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FREE

Vacant Kmart Building to Become Housing?

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – For decades, residents here shopped at Kmart in Port Plaza for everything from furniture to toys. In coming years, they may live in new apartments that could be built where the vacant store now stands.

Closed for seven years, the site of the almost 51,000 square-foot store may become an apartment building that could house more than 200 apartments, including more than 50 affordable ones.

In what City Councilor Jim McCauley described as “the end of chapter two in a 10-chapter book,” Mayor Sean Reardon announced last week that he has signed an agreement with Port Plaza owner Richard Kaplan to begin searching for a developer.

“This project will activate a space that has been dormant for seven years and bring much needed affordable rentals to the city,” Reardon wrote to the council. “It will also allow the city to achieve safe harbor status and protects us from future 40B developments.”

The city council voted last week to create an overlay district for the Kmart site that is similar to the zoning district created for the Boston Way units next to the MBTA station and Rte. 1 Rotary.

The apartment building will be four floors, with a maximum height of 120 feet tall. According to the plans approved by the council, the building on the Low Street side would be stepped back in height to 95 feet to keep it from being an imposing structure.

The council voted for the building to have retail space to include shops and restaurants on the ground level. It will likely have green space and patios for residents and visitors to enjoy a coffee or lunch. Residents of the new apartment would also have easy access to two grocery stores and other shops, including Marshall’s.

The guidelines approved by the council will limit the developer to no more than 60 units per acre. But the state Department of Housing and Community Development and the Newburyport Zoning Board of Appeals will have the final say on the approved design.

The agreement Reardon reached with Kaplan, according to the city press release, calls for the construction of 212 rental units, with 25 percent being affordable. To qualify for an affordable unit, renters must have an income less than 80 percent

Continued on page 4



First responders, educators and town officials from multiple communities stand together after undergoing Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response training over the past two months. (Courtesy Merrimac Police Department)

Merrimac, Newburyport, Salisbury and Amesbury Police Collaborate On Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Training

MERRIMAC – Merrimac Police Chief Eric Shears, Newburyport City Marshal Matthew Simons, Salisbury Police Chief Thomas W. Fowler and Amesbury Police Chief Craig Bailey are pleased to report that their departments collaborated to provide Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response

(ASHER) training to more than 150 first responders, town officials and educators from around the region.

The training was conducted in multiple sessions in September and October. It reached individuals from 26 agencies, including 11 regional communities, seven

school districts, two regional EMS services and more.

The training, which included both tabletop exercises and simulated training scenarios, was aimed at improving collaboration between regional agencies during major events, and to prepare officers to stop the

killing and shift to treating victims as quickly as possible. It also trained participants to work together more smoothly during such events.

The training also included a scenario in which a voting site was attacked, enabling

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Volunteer Tim Piper holds one of the donated turkeys (Photo: Stewart Lytle)

Holidays Are Busy for Food Banks

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

NEWBURY – Food banks, like the First Parish Food Bank, are entering their busiest season. The volunteers that serve food to hundreds of people each week have been preparing since August to meet the demand for turkeys.

Jean Merrow, who heads this food bank, has 211 turkeys waiting in the giant freezer at Shaheen’s Grocery in Amesbury. But even that number may not be enough. She is hoping at least 20 more will be donated before this Friday.

Last week, the food bank in an outbuilding behind the First Parish Church delivered sacks of food to 330 households. That is up from the 298 households they served each week in October. It filled more than 1,100 requests, delivering 5,268 bags of food, weighing almost 50,000 pounds to 2,868 people during the month.

And the need is growing. Of the 415 households that requested food assistance last month, there were 19 new households that came to the pantry for the first time.

The food bank accepts food donations every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The turkeys can be picked up on Friday, Nov. 22 at 20 High Road, Newbury.

