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Wednesday, April 10, 2024 - Vol. 20, No. 24

FREE

Moving Rowley 911 Center Hits Turbulence

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

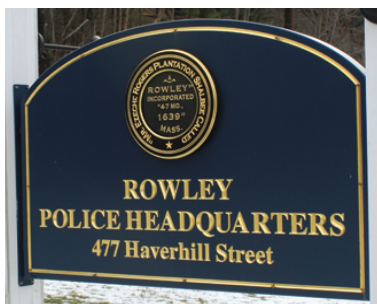


Photo by Stewart Lytle
The Rowley Police Department

ROWLEY — A proposal to transfer the Rowley Communications Center, the town's 911 dispatch service, to a regional dispatch service has stirred up a nor'easter among residents.

The proposed move to the North Shore Regional 911 Center in Middleton, which is designed to cut costs, may be decided at Town Meeting this spring, if the SelectBoard approves it.

But the SelectBoard is under increasing pressure to kick this can down the road.

On a new FaceBook site, Save Rowley 911, an opponent wrote: "Who do you want to report an emergency to on what could be the worst day of your life? Someone you know and trust? Or someone who has never stepped foot in your town? Outsourcing 911 is dangerous."

The center employs four dispatchers, whose salary and benefits might be saved if the dispatch service is transferred.

North Shore 9-1-1 currently handles calls **Continued on page 3**

**Help Wanted
Ads - Page 7**

Butler's Toothpick May Be Restored

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter



BUTLERS "TOOTHPICK."

Ben Butler's Toothpick Photo provided by the Salisbury Historical Commission

REGIONAL — Since 1873, the ship's captains, fishermen and recreational boaters have used an odd looking, wooden triangle on the Salisbury side of the Merrimack River as a daytime navigational marker.

Nicknamed Ben Butler's Toothpick after the Civil War general, Massachusetts governor, congressman and founder of the America's Cup yacht races, the navigational aide has become an icon for Salisbury. Open the town's web site and the image you see is Butler's toothpick.

But today, the Coast Guard-owned navigational aide, known officially as the Black Rocks Day Beacon, is falling apart. Over the decades, the wind and salt spray have taken their toll on the wood structure and its stone base. The red paint on the wooden slats is fading and the wood is probably rotting. There are holes in the mortar that needs to be repointed, Hellwig said.

The town's Historical Commission has been talking with the Coast Guard about

restoring the Toothpick. The Coast Guard would license the beacon to the town for 10 years while the commission, headed by its chair Connie Hellwig, raises the estimated \$65,000 to rebuild the beacon.

"The Coast Guard is enthusiastic. It would like to have the Toothpick restored," said Hellwig, who has been talking with Coast Guard officials up and down the East Coast for six years. "I have a solution, a plan."

The commission's plan is to rebuild the Toothpick to its original height of 35 feet and 20 feet wide.

The sticking point is insurance. The Coast Guard is insisting that the town of Salisbury buy liability insurance to cover the construction of the new Toothpick. The SelectBoard would also have to approve the project.

Town Manager Neil Harrington said he is favor of restoring the Toothpick, but called it "a little too premature for me to make any definitive statements about what might happen **Continued on page 3**

City Moving to Build More Tennis Courts

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter



The tennis court at Nock Middle School

Photo by Stewart Lytle

NEWBURYPORT -- As long as the Newburyport high school girls' tennis team continues its winning way, the school may soon be able to host the state championships on new courts at the Nock Middle School.

The Community Preservation Commission has approved the Newburyport schools' request for \$474,560 to build the new courts on an underutilized softball diamond at the middle school. It still must be approved by the City Council.

Last year, the school district rebuilt two courts the east side of the campus on Johnson Street. Together the school district will have four or five courts together.

The Newburyport High School girls' tennis team has won state championships the last two years, but did not have enough courts to host the state championships. The state athletic organization requires the host for the championships to have four courts in the same location.

The school district also wanted to have more courts for practice and use in physical education.

