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# GRANVILLE'S COUNTRY CALLER

*Supported in part by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs*

**DECEMBER 2023**

**Published since March 1976**

Please send all Country Caller information (all checks/cash for sponsor, donations, subscriptions, or Barter Box) to Debbie Sussmann, 44 North Lane, Granville, MA 01034 or put them into Karen Laptew's green box at 58 Sodom Street. The checks and information **MUST** be kept together. Make all checks payable to "The Town of Granville". **All submissions may be emailed to [leefluhr@gmail.com](mailto:leefluhr@gmail.com)** or sent to the above address **NO LATER THAN THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH**. Sponsorship or subscriptions will be for one year. All articles must be typed, and your name and telephone # enclosed. We welcome articles related to town activities, historical information, births, deaths and anything you would like to share with us.

*The Country Caller is jointly funded by the Town of Granville, a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and donations from sponsors. Editors reserve the right to reject any material they deem inappropriate. We do not accept political advertising and may refuse other advertising not considered in good taste.*

Subscriptions: \$5.00/year; Barter Box: \$2.00 for 20 words each additional word \$.10 each.

Advertising per issue: \$3.00 business card, \$5.00 for 1/4 page, \$10.00 for 1/2 page, \$20.00 for full page

You may call Debbie Sussmann to get information at 357-6420.

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TOWN OF GRANVILLE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

69 OLD WESTFIELD ROAD  
GRANVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01034

(413) 357-8585 EXT. 6  
[HIGHWAY@TOWNOFGRANVILLE.ORG](mailto:HIGHWAY@TOWNOFGRANVILLE.ORG)

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## **WINTER ROADS**

The winter of 2023-24 is upon us and all Granville residents should take note the following winter weather road maintenance concerns:

**On-street parking is prohibited. Vehicles are subject to removal at the owner's expense.**

**Parking at the Town Hall, Library, Village School, Center Fire Station, and West Fire Station is restricted to those doing Town business during business hours.**

**Plowing, blowing, or otherwise depositing snow on Town roads is prohibited.**

**Trucks conducting snow and ice control travel at slow speeds and may maneuver unpredictably.**

**For the safety of all please use caution and courtesy in the presence of maintenance vehicles and pass only when safe.**

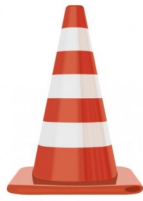
**Despite continual ice and snow control during winter precipitation, all roads are periodically subject to hazardous conditions. Please avoid all non-essential travel.**

**Beware of shaded areas prone to early freeze-up or black ice that can become hazardous even on blue sky days. Notorious for this are the "gorge", "hairpin turn", the north end of Old Westfield Road, and Water Street between the Transfer Station and Trumble Lane.**

**Winter sand is available at the Highway Garage to residents of Granville. Sand is not available during winter weather operations when large trucks and heavy equipment are maneuvering in the limited yard space. During this time entering the Highway Department Facility is prohibited.**

Highway crews appreciate your cooperation and patience when winter weather strikes. For more information, contact the Superintendent of Public Works at 357-8585 extension 6.





## Water Street Closed to Through-Traffic

Due to safety concerns Mass DOT has ordered the bridge over Seymour Brook just east of Trumble Lane on Water Street be closed. This will result in the closure of Water Street from Trumble Lane to the Transfer Station effective Monday morning, November 20th, 2023. Work to obtain funds to replace the bridge began in the Spring. The town was just recently awarded a Small Bridge Grant to do so. However the time frame to accomplish the engineering, bidding, and construction phases of the project will take several years and the bridge & road will remain closed until the project is completed. Travelers will need to seek alternate routes for the foreseeable future. Trumble Lane is impassable and is not an alternate route. As we have additional information on the project we will post on the town website and publish in the Country Caller. The Selectboard and the entire Department of Public Works thank you for your patience and understanding during this project.



