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The Day in Pictures

Friday, August 29, 2008

Funeral home jaunt no mirage

By Lisa D. Welsh TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

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HOLDEN— You weren't dreaming if you saw a house moving down Main Street after midnight.

It was expected to take three to four hours for the former Caswell-King Funeral Home to be moved a few hundred feet from its existing site at 1147 Main St. to 1161 Main St.

During that time, traffic north and southbound was rerouted from Main Street (Route 122A), to Highland Street (Route 31), to Phillips Road, to Boyden Road, and back to Main Street. A police detail helped redirect traffic, such as it was during the early morning hours. It was expected to be clear by the morning commute.

"What makes this so easy is there are no overhead utilities along Main Street," Police Chief George R. Sherrill said yesterday. "It's expected to be a short and simple move."

Several dates, including two Saturdays, had been considered for the move to make the least impact on the busy intersection of Routes 122A and 31.

"Not a lot of traffic goes through Holden at midnight and we're hoping that not many people are going to come and watch at that late hour" John J. Namiotka, owner of the lot where the house is being moved to, said yesterday. Mr. Namiotka also owns Holden Discount Oil and the Mobil gas station on Main Street.

A Walgreens Pharmacy will be built on the former site of the funeral home, the Love building and the Verizon building at Holt and Main streets. If the funeral home had not been moved, it would have been demolished.

"Instead of just flattening this lot, we'll have a new



Marc Boisvert, left, and Don Drawdy of Granite State Building Movers put finishing touches on the former Caswell-King Funeral Home in preparation for its move along Main Street early this morning. (T&G Staff/JIM COLLINS)

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professional building," Mr. Namiotka said. "I've already been asked if the space could be rented out."



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