The plan, outlined for the CPC, is to build a viewing stand between the existing and proposed courts for

spectators.

Supporters raised more than \$21,000 to help fund the new courts. More than 100 individuals and organizations contributed \$21,000 to the Friends of Newburyport Tennis.

Rosemary Turgeon and others organized a GoFundMe page for donations. The

Institution for Savings donated \$2,500, the Joy Nest gave \$1,145 and the grandparents of one team member contributed \$1,451.

That proposal is one of the largest considered by the CPS this year. The CPC sent to the City Council for approval requests for \$75,000 to study replacing the warping and cracking boards on the popular Merrimack River boardwalk; \$15,750 for the YWCA Market Street apartments; \$65,000 for the rehabilitation of the firefighters' memorial, \$75,000 for the Braunhardt bike trail; \$2,265 to replace the William Lloyd Garrison sign on Brown Square; \$98,563 for the Woodman Park basketball court, and \$231,589 for phase two of the Lower Atkinson improvement project.

The CPC cut **Continued on page 3**

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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
GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1 Library Street, Georgetown, Massachusetts 01833
(978) 352-5712 • FAX (978) 352-5725
A Public Hearing will be held by the Georgetown Conservation Commission on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM, by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting 25 Prospect Street., Public Hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability for if required, a sewer pipe and septic tank within 100' of Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
Contact person: Michèle Grenier, PWS (978) 352-5712 04/10

LEGAL NOTICE - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held via Zoom videoconference on Thursday April 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. or such other time when posted for the Notice of Intent By Applicant: Nathan Herr for the property located at: 34 Arrowhead Farm Road, Map 37, Block 1, Lot 32 to install a garage addition, retaining wall, concrete walk and deck within 100-feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
The Zoom connection information will be posted on the Town of Boxford website prior to the meeting. This is a joint hearing under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sec. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. For more information, contact Ross Povenmire at rpovenmire@town.boxford.ma.us.
For the Commission, Ross Povenmire, Conservation Director 04/10

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD
The Georgetown Planning Board will hold two public hearings on April 24, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. to hear requests to modify the Town's Zoning Bylaw Chapter 165.
The first is to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw, Article XIII: Special Permits and Site Plan Review, Section 165-75.
The second is to amend the Town Bylaws, Chapter 165-7: Definitions and word usage, to add a new subsection to allow Reduced Frontage on Residential Lots - and - To amend the Use and Intensity Schedules, Section 165-11, Attachment 3, Intensity of Use Schedule.
Interested persons are invited to participate in the above-cited public hearing, via computer, tablet, smartphone by connecting to the following Zoom Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81041921179>
The above-cited remote meeting connection information will be included on the April 24, 2024 meeting agenda, which will be posted on the Town of Georgetown website no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Further, the meeting will be broadcast live on the Georgetown Local Access Cable TV Channel 9. Video recordings of this meeting, and all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetownma.gov, by choosing Cable TV option.
Full and complete copies of the above-cited proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments can be viewed on the Town's website. <https://www.georgetownma.gov/> Any person interested in being heard at this hearing should login remotely at the time and place cited above. Please note, written correspondence will be accepted and read into the record of the hearing.
Harry LaCortiglia
Chairman of the Georgetown Planning Board 04/10, 04/17

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10	Wed	12:59	10.0	1:30	9.0	7:21	-1.3	7:34	-0.4	6:07	7:21	☾
11	Thu	1:46	10.0	2:20	8.7	8:10	-1.2	8:22	-0.1	6:05	7:22	☾
12	Fri	2:35	9.7	3:11	8.3	9:01	-0.9	9:12	0.3	6:03	7:23	☾
13	Sat	3:25	9.4	4:04	7.8	9:54	-0.5	10:05	0.7	6:02	7:25	☾
14	Sun	4:19	8.9	5:00	7.4	10:49	0.0	11:01	1.1	6:00	7:26	☾
15	Mon	5:16	8.4	5:59	7.1	11:48	0.5			5:58	7:27	☾
16	Tue	6:16	8.0	7:00	7.0	12:01	1.4	12:48	0.8	5:57	7:28	☾

The Fairy Gnome Discovery Walk

SALISBURY - The Fairy Gnome Discovery Walk is one of the most whimsical events in the state. This is an enchanting opportunity to explore an (almost) real fairy garden.