## West Granville Congregational Church

1580 Main Road, Route 57 - West Granville

Christmas Service: December 10, 7pm

Refreshments and fellowship in Academy Hall after the service

~~~~~

Both the Church and Academy are available for rental.  
Please call Deborah Boulanger at 357-6360 for more information.

Check our Facebook Page for updates on upcoming services and events!  
<https://www.facebook.com/WestGranvilleCongregationalChurch1778/>



# Open for Sales and Open House

December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

10am-5pm

Maple Syrup and Maple Products  
Gift Baskets, Jams, Jellies,  
Fruit Butters, Grass fed Beef

New & Used Cross Country Ski  
Equipment-Skis, Boots and Poles  
Ski repairs available  
Gift Certificates and Season Passes

Maple Corner Farm  
Cross Country Ski Center  
794 Beech Hill Road, Granville, Ma.  
413-357-8829



GRANVILLE  TOLLAND  
LIONS CLUB  
Presents

# Breakfast with Santa *Saturday December 9th*



**7:30AM - 10:30AM**

At the  
***Fellowship Hall in the  
Granville Federated Church***

**Adults \$10.00**

**Kids 6-12 \$6.00**

**Pancakes Sausage Bacon Coffee Juice**

**Children 5 and under eat for free!**

**Picture with Santa \$4.00**

**8:30-10:30am**

**Tickets at the Door**

*Proceeds to benefit*

*Eye Research • Emergency Community Services • Student Award*



Blood Pressure Clinic

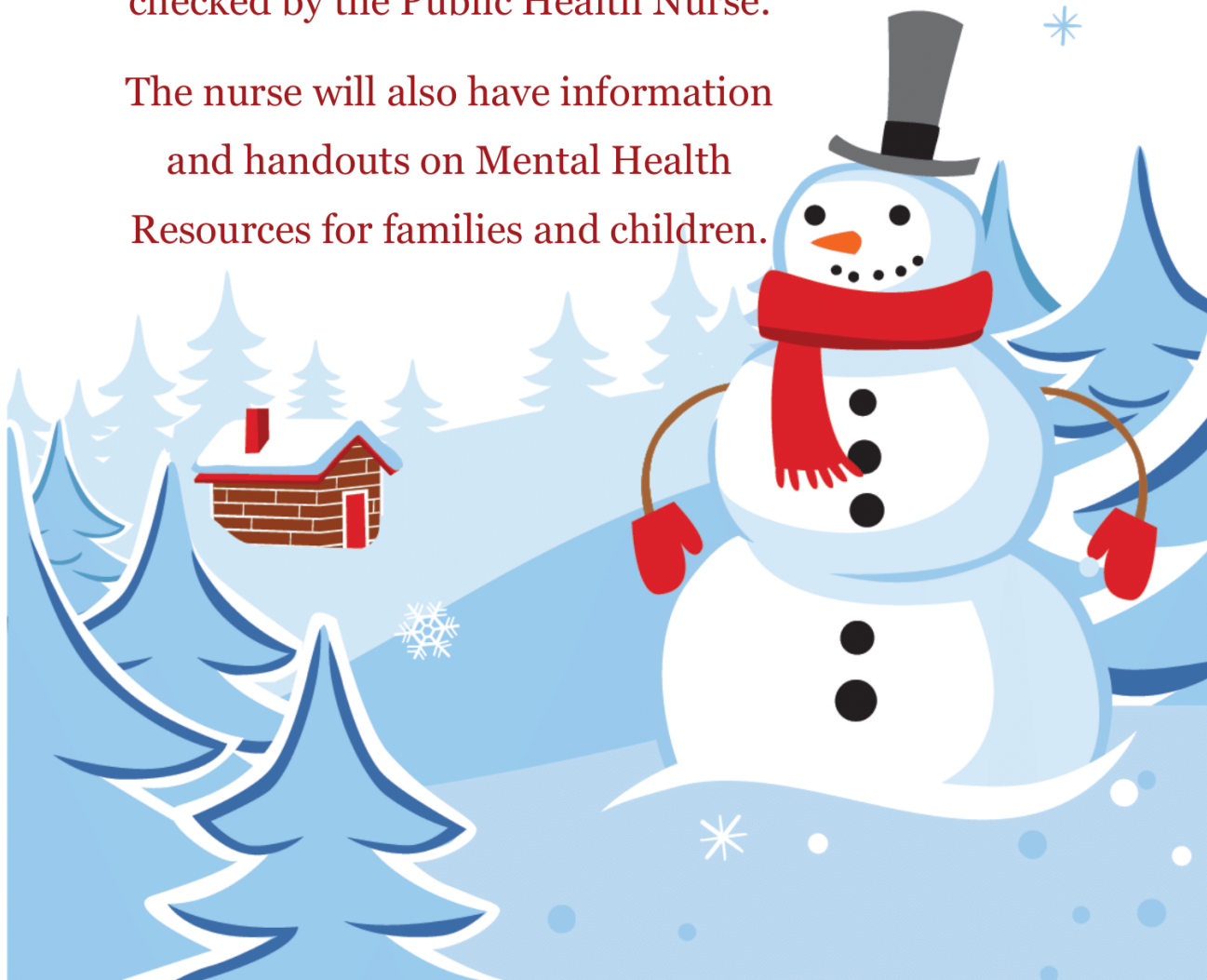
Granville Town Hall

Thursday, December 14

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Please come have your blood pressure  
checked by the Public Health Nurse.

The nurse will also have information  
and handouts on Mental Health  
Resources for families and children.





## Holiday Craft Night – West Granville Congregational Church



Join us at the West Granville Academy Hall for an evening of ornament crafting! We will be making DIY No-Sew Quilted Pinecone Ornament. Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM



You will need to bring:

- Christmas Fabric in coordinating colors (a fat quarter will work)

- Scissors

- Thimble (not required but it makes it easier to push in all the pins)

We will supply the pins, foam forms and other miscellaneous supplies. Cost is \$10 per person (donation to the Church). Hot cocoa and egg nog will be served!

Please email [sgfcommodore@aol.com](mailto:sgfcommodore@aol.com) to reserve your spot! Hope to see you there.



***CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICE  
GRANVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH***



***PLEASE JOIN US***

***5:00 PM***

***December 24***



**To All Town Employees & Town Volunteers,  
Elected & Appointed, Past & Present:**

**You are invited to the Town's**

**New Year's Holiday Gathering**

**Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**5:00pm until 7:30pm at the**

**Granville Town Hall**



**This year food will be catered.**

**Required: Please RSVP at 413-357-3177 by  
December 22, 2023 so we can get an accurate  
count to pre-order the food!**

**Spouses & children are welcome so pass the word!**





**GRANVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH**

American Baptist and United Church of Christ  
16 Granby Rd., Granville, MA  
Interim Pastor: Dr. Rev. Johnny Wilson  
Church Services: 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings  
Coffee Hour following the service.

**EVENTS****BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study will be meeting on Wednesday,  
December 6th and December 20th at 10:45 am.  
We are studying the Book of Acts .

**LUNCH BUNCH and COOKIE SWAP**

Our Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Wednesday,  
December 6th at noon. Bring a sandwich. Coffee  
and dessert are provided.  
To participate in the cookie swap: Bring 2 dozen  
cookies to swap with friends (and a few extra to  
enjoy with your coffee at the swap), take home two  
dozen of a variety of others' cookies to enjoy at  
home!

**NOVI CANTORI**

Novi Cantori concert on Sunday, December 17th at  
2 PM followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.  
