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Wednesday, December 18, 2024 - Vol. 21, No. 8

FREE



John Byrne in front of popular Christmas items (Photo: Stewart Lytle)

Tom's Discount: A Shopping Adventure

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

SALISBURY – Whether it is a plastic bin, birthday wrapping paper, office supplies or a reflective jacket that keeps you and your dog safe after dark, Tom's Discount Store is your go-to store.

In the 15,000-square-foot store on Rte. 110 with 32,000 different items, everything from reading glasses to garden soil, shopping at Tom's is an adventure. You never know what you will find as you wander its many aisles.

"A great place to shop and save a ton of money," wrote Tom (no relation) from Georgetown on Yelp social media. "Looking for household products or have a tool you need? Chances are Tom's Discount will have it. I've recently purchased Hi-Visibility jackets for use while I ride on my motorcycle. These are great jackets that you can't buy anywhere for under a \$100. At Tom's, buy them for less than \$50.

Tom's, which opened its doors in 1996 at the Crossroads Shopping Plaza, is thriving in a retail sector that seems to be dying. When Tom Newman opened his mom-and-pop discount stores, one of the major suppliers in Manchester, NH, had 65 to 70 similar stores in the area.

Today, Tom's is one of only five or six discount stores in the region, and the Manchester supplier has closed its doors.

The reasons: Covid, Amazon, and to a lesser degree, chain stores like Walmart in Seabrook, NH.

But Tom's is different, primarily because Tom and Maryann Newman, then John Byrne, Tom's cousin, who now owns the store, take pride in providing service, helping customers find something they are looking for or something they didn't know they were looking for.

When a customer buys something heavy like bags of Coast of Maine garden soil, Byrne or one of the employees load it in the car. If a customer needs an inflatable balloon for a party, they blow it up that day, waiting to make someone happy. When a customer is wandering aimlessly through the aisles, expect one of the five or six other employees on the floor to ask if they need help.

When did that happen at a big box store?

Tom and Maryann, who now live in Florida, started the discount store when his Dad's print shop was not making enough money. He created scratch paper pads out of waste paper and sold them on weekends at a flea market. The first weekend he made \$500 and he was hooked on the discount store business.

Soon, Tom opened a 4,000-square-foot store selling scratch pads and a variety of other items. When demand for his wares outstripped that space, the Newmans bought

Continued on page 5



Salem Five Bank team members in Georgetown show a portion of one of the multiple batches of presents they are collecting in the main lobby to bring smiles to so many in need this year. L-R: Aaron, Jalin, Debbie, and Rebecca.

Salem Five Creating Holiday Magic for Families in Need

GEORGETOWN – Join Salem Five and The Salvation Army by donating new, unwrapped toys to kids in the community this holiday season from now until the end of the year. Pictured are Aaron, Jalin, Debbie, and Rebecca.

Our team at Salem Five Bank in Georgetown is so grateful for the toys our customers and community have been dropping off. We appreciate you all joining us in creating holiday magic for families in need.



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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)



The official autographed Celtics ball
Photo provided by Solace for Stephanie

Celtics Autographed Ball Scores for Cancer Group

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

ROWLEY – Solace for Stephanie last week auctioned off a basketball signed by every member of the World Champion Boston Celtics, earning the charity that cares for cancer patients an additional \$5,250.

In total, the non-profit Solace's 14th annual Comedy Night raised more than \$30,000, its largest fundraising event ever, said board member MaryAnn "Mo" Levasseur.

Initially, the Celtics' autographed ball was the final item to be bid on at the event in November, but when the bidding seemed to stall at \$1,500, the board asked the sold-out crowd of 325 people at the Topsfield Fair for

permission to withdraw the ball and bid it separately after the event.

The Solace board was expecting the ball to produce a bid of more than \$5,000, as had an autographed Celtics' ball at an Ipswich fundraising event recently. The crowd readily agreed.

Thanks to Duane Johnston, a retired Celtics official, and a friend, Brian Nelson, the group had received a private bid of \$5,250 from an anonymous donor. Last week during a day-long bidding session on line, that bid remained the winner.