To donate a turkey to the pantry, email info@newburyfoodpantry.org. ♦



The newly upgraded Glendale Culvert (Photo: Ross Povenmire, Boxford Land Use Director)

Town of Boxford Completes Glendale Road Culvert Replacement, Strengthening Our Community One Culvert at a Time

BOXFORD – The Town of Boxford is pleased to announce the completion of the Glendale Road culvert replacement project, enhancing resilience and safety on a Parker River tributary crossing. The

project, totaling \$630,000, was made possible through funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and additional town resources.

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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
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In loving memory of

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

In My Backyard

To the Editor:

I am a Rowley resident of approximately 25 years, a Daniels Road resident and an abutter to the land impacted by 3A and it's associated development. As I write this, I can hear the ongoing construction of homes in the small development off Danials road near the Wagon wheel factory. From the windows of my home, I can watch the progress. So Yes, we live close to, and will be impacted by, the zoning change and nearby development. I can also testify that the developers have been completely transparent about this project in my back yard. They left many trees when it would have been easier to clear cut the space. The buildings are nice and well-constructed. Additionally, I've seen pictures of the townhomes the developer has done at other locations. I feel that a newly expanded golf facility and townhomes would be a plus for our community. We have been to 3A meetings and presentations, reviewed plans, spoken with both neighbors and the developers. On November 25th we will be voting yes on 3A, even though it is "In My Back Yard"

Chris Fraser
Rowley, Mass.



From left, Firefighter/Paramedic Andrea Ball, Firefighter/EMT Jason Braley, Fire Lt. Keith Grant, Officer Emmanuel Terrero, Sgt. Jason daCunha, Dispatcher Edward Wilson (Photo Courtesy Town of Newbury)

Newbury Police Officers, Firefighters, and Dispatchers Receive Commendation for Life-Saving Actions

NEWBURY – Town Administrator Tracy Blais, Police Chief Patricia Fisher and Fire Chief Dave Evans are pleased to share that members of Newbury Police, Fire and Dispatch received commendation awards for their combined efforts in saving a man's life last month.

The special commendation ceremony was held Tuesday, Nov. 12. Newbury Emergency Communications Dispatcher Edward Wilson, Police Sgt. Jason daCunha, Officer Emmanuel Terrero, Newbury Fire Lieutenant Keith Grant, Firefighter/EMT Jason Braley, and Firefighter/Paramedic Andrea Ball received ribbons of commendations.

On Oct. 20, Newbury Communication Center received a 911 call from a woman whose husband had fallen off a boat into the Parker River in the area of Riverfront Marina. The woman had been actively holding onto her husband for about 20 minutes trying to prevent him from going under as he fought against the strong current.

Dispatcher Wilson immediately sent first responders and water rescue units to the scene, and within two minutes of the call coming in, Sgt. daCunha was on scene.

Sgt. Jason daCunha, and the wife held the man above water until additional police and fire units arrived.

Crews utilized multiple flotation devices to keep the individual afloat and were then able to safely extract the man from the water. The man was transported to an area hospital for evaluation.

"Police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Their ability to do so resulted in the preservation of life during this dangerous incident," said Chief Fisher. "Water rescues can be extremely dangerous as the changing environment works against first responders. However, even with these risks our officers and firefighters stepped into their role as first responders, and I am proud of the outcome."

"I want to congratulate our members and Newbury Police and dispatch personnel for the commitment to the safety of our community. I'm so proud of this group of firefighters and police officers. They went above and beyond, putting their own lives in jeopardy to save the life of a person in need," said Chief Evans. "This incident could have gone extremely differently, and this showcases the great working relationship between our departments. From the initial 911 call, our communication between our departments was immediate and I want to acknowledge a job well done by all." ♦



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21	Thu	3:12	7.5	3:25	8.5	9:12	1.0	9:55	0.2	6:41	4:16	☾
22	Fri	4:07	7.4	4:22	8.1	10:10	1.3	10:50	0.5	6:43	4:16	☾
23	Sat	5:04	7.3	5:20	7.7	11:10	1.4	11:45	0.8	6:44	4:15	☾
24	Sun	6:00	7.3	6:18	7.4			12:10	1.4	6:45	4:14	☾
25	Mon	6:53	7.5	7:14	7.3	12:38	0.9	1:09	1.3	6:46	4:14	☾
26	Tue	7:43	7.7	8:07	7.2	1:29	1.0	2:02	1.0	6:47	4:13	☾
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Ella Costa, 17, of Gloucester volunteers at The Open Door 2023 Thanksgiving Food Drive at Market Basket in Gloucester. (Photo: The Open Door)