A whimsical afternoon at Salisbury's most beautiful farm, PETTENGILL FARM, walk through lush gardens, an enchanted forest, and the serene marsh; it's an event like no other.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Join us at our sixth annual Fairy Gnome Discovery Walk at Historic Pettengill Farm (circa 1792) this April 27 & April 28 from 11am - 3pm at 45 Ferry Road, Salisbury, MA. The gems of the event are the near 200 Fairy and Gnome Homes peppered throughout a 1 mile wooded path that leads to the salt marsh and back. Homes are created by very talented professionals, families, school children, and local businesses. We are excited to add the Art Stroll to this event that welcomes artists from all over New England to showcase and vend their work.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

It's true, we have awesome FREE crafts and activities. The farms expansive front lawn will be full of extraordinary artists for you to stroll their booths and enjoy (FREE). We have all day live music, improv theater performances by, fairy tales read in the woods, and other entertainment. Yes - we have fun places to shop and souvenirs priced to please.

We anticipate hundreds of meticulously created Fairy and Gnome homes peppered throughout the most magical woods with a treat half way that will take your breath away, that only our beautiful seaside town could offer. Oh and of course, yummy food trucks. But what you can't see, is what we are most proud of. The magic that is ignited within the youngest to the oldest. Kids crouching in the woods discovering Fairy and Gnome homes - you'll hear the squeals and see the sparkle in their eyes when they think they have spotted one. It's the folks dancing to their favorite tunes in a sea of bubbles, or enjoying the quietness of the farm while watching the stillness of the pond. Not a care in the world or an ear for the "static" that exists outside of this magical event.

Tickets are on sale now and we offer FREE admission to home creators: <https://fairygnomewalk.weebly.com/tickets.html>

Essex Police Department to Wear and Sell Patches in Collaborative Autism Awareness Program

ESSEX -- Chief Paul Francis is pleased to announce that the Essex Police Department will be participating in an Autism Awareness Program in collaboration with the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

April is nationally recognized as Autism Awareness Month. Beginning on April 1, the Essex Police Department will be selling and wearing autism acceptance police patches. All proceeds from patch sales will go toward the Flutie Foundation's safety programs, which focus on keeping those affected by autism protected within their communities.

By wearing and selling these patches, the Department hopes to bring acceptance and awareness of autism to the community in order to create an inclusive, safe space for everyone, as well as give back to the cause through their partnership with the Flutie Foundation.

The Department's goal is to raise at least \$1,000. Those interested in purchasing a patch are encouraged to do so at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/essexpolicedepartment2024> Patches are \$10 each, and there are a limited number available for purchase. Once purchased, patches can be picked up from the Essex Police Station.

"The Essex Police Department is so proud to be partnering with the Doug Flutie Foundation," said Chief Francis. "The purpose of this partnership is to raise awareness and understanding of autism and how it affects 1 in 36 children in the United States. Please consider giving back to such a fundamental organization by buying a patch or donating directly to the Foundation."

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism is a non-profit organization based in Framingham that strives to support and empower those affected by autism by raising money and hosting community events.

More information about the Flutie Foundation can be found at <https://flutiefoundation.org/>



Tennis Courts

Continued from page 1

a few requests to stay within its budget.

The Custom House restoration project asked for \$42,200, but the CPC approved \$20,000. The Unitarian Meeting House roof replacement asked for \$80,000 and was approved for \$64,000.

The Atkinson common rock tower restoration asked for \$128,700 and was approved for \$100,000. The Inn Street and Patrick Square restoration project asked for \$246,000 and was approved for \$56,250.

