Historical Society, a huge First Night celebration that was changed but not defeated by COVID ... and even a dodgeball tournament.

Now, as April kicks off the year's second quarter, we kick up the monthly pace of events. On Sunday, April 24, Progress Norwood and a long list of co-sponsors will stage the annual Norwood Earth Day Clean Up, Community Picnic, and Fair. In honor of Norwood's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year's goal is 150 bags of trash filled and removed!

At 10:00, 90 minutes of community clean-up will begin at 14 playgrounds, schools and other school properties. Each site is allowed up to 10 spots for volunteers aged 16 and over, plus an unlimited number of younger volunteers. Sign up for your preferred place and time at

<https://tinyurl.com/2022norwoodearthday>.

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Also on April 24, the event will conclude with a two-hour fair and picnic starting at 11:30 on the town common, featuring music by the Unlikely Strummers & Joe Hart, picnic food and drink, an electric vehicle demonstration, compost bin raffles, a bike swap and bike tune-up station, old sneaker recycling, home efficiency information, and more.

On Thursday, April 28, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Brian Murphy and Mike Chisholm, unofficial in-house historians for Norwood's Police and Fire Departments, respectively, will present "Bells and Whistles," a history of the two departments, complete with historical and contemporary images, artifacts, and fascinating stories.

The Simoni Room of the Morrill Memorial Library, 33 Walpole Street, has limited space, so you must register at <http://www.norwoodlibrary.org/morrillcalendar/>, go to Next Month, then to April 28, then to Register under this event; or sign up at the Reference Desk at 781-769-0200 X2.

Saturday, April 30, features not one, not two, but three events. First up is the Fine Art Festival of the Norwood Schools, which will be held from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Norwood High School. This ticketed event, which does not require reservations, will feature displays of artwork by students from grades K to 12.

In parallel, in the gym and auditorium, students will provide music and theatrical performances, including scenes from "The Reincarnation of James Brown," and music by the Fifth Grade Honor Band, the Oldham Flute and Bells, the Treblemaker Chorus, and the Norwood High School Brass Quintet, Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensembles, A Capella Choir, and Madrigals.

Later that day the Norwood Police Department Bike Rodeo will be held at the Norwood Bank parking lot (no registration required). The rodeo runs 1:00 to 3:00, so you should plan to go early to the festival to leave enough time to enjoy both events. The rodeo will feature basic biking knowledge, such as signaling turns and riding with (not against) traffic, as well as how and when to stop and brake, such as signals and stop signs. It will cover checking the proper fit of a bike helmet all the way up to slalom biking through a cone-defined zigzag course.

A separate area will cater to kids with tricycles. For safety's sake there will be no races, hence no prizes, but there will be give-away bike reflectors and bike locks (from Kryptonite) and bike helmets (from Attorney David White). Norwood Bicycle Depot will be on hand to take care of any minor safety repairs. Also scheduled are pizza, frozen yogurt and smoothies donated by Broadway Pizza, Pizzeria Bruno, Norwood Orange Leaf, and The Juice Bar. Organizers also thank Norwood Bank for the use of the parking lot and their generous cash donation.

Finally, April 30 will be Day 1 (of 2) of an Open House from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the George Henry Morse House, 1285 Washington Street. Morse was one of Norwood's first Assessors and Selectmen and a direct descendant of Ezra Morse, who built a sawmill in 1678 and used the lumber to build the first house in what would become Norwood shortly thereafter. George Henry Morse built his house a few years before Norwood was founded.

The Norwood Historical Commission will provide light refreshments and beverages along with the history of the Morse family and the Morse House on April 30, the Open House will repeat the next day, Sunday, May 1, also from 1:00 to 5:00.

A Town Trivia Night will be held on April 29, but unfortunately, this fun-filled fund-raising contest sold out as soon as it was announced.

(Norwood 150<sup>th</sup> events comply with federal, state and local COVID requirements, as well as requirements set by the venue, if any.)

Looking ahead, May will feature several major events to honor Norwood's veterans. June will feature a program of cultural events put on by the elementary schools. And July will feature multiple weekend walking tours of Norwood's historic neighborhoods, sponsored by the Norwood Historical Society.