Help The Open Door Stock the Shelves: Thanksgiving Food Drive Nov. 23

GLOUCESTER – With the holidays right around the corner, The Open Door Thanksgiving Food Drive is set to take place on Saturday, Nov. 23, at six local grocery stores. This year, the nonprofit is calling on the community to donate nonperishable breakfast items to help support local families during the holiday season and beyond.

“This calendar year, our pantries have seen a double-digit percentage increase in requests for food assistance – the outpouring of community support for the Thanksgiving Food Drive fills our shelves with food options for the holidays and beyond,” President and CEO Julie LaFontaine said. **WHEN:** Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE:

- **Market Basket** at 101 Gloucester Crossing Road, **Gloucester**
- **Stop & Shop** at 6 Thatcher Road, **Gloucester**
- **Shaw’s** at 127 Eastern Avenue, **Gloucester**
- **Shaw’s** at 146 High Street, **Ipswich**
- **Crosby’s** Marketplace at 3 Summer Street, **Manchester-by-the-Sea**
- **Market Basket** at 231 Newburyport Turnpike, **Rowley**

The Open Door Thanksgiving Food Drive will have donation locations at six area grocery stores. Shoppers can easily pick up the items they wish to donate and drop them off on their way out of each store. Most needed items this year include shelf-stable breakfast foods: cereal, oatmeal, coffee, tea, maple syrup, pancake mix, waffle mix, 100% fruit juice, and granola bars. The Open Door asks people to please avoid donating anything in a glass container. The Open Door is also holding a Clothing Donation Drive in conjunction with the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Those that wish to donate gently

used clothing at The Open Door’s thrift store, Second Glance, can drop donations off without an appointment from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 2 Pond Road, Gloucester MA. Clothing sold at the store helps raise revenue for The Open Door’s hunger-relief programs. Holiday Meal Baskets Preserve Special Memories Also on Saturday, The Open Door will distribute Holiday Meal Baskets. Each meal basket is complete with a turkey and all the fixings needed to make a special holiday meal from scratch at home, at no cost. Special diet alternatives are also available.

Holiday Meal Baskets will continue to be distributed by The Open Door right up until the day before Thanksgiving. Holiday Meal Baskets are also available for the December holidays.

“All year long, we’ve seen an uptick in people signing up for our programs, and visiting us more often too. We expect to see a similar increase in requests for Holiday Meal Baskets this year and are thankful for the support of the community as we continue to help our neighbors,” Director of Operations Jen Perry said.

Sign up today for a Holiday Basket for Thanksgiving and December at FOODPANTRY.org.

Members of the community who wish to make a monetary donation to help feed local people through the holidays and beyond can do so at FOODPANTRY.org/donate.

About The Open Door

The mission of The Open Door is to alleviate the impact of hunger in our community. We use practical strategies to connect people to good food, to advocate on behalf of those in need, and to engage others in the work of building food security.

Visit FOODPANTRY.org. ♦

City of Newburyport, Newburyport Fire Department Celebrate Completion of John F. Cutter Jr. West End Fire Station

NEWBURYPORT – Earlier this month the Newburyport Fire Department began occupying the new west end fire station named after John “Jocko” Franklin Cutter Jr., who joined the Newburyport Fire Department in 1932 and became a Lieutenant in 1952. Cutter also served on the Retirement Board until his passing.

Cutter’s son, John F. Cutter III, and grandson, Stephen Cutter, both served as Newburyport Fire Chiefs.

Two members of the Cutter family, Jeff and John, still serve on the Department today. John was sworn in and promoted from call firefighter to Call Lieutenant during the facility’s recent ribbon-cutting ceremony.

