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The Water Street Mission's "turkey miracle"

As of Monday afternoon, *NewsLanc* was faced with a down-beat story for the Thanksgiving holiday. Maria Schaszberger, Director of Communications for Water Street Ministries, had reported that the Mission was coming up critically short in turkey donations received for its Thanksgiving dinners and food box program. With about 1,100 needed, the Mission had only received 300 turkeys, according to a count from last week.

But then, on Tuesday, Schaszberger checked the newly updated count and sent *NewsLanc* the following message:

"You won't believe this—I don't believe it yet myself!—but we received 2,000 turkeys in the last week! The count is up to 2,100! Absolutely amazing. If we would happen to exceed the 2,500 mark, the Water Street Mission will be able to provide more meals with good, quality meat!"

Schaszberger referred to this rush of donations as nothing less than a "turkey miracle." The Mission, she said, had hoped to receive about a total of 2,500 for Thanksgiving and Christmas combined.

Just wait 'til they get their heating bill!

Picture an open space a block long and half a block wide, an average of three stories high. Then double the area if the doors are left open to the adjoining exhibit space.

That is the common area that the architects designed for the Lancaster Convention Center and Marriott Hotel.

Even though actual functions will only take place on less than a third of the days in the Convention Center, the heating and air conditioning requirements will remain the approximately same—365 days, 24 hours—since the area is integrated with the Marriott lobby.

Furthermore, this is not an interior atrium space

surrounded by hotel rooms but rather an area enclosed by exterior walls with massive windows.

There is no way to isolate the lobby of the hotel from the break-out area of the convention center. Furthermore, there is not even any reasonably conceivable way of correcting the situation.

This approach may have made sense for Grand Central Station in New York and 30th Street Station in Philadelphia, at a time when energy costs were cheap and a monumental ambiance was sought, but we don't recall encountering it elsewhere.

Just wait 'til they get their A/C bill!

Comparison of healthcare systems in different parts of the world

	United States	Great Britain	Canada	Germany	Netherlands	Japan
Life Expectancy At Birth	78.3	78.5	79.8	78.7	78.7	82.1
Health Spending As Part Of GDP	15.3%	8.4%	10.0%	10.4%	9.3%	7.9%
Average Annual Per-Person Cost	\$6,714	\$3,361	\$3,912	\$3,669	\$3,784	\$2,690

LETTER: Surveillance cameras life expectancy only 3 to 5 years

“There are no volunteers monitoring cameras at the Lancaster Community Safety Coalition. They are all paid employees.

“Those monitoring cameras are paid \$10 an hour. Joe Morales, executive director of the LCSC, is paid an annual salary of \$85,000.

“The surveillance camera system in Lancaster is expensive. There are maintenance and replacement costs. Cameras attached to outside poles, as are the 164 cameras owned by the LCSC and the 16 cameras on city streets owned and operated by F&M, have a life expectancy of only 3 to 5 years.

“Is this system worth what it costs? Only time will tell.”

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA: An article headed **“Groups hatch \$15 million plan to revive 2nd block of South Queen Street”** opens *“More than a year ago, Lancaster Alliance President Jack Howell identified the 100 block of South Queen Street as a neighborhood teetering on the edge.”*

It later states *“When completed, South Square will have 62 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments that would be on the “upper end of affordable housing,” Michael Carper said. It continues “The units would rent for between \$400 to \$800 per month.”*

WATCHDOG: .Make no mistake about it. This isn’t relief for the poor. If they wanted housing for the poor, they could go buy an apartment complex at \$70,000 a unit. **This is relief for affluent bankers, lawyers, architects and builders.**

Had the original smaller version of the convention center gone into the Brunswick and the Watt & Shand site been developed for mixed housing / retail use, both as originally envisioned, gentrification would have moved southward into this very block and private money would have accomplished more for half the cost.

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