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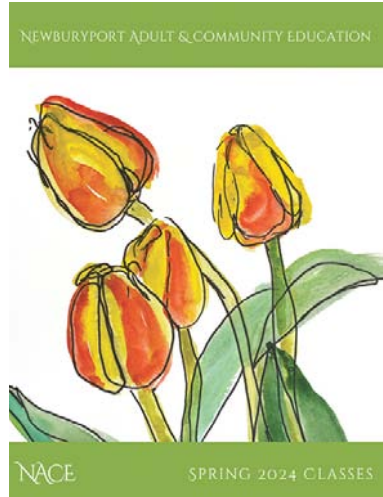
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## Time to Learn Something Fun

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter



Graphic provided by NACE  
*The Spring Course Catalog cover*

REGIONAL -- It's time for spring cleaning and the Newburyport Adult and Community Education program (NACE) wants to help you declutter your home.

The spring session of the popular adult learning program, which begins on April 22 and ends June 5, offers a diverse collage of fascinating classes. Jenifer Caddigan, owner of Piece of Mind Organizing, is teaching a 1.25-hour session, Decluttering: Honoring the Process, designed to help you learn how cluttering affects your life.

Whether you're a reformer, helper, achiever, individualist, investigator, loyalist, enthusiast, challenger or peacemaker, Adair Rowland, a writer and editor, who has studied Enneagram for more than 20 years and is certified by the Riso-Hudson School in New York, will guide you through the nine Enneagram personality types. The two, two-hour course, will figure out your own personality and leaves you with a "decoder ring" to find out more about yourself and others.

"We are offering over 60 classes this semester. Many are brand new which is very

Continued on page 3

## State: Volunteers May Serve on Multiple Town Boards

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

REGIONAL -- A challenge most small towns and cities face is finding enough volunteers to fill out the memberships of various municipal committees that regulate everything from land use to community health.

At least two municipalities -- Amesbury and Georgetown -- are currently looking for volunteers to sit on their conservation commissions, which regulate encroachments on wetlands and other environmental issues.

Each community has a dozen or more committees, boards and commissions and a relatively small pool of residents who are willing to devote several hours each week to prepare and attend the meetings.

In some cases, sitting on regulatory commission can result in irate citizens criticizing or even threatening them for their decisions.

So, it is not unusual that the 80/20 rule applies, maybe 90/10, where a handful of volunteers do most of the heavy lifting. They volunteer to serve on several boards and commissions.

In Georgetown, SelectBoard chair Amy Smith also serves on the open space committee. SelectBoard member Doug Dawes serves his community on the Veterans Affairs Committee as well as the board of directors for the Eastern Essex Veterans Services.

Robert Hoover, another SelectBoard member, serves on the Housing Authority. Former SelectBoard member David Twiss serves on the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) and the Housing Trust.

When SelectBoard member Rachel Bancroft was criticized recently for also serving as vice chair of the Conservation Commission and on the CPC, she asked the state Ethics Commission if she was violating



Photo from facebook.com/georgetownma/  
*Town of Georgetown Seal*

state law by serving on multiple committees for Georgetown.

In a two-page letter, Christopher Popov, the assistant general council for the State Ethics Commission, said there is no conflict for Bancroft to serve on multiple committees.

"Question: Does General Law, c. 268A prohibit you from serving in all three of these capacities at the same time?

"Short Answer: No."

Popov stated: "The Conflict of Interest Law is intended generally to govern conflicts between public and private interests. Thus, when an individual is serving in more than one agency in the same municipality, the presumption is that the individual is serving only that municipality's interests through services on more than one municipal agency/board/position in town.

"The concern about 'divided loyalties' between one's loyalty to one's municipality and one's personal/private interests is not relevant when one wears multiple hats in service to the same town."

He also noted that state law also does not prohibit a resident from serving as an officer of multiple boards or commissions.

In addition, Popov wrote that state law does not govern differences of opinion

Continued on page 3

## Nuke Agency Studies Seabrook's Emergency Plan Changes

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

REGIONAL -- NextEra Energy, owner of the Seabrook Station nuclear power plant, offered last week to conduct a demonstration of its proposed new emergency response program to prove to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that its plans for reducing its emergency staff from 47 to 37 people would not jeopardize plant safety.