911 Center

Continued from page 1

from Amesbury, Essex, Middleton, Topsfield, Wenham and the newest member, Manchester-by-the-Sea.

Ipswich considered joining, but decided not to when the police and firefighters opposed the transfer.

At last week's SelectBoard meeting, former patrolman and detective Robert Adams spoke against the proposal, saying, "For decades, the men and women of the Rowley Police Department, and the Rowley Communications Center, have been there to help the people of this town - often on the worst day of their lives.

"They have been the calm voice on the other end of the phone, consoling a loved one, instructing CPR, or coordinating backup for an officer screaming for help. How dare this town consider turning their backs on them. For even considering the notion, I think you have made a terrible mistake."

SelectBoard member Sheri David, who served as a dispatcher for 29 years, supported the proposal, saying that a regional call center would be better equipped than a single dispatcher to handle a growing volume of calls from Rowley residents.

David and other supporters believe the funds saved could be used to enhance the police and fire services, particularly staffing the fire department overnight, which has long been on the town's wish list.

Referencing reports of poor morale in the police department, Adams, who served in the Rowley Police Department from 2012 to 2023, asked the SelectBoard, "How much worse will morale become and how many more officers will you lose if you remove the heart of the police department, the dispatch center?"

Another opponent on the Facebook page noted that two Rowley selectmen had toured the regional call center and came back with a glowing review of the center.

"If the town meeting is any indication, it will undoubtedly pass if left to them to vote. Don't let the Town of Rowley regionalize 911," the opponent wrote on the Facebook page. "They will claim that it's free, but nothing is free. Rowley will be stuck in a third regional agreement with an eventual and non-negotiable bill. Another bill the citizens will have no control over."

Butler's Toothpick

Continued from page 1

at this time."

Hellwig is meeting with Harrington, SelectBoard Chair Ronalee Ray-Parrott and member Michael Colburn about the project.

It would not be the first time the Toothpick has been rebuilt. In 1957, a storm washed away the beacon. It was rebuilt, but not to its original height. Its current dimensions are 20 feet high and 15 feet wide.

Hellwig has talked with Riverside & Pickering Marine Contractors in Newington, NH about restoring the concrete base.

And in one of the most intriguing aspects of the restoration, Hellwig has also talked with Graham McKay at the Lowell Boat Shop about building a new superstructure.

McKay, who was out of town and could not confirm the historic boat shop's interest in the project, has told Hellwig the superstructure might be built in Amesbury and floated on a barge downriver to the beacon site on Salisbury beach.

Butler was a colorful historical figure. Born in Deerfield, NH in 1818, Butler grew up in Lowell, where he developed an empathy for the local mill workers. When he served as a state legislator, a congressman and governor of Massachusetts, he championed the 10-hour workday.

He became a successful manufacturer in Lowell, producing the first American wool bunting used in making flags. He presented the first American-made wool flag to President Abraham Lincoln.

During the Civil War, he was named a general and became an important player in the fight against slavery. He declared that captured slaves, when seized by the northern army, were contraband. Thus, Yankee soldiers did not have to return the slaves to their southern owners.

For his efforts, Confederate President Andrew Johnson ordered Butler to be executed if he were ever captured.

As governor from 1883 to 1884, Butler appointed the first African American and Irish Catholic to be judges and Clara Barton, who founded the American Red Cross, the first woman to serve in the governor's office.

Butler owned a Rockport marble quarry, where it is believed the original stones for Toothpick's base came from. And for 20 years, Butler owned the yacht America and entered it 28 times in races, winning five. That was the beginning of the America's Cup races.

After being lobbied by the influential Butler, the federal government erected the navigational aid on the Merrimack in 1873. According to legend, it gained the nickname Butler's Toothpick because of Butler's big mouth.

"Everyone loves the Toothpick," Hellwig said. "It's very cool."