One of John F. Cutter Jr.’s granddaughters, Susan Stanwood Walton, also spoke at the ceremony, sharing anecdotes about her grandfather and his passionate work for the community.

The ceremony also featured a re-dedication ceremony for the Anthony “Tony” Raven memorial garden, which was rebuilt and upgraded as part of the building project. Firefighter Raven died in the line of duty on April 26, 2016, at age 64. He served the Newburyport community as a firefighter for 32 years, and before that, served the country in the U.S. Navy.

Firefighter Ken Parseghian led the re-dedication with a memorial speech, with many members of Raven’s family sitting in the audience. Raven’s family members were then gifted the plaque that rested in the former memorial.

“We are here this morning to open this



Community members, city officials, members of the Fire Department and more gather for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. (Photo: Newburyport Fire Department).

great new station, and at the same time keep a promise we made to never forget,” said Firefighter Parseghian. “Tony was a great firefighter, an unforgettable Senior Man, a loving husband to Mary, and a heroic father to both Will and Matt. Tony was my first Senior Man here at Station Two, and he taught me things the way Tony only knew best; he threw you into

the deep end of the pool and hoped you could swim.”

Bagpipers played a song that was played at Raven’s funeral, followed by “Amazing Grace” as the flag was raised to full staff.

Firefighters Matthew Thurlow and Ryan Aghoain, who have been serving the Department for about a year, were also formally sworn in during the ceremony. ♦



Firefighter Matthew Thurlow being sworn in by City Clerk Richard Jones. (Photo: Newburyport Fire Department).

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Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association

Jeffrey E. Megna Recognized for 40 Years of Service

J.S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home, Rowley, Mass.

ROWLEY – Jeff Megna of the F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home in Rowley was recognized at the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association annual Funeral Service Appreciation Night in Needham last month.

“We are excited to recognize our colleague Jeffrey E. Megna of the F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home in Rowley on his 40th anniversary of professional licensure as a funeral director in Massachusetts,” the association shared, adding a heartfelt “congratulations, Jeff!”

Honored and Privileged to Serve Families in Rowley and Beyond

Jeff began his career in funeral service as a Registered Apprentice Funeral Director/Embalmer in 1978. He earned an associate in science degree in Funeral Service from the New England Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, Boston and completed the National Board Examination as well as State exams and was licensed as a Funeral Director/Embalmer in the State of Massachusetts in 1984, and in Rhode Island in 1986. He currently holds a lifetime certification as a Funeral Service Practitioner with the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.

Jeff’s educational journey continued,

including graduating from Rhode Island College, Cambridge College, and completing graduate studies at Boston College, University of Rhode Island, and Providence College, respectively.

“I began my career as a middle school science teacher, then moved on to teach high school sciences,” Jeff related. “I was later appointed assistant principal, and principal at two schools. After serving in administration, I then moved on to college level. I served as the former department chair and associate professor of Funeral Service Education at the New England Institute at Mount Ida College (closed in May 2018). In May 2014, Jeff was awarded the Ronald J. Lettieri Award for Excellence in Teaching (Mount Ida College’s highest award granted). He also served as program coordinator and associate professor in the Funeral Service Program at Cape Cod Community College and is now Professor Emeritus.

A member of Pi Sigma Eta Funeral Service Honor Society, Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association, and the American Society of Embalmers.

“My first and life-time desire was always to be a teacher” Jeff said. “My interest in becoming a funeral director started when I was about 15 years old.

I attended my grandmother’s wake and funeral, and it was then that my interest in death care was peaked. At that time, I think it was more about curiosity and that of the ‘unknown’ relative to the preparation and care of the deceased.”

“One of the most valuable lessons that I have learned working with families over the past forty years has been the fact that every family deals differently with grief and loss in their life. No two people grieve the same. Personally, I don’t like the term ‘closure’ because I do not believe that there is ever a definite ‘closure’ when it comes to death and the loss of a loved one. There will always be times and moments that bring us back to memories, thoughts, and feelings about those whose loss we experience,” Jeff shared.