In a public hearing about the proposed changes in the plant's emergency management, New Hampshire Executive Councilor Janet Stevens told the NRC hearing officers that Seabrook did not need a new drill. Seabrook had a demonstration of its emergency management when 10 of the plant's 120 alarms were sounded in July 2022, although there was no emergency, she said.

According to a follow-up report of the false alarm, the plant failed to respond adequately, officials concluded. Critics of the plant called it a "fiasco."

The staff at Seabrook Station took more than an hour to notify the New Hampshire emergency management office and local law enforcement that it was a false alarm.

No one was even answering the phone at the plant, critics said.

Under the proposed changes at Seabrook, the emergency response staff would be reduced by 32 percent from 47 to 34 operators. Federal regulations require that Seabrook have 37 trained emergency response operators, which is one reason NextEra is required to seek an amendment to its license.

The proposal would also allow the required response time to increase from 60 to 90 minutes for 12 of the staff. It would cut the number of radiation technicians from two to one and eliminate other emergency



Photo provided by Next Era Energy  
*Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant*

response roles. And the plan, which NextEra said would benefit it and the nuclear power industry, proposes to staff the emergency response positions with employees that have less than the now required 6,000 hours of experience and would not have to be certified as health physicists, according to Sarah Abramson, executive director of the Seabrook watchdog organization, C-10 Research and Education Foundation in Amesbury.

"It makes no sense to reduce radiation protection staff," Abramson said. "In an emergency, every minute counts."

NextEra's Communication Strategist Lindsay Robertson responded: "The top priority of NextEra Energy's fleet common emergency plan is protection of public health and safety, which will not be compromised. The changes we have proposed do not alter the number of full-time employees at our company's nuclear facilities.

"All employees at the company's nuclear facilities play an emergency response role. The company will always ensure its facilities have appropriate staffing in everyday operations and in an emergency situation."

C-10's Abramson said she is "cautiously optimistic" after the public hearing last week that the NRC will hold NextEra accountable for maintaining its safety program.

A b r a m s o n Continued on page 2

Help Wanted Ads - Page 7

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# How to Submit Letters to the Editor



Marc Maravalli, B.S., R.Ph.  
Publisher/Editor, The Town Common

Letters to the Editor provide a useful way of communicating concerns, issues, or suggestions to all members of the community. The Town Common encourages all citizens to submit letters concerning issues of interest and concern to the local community. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and clarity. Some letters may serve as a catalyst for other articles or coverage, and community leaders and agencies will be offered an opportunity to respond to letters concerning their areas of responsibility. All letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be submitted to:

The Editor  
c/o The Town Common  
77 Wethersfield St.  
Rowley, MA 01969  
or preferably via e-mail to:  
editor@thetowncommon.com.

The Town Common deadline is 5pm Wednesday (except when a federal holiday necessitates an earlier deadline).

The Town Common serves the communities of the Upper North Shore of Mass. & Coastal New Hampshire and welcomes your participation. Send your Organization or Group Notices, Birth or Engagement Announcements, Photos, Articles and Letters to the Editor, by mail, phone, or e-mail to: 77 Wethersfield St., Rowley, MA 01969 Phone: 978-432-9669 E-mail: news@thetowncommon.com

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In loving memory of  
Liz Ichizawa, '04-05 Reporter (1956 - 2005)  
Jim Wilson, '20-22 Publisher/Editor (1954-2022)

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 8:30 pm to consider a Notice of Intent application filed by Deborah Eagan, Town Administrator, Town of Rowley for proposed clean-up, removal of fill, wetlands restoration, and construction of a 4 vehicle gravel parking area for trail access possibly within the 100' Buffer Zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, and 200' Riverfront Area of Bachelder Brook at 347 Wethersfield Street (Map 19, Parcel 8 Lot 16) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman, Rowley Conservation Commission 3/27