Don't miss this afternoon of wonderful music and  
fellowship afterward.

**DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

Sunday December 17th: Novi Cantori, 2PM  
Sunday December 24th:

- REGULAR CHURCH SERVICE 10AM
- XMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE 5PM

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Monday evenings-AA-8:00 pm  
Tuesday evenings-Church Board meetings  
Wednesday morning- Bible Study-10:45 am (1st  
and 3rd Wednesdays).  
Wednesday afternoon Lunch Bunch 12:00 noon  
(1st Wednesday)  
Thursday evenings- Choir-6:30pm

**MISSIONS NEWS**

We provide support for many organizations here  
and around the world:

Annual Advent Hat and Mitten Collection  
Annual Lenten Open Pantry Food Collection  
Operation Christmas Child  
Meals around Town  
Springfield Rescue Mission  
Deacon's Fund for local aid  
ABC and UCC Wider Missions  
Dinners for the Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter in  
Westfield  
Agape School, Orphanage and their well in Kaleko,  
Uganda

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Thank you to all who brought boxes to send to  
Operation Christmas Child. We collected 14 boxes  
this year. They will make this Christmas really  
special for the kids that get them. Thank you!

**HAT AND MITTEN COLLECTION**

Hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves can be placed  
on our tree during Sunday services or left in the  
basket at 23 Water St throughout December.

**INFORMATION****BIG Y GIFT CARDS**

Big Y gift cards are available. Please see Eileen  
Jerome to purchase them. A percentage of the sale  
goes to help support the church.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTALS**

The Fellowship Hall is available for rent for  
functions. It is complete with 2 restrooms, tables,  
chairs, kitchen facilities and parking. For more  
information contact Bobbi at 413 357-0194.

**CONTACT US**

To contact the church to leave a message for  
Pastor Johnny, please call 357-8583.  
You can also call a Deacon (Dale Florida 357-  
8775, Eileen Jerome 413 896-0002, Fran  
Wackerbarth 357-6492, Alan Gregg 357-6156,  
Laura Fielding 357-6368), or our head Trustee  
Bobbi O'Connell 357-0194.

**In Assisted Living**  
Alice Demarais  
The Arbors  
40 Court Street Apt 108  
Westfield, MA 01085







## Granville Public Library 2 Granby Rd • 357-8531 •

[www.GranvillePublicLibrary.org](http://www.GranvillePublicLibrary.org)

Email for general inquiries: [Granville@cwmar.org](mailto:Granville@cwmar.org)

Email for Program Registration: [GranvillePrograms@cwmar.org](mailto:GranvillePrograms@cwmar.org)

Our Hours:

Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 10 AM-Noon

Monday 5-8 PM, Wednesday 3-8 PM, Thursday 3-6 PM



### Who is your favorite children's story character?

Dress up as the character OR bring an item the character likes or uses AND bring the book if you have it.

A prize for ALL who share.

ALL AGES WELCOME

**Saturday December 2, 10:30-11:30 AM**

**Mark your calendars for this fun event!**



Granville Public Library  
and Pathways for Parents

**GROW, PLAY &  
LEARN  
PLAYGROUP**

For children ages Birth-2 with caregiver.

**Monday December 11**

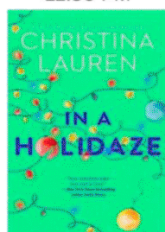
**10:00 AM-11:00**



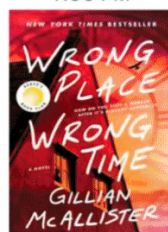
Pathways for Parents is administered by Ludlow Public Schools. It is funded by the Coordinated Family Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



YA All booked Up!  
Sat Dec 16,  
12:30 PM



Adult Book Club  
Wed Dec 13  
7:00 PM



The Library is closed Monday Dec 25 & Monday January 1.





## GRANVILLE SENIORS' MEETING

On November 16, 2023, the meeting of Granville Seniors easily accomplished the goal of starting a “pilot program” for the Granville Buddy program. Phone calls will be made twice or more times per week between the Buddies, in person visits scheduled every two weeks and sharing of cards. The visits might be going for coffee, taking a walk, meeting at the Granville store as well as visiting at home. The number and time of phone calls and the places and dates for visits will be determined by each Buddy pair. During our meeting, five sets of Buddies were identified and established. If anyone is interested in joining, feel free to contact us..