“Although funeral service was not my first choice as a career, I must admit that it has brought fulfillment to my life, in the sense of helping others at one of the most vulnerable times in their life. I don’t think there is anything more important or precious than a family entrusting their loved one to my care,” said Jeff, adding “I feel honored and privileged to continue serving the families in Rowley and the surrounding communities.” ♦



Jeffrey E. Megna recognized for 40 years of licenses service by the Massachusetts Association of Funeral Directors

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Port Plaza Rezoned to Allow 212-Unit Housing Complex ...

Continued from page 1

of the region’s average median income of \$127,306. The guidelines vary for families of different sizes.

Because Reardon and Kaplan came to an agreement, the project will be considered a “friendly 40B” one.

Like most towns and cities in the Commonwealth, Newburyport does not have enough available and even less affordable housing. A municipality must have 10 percent of its total housing stock be affordable to qualify for being in what is called a safe harbor.

If a municipality is not in safe harbor status, a real estate developer can force it to accept a ‘hostile’ 40B project, which means it has few controls over the project.

The 40B program, which was approved in the 1960s, is the state’s primary program to increase less expensive housing. It gives the state, not local planning boards and city councils, the authority over new housing.

“We are acutely aware of the major housing challenges in the city, region and state,” Reardon wrote in a press release. “Inventory is low and costs continue to rise. Through our housing production plan, we’re committed to looking at a number of other initiatives to create even more housing options.”

According to the mayor, the city lost more than 300 rental units from 2010 to 2020, which has driven rental costs high.

The project, according to the city’s press release, would significantly increase the city’s affordable housing stock above the 10 percent threshold.

The next step is for the mayor to sign a local initiative project application, which Kaplan can forward to the state before it visits the site. ♦

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Health & Wellness

Brighter Smiles ... THE ORAL/SYSTEMIC LINK 1/3



By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

The connection between oral health and systemic health is well-established and ever-evolving. One thing we know for certain; we are living longer, but with more chronic diseases and medication than ever before.

The latest statistics are alarming. Forty-seven percent of US adults who are age 30 or older – an estimated 64.7 million Americans – have either mild gum disease (8.7%), moderate gum disease (30%) or severe gum disease (8.5%). As the population ages, the prevalence rises with 70% of individuals over the age of 65 exhibiting some level of gum disease. And, since we are on statistics, by 2030, it is estimated that the number of people over 70 years of age will have doubled from 35 million to 71 million.

As we age, our risk of developing disease increases. Interestingly, there is also a direct correlation between the regions of the US with the greatest concentration of gum disease, and those that have a high incidence of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Although a direct cause-and-effect link is still in the process of being established between gum disease (periodontitis) and other systemic diseases, inflammation is often a common denominator. And it is always important to remember that the mouth is the gateway to the rest of the body.

We used to think that if people didn't brush their teeth well, or didn't visit a dentist often, they would automatically get gum disease. However, there are patients who have poor home care who never develop gum disease, and there are also patients who have great home care, visit a dentist regularly, and continue to experience breakdown from gum disease – albeit at a slower rate than they would if they had poor habits.

We now know that managing gum disease and other chronic inflammatory diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory disease and arthritis are more patient specific based on an individual's "inflammatory mediators". These are molecules released by immune cells and are largely responsible for individual responses to disease

susceptibility and progression. This is why probiotics are likely to play a significant role in treatment of chronic inflammation in the future.

As we wait for research development for different ways to combat chronic inflammation, it is without dispute that people should do all they can to minimize inflammation in the mouth. The mouth is very accessible and with proper training, coaching and monitoring, a healthy mouth is better for your whole body.

Although some may say that the associations between gum and systemic diseases are statistical by nature, not causal, the data is fairly strong that there is a link between gum disease and cardiovascular disease – such as heart infarction and stroke. This supports diagnosing and treating oral infections, including lifelong professional maintenance and good home care.

Just because it doesn't hurt doesn't mean there isn't a problem. More next week.