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:45 pm to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by Jonathan Daley for proposed soil evaluations and installation of a sewage disposal system to replace a failing system for the single-family dwelling within 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 300 Wethersfield Street (Map 29, Parcel 29) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman, Rowley Conservation Commission 3/27

### LEGAL NOTICE - PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

#### COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

##### TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

The Georgetown Community Preservation Committee will hold a Public Informational Hearing on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. to provide the community with an opportunity to learn and comment about projects to be considered for funding by the voters of Georgetown at the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

The meeting will be held in person in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room at Town Hall, One Library Street, Georgetown, MA, and virtually via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84830518541>; Meeting ID: 848 3051 8541; Passcode: 921767

If approved by the voters, these projects will be paid for with the funds available to Georgetown as defined in M.G.L Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act. For more information, visit the Community Preservation Website at <https://www.georgetownma.gov/>

The Community Preservation Committee welcomes any questions and comments regarding these projects. If you are unable to participate in this meeting, please send your questions or comments to [HlaCortiglia@georgetownma.gov](mailto:HlaCortiglia@georgetownma.gov).

The Community Preservation Committee would like to thank the residents of Georgetown for their continued support.

H. LaCortiglia,  
Chair, Georgetown Community Preservation Committee 3/20, 3/27

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27 Wed	1:26	8.2	1:50	7.8	7:42	0.3	7:55	0.8	6:31	7:05	☾
28 Thu	2:02	8.2	2:28	7.6	8:21	0.3	8:31	0.9	6:29	7:06	☾
29 Fri	2:39	8.3	3:10	7.4	9:02	0.3	9:11	1.1	6:27	7:07	☾
30 Sat	3:21	8.2	3:56	7.2	9:47	0.4	9:56	1.3	6:26	7:08	☾
31 Sun	4:07	8.2	4:47	7.0	10:38	0.5	10:46	1.5	6:24	7:10	☾
1 Mon	5:00	8.1	5:44	6.9	11:34	0.6	11:44	1.6	6:22	7:11	☾
2 Tue	5:59	8.1	6:45	6.9			12:34	0.6	6:20	7:12	☾

### Letters To The Editor

## Town Clerks and Staffs Deserve High Praise for Well Run Recount

The First Essex and Middlesex district Republican State Committeeman race certainly didn't lack excitement that began on election night March 5 and concluded on Friday March 22 when the Secretary of State certified the recount results and declared me the winner for the second time. I was extremely impressed on how well run the recounts were in each of the cities and towns. Keep in mind the recounts were all done by hand. I have never witnessed, observed, or experienced a recount so this was a good learning experience for me. I admit with just a 28 vote lead my anxiety level was through the roof. I was very fortunate to have friends, family and political allies step up to help with observing the recount on my behalf in each of the 17 towns and 2 cities. It took a lot of organizing because these recounts took place during a workday. In the end the final difference was 26 a net loss of 2 from the original difference of 28. Some might be skeptical on the accuracy of the voting machines but with roughly 25k votes cast I would say these voting machines in the First Essex and Middlesex district worked with great accuracy and precision. I want to thank each of the city and town clerks and their staffs for all the hard work that they displayed during the recount process. Job well done. And finally, I want to thank Clayton Sova and Jeff Yull for running and I look forward to working with them.

Michael J. Scarlata, Republican State Committeeman Elect

## Meeting Regarding Impact of MBTA 3A on Rowley

WHEN: Thursday, March 28 from 7-9PM  
WHERE: Grange Hall, 29 Central St., Rowley, MA

If anyone wants to learn more about the MBTA 3A and how it impacts each of us that live in Rowley, there's an open meeting scheduled for next Thursday 3/28 from 7-9 at the Rowley Grange (Central Street). Presentations by independent legal counsel and others will provide insight and information on 3A and its guidelines in general and about Rowley's specific requirements.

An opportunity for open friendly discussions where residents can share their concerns and ask questions will follow the presentations. Speakers will attempt to answer as many questions as possible.

Please note that if questions pertain to town documents or infrastructure cost, only the town Selectboard and Planning Board can answer. To that end, the Planning Board has added an agenda item to each of their scheduled meetings for public discussion covering the 3A zoning topic.