Rowley Annual White Goods and Light Metal Recycling

The Rowley Board of Health will hold its annual White Goods/Light Metal Recycling Event on Saturday, April 20th, 2024, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am at the Highway Department, 40 Independent St. All metals will be accepted, but no glass wood, ceramic, plastic or rubber goods containing incidental metal are allowed. White Goods accepted include washers, dryers, stoves, kitchen appliances and gardening machines. A more complete listing can be found at the Town website, <https://www.townofrowley.net/>

Engines must be drained of all fluids before arrival at the Highway Department. Propane tanks without gas will be accepted. A nominal fee (\$5.00 for 20+ lb. tanks, \$1.00 for those less than 20 lb.) will be charged.

Fees charged for electronics are: Televisions & computer monitors over 46", \$30.00 each, Televisions & monitors under 46", \$25.00 each and Laptop computers, \$15.00 each. No fees will be charged for smaller electronic components.

The Rowley Board of Health reserves the right to refuse collection of any item(s) deemed inappropriate. PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED. Residents should come prepared to transfer their items from their vehicle into the container. For more information, contact the Rowley Board of Health at (978) 948-2231.

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Boxford Community Electricity Launching in June with Rate of 13.915 ¢/kWh

BOXFORD - The Town of Boxford is pleased to announce that it will launch its electricity supply program, Boxford Community Electricity, in June 2024. The program is a municipal aggregation, which is already offered by nearly 170 cities and towns in the State.

Boxford Community Electricity will offer three new electricity supply options to all Boxford residents and businesses. The Town's primary offering, *Boxford Standard*, will cost less than the current National Grid Residential Basic Service rate, while also providing an additional 10% renewable energy (though future savings cannot be guaranteed). Boxford residents and businesses may also choose from two other options: *Boxford 100*, which has 100% renewable energy, and *Boxford Basic* which just meets the State minimum standards for renewable energy.

Boxford Community Electricity will provide long-term price stability, with prices fixed for 42 months, until

December 2027. The program will also support the growth of renewable energy here in New England, because all additional renewable energy will come from "Class I" sources. Those are primarily wind and solar, all located within New England.

"The Town is pleased to offer this aggregation program that allows residents to lock in a competitive rate for cleaner, greener, electric supply for the next 42 months," says Matthew Coogan, Boxford Town Administrator.

The program was initially authorized by Town Meeting in 2020, and was recently approved by the State's Department of Public Utilities in January 2024. The program launches in June 2024. Information about the program can be found at BoxfordElectricity.com.

Boxford residential and business electricity customers using National Grid Basic Service supply are eligible for automatic enrollment in the Boxford Standard as of their June meter read. In

the beginning of April, all such eligible customers will receive a Notification Letter on behalf of the Town from the chosen electricity supplier for the program, Dynegy Energy Services. The letter will notify them of the upcoming enrollment and provide instructions on how to choose a different program option other than *Boxford Standard* or how to opt out of the program (i.e., not participate) before the program starts.

Participation in Boxford Community Electricity is voluntary. Anyone that does not want to participate may opt out without penalty, either before the program begins or at any time during the program.

Electricity customers who are currently enrolled with a third-party supplier will not receive the Notification Letter and will not be automatically enrolled. These customers can voluntarily join the program, but are advised to check with their current supplier in case it may charge penalties or early termination fees if they leave that supplier during the term of their contract.

Participation in Boxford Community Electricity will only change the "Supply" portion of your National Grid electricity bill. National Grid will still continue to manage electricity billing, maintain poles and wires and respond to storm outages. Customers using budget billing or receiving low-income rate discounts will continue to receive those discounts without interruption. Similarly, customers receiving net metering or other solar benefits will continue to receive those benefits.

We invite you to join us at a community meeting to learn more about the program:

- April 23, 2024 at 6pm: Town Hall, in-person or virtual attendance. Find the virtual link at BoxfordElectricity.com

For more information about the Boxford Community Electricity, go to BoxfordElectricity.com or call (978) 216-2838.