The program will begin in early December and continue until February. Participants are asked to keep track of how many phone calls/visits are made. At the end of the “pilot program”, we will meet and discuss what worked and what concerns there might be.

For the future, meeting participants expressed interest in learning more about possible future transportation services, and working closer with the Southwick Food Pantry. Also, tentative plans are being made to bring a free, twice weekly program called “Healthy Bones and Balance” to the Town Hall in the spring. *Stay tuned for future developments!!!*

Any questions and for additional information, please call Bobbi O’Connell (413-297-0445) or Terry Hodur (413-357-8537).



## From the Granville Historical Room, a throwback to an article published in the Country Caller in December 1981:

December 1981

### Long Ago Days

Whatever happened to the good old-fashioned Christmas season when money wasn't the King, when one could walk the city streets in safety and TV wasn't reminding you for hours on end that STYLE was what was most important--buy a Cadillac. That "jeans" (overalls to us) with some "in" designer's name plastered across the rear end was the only way to go. That if you didn't buy the kids a set of electronic games for the "boobtube" they would surely feel deprived! You hardly dare buy your small fry anything because you can't afford what they have asked Santa Claus for. It is pretty frustrating. There is really very little true Christmas Spirit today. People seem to remember less and less that the whole purpose of our Christmas is to remind us of God's greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ. And that our gifts to each other were meant in the beginning as reminders of that fact.

When we were children, scurrying around buying small gifts--(we certainly weren't in the Neimann Marcus class)--for each member of the family it was the most exciting time-of-the whole year. Helpful salespeople waited on you and total strangers smiled at you and the whole world was wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It seemed certain that both were entirely possible. Ho! Ho! Ho!

We managed to accumulate enough small change as children to buy gifts for Grampa and Daddy and Mama and each other. We learned very early that one could find the most desirable gifts in our price range in Woolworth Five and Ten Cent Store. If we didn't make that, there was always good old reliable Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Wards catalog to depend on. We could buy Grandpa a bit of cut plug chewing tobacco in his favorite brand or some Canada peppermints--(his favorite which he also shared with us, one by one, when he thought we deserved it). There were plenty of work socks and bandana handkerchiefs that we just knew Daddy wanted more than anything. We could get Mama any kind of fancy dish for a dime, or a big box of writing paper for twenty-five cents.

There were handkerchiefs for her too, the best ones all embroidered or, best of all, bearing her initial. There were all kinds of games, books, puzzles and my favorite, paper dolls, on hand for a pittance! They sure helped while away many a long winter country evening!

The gifts we received were apt to be few and useful compared to today's expensive short-lived junk, but what a thrill it was to open each one to find new books and games--Uncle Wiggly and Authors come to mind--stockings, mittens and so on. Once mother had her niece knit us each a heavy



pullover sweater. Mine was red and lasted forever and I loved it. My cousin, Will Porter, sent us each a tiny silver mesh purse one year but such prizes didn't appear every year. There was always a bit of money from Grandpa too. I expect he considered his offering a magnificent gift and so did we. I feel sure that in his motherless childhood in a large poor family Christmas, as we knew it, was just non-existent (circa 1850-1860).