MBTA 3A affects ALL OF US and will determine the future course of our town for generations to come. Including our ability to control our own laws, how our environment is protected, and essentially our way of life here. So it's critical that we all are aware of and understand its ramifications for Rowley.

Please let your friends and neighbors know about the 3/28 citizens meeting and come join us.

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Town of Rowley Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw, as amended, a remote Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 8:15 PM, to consider a Stormwater Management Permit application filed by Core States Group for proposed demolition and construction of a commercial bank building 50' x 90' with drive-thru, associated parking, subsurface sewage disposal system, utilities, and stormwater facilities at 165 Newburyport Turnpike (Map 14, Parcel/Lot 13) in Rowley, MA. Total site disturbance is approximately 56,566 square feet (1.3 acres).

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman,  
Rowley Conservation Commission 3/27

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 8:00 pm to consider a Notice of Intent application filed by Core States Group c/o Stonefield Engineering & Design for proposed demolition and construction of a commercial bank building 50' x 90' with drive-thru, associated parking, subsurface sewage disposal system, utilities and stormwater facilities possibly within the 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland and DEP Approved Groundwater Protection Area Zone II at 165 Newburyport Turnpike (Map 14, Parcel 13) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman, Rowley Conservation Commission 3/27



## Time to Learn

Continued from page 1

exciting!" wrote NACE director Patty St. John.

"For example, we have a Challah baking workshop, collage, decluttering, organic backyard farming, writing flash fiction, bridge and cribbage, archery, a spring fungi walk, classes related to senior issues, options for end of life care and many more," St. John wrote.

For the future, NACE will continue to expand the variety and number of classes to broaden its reach and attract a more diverse mix of students, she wrote. "I firmly believe life-long learning is crucial for countless reasons!"

Where else can you learn how to take better photos, book bind in the Japanese style or venture out in a canoe? There are also some old favorites such as tap dancing, Gypsy-style folk dancing, learning guitar for beginners and capturing images from space.

To see the full schedule of

classes and to register online, visit [newburyportadulted.org](http://newburyportadulted.org)

For high school students thinking about applying to college, there a SAT Prep classes and for newcomers to America there are English classes for non-English speakers.

Classes are available to anyone aged 15 and older in the Greater Newburyport region and southern New Hampshire. Classes are limited in size and can fill up quickly.

St. John is expecting NACE will attract about more than 300 learners this spring. It registered more than 100 attendees just last week. Some classes are limited, so register soon.

NACE operates under the auspices of the Newburyport Public Schools, but is fully self-supporting funded primarily from course fees. It receives no tax dollars. Additional funding comes from grants and individual donors from Newburyport Bank, Institution for Savings, N.A.I.D., BankProv and the Dennehy Family Fund.

For more information, contact Patty St. John at 978-465-1257.

## Amesbury & Newburyport Boost Employee Safety with MIIA Grants

REGIONAL - Both Amesbury and Newburyport were awarded grants from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the cities' property and casualty insurance provider, to fund safety and risk management activities and equipment. Amesbury received \$9,912 in grants and Newburyport received \$7,184.

Amesbury used its grant funds to improve safety in the local Police Department building and to boost cyber security in schools. The city installed new, slip-resistant, rubber tile flooring in the police station booking area – replacing 40-year-old linoleum flooring that had become cracked and uneven, creating a trip hazard.

"With close to 1,000 arrests per year, the booking room gets used quite frequently and had seen some wear and tear," said Craig Bailey, Amesbury's Chief of Police. "Removing tripping hazards from this area minimizes the opportunity to take out a complaint against the department and will make for a safer environment for both police officers and arrestees."

Amesbury's grant also enables purchase of computer hardware to be used as part of a new, system wide multifactor authentication program aimed to protect school staff computers from cyber threats.

In Newburyport, the Department of Public Services (DPS) used grant funds to purchase new ladders and chain saw safety equipment for the Parks Department to use while trimming and felling trees to clear power lines. Newburyport DPS also leveraged the grant to purchase and install backup cameras for town vehicles.