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

SOME OTHER THOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING ...

by Paul Janson
Georgetown, Mass.

Thanksgiving is, to me, a curious holiday. The current belief is that it is a celebration shared by the Pilgrims and the Indigenous People at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The story is a little more complicated, as most stories are.

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621, the second year the Pilgrims were in Plymouth. The first year, 1620, they only managed to survive by stealing buried food stores from the Indigenous People. Even with their stolen food, about half of the Pilgrims died that first year. The Wampanoags, whose name means *People of the First Light*, are the Indigenous People we are discussing. They had suffered a similar death rate from an unidentified disease probably introduced by Europeans. That disease was called *The Great Dying*. Many Pilgrims believed that *The Great Dying* was an act of God to make room for ... well, the Pilgrims. I could find no speculation as to why there were so many deaths among the Pilgrims that year or whether it too was an act of God.

Now enter the savior of the Pilgrim colony at Plymouth, Tisquantum or Squanto as his name is usually given. Squanto had a remarkable history. He was kidnaped from his Wampanoag home

and taken to Spain where he was sold into slavery. He escaped with the help of some Catholic friars and eventually made his way to London. While African slavery persisted in the Spanish colonies for centuries, enslaving indigenous people was prohibited in 1543, and this may have contributed to the friar's willingness to help Squanto's escape. In London he worked for John Slaney, treasurer of the Newfoundland Company, a company trying to establish a colony and

fishing company in Newfoundland. He eventually gained passage working on a ship going to Newfoundland. From there he got a ship back to the Wampanoag tribe in Massachusetts. When the Pilgrims showed up, Squanto was the obvious choice to establish contact since he spoke English fluently. In spite of the treatment the Europeans had shown him, he proceeded to show the newcomers how to fish, hunt, plant corn and other

Continued on page 8

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various cells.

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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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A rejection of your attempt to be friendly leaves you with two choices: Try again or give up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It could be a problem dealing with unfamiliar people who do things differently from what you're used to.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) To avoid neglecting a personal matter because of a demanding new workplace schedule, start prioritizing immediately.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It won't be easy to avoid some of the pressures that come with change.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A much-talked-about workplace change could be coming up soon.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might still believe that your trust was betrayed, although the facts would appear to prove the opposite.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans could be a chal-

lenge because of shifting circumstances. But a more settled period starts by midweek, allowing you to firm up your plan-making once and for all.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The facts continue to be on your side. So, make use of them when dealing with any challenge to your stated position.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) There still could be a communication problem holding up the resolution of a troublesome situation.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A possible change in your workplace schedule might create a chaotic situation for a while.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A recent job-linked decision might need to be reassessed because of the possibility of finding benefits that you might have overlooked.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A personal situation you agreed to might not be as acceptable to the other person who is involved in the matter.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for touching people's minds as well as their hearts.

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The Spats



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Grid of puzzle answers for the crossword.

Grid of puzzle answers for the crossword.

Super Crossword

ELEMENTAL EXPANSION

ACROSS

- 1 Legal aide, e.g.: Abbr.
5 Livestock pen
11 Legal aide, for short
15 "Moneytalks" rock band
19 Arena area
20 Edenic locale
21 "... — it just me?"
22 Dutch South African
23 "Help yourself!" elementally?
26 Be jealous of
27 Liqueur akin to sambuca
28 Dessert, to a Brit
30 Bro's sibling
31 Whitewater transports
32 About to receive something special, elementally?
37 Afflictions
39 Madison Ave. products
40 Canon camera line
41 Vital vessel
42 Detective Briscoe on "Law & Order"
45 Brooks