Before we fell heirs to all this munificence there was the school Christmas tree and the one at Sunday School. The first was usually held on the last day before vacation in the afternoon. Some of the bigger boys would get a nice hemlock tree and we would trim it as best we could. We made many paper chains from colored paper and strung popcorn garlands. Some people strung cranberries but I never remember doing that. They grew on our farm but we ate every one! What few "boughten" trimmings were used were furnished by our parents or the teacher and I don't remember many of those. Tree lights were nonexistent, electricity in our town becoming a reality in 1930, and we were about to graduate from-high school then. There were candles but they were far too dangerous and I never saw any on any trees, anywhere. I am sure that nowadays those trees would appear pretty drab to the present generation but we thought them absolutely gorgeous, and they smelled so nice! We each received a small gift from our teacher--I remember getting pencils with my name on once... Time dims the memory of many gifts on those occasions. Every pupil drew a name and brought a gift for that child, and we each bought one for the teacher. There was a decision of the greatest magnitude! She had to have the best we could afford. Again we resorted to handkerchiefs, pretty soap, "toilet water", or writing paper; much as we did for mama. In those days, with most teachers in our town being far from home, and not getting there often, writing paper was doubtless the most useful. Before we "had the tree" there would be a small entrainment of songs, poems, and skits for the assembled invited guests--our parents--in the most cases our mothers--who always came, not yet having been caught up in the business world of "nine to five" but only the home world of before daylight until after dark!

The Sunday School festivities followed the annual free Christmas church supper--an annual event in West Granville for many years. Everyone who came brought their tastiest food and everyone who attended partook of it. We didn't have to pay the 10¢, later 25¢ that we did at the other suppers. The men set up a very large tree in the church and again there were the usual carols, recitations and plays appropriate to the occasion, portraying the Nativity, the flight into Egypt, etc. I remember feeling a little proud and a lot scared to be part of these "entertainments". I remember the time that the late



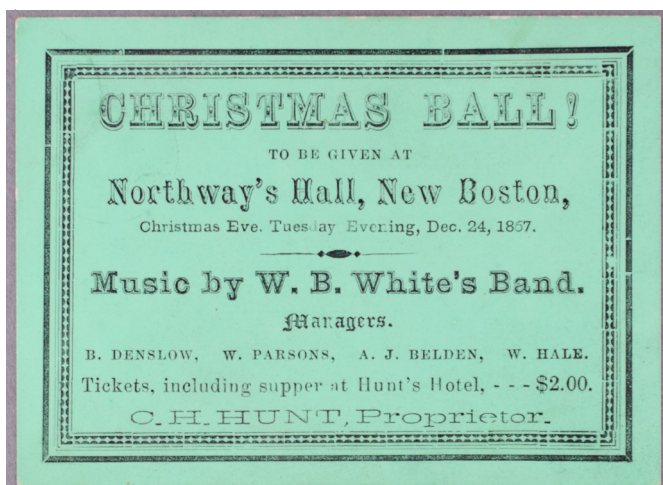
Lena Yarmitsky Hunter, who was probably home from high school at the time appearing on stage and singing a special carol, O Tannenbaum. I only remember the tune but I had never heard it before. I was deeply impressed. It was life having a visiting celebrity would be today--pretty special.

As all this was coming to an end we would hear the jingle of approaching sleigh bells and the stamping of boots and down the aisle came jolly old Santa Claus. He distributed the gifts the Sunday School had purchased for each child in town (regardless as they say today, of race, color or creed). He asked if we had been good and minded our parents, and been kind to our brothers and sisters. I feel sure that many faint white lies issued from our little mouths at that point! Who could admit they had been a real little devil with old Santa standing there holding the most fascinating gift that was going to be ours if we convinced him that we had almost gotten to the point of sprouting wings in the year just past! As the tree became bared of presents off he went with a "Merry Christmas to All" reminding us that he and his reindeer had a long night ahead, and the ladies took over, handing out oranges and small net bags of candy and nuts. This part of Christmas was now over for another l-o-n-g year.