"This new safety equipment will help prevent accidents and injuries to our workers, as well as reduce the chance for financial losses to the city," said Tom Watkins, Business Manager for Newburyport DPS.

For the 2024 fiscal year, MIIA awarded \$1 million to fund over 150 grant requests from members for public safety activities and equipment. Municipalities were able to procure equipment to aid in property loss prevention, such as infrared cameras and moisture sensors, and to enhance cyber security efforts with assessments, training, and software solutions, among other initiatives.

"MIIA commends Amesbury and Newburyport for their efforts to mitigate risk, protect property and people, and prevent financial losses," said Stan Corcoran, MIIA Executive Vice President. "Through our grant program, we're proud to partner with our members to identify common areas where we typically see insurance claims and provide solutions that lead to effectively mitigating these losses."

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association is the non-profit insurance arm of the MMA. As a member-based organization, MIIA's focus is to provide excellent service and quality risk management solutions to nearly 400 cities, towns, and other public entities in Massachusetts. For more information, please visit <https://www.emiia.org/> and [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org).

## Nuke Agency

Continued from page 1

voiced concern that the NRC has not mentioned during the License Amendment review that Seabrook Station has a "concrete cancer," caused by an alkali-silica reaction. The alkali-silica reaction, caused when concrete is exposed to water, is believed to be undermining the structural integrity of the 34-year-old plant.

The most likely scenario for an emergency, Abramson said, would be caused by a storm that floods the plant or terrorists that attack it.

"In just the last 3 months we have seen three historic flooding events, making the only roads into and out of coastal towns like Hampton, Salisbury, and Plum Island completely unusable should there be an evacuation order stemming from an emergency at the plant," Abramson wrote.

Severe weather is also putting stress on the old plant, she wrote.

At the hearing Stevens joined C-10 in noting how badly the station performed in an emergency when

the 30-year-old alarms sounded on Hampton beach.

Seabrook officials said the investigation found that there was nothing wrong with the sirens, but human error led to "an inadvertent activation of a command within the system."

As a result, Seabrook added a new procedure that sends information simultaneously to local law enforcement.

"We have put in place processes that notification will go out uniformly to all the agencies that need to notify the public," Seabrook Station spokesman Bill Orlove was quoted. "I think it's important to clarify that in case of an emergency, Seabrook has to provide timely and accurate information to our partners, mostly our state partners, that then notify the public."

Over the past 30 years, the nuclear plant has held silent alarm tests every two weeks. Officials said staff members who perform the testing will undergo additional training, extra personnel will be added and pre-programmed commands will be removed from the test system.

between some SelectBoard members and the ConCom. The long-time ConCom chair Carl Shreder was asked to resign because of differences of opinion and operations of the ConCom. The 17-year conservation agent Steve Przyjemski resigned, citing a toxic work environment at Town Hall.

Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco and Selectman Doug Dawes have said they have heard complaints about the operations of the ConCom. And the ConCom approved a permit for the G. Mello Trash Disposal Corp.'s new 500-ton station only when ordered to do so by the state Land Court.

Bancroft has said she was told to resign along with Shreder from the town's ConCom, but she has refused.

## Volunteers

Continued from page 1

between town leaders, stating that the conflict of interest law "is not intended to prohibit or, somehow, control differences of opinion about Town matters among, for example, the Select Board, the ConCom, and/or the CPC.

"It should not surprise any reasonable person that, for example, the Select Board might have an opinion that differs from the CPC's about a pending CPC application. Similarly, the Select Board might not agree with the ConCom's decisions about conditions the ConCom imposed regarding a Notice of Intent and compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act."

There has been significant tension

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## Correction:

In last week's edition of The Town Common Newspaper, we misidentified the Georgetown School Superintendent.

Dr. Margo Ferrick is the superintendent. We apologize for the error.



## Groveland Water and Sewer Receive \$959,752 in Federal Funding for Improvements

GROVELAND — Town Administrator Rebecca Oldham and Water and Sewer Superintendent Colin Stokes are pleased to share that the Groveland Water Department has received a federal grant from Congressman Seth Moulton to invest in the Department's infrastructure.