- 47 Unpaved road surface
48 Ontarians' national anthem, elementally?
50 Bullring cheer
52 Rx requests
53 N-R linkup
54 Cyclotron bit
55 Upgrade electrically
58 Committing a basketball infraction
61 "Not gonna happen," elementally?
68 Without requiring me to change
69 Like Columbus, by birth
70 Weird sort
71 1998 Spike Lee film, elementally?
74 Copious, as sweating
76 Declared it to be true
77 Pair
78 — Tin Tin
79 Ancient Cuzco citizen
83 ICU staffers
84 Bill Clinton's veep, elementally?
90 Like many big grins
92 Absorb, as spilled ink or gravy
93 Collect
94 Skylit lobbies
95 "— tree falls in the forest ..."
97 Lass
98 Surrender
99 Puccini opera, elementally?
103 French painter Edgar
107 ThinkPad's original co.
108 Like LeBron James, a record 18 times
109 Estrange
111 Baldwin of "It's Complicated"
113 "You have my word," elementally?
117 Not far from
118 Pizza cooker
119 Insect stages
120 TV's — May Clampett
121 Port in Norway
122 Cruel Roman emperor
123 Smiles evilly

DOWN

- 1 Being tried, legally
2 Tuscan tourist city
3 Letter stroke
4 Meeting secretly, in a way
5 Extremist sect
6 Ear ailment
7 French city
8 Stat of engine speed
9 Intend (to)
10 Put down
11 Low seats with no backs
12 Rejoinder to "Am not!"
13 Alarm clock heeders
14 "Ad — per aspera"
15 Civil War prez
16 Utilize sparingly
17 Strayed off course
18 Ice needles, e.g.
24 Actress Caron
25 Whale pod
29 Asterisk
33 "Rats!"

- 34 Notion
35 Didn't waste
36 Gad about
38 Colleague of Trotsky
42 Spa scrubber
43 Unearth
44 Sedating
49 Gear piece
50 Injury, to a tot
51 Lucy of "Elementary"
56 Besides that
57 Brand of shoes and leather goods
59 Chou En- —
60 Don of talk radio
61 Ensnared
62 Shot — (ice hockey stat)
63 Snake type
64 Dog sound
65 Cell with an axon
66 Thirst for
67 See 45-Down
69 Thor and Loki
72 Miss Poppins
73 Gimlet liquor
74 "Poultry in motion," e.g.
75 Red cosmetic
77 Brief swim
79 Language of Rome, to its natives
80 Prominent people
81 Polenta base
82 On the job
85 Company ID
86 Provo's state
87 Equine hybrid
88 Football great John
89 Gunpowder or matcha
91 "How funny"
92 Toddler, in Turin
95 Smitten romantically
96 Financial backer
98 Wine storage locale
100 "March comes in like ..."
101 Make illegal
102 Purple hue
104 Irritates
105 Off-kilter
106 "So long!"
110 — of March
112 Lead-in to Magnon
114 Overhead rails
115 Slickly pale
116 Iron source

Large crossword grid with numbers 1-123 and some filled-in letters.

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73284140	SOLD	6 Burke St	Groveland, MA	C63200	Detached	1	\$525,000.00
73282484	SOLD	8 Westminster Rd	Merrimac, MA	AN6566	Detached	1	\$525,000.00
73288762	SOLD	20 Thompson Street	Amesbury, MA	C95006	Detached	3	\$500,000.00
73268817	SOLD	22 Union St	Groveland, MA	C95006	Detached	2	\$579,000.00
73284962	SOLD	5 GLENN RD	Merrimac, MA : Merrimacport	AN7489	Detached	1	\$595,000.00
73284794	SOLD	3 Burley Place	Ipswich, MA	AN8678	Detached	1	\$639,000.00
73277760	SOLD	432 Merrimac St	Newburyport, MA	AN8279	Detached	2	\$660,000.00
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\$630K Culvert

Continued from page 1

The newly constructed culvert replaces an aging stone structure that had partially collapsed, leading to water flow issues and increased flooding risk during heavy storms. The upgraded culvert, designed by engineering firm TEC, meets modern stream-crossing standards, incorporating a natural bottom and an open design to support local wildlife. Construction was completed by R. Bates & Sons.

"Investing in our infrastructure is essential to maintaining Boxford's

resilience," said Matt Coogan, Boxford Town Administrator. "The new Glendale culvert not only improves safety but also aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship."