All of the \$30,000 raised by the fundraising effort will go to help cancer patients who are struggling to pay their bills.

Since 2010, Solace for Stephanie has helped more than 117 cancer victims and

given out 20 college scholarships to students. Solace for Stephanie was created in honor of Stephanie Jenkins, a popular Rowley hairdresser who died of cancer. The charity is administered by her family and friends.

The charity is helping two women with advanced cancer and a six-year-old girl whose bone marrow transplant from her twin brother failed. Solace provided assistance through a donation.

In a closing letter last year to all Solace's amazing "angels" who took part in Comedy Night, Levasseur wrote: "Whether it was hands on behind the scenes, to purchasing a ticket, to sending a donation, to sponsoring a gift card, to volunteering that night. We could go on and on. YOU made the difference." ♦

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18	Wed	1:07	7.8	1:17	9.1	7:04	0.5	7:46	-0.5	7:07	4:12	☾
19	Thu	1:55	7.6	2:05	8.7	7:54	0.7	8:33	-0.2	7:08	4:13	☾
20	Fri	2:44	7.5	2:55	8.3	8:45	0.9	9:21	0.2	7:08	4:13	☾
21	Sat	3:33	7.4	3:46	7.9	9:38	1.1	10:10	0.5	7:09	4:14	☾
22	Sun	4:24	7.4	4:39	7.5	10:33	1.2	10:59	0.7	7:09	4:14	☾
23	Mon	5:14	7.4	5:34	7.1	11:28	1.2	11:49	1.0	7:10	4:15	☾
24	Tue	6:06	7.5	6:30	6.9			12:25	1.2	7:10	4:15	☾
25	Wed	6:57	7.6	7:26	6.8	12:40	1.2	1:21	1.1	7:10	4:16	☾
26	Thu	7:46	7.7	8:18	6.7	1:31	1.3	2:14	0.9	7:11	4:17	☾

Merrimac Police Receive \$19,986 State Grant to Improve Road Safety

MERRIMAC – Chief Eric Shears is pleased to share that the Merrimac Police Department has been awarded \$19,986.84 in state grant funding to improve road safety.

The Merrimac Police Department received funding through the Municipal Road Grant Safety Program. The funding will allow departments to afford road safety initiatives such as traffic safety enforcement, bicyclist and pedestrian safety enforcement, non-enforcement activities such as training or community events, and the purchase of traffic safety equipment or other community safety items such as bike helmets.

Merrimac Police will use the funding to enhance traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety enforcement, purchase traffic and bicycle safety equipment and bike helmets, as well as fund the Old Home Days Bike Rodeo. ♦

Greater Newburyport Adult and Community Education Classes

Greater Newburyport Adult and Community Education will once again be offering SAT Prep classes this winter for college bound high schoolers as well as ESL classes.

SAT Prep Math will be held on Tuesdays, beginning January 21. SAT Prep English begins on Thursday, January 23. All subsequent English classes will be held on Mondays from January 27th onward. Both courses will run for 6 weeks and will be held 6-8pm at Newburyport High School. Students may take one or both classes. There is a discount if both courses are taken. Classes are open to any high school student in the Greater Newburyport region and beyond. It is not required to be a Newburyport student to take the classes. Registration is online. It is recommended that participants register early as there is a space limit. The SAT test is

Continued on page 5

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BREAKING: Whittier, Triton, and Ipswich May Get New Schools

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

NORTH SHORE – The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) board of directors played Santa Friday, agreeing to accept 22 school districts, including three on the North Shore, into its 2025 assessment process that could result in the state paying hundreds of millions of dollars for new schools.

Approved were Whittier Regional Vocational, Triton Regional and Ipswich's Doyon Elementary. The MSBA vote could save the 11 municipalities in the Whittier regional district millions to build a new regional vocational high school.

In addition, the towns of Ipswich, Newbury, Rowley and Salisbury could also benefit from about 50 percent state money to the rebuilding of Triton Regional Middle and High schools and building a new Ipswich Doyon Elementary.