Groveland Water received \$959,752 which will be used to help make repairs to the water mains on Washington Street, Wood Street, and Balch Ave. The mains, which are close to a century old, are significantly undersized. Replacing these mains will improve water quality and quantity and create another water line to the town's nearest water tower.

"This funding will play a pivotal role in modernizing our water distribution system and providing the town with increased access to better quality water," said Town Administrator Oldham. "These necessary updates will provide many benefits to the community. We are grateful to Congressman Moulton for his support."

Congressman Moulton secured \$13.5 million to disperse between 15 different community improvement projects in fiscal year 2024 regulations. Representatives are permitted under guidelines issued by the House Appropriations Committee to request funding for a limited number of community projects within their district.

The selected projects will improve infrastructure and climate resiliency, expand workforce development and veteran services, and invest in childcare and education.

"I would like to thank Congressman Moulton, his regional Director Tom Arsenault, and the many other staff members who helped pull this all together. I would also like to thank Town Administrator Rebecca Oldham for playing a pivotal role in securing this funding source," said Superintendent Stokes.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School District

In accordance with Chapter 71, Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School District's School Committee will hold a public hearing on the FY 2024-2025 annual school budget at 6:45 p.m. in the School Committee conference room at the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School, 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. A copy of the FY25 Recommended Budget may be downloaded from the school district website <https://whittiertech.org/district-landing> or will be available in the office of the School Business Administrator beginning Wednesday, April 3, 2024 until Wednesday, April 10, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. 3/27

# Nvest's Famous ShredFest

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## Health & Wellness



By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

### Brighter Smiles...

#### DENTISTRY IN THE NEWS - PART 2

dentists are more than willing to see children. If there are issues that warrant a pediatric specialist, the child can be referred.

Having said that, there are many newer lines of thinking in regards to child development. Things such as tongue attachments (tongue tie) should be evaluated early, as this is often a relatively easy fix. Earlier orthodontic intervention, to aid in better dental development and airway health, is also a newer trend. These are things that need to be evaluated by someone who is qualified in that specific area, which is often an airway-minded pediatric dentist, general dentist and orthodontist.

Another column in the report entitled, "The Wisdom on Wisdom Teeth", says "the latest data suggests that as many as 80 percent of people will develop problems with their wisdom teeth". This is true. In most people, wisdom teeth either will not fit with all of the other teeth in the mouth or they erupt crowded. This may not cause a problem right away, but because they are difficult to clean, they either get decay or cause periodontal problems with the neighboring teeth. The current line of thinking is to remove these teeth between the ages of 16-18, or before the roots are fully developed. This generally makes for a much less traumatic surgery.

In the article entitled, "Taking the Cost Out of the Bite", it is discussed what to do if you don't have dental insurance. One of the suggestions is "to consider

purchasing an individual dental policy", and the other is to look for discount programs which "give members 10 to 60 percent off at certain providers". This is tricky. If you don't get dental insurance from your employer or are not covered under a spouse's plan, you really have to look at the numbers and also at what you are entitled to with particular plans. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

The cost of purchasing your own indemnity dental insurance plan usually outweighs the benefits. Most, if not all dental insurance plans have annual maximums which average \$1000 per year. You pay the premium to the insurance company, which might be \$750 a year, but then you only get \$1000 in benefits. It may make sense for families but usually not for individuals. As far as the "discount plans" the column refers to – this is a buyer beware. These plans force you to choose a dentist from a list, and this list is usually not very long. It is important to consider the quality of care, or at least the level of care you desire.