The accompanying table on this page shows the prices for Boxford Community Electricity, compared to National Grid Basic Service. Boxford Community Electricity prices apply to all Residential, Commercial and Industrial customers.

Prices for Boxford Community Electricity, compared to National Grid Basic Service

	National Grid Basic Service (Residential)	Boxford Basic	Boxford Standard (automatic for eligible customers)	Boxford 100
Price	18.213 ¢/kWh	13.502 ¢/kWh	13.915 ¢/kWh	14.853 ¢/kWh
Voluntary Renewable Energy*	None	None	Adds 10% voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs)	Adds voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs) to total 100%
Duration	November 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024	June 2024 through December 2027	June 2024 through December 2027	June 2024 through December 2027

The program cannot guarantee savings beyond the current term of Basic Service, as stated in the table above, because future Basic Service rates are unknown.

*Voluntary Renewable Energy is in addition to the State's required renewable energy content for all electricity supplies. The State's required renewable energy content is 62% in 2024. For more detail, see resources on BoxfordElectricity.com.

Repair Café Returns!

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Saturday, April 27, 2024 10 AM - 2 PM
Last Items in by 1:30 PM

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Kitty Café

Saturday, April 13 from 10AM-11:30AM at the Georgetown Peabody Library, 2 Maple Street, Georgetown, MA

The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society will be here with some cool cats and kittens! Join us for a morning of pets, cuddles, and general cat admiration. Meet some adoptable cats and get answers to all of your kitty questions. Cats... books... what better way to spend your Saturday morning?

This is a drop in event, not a lecture. Please note that this is not an adoption event. People wishing to adopt will need to go through the process outlined on the MRFRS website or call MRFRS at 978-462-0760.

Health & Wellness



By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

Brighter Smiles...

IT'S A CHOICE - PART 1

the same dentist for 30 years. Despite the fact that they moved 20 miles from the dentist 10 years ago, they continued to make the drive to the office. They were dedicated and they loved their dentist. Then one day the dentist retired and they decided it was time to choose someone closer to where they lived.

Both went to their new office for hygiene appointments and then discussed their experience. They both felt the office staff was less friendly than their previous office. Of course, they knew that "old" office and loved everyone there. They were still willing to give it a chance, until they met the dentist. The dentist seemed like a nice person but took a quick look and said the same thing to both husband and wife - You NEED 8 crowns.

How could this be, they thought? They had been going to the same office for 30 years, neither ever had a crown, and when something broke, their favorite dentist would "patch" them up. They were completely turned off. They were "forced" again to make a change.

This time they wanted to meet the dentist first and see what the dentist had to say before they committed. They set up a 30-minute appointment. At that appointment, the "new" dentist examined their x-rays and took photographs of their teeth. They had an in-depth conversation about the condition of their

dental health. They were asked what their short-term and long-term objectives were. The word "crown" was never mentioned..... until one of them asked the dentist.

The dentist discussed advantages and disadvantages of different kinds of treatment. Since the patient's long-term objective was to have teeth forever, they discussed options for treatment, prioritization and sequencing, as well as financial options. Although they were not ready to dive into treatment, they left the office with a much better understanding of where they stood and appreciated the time that was taken to explain their specific situations.

Every person, every patient, every dentist, is different. This couple experienced three different practice styles. They could relate to Dentist #1 - their "old" dentist. Dentist #2 lacked communication skills, therefore the relationship failed. Dentist #3 took the time to learn about their specific needs and goals. They didn't feel sales pressure but are still overwhelmed by their apparent "needs."

To be continued.....

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 jpsclair@stclairdmd.com

People often ask me how I have time to write columns, and how I've come up with topics for as long as The Town Common has been around. If you have read my columns over the years, you'll remember I have discussed that time was one of the barriers keeping people from getting the dental care they need. Time is an excuse and I use it as an excuse all the time. However, we always make time for things that are important to us.

The topics I come up with have been an evolution. I try to keep it interesting. Of course, many of the things that I find interesting in dentistry would bore others. While some of my columns may bore you to tears, hopefully there are others that you can relate to, or stimulate thoughts or questions.

