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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Norwood's 150th Anniversary Big Events

Norwood's 2022 celebration of the Fourth of July will begin at 1:00 pm with the Children's Bicycle, Tricycle, Doll Carriage and Historical Character Parade, running from the First Congregational Church at Walpole and Winter Streets to the Town Common. Participants will decorate their vehicles or themselves as historical characters. The fee to participate is \$1.00. Every participating child will receive a festive t-shirt and participation ribbon. Winners – those judged to have the best decorations on their vehicles or themselves – will be invited to ride in the parade.

At 2:00 pm, the Old Parish Preservation Volunteers (OPPV) and Progress Norwood will sponsor a reading of "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?", a July 1852 speech by abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass. The reading is free and will be presented at the Old Parish Cemetery at Washington and Railroad Streets.

At 2:30 pm, Norwood's Lee Leach and Margaret Angelini from Wellesley College will conduct the Independence Day Carillon Concert. During the concert, tours of the magnificent 50-bell carillon in Memorial Hall will be conducted.

At 5:00 pm, Norwood's annual Firecracker 5K Road Race will take place. Aspiring runners can obtain applications at Town Hall, the Civic Center, or the Library, or on-line at www.Racewire.com.

After the Road Race, at 5:30 pm, there will be an Eastern Massachusetts Fire Truck Procession, including Antique and Classic Cars and Historic Military Reenactments.

Also after the Road Race and probably after the Procession, Norwood's Fourth of July Parade Spectacular will kick off, featuring more than 14 bands and music and dance groups, including the Colonial Boys, the Colonial Pipers, and the Cycling Murrays, as well as many floats and community groups. Parade participants and veteran parade-watchers will already have taken their positions earlier.

The Norwood Historical Society's History Walking Tours continue on Tuesday evenings between 6:00 and 7:30 pm.

- On July 12, the tour of Swedeville will begin at the parking lot of the medical building at 95 Chapel Street.
- On July 19, the tour of Germantown will begin at the Little League baseball field at 1315 Washington Street.
- On July 26, the tour of Christian Hill will begin at Day House at 93 Day Street.
- On August 2, the tour of Guild Square will begin at the parking lot of the First Congregational Church at 100 Winter Street.
- On August 9, the tour of Town Common will begin at the parking lot behind Town Hall at 566 Washington Street.

By now, after First Night, the Norwood 150th Banquet, the Skating Exhibition, the week of Memorial Day veterans tributes, a dozen Norwood Historical Society events and counting, and myriad other special events sponsored by organizations and departments of Norwood and Norfolk County, you may be asking yourself:

How can I show my family and the world that I'm excited to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime anniversary? What can I do to be sure that I'll always remember this year of honoring Norwood's rich history and bright future?

The answer is Norwood 150 shirts, caps, bags, and other merch. You can see what's available and order at the Norwood 150 website, www.NorwoodMA150.gov. Or you can check out the Norwood 150 table at many of these events.

On three consecutive July Tuesdays, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm on the Town Common, the Norwood Junior Woman's Club will present the 7th annual Free Kids Concert series, sponsored by Norwood Bank. They will be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Ecumenical Food Pantry of Norwood. There will be free giveaways to help you celebrate Norwood's 150th anniversary. Bring some chairs, but you may not be doing much sitting.

July 12: DJ Chris plays the kid-friendly hits. Rain date is August 9.

July 19: Stacy Lake leads an interactive show with group singing, movement, and both original and kid-favorite songs. Rain date is August 16.

July 26: Singer/songwriter Matt Heaton presents a fun mix of music and "muppetesque" humor. Rain date is August 23.

On Wednesday, July 13, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at the Town Gazebo on the Town Common, the Norwood 150 Committee will sponsor Summerfest, including the Norwood-based Roundhouse Band, featuring three Norwood High School students. See Norwood's best blues/rock band before their fame and ticket prices skyrocket!

On Tuesday, August 2, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Town Common, Chief Brooks and the Norwood Police Department will lead Norwood's second year of participation in National Night Out. The

goal of the night is to have police meeting residents, with everybody getting to know each other and committing to the ongoing goal of “making communities safer, more caring places to live and work.” Share your stories, your questions and any concerns. There will be kids games, cruiser demo’s, a tent selling t-shirts, and some giveaways. There will be hot dogs, pizza, popcorn and drinks.

On Saturday, August 13, at 6:00 pm, the Old Parish Preservation Volunteers will present Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town,” the 1938 Pulitzer Prize winning drama, at the Historic Old Parish Cemetery. The play will be directed by Tom Frye and is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. (www.concordtheatricals.com). Gates will open at 5:00 pm for free admission and open seating. The play is not suitable for children under age 12.