Including Whittier, which had its plans for a \$446 million new school shot down by its governing municipalities this year, means the state is willing to consider a new proposal to relocate the school to the Northern Essex Community College's Haverhill campus and integrate the two academic programs. Dr. Lane Glenn, NECC president, attended the MSBA board meeting.

Triton, which is in dire need to rebuild its 50-year-old middle and high schools, had been turned down by the MSBA the last two years to be eligible for the funding program.

Triton Supt. Brian Forget said the vote to include the schools will avoid the need to continue investing in "band-aid repairs and solutions that do not provide a facility that meets the needs of our students and

community."

"We have been working together with our town officials since 2019 on a solution for the well-documented needs at our secondary campus. I am thrilled with today's supportive vote by the MSBA Board to partner with us as it will make the right solution possible," Forget wrote in an email.

Ipswich plans to combine two existing schools, Winthrop and Doyon, into one new building on the Doyon site.

The state legislative delegation, Sen. Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, and Rep. Kristin Kassner, D-Hamilton, told the MSBA board they support all three projects.

The MSBA process is not speedy to design and manage a process that will create schools to last the next half century. Beginning early in 2025, the

state authority will work in the first phase of 270 days with the school districts, the towns, selected architects and builders to assess whether the district can manage and fund such a large capital project.

Having worked on the project for the last three years, Forget believes Triton is ready to move quickly in the initial phase. The

school district has set aside the \$1.5 million for the feasibility study, has completed an assessment of the building's needs by an outside contractor and has established a capital projects subcommittee of the Triton School Committee that includes Alecia Greco, Christine Kneeland and Michael Colburn, the chairs of the SelectBoards for

each town.

Forget hopes that the plans for a new building and approval of a projected \$172 million in bonds to pay for it can be voted on by the town at the ballot box and at Town Meeting in the spring of 2027.

In Ipswich, the school committee estimates

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SAT Prep & ESL
Continued from page 2

scheduled for March 8, 2025.

English (ESL) classes are also being offered for beginning to intermediate level individuals of all ages and instruction will include speaking, reading, and writing. Classes start Monday, January 27 and run for eight weeks. Students may register online at newburyportadulted.org or there is also walk-in registrations on Monday, January 27, between 5:30pm – 7:00pm at Nock Middle School, 70 Low Street, Newburyport. All students must attend the January 27th meeting at which time students' language skills will be assessed to determine the level and scope of instruction. The curriculum may be adapted to meet students' specific needs and abilities. The fee is \$89. Newcomers to the area, parents, or employees of area businesses working in a multicultural environment, all are welcome. Classes are open to anyone in the Greater Newburyport region and beyond.

GNACE is offering a Buy one, get one free special on gift certificates now through Christmas. Give the gift of learning!

For more information and any updates, contact Patty St. John at 978-465-1257 or follow us on Instagram and Facebook. ♦

Recycle This Newspaper
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Tom's Discount
Continued from page 1

the defunct Sailor Bills party house and opened an 8,000-square-foot discount store at 175 Elm St. in Salisbury.

Maryann remembers how they used money they didn't have to place full-page newspaper advertisements promoting the soon-to-open store. They maxed out credit cards to buy products to stock the shelves. And they created a sense of mystery by covering the windows with brown paper.

On opening day, to their surprise, they opened the door to a crowd of customers 10 deep.

Tom's Discount has been creating excitement at Christmas and throughout the year ever since.

More than two decades later, customers who danced and dined at Sailor Bill's now delight in shopping at Tom's, John Byrne said.

Tom and now John, quickly became experts at buying close-outs, boxes and pallets of products unsold in the large chain stores. Byrne said a large box store rotates its products in a matter of weeks, but Tom's stocks the same wares until they sell out.

For example, a chain store that may sell Sterilite plastic bins stock only five or six different sized bins. Tom's has a container in back full of Sterilite in 50 to 100 different size bins.

"When I shop at Tom's I almost always find at least one item that I didn't know that I needed until I saw it," wrote customer Ann G. from Newburyport. "Major categories are kitchen items, cleaning and party supplies,

plastic storage containers, and tools. A few months ago, a 4pk of energy efficient lightbulbs was \$1.99, and on Amazon the same ones were \$20.

