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Family Remains On Search As Maura Murray Disappearance Marks 20 Years

Family Launches Podcast To Combat Misinformation, Plans Vigil For Feb. 9

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Feb 2, 2024

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The family of Maura Murray - Kurt Murray, left, brother; Fred Murray, father; and Julie Murray, elder sister, pictured here in February 2017 in Littleton - has joined a coalition of families with missing or murdered loved ones to demand that the New Hampshire attorney general's office take greater action and improve communication with families. Maura Murray disappeared in Haverhill February 2004. (File photo by Paul Hayes for The Boston Globe)

As the disappearance of Maura Murray approaches 20 years, her family remains on the search for answers and is launching a podcast to combat misinformation.

A vigil is also scheduled for Feb. 9 in Woodsville.

On the night of Feb. 9, 2004, Maura Murray, then a 21-year-old nursing student and athlete at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, was driving north into the White Mountains when she disappeared after the car she was driving crashed into a snowbank at a curve along eastbound Route 112 near Woodsville.



There were no footprints or signs of a struggle, and there have been no credible sightings of her since.

It's uncertain why she left school and drove north.

Some speculate that Maura might have been running away to begin a new life, ran into the woods following the crash and succumbed to the elements, got into another vehicle, or was suicidal.

Others, including the Murray family, believe she encountered someone with bad intentions, became the victim of foul play, and is likely no longer alive.

The family hopes that someone with information that leads to answers will come forward.

The attorney general's office has classified Maura's disappearance, which became a cold case after the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit was established in 2009, as a criminal investigation into a missing person.

In the years since, volunteer searches have occurred in the area where she was last seen.



In a statement on Wednesday, Murray's sister, Julie Murray, announced the launch of a new podcast in partnership with Voices for Media Justice.

"Media Pressure: The Untold Story of Maura Murray" was announced on the Today Show by author and podcaster Ashley Flowers, who addressed what she said is much information on the Internet about Maura's disappearance and said, "For the first time in 20 years, Julie gets to take her story back, correct misinformation, and reveal information I have never heard before."

In a statement, Julie Murray said, "After two decades of fighting for answers in my family's search for Maura, we finally have a way to tell Maura's story in an accurate and responsible manner while putting 'media pressure' on those with answers and information we need to find Maura and bring her home. Each episode takes the listener into the life of Maura like no other podcast ever has while taking the public on a journey — Maura's untold story — through the voices of those who knew Maura best and who have done the most to fight for answers."

The podcast is available on the family’s website at www.mauramurraymissing.org/podcast.

To honor Maura on the 20th remembrance of her disappearance, the Murray family invites supporters to a vigil from 5 to 9 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Mountain Lakes Lodge in Woodsville.

Members of the public are invited to light a candle in Maura’s memory at 7:30 p.m., which marks the approximate time that she was last seen.

On Thursday, as the 20-year mark approaches, The Caledonian-Record asked Julie Murray what gives her and her family hope that the case will be solved and what other efforts are being undertaken to find answers as 2024 unfolds.

“The pain and heartache my family has endured for the past two decades without Maura or answers is immense,” she said. “The ambiguity of Maura’s loss only amplifies that pain. We find strength and hope in the outpouring of love and support from people all around the globe.”

It’s that hope, she said, that keeps her and her family moving forward.

“My family believes the case is solvable and we continue to work collaboratively with law enforcement, private investigators and volunteers in hopes of bringing it to resolution,” said Murray. “Within the past year we sent samples of potential evidence to a lab for testing, conducted several independent cadaver dog searches and worked with law enforcement to run down credible leads. We are hopeful that with the renewed attention on the case in 2024 someone will come forward.”



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