Let's talk today about a common scenario seen in all dental offices. New patients, husband and wife in their 60's, are "forced" to make a dental provider change. I say "forced" because regardless of our situation, we always have a choice in our providers.

This couple had been seeing

Minimizing (or Eliminating!) Food Waste For Families

Thurs, April 11, 7PM - Virtual

Sarah Robertson-Barnes, founder of the Sustainable in the Suburbs blog, will discuss how to minimize or eliminate food waste in your family, especially with kids. Sarah will have all kinds of ideas to take baby steps to save, use, or compost food scraps so none (or little) goes into landfills! All ages are welcome.

Registration is required for this webinar. To sign up to watch online, visit the Rowley Public Library web site at www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar. You will receive an email with the link to the webinar.

For more information on this or other programs, check our web site at www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar, or call 978-948-2850. The Rowley Library is located at 141 Main St. in Rowley.



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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
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Super Crossword **HAVING A ROLE TO FILL**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Is worthy of
 - 9 Ice cream shop treats
 - 15 Glaringly sensational
 - 20 Clear out of
 - 21 Riga's land
 - 22 "Nadja" title role player Löwensohn
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Fuzz-covered
 - 26 Royal Middleton
 - 27 Inflated head
 - 28 Glimpse
 - 29 Urge (on)
 - 31 It may contain coffee
 - 32 — -cone (icy treat)
 - 33 More of the riddle
 - 38 Chess pieces, e.g.
 - 39 Seating tier
 - 40 Officer led by Capt. Kirk
 - 41 Equilibrium
 - 45 Urge on
 - 49 Novelist — Stanley Gardner
 - 51 More of the riddle
 - 57 Pipe bend
 - 58 Prefix with byte
 - 59 Mardi — (Big Easy bash)
 - 60 Hi-tech special FX
 - 61 — -rock (music genre)
 - 62 — Blu Dipinto di Blu" (1958 hit song)
 - 63 Q-tips, e.g.
 - 65 Jockeys' garb
 - 67 Like Mass officiants
 - 69 More of the riddle
 - 73 Really hungry
 - 76 Really high
 - 77 Twangy, as a voice
 - 81 Yes, to Sartre
 - 82 U.S. immigrants' course
 - 83 "Gross!"
 - 84 Cookbook qty.
 - 87 Subdue with a stun gun
 - 88 And the rest: Abbr.
 - 89 More of the riddle
 - 93 Departs
 - 95 "Ad — per aspera"
 - 96 Wash and iron
 - 97 Attempt to convey
 - 101 Stephen of "Ondine"
 - 104 Hypothetical cases
 - 105 End of the riddle
 - 110 Cloaked
 - 113 Inferior mag
 - 114 Tiki bar necklace
 - 115 Ending for pay or plug
 - 116 Response to "Are you?"
 - 117 Roseanne of "Roseanne"
 - 118 "— Gold" (1997 Peter Fonda film)
 - 120 Riddle's answer
 - 125 Pasta variety
 - 126 — Alex (2005 Belmont Stakes winner)
 - 127 Pupil-dilating alkaloid
 - 128 Comic Johnson and Angels owner Moreno
 - 129 Puts it forth as fact
 - 130 Tailor
 - 5 Regret
 - 6 Jumbo tub
 - 7 Early anesthetic
 - 8 Pete of folk music
 - 9 St. Pete loc.
 - 10 Ranch rope
 - 11 River romper
 - 12 With — to (in hopes of)
 - 13 It may contain coffee
 - 14 Most wise
 - 15 Running time
 - 16 Ending with form
 - 17 Undertow
 - 18 Alongside each other
 - 19 "Tell It to My Heart" singer Taylor
 - 24 Chanel of perfumery
 - 30 Wildebeest
 - 33 Fender flaw
 - 34 Disguised, for short
 - 35 Small branch
 - 36 German for "everyone"
 - 37 Be litigious
 - 38 Ghastly
 - 41 Tiny pieces
 - 42 Some
 - 43 "The Practice" co-star — Flynn Boyle
 - 44 Blunder
 - 46 Dirt-digging journalist
 - 47 Hog haven
 - 48 "— tu" (Verdi aria)
 - 50 — May (one of TV's Clampetts)
 - 52 Ship poles
 - 53 "Dream on!"
 - 54 Deform
 - 55 Et — (and others)
 - 56 Unyielding
 - 64 Muscle power
 - 66 Like plunging necklines
 - 67 Rival of Coke
 - 68 Lipitor and Zocor, e.g.
 - 70 "Jiminy!"
 - 71 Luau dance
 - 72 Jabba the —
 - 73 Filmmaker Nicolas
 - 74 Salesperson in a car lot
 - 75 Deputy ruler
 - 78 Anti-DUI gp.
 - 79 Tennis great Arthur
 - 80 Look of lust
 - 83 Mensa stats
 - 85 D.C. VIP
 - 86 Slowpoke
 - 90 Jacques of French film
 - 91 Delhi dress
 - 92 Beer on "The Simpsons"
 - 94 Test, as tea
 - 98 Triple-time dances, in Paris
 - 99 Ending for Siam or Milan
 - 100 Big Japanese dogs
 - 102 Kuwaiti ruler
 - 103 Yoga poses
 - 105 Big-band drummer Gene
 - 106 In a high-minded manner
 - 107 Singers' clubs
 - 108 19th U.S. president
 - 109 Overplay it
 - 110 Custom
 - 111 "Fame" singer Cara
 - 112 Hair salon fixture
 - 117 Conks
 - 119 Ethyl ender
 - 121 Out — job
 - 122 Western tribe
 - 123 Song syllable
 - 124 "Splash" co-star Hanks