"If one keeps an open mind and enjoys browsing, it's a great place to find a bargain."

Tom's has always been an integral part of the Salisbury and Triton community. Tom and Maryann were active in the Lion's Club. They sponsored youth athletic teams, the Triton band, and sports teams. Every year they donated a senior scholarship.

"We were known as the business that was always good for a donation," Tom said.

Three years ago, Byrne, a veteran landscaper, bought Tom's from his cousin just after Covid shut down the retail world. It was a grueling lesson for him in how to be agile.

Today, if there is a shortage of plastic bags because a Gulf Coast plastics manufacture goes down, John buys more Coast of Maine soil for the season because it is bagged in plastic and won't be available. When a chlorine plant blew up in Texas last year, he stocked up on chlorine for the summer for his customers who own pools.

"We have something for everyone. Seriously, no matter what your project is Tom's can help you save a buck. We have been family owned since 1996 and counting!" the web site states.

Shopping at Tom's is an adventure, Maryann said. The customers agree.

Frannie Z. from Haverhill wrote that unless she is headed to the beach for a day of sunbathing, "Tom's is going to be a pit stop. It is a great place to putz and find stuff you didn't even know you needed!" ♦

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Health & Wellness

Brighter Smiles ... "IT'S JUST A CLEANING"



By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

This is a phrase we hear far too frequently when patients call to cancel or change their dental hygiene appointments. When the patient is told that there are no open hygiene appointments for 4-6 months, the response is often, "Oh, that's okay, it's just a cleaning." This lack of concern is only partly to blame on the patient; most of the accountability falls in the lap of the dental team.

If you read this column with any frequency, I am sure you have seen me report that 75% of the population has some form of periodontal (gum) disease. I'm sure you have also read that periodontal disease has been linked to heart disease, stroke, pre-term, low birth-weight babies, diabetes, and possibly even some types of cancer. The problem is the dental team is not discussing this enough with their patients.

Here's the way I see it: If a patient has made the decision to seek the services of a dental office, we must assume that the reason is based on wanting to improve and/or maintain their dental health. If that's not the reason you go to the dentist, what is? Patients will often say during an exam, "Please don't find anything." Our response may be, "Well then, I better not look." Assuming the reason for going to a dental office is to improve and/or maintain dental health as part of overall health, it is the obligation of the dental team to "find stuff" if it's there, communicate that with the patient, and have a conversation about whether any steps should be taken.

For example, based on your level of periodontal health, there are different levels of frequency recommended for hygiene visits. The majority of patients should be seen every 6 months. Some are lucky enough to have yearly visits recommended to them. For others, every 3 or 4 months is recommended. This frequency is determined by your dental team to maintain your dental health. Regardless, if you put off your routine care by 1, 2 or even 6 months, that is a lot of time to have bacterial growth accumulate and put your body into a defensive mode due to increased inflammation. This brings me back to the reason you have chosen to be an active dental patient.

Remember, gum disease is not only bad because it makes your breath stink and your teeth fall out; it is bad for you systemically because of chronic inflammation. You may very well not notice an increase in inflammation, but your body does. There are measurable indicators of this.

If your goal is optimal health, routine maintenance is essential. I tell my team all the time that we must continue to educate the people who put their trust in us to maintain their dental health.

Depending on your car, there is a recommended maintenance schedule. If you ignore the recommended maintenance, only bad things can happen. You may be able to "stretch it out" a little, but must understand there are risks associated with that decision.

If you knew how bad chronic inflammation really was for you, you would want to be seen more frequently than you are.

There are obviously valid reasons why patients need to change an appointment. Most dental offices understand that. It is the frequency, attitude (It's just a cleaning), and lack of commitment that causes both disruption within the dental office and discontinuity of care.

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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New Schools!

Continued from page 3

that a new Doyon school would cost the town about \$60 million.

If MSBA approves the design and plan for the schools, it will contribute about 50 percent of the total costs.

