



At Open Studios recently, Maggie Furtak, right, sells her pottery to a customer during the Norwood Art Walk at the Space Center over the weekend.

PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN GAMBON

Open Studios and Art Walk sprinkle Town with creativity

Mary Ellen Gambon
Staff Reporter

Torrential downpours couldn't keep hundreds of spectators from flooding to the first Norwood Art Walk and SONO Arts Open Studios event on Saturday, May 20.

The majority of the artists involved in the two events over an eight-hour span displayed their paintings, photography and pottery in the hallways and studios of the Norwood Space Center at 83 Morse St. The Norwood Art Walk pivoted to this location after the forecast forced organizers to scrap plans to use the Town Common. The events were coordinated by Norwood artist marypaz and funded by the Norwood Cultural Council.

As part of the Norwood Art Walk, the Morrill Memorial Library hosted "We See Jazz." This family-oriented hour-long painting activity for fledgling artists was set to music by Tommey, a West Roxbury artist and cofounder of Artists-at-Large.

"Artists found that the improvisational nature of jazz really helped fuel their painting and their desires," said Tommey. He told the dozen children and parents to "paint what they hear and let your mind go" to Dexter Gordon's music.

As she first heard the saxophone, 8-year-old Rayhan Khwaja said she wasn't sure where to begin. But as the music's tempo quickened, she became inspired, peppering her paper with brushstrokes.

"This person likes to play music," she said, pointing to the musical notes she painted in the sky above a saxophone. "These people like it, so they are dancing. The grass is pink, and there are black lines around it because she's playing on the street."

Her brother, Ibrahim, 6, painted a



Artist Rayhan Khwaja shows off her painting 'We See Jazz,' where she said she tried to depict music.

PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN GAMBON

flower in the grass with people dancing around it as their mother, Sumbal Raza, encouraged them. She explained that one of her colleagues, a former art teacher, had his creativity virtually snuffed out when he was told what to paint. By contrast, she decided to instill creative freedom in her children.

"Jazz is all about making mistakes, and that's the cool part," added Brianne Jacobs as her daughter, Corinne, decided to splatter her palette onto paper to create mixtures of paints. "She loves the art, and I love the jazz part."

During the early afternoon, Susana Murphy, the founder of Tax Solutions, Inc. on Washington Street, hosted an exhibition by Nadia Parsons of Sky Painter Studio, who displayed 15 of her paintings capturing aspects of the sky from a full moon receding at dawn to swirling sunsets tinged with hues of rose, orange and gold. Parsons discussed her work with people who visited the office as

Art Walk

Continued on page 12

Bailey looking forward to new job

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Soon-to-be Norwood Fire Chief Timothy Bailey said he's rip roaring and ready to go for Norwood.

The Walpole Fire Department (WFD) veteran of 36 years will be heading over to Norwood to take over from interim Norwood Fire Department (NFD) Interim Chief James Wright on July 10.

"I am very much looking forward to it," he said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge more than the change, but the job is the job, whether you're the chief here or somewhere else. There are certainly different problems, but you're still running the fire department and steering it where you envision it going and doing your best for the community."

Bailey said he's been working as the chief of the WFD since 2005 and has worked there since 1986 in different capacities, and he's loved his time there. However, the opportunity in Norwood seemed like an interesting challenge.

"I've been the chief here for 18 years, and we've done a lot of great things," he said. "I've always worked very well with the Town of Norwood; I'm very familiar with it and so the job seemed intriguing to me."

He first became interested in the profession while working as a landscaper back in the 1980s. His boss was on the on-call volunteer department, and it seemed like a pretty good gig.

"I started out in '86 part-time and went full-time in '87. I was working for Joe Nolan. I went through the training for the Call Fire Department. The whistles would go off, then our little pagers would go off and we'd get called into wherever they needed us. It became a passion; I went to school and college for it and took all the training I could," he said. "It just really clicked."

Through it all he said he felt a serious comradery with his coworkers.

"We're a close-knit group. Every day is different – you never know what you're going to get – and you train for it and just hope for the best."

He's been keeping up with current events in Norwood, and said the WFD has been facing some of the same issues that the NFD has, at least when it comes to the Norwood Hospital and equipment issues.

"All of our ambulance transports are much further away than they used to be, and we're racking up mileages on our ambulances we haven't seen before," he said. "We're on a three-year replacement cycle with our ambulances – we typically replace one ambulance every three years – and we've upped that. Also, because of the long lead times to get the ambu-



Walpole Fire Chief Timothy Bailey is stepping up for the job in Norwood.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

lances now, I've just ordered another. I've had an ambulance on order for almost two years. Hopefully they come soon, because the wear and tear on the ambulances is incredible."

Bailey said that he hopes to bring the collaborative atmosphere that has made his work in Walpole so successful to Norwood when he becomes chief.

"I think I have a skill set and experience that can be beneficial to Norwood," he said. "I've been through a lot. It's a collaborative effort here. My deputy and I work extremely well together; we work well with Town Hall and our Select Board is fantastic. It's just a very team-oriented approach. I do think I can make a difference in Norwood."

Bailey said he's worked with the (NFD) guys in the department on countless mutual aid calls over the years.

"I know the Town fairly well; I read your paper and I try to stay up with what's going on," he said. "I looked at the Town Meeting last week, and I'm just trying to acclimate myself to everything, because every community is different."

Norwood is a bit larger in terms of workload than Walpole.

"Norwood is more dense and there's the hospital and the airport and Norwood's commercial base is a lot bigger than Walpole's. Norwood does about 2,000 to 2,500 more calls than we do here. It's the same, but it's just more. We're both an all-hazard agency and we try to help out as best we can."

When asked specifically about the recent issues with Norwood's former Fire Chief David Hayes and the failure of legislation that would have allowed him to stay on for another five years after the state's mandatory retirement age, Bailey said he had no comment on that at this time.

Bailey's swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for July 10, with exact times coming soon, at the Norwood Memorial Hall at Town Hall.