Dental health is important to overall health on many different levels. Make it a priority

*Dr. St. Clair maintains a private dental practice in Rowley dedicated to health-centered family dentistry. He has a special interest in treating snoring, sleep apnea and TMJ problems. If there are certain topics you would like to see written about or questions you have please email them to him at jpstclair@stclairdmd.com*



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Illustration by Jeff Pickering

# Super Crossword

## WELL-DEFINED

**ACROSS**

**1** Ran after

**8** — oil (trendy marijuana extract, for short)

**11** Old TV ET

**14** Feudal peons

**19** More ill-bred

**20** Loaf in a deli

**21** Palme — (Cannes award)

**22** “La Traviata,” e.g.

**23** 120-Across #1

**25** “Over here!”

**26** Sieved, as potatoes

**27** Folk rocker DiFranco

**28** Drink holders

**29** 120-Across #2

**31** 120-Across #3

**36** Suffix of enzymes

**37** Don effortlessly, as shoes

**38** Toxin-fighting fluids

**39** Functional unit of a kidney

**42** Wield a saber or foil

**45** Sky twinkler

**48** Stray calf

**49** 120-Across #4

**55** Plead

**56** Cabinet chief: Abbr.

**57** Muse of poetry

**58** Mimosa tree, e.g.

**62** “Put — Happy Face”

**64** DiCaprio of “Titanic”

**70** 120-Across #5

**75** More furtive

**76** Possess

**77** Gets the impression

**78** Core belief

**81** Light tan

**84** Groom’s vow

**85** 120-Across #6

**94** “Take —” (“Jot this note”)

**95** Water spigots

**96** Extort money from

**97** Fit to reside in

**100** Architect Saarinen

**103** Island near Bora Bora

**107** Rage

**108** 120-Across #7

**113** 120-Across #8

**116** Male sweetie

**117** Day, to Juanita

**118** Totally lost

**119** Bruins’ Bobby

**120** What this puzzle literally provides eight times

**124** Wee

**125** Hitter’s stat

**126** Single-named R&B singer

**127** Erase

**128** Some Canadian gas stations

**129** Tot’s “piggy” translation, e.g.: Abbr.

**131** Lobby sofas

**DOWN**

**1** The Sims or Minecraft, say

**2** Muse of astronomy

**3** Fast part of a river ride

**4** Govt. stipend

**5** Adm.’s org.

**6** Brain wave test: Abbr.

**7** Harry Potter bully Malfoy

**8** Burial vaults

**9** Poet Percy — Shelley

**10** — Moines, Iowa

**11** One-off, as a committee

**12** Lerner’s songwriting partner

**13** Skillet

**14** Ilk

**15** Grand-scale

**16** Give new energy to

**17** Region prohibiting slavery prior to the Civil War

**18** Made unhappy

**24** — -Puf (facial sponge)

**29** Really hate

**30** Suffix with serpent

**32** Resist boldly

**33** Singer Lisa

**34** City in Sicily

**35** Once, once

**40** Word file alternative

**41** — polloi

**43** Syringe aunts.

**44** Stretch (out)

**46** — Lingus (Irish carrier)

**47** Writer Dahl

**49** The Beatles’ “— Work It Out”

**50** Tequila plant

**51** Sacred image

**52** Big Apple address abbr.

**53** Sch. near the Rio Grande

**54** Axes, e.g.

**55** Scrooge’s outbursts

**59** U.S. spy org.

**60** Fluid in a pen

**61** Anxiety

**63** In times past

**65** Scot’s denial

**66** Novelist Rand

**67** Varnish stuff

**68** “Judge —” (Stallone film)

**69** — buco

**71** Artist Jan van der —

**72** “Nola” composer Felix

**73** Actor Wilson

**74** How much ’90s music was recorded

**79** LAX info

**80** High-quality

**82** CSA soldier

**83** Web address

**85** Certify

**86** The “E” of UAE

**87** Overturns

**88** Singer Sumac

**89** Word before goblin

**90** Employed

**91** — bad example

**92** Split

**93** Ritalin treats it, for short

**98** Science writer Willy or ESPN anchor Bob

**99** Urge strongly

**101** Kind of steak

**102** Like some headsets

**104** Chemist’s “I”

**105** Brief pang

**106** For a really long time

**109** Muscle car booster

**110** Macabre

**111** Interval

**112** Is really angry

**114** Lotto variant

**115** Deposits, as eggs

**120** License-issuing agcy.

**121** Palindromic file suffix

**122** Fitting

**123** Cashew, e.g.

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