Whittier's move to the community college campus could open new funding sources for what is expected to be an expensive new vocational school. The community college system has other state funding sources, which might benefit the cities and towns, many of which are strapped financially.♦



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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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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A project benefits from your organizational skills that get it up and running.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Spend time on practical matters throughout the week, then shift your focus to more artistic pursuits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Restarting those creative projects you had set aside for a while will help provide a much-needed soothing balance to your hectic life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A change in plans could make it tough to keep a commitment. But stay with it. You'll get an A-plus for making the effort to do what's right and not taking the easy way out by running off.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Lion's enthusiasm for a workplace policy review is admirable. But be sure you know who is really behind the resistance to change before pointing your finger at the wrong person.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You can expect to have a lot of work throughout the first half of the week. Devote the rest of the week to checking your plans in case some need to be adjusted.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Try to avoid signing on the dotted

line during the early part of the week. You need time to study issues that weren't fully explored. The latter part of the week might be more favorable for decision-making.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A new development could snarl travel schedules or other holiday-linked projects. Some flexibility might be called for, to deal with problems before they get too far out of hand.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Relatives seek your advice on a matter you'd rather not be involved in. If so, use your sage Sagittarian tact to decline the "offer" so that no one's feelings are needlessly hurt.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A shift in your planning direction might help you speed up your progress toward achieving a long-planned goal. Trusted colleagues are ready to offer valuable support.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected demand for the settlement of an old loan could create some preholiday anxiety. But you might not really owe it. Check your records thoroughly before remitting payment.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to get involved with your social circle. Enjoy some well-earned fun and games with those closest to you before you have to resume more serious activities next week.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your ability to sense the needs of others makes you a wise counselor for those seeking help with their problems.

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The Spats



Puzzle answers grid with letters and numbers.

Super Crossword NOT A SINGLE SPOT

ACROSS

- 1 Hoover, e.g. 7 Hertz rival 12 Military vehicle for recon 20 Roma's place 21 Go into a major tizzy 22 Worth of a security at its face 23 Rare musical gift 25 Being filmed 26 Aug. follower 27 Feel awful 28 Tree's anchor 30 Sandbox toy 31 Elicitor of a rave review 39 Newton and Asimov 41 Beats of life 42 Klutz sorts 43 Naiad or dryad 44 Plant swelling 46 Ben of "Zoolander" 49 Mint quality 54 "13th" director DuVerney 55 Styne of song 56 TV spots 57 Vaper's item 58 How-to unit

- 59 Catch sight of 60 Ostrich's kin 61 Big name in cosmetics 64 Big bees 66 Rainforests and such 69 Round one of the corners in Monopoly 72 Mets' div. 73 Vast span 74 Awful review 77 First-aid plant 78 Purplish berry 79 Derby, e.g. 80 Buffalo's county 81 Aladdin's monkey pal 82 Excellent etiquette 88 Wasn't penned up 90 Levi's, e.g. 91 Start 92 Singer Celine 93 Green sushi condiment 96 "M*A*S*H" actor David Ogden — 97 Famed Steelers play of 1972 102 Cole Porter's "— Love"

- 103 "I got — in Kalamazoo" 104 Toothpaste tube inits. 105 — kwon do 108 O.J. Simpson trial judge 111 Activity that will be unsuccessful when applied to this puzzle's theme? 117 Hans Christian — 118 JFK Library architect 119 The Beach Boys' "Help Me, —" 120 People giving rubdowns 121 Printer brand 122 Motto

- 7 Cider fruit 8 Chou En- 9 Picnic pest 10 Emceeding aid 11 Earthy hues, to Brits 12 Satirizes 13 Division of a long poem 14 Tolkien brute 15 Coll. in the Old Dominion State 16 Home of the NFL's Bucs 17 Symbol of a fresh start 18 Gold-related 19 "Royal," in 20-Across 24 Up to, in brief 29 Metal in rocks 32 Small error 33 German for "eight" 34 Design detail 35 — wrestling 36 Strategy 37 Quaint newspaper section 38 Primary 39 Dressed for night-night 40 IHOP topping 44 Result 45 — Moines 46 Autograph: Abbr.