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel a little sheepish about admitting your feelings for a certain someone. But do it anyway. Your sincerity will make the right impression.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time to clean out the clutter in your home. It's also a good time to sort out personal priorities and make decisions about certain relationships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Avoid getting caught up in conflicting advice, even from trusted friends and family members. You need to dig for your own facts and make choices accordingly.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Conflicting aspects cause some confusion, both on the job and in your personal life. Try to keep your balance as you work things out to your benefit.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Money matters become especially taxing for many Leos this week. Pay careful attention to details so that you can avoid more complicated financial problems later on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Don't let regret for a past, rash act keep you from moving on. Meanwhile, a good friend reaches out to help you, and a family dispute needs to be resolved quickly.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone you thought was an ally

suddenly creates on-the-job problems. Wait for the fuss and fury to end before going ahead with your plans.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're moving into a more favorable period in your personal life. Continue to be patient and allow those pesky problems to work themselves out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Ask questions about a financial matter in your family. Don't rely on reassurances. Insist on proof that all is as it should be. And if isn't, why not?

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Personal relationships continue to improve. Vital information comes in about a matter that you almost gave up on. Ask a trusted friend for advice on a major purchase.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your financial situation continues to improve. Meanwhile, a family member makes demands on your time. Give what you can, but save some for yourself. You need it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) That romantic attraction you've tried to ignore grows stronger. In addition, a former business associate turns up with important news that could affect your financial future.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a quiet strength that often surprises people. You are sensitive to the needs of others, even if you sometimes ignore your own.

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



PUZZLE ANSWERS

6	1	7	8	2	4	5	3	6
2	9	3	9	1	5	8	7	4
5	8	4	6	3	7	9	1	2
3	2	8	5	7	1	6	4	9
4	5	1	2	9	6	7	8	3
9	7	9	4	8	3	2	5	1
8	4	5	1	6	2	3	9	7
7	9	6	3	4	8	1	2	5
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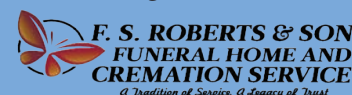
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- Kyle S
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