Chris Olbrot, DPW Superintendent and Town Engineer, emphasized that this project is part of a larger, proactive effort to address critical culverts in need of repair or replacement throughout Boxford. "By upgrading our most vulnerable culverts, we are enhancing infrastructure that will help protect our community during severe weather events and improve overall water management. The new Glendale culvert represents a significant step toward a more resilient Boxford," he said.

Olbrot also acknowledged the hard work of his DPW team, who took every precaution to minimize impacts on residents due to the necessary detouring of traffic around the construction site. "Our goal was to complete this essential upgrade with as little disruption as possible to the community," he added. ♦

Now for Thanksgiving. A celebratory feast was not part of the Pilgrim's society as we shall see later. It was part of the Wampanoag's, so the idea of a feast may have originated with them. The Wampanoags brought venison, the Pilgrims waterfowl, and they all ate for three days. Governor Bradford notes that there was a week's worth of leftovers after the feast was finished establishing the most enduring Thanksgiving tradition: leftovers.

There was no feast the following year, but during the summer of 1623 a drought threatened the harvest. The drought finally ended, and the harvest was abundant, so the Pilgrims decided to thank God again that year. This time there were no Wampanoags, and no feasting. Instead, the Pilgrims fasted. It is ironic that the holiday that celebrates gluttony is credited to people who thought the best way to party was fasting. ♦

Officer Lischinsky was assisted in organizing the training by Merrimac Police Sgt. Richard Holcroft, Amesbury Police Officer Jonathan Morrill, and Newburyport Police Officer Robert Coppola.

The training was conducted in recognition of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security adopting a statewide standard for proactive, integrated ASHER response from the National Fire Protection Association.

"I want to recognize and thank Officer Lischinsky, Sgt. Holcroft, Officer Morrill and Officer Coppola for their dedicated and driven work to make this training a reality," said Chief Shears. "This training reached agencies across our region and prepared us to work together more closely and professionally in the event that the unthinkable happens."

"This training provided an invaluable opportunity to collaborate and partner with other first responders and community stakeholders across the region" said Marshal Simons. "I am grateful for the dedication and commitment of each of the instructors. Our agencies are better trained and better prepared because of their hard work."

"I have never been disappointed with the training provided by our local Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Trainers and this training undoubtedly lived up to their high standards" said Chief Bailey. "I was incredibly excited to see our local partners from Fire, EMS, Schools and the City taking part in this essential training, and I look forward to the future partnerships trainings

like these create."

"This was excellent and timely training for all involved. The more interagency cooperation we foster, the more successful we will be during these emergencies," said Chief Fowler. "Officer Adam Lischinsky worked tirelessly to obtain the funding and brought together an impressive group of instructors for this critical training. I cannot thank him and everyone else involved enough. The result will be better response and service for our communities."

Agencies represented at the training were: Action Ambulance Service, Amesbury Fire Department, Amesbury Police Department, Amesbury Public Schools, Atlantic Ambulance/Cataldo, Central Catholic High School, City of Amesbury – Mayor's Office, Georgetown Fire Department, Georgetown Police Department, Hudson, N.H. Police Department, Ipswich Fire Department, Ipswich Police Department, Ipswich Public Schools, Littleton Police Department, Merrimac Police Department, Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC), Newbury Police Department, Newburyport Police Department, Newburyport Public Schools, Northeast Region EMS Council, Pentucket Regional School District, Salisbury Fire Department, Salisbury Police Department, South Hampton, N.H. Police Department, South Hampton School District, Triton Regional School District and West Newbury Police Department. ♦

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Strange Thanksgiving

Continued from page 5

crops and generally how to survive. The harvest in 1621 was bountiful, and the Pilgrims survived largely due to Squanto.

Active Shooter Training

Continued from page 1

first responders and others to prepare for an active shooter or hostile event at a polling place.

Officer Adam Lischinsky, of the Salisbury Police Department, applied for and received a \$33,880 grant from the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC) to fund the collaborative training.

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