- 47 All tied up 48 Sharp knocks 50 "You are not!" retort 51 Noble acts 52 "All booked up, sorry" 53 Model Tequila 58 Catch sight of 60 Liverpool loc. 61 Purple flower 62 — acid (fat substance) 63 Irish actor Stephen 64 Allowance 65 Sizable vase 66 Put to work 67 A single time 68 Sports sides 69 Early TV host Jack 70 "Dark Angel" star Jessica 71 Healthy intellectuals 74 Introducing 75 Broadcaster 76 Aeries, e.g. 78 Big primate 79 Clutch sitter 80 Film scorer 81 Morricone 82 — Z (old Camaro) 83 List of options

- 84 Partly open 85 Neuwirth of "Cheers" 86 Nonclerical 87 "Me? Never!" 89 Husbands-to-be 93 Tots' haulers 94 — discount 95 Smartphone pic, often 96 Railing sites 97 Sunni's faith 98 Animated 2016 Disney film 99 After a time 100 Sup at home 101 Adobe Acrobat file 106 Forever — day 107 "Manhattan Beach" novelist Jennifer 109 Sooner than, poetically 110 Sch. in Terre Haute 112 Gig hookup 113 FedEx rival 114 Zodiac lion 115 Dallas Stars' org. 116 "Yabba dabba —!"

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-122.

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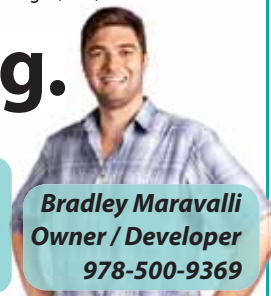


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The Knights of Columbus Council 6064 seeks someone to plow our lot this winter: 87E Main St., Georgetown. Lot holds approximately 10-15 cars. We're without a plow, and we are hoping someone could help us at a reasonable cost. Please contact Lonnie Brennan at 978-609-4183.



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Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Claus

Dear Readers of The Town Common,

During the past twenty-one years I have had the privilege to serve my community by creating and operating The Town Common. We have overcome many obstacles, shared in many wonderful stories, participated in many local events, and have always enjoyed providing a valuable community service.

This season I wish everyone the happiest of holidays and thank all our loyal readers, advertisers and friends for helping us become and stay a welcome part of the community. We look forward to serving you for many more years to come.

A tradition for our newspaper has been to run the following column each Christmas season. Enjoy.

Sincerely,
 Marc Maravalli, Founding Publisher/Editor
 The Town Common

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon.
 115 West Ninety-Fifth St

Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



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73302016	SLD	20 Bayberry Ln	Salisbury, MA	C95168	Detached	2	\$559,500	\$574,500
73299213	SLD	20 Fruit St	Newbury, MA	AN6547	Detached	2	\$669,000	\$665,000
73290287	SLD	4 Kimball Rd	Amesbury, MA	AN8279	Detached	2	\$649,900	\$649,900
73299670	SLD	27 Lafayette	Newburyport, MA	AN8113	Detached	2	\$649,999	\$650,000
73292289	SLD	2 Seven Star Road	Groveland, MA	AN7636	Detached	2	\$679,900	\$679,900
73288418	SLD	9 Liberty Street	Ipswich, MA	AN6220	Detached	2	\$675,000	\$702,000
73288265	SLD	130 Northern Blvd	Newbury, MA	AN7000	Detached	1	\$759,000	\$710,000
73290207	SLD	148 Jewett Street	Georgetown, MA	AN6188	Detached	3	\$699,900	\$715,000
73296194	SLD	41 Belvedere Rd	Boxford, MA	G95062	Detached	2	\$719,000	\$751,000
73268665	SLD	24 Charter Street	Newburyport, MA	AN4281	Detached	2	\$775,000	\$755,000
73277449	SLD	58 Boston Rd	Newbury, MA	AN6617	Detached	3	\$799,999	\$785,000
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73294620	SLD	289 High St	Newburyport, MA	AN7944	Detached	2	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
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