As we rode home, tucked snugly into the buggy or, more often, the sleigh depending on road conditions, drawn slowly along by "Old Pet" who had been patiently waiting out the evening in the old church carriage sheds along with several others of her kind, we felt that there could be nowhere in the world anyone happier or luckier than we, and there was still the tree at home waiting for Christmas Eve. Joy, peacefulness, and good will, at least in our small world, was a reality. We were richer than kings. No king could have been happier or more satisfied than we. What a pity that this seems to be no longer the case.

Leona A. Clifford

**And going even further back in time, tickets to local Christmas Balls (donated to the Historical Room by the Ives Family):**





## Skip Chapman

Skip Chapman, 67, of Southwick, Granville and West Suffield, CT, beloved husband of Lisa Chapman, passed on October 30, 2023 surrounded by his family.

Skip was Born in Westfield on February 1, 1956 son of the late Wallace and Zoa (Armstrong) Chapman. He graduated from Southwick High School.

Coming from humble roots, working his family farm, and a few different respectable jobs after graduation, Skip always was a hard worker. Skip and Lisa started West Side Oil in 1986 and have worked hard together to support their business and dreams.

Skip was known not only for holding a high bar at work, but for his contagious laugh and all around willingness to go the extra mile to help people. Skip was a devoted family man, and truly loved his wife, children, and grandchildren. He enjoyed taking care of his farm and livestock in Granville. Him and Lisa spent many years putting on many miles on his motorcycle going all over the country.

Skip is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Lisa Ann (Chaisson) Chapman, two sons Richard Chapman and his wife Aimee, Johnathan Chapman and his wife Jessica; two daughters Rachel Cutler and her husband Marc and Jenna Brew and her husband Matthew. Twelve grandchildren, Brandon, Savannah, Chayse, Austyn, Summer, Lillian, Roselynn, Aurora, Cassiopeia, Samuel, Madeleine, and Maxwell. One brother Lennie Chapman and his wife MaryJane; and his dear dog Daisy, whom he loved. Skip was predeceased by his sister Lorie Chapman.

Granville is a small town compromised of people with Big Hearts.

Recently, we were in need of the 911 services. (Rick vs Tree injury. Tree won!) The dispatcher was both inquisitive and calming. In a matter of moments an EMT arrived, followed by both the police dept and ambulance with more EMT's. People we had yet to know, stopped what they were doing to come to our aid. (Both of us were EMT's in the 80's and it was quite humbling to be on the receiving side.) He was treated with care and compassion and a few light moments...

Following his stabilization he was transferred to BMC's trauma unit in Springfield and we were re-assured why moving to town 48+ years ago was the right move.

Our thanks to the EMT's, Police and both Granville and Southwick Ambulances for the care he received.

Rick and Ann Martin



## Novi Cantori Concert

December 17, 2pm

Granville Federated Church

Followed by a reception to  
meet the singers!



**Joe Pietroniro**

**Granville, MA**

**EST. 1990**

**REPAIR WORK • ADDITIONS**

**REMODELS • GAS PIPING**

**AND MORE**

**Commercial and Residential**

## ***DO YOURSELF A "PAVER"***

### ***And give a gift to the person who has everything***

Looking for a gift for the person who has everything?

***How about honoring a loved one with a PAVER on the Green?***

**Need a last minute gift? We have Certificates for you to give as a "Paver Gift"**

You can personalize a loved one's name or celebrate a special date, by adding a paver to our walkway for \$75.00 per **PAVER**, (check to Town of Granville). Fill out the form below and send it to

**Bernadette Toomey, 10 Bruce Rd, Granville MA 01034**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ORDER DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DO YOU WANT A GIFT CERTIFICATE? \_\_\_\_\_

***Each paver must have a separate application with engraving information below***

Maximum 15 spaces per line includes letters, numbers, punctuations, & spaces with 3 line maximum

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paver size is 6.75" X 4.25" if you have questions call Bernadette @ 413-357-8843