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GRANVILLE'S COUNTRY CALLER

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

FEBRUARY 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 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.

Maple Corner Farm Art and Sarajane Adams In Memory of Joan Anderson Mark and Kathy The "Buckeye Nation" Peter and Kathy Martin In Memory of Toni Beckwith Sarah and John Meiklejohn Jack and Charlotte Carpenter In Memory of Tom Monteith Committee for Responsible Energy Decisions CRED – Granville.org **Nestrovich Farm** In Memory of Al Daigneau NCCHP Museum Jack and Carolyn Donatini In Memory of Jack and Gloria Falcetti Granville Federated Church Mark and Gina Placek In Memory of Guy and Barbara Hansen In Memory of Thomas J Re Pat Laptew Jemiolo In Memory of John Jemiolo In Memory of Helen Ripley Barry Rosenfield In Memory of Edward Jensen Tom and Peggy Jones Ed and Verna Sadowski In Memory of Joyce & John Jones In Memory of Ernie Sattler **Bonnie King** Beverly & Donald Savaria In Memory of Rich Knoener Diane and Gary Lafrance Bill and Coralie Stevenson Jay and Ann LeClair Paul & Debbie Sussmann Joe and Dot LeClair In Memory of Reinhold and Florence Sussmann In Memory of June and Harry Lewis Zook and Zelda

COUNTRY CALLER SPONSORS

In Memory of Greg Messenger In Memory of Danny Oleksak In Memory of Nancy Petersen **Pietroniro Plumbing & Heating** In Memory of Dot and Art Sheets West Granville Congregational Church



TOWN OF GRANVILLE Department of Public Works 707 Main Road

P.O. Box 247 Granville, MA 01034 (413) 357-8585 ext. 6 (phone) (413) 455-4446 (cell) Dpwsuper@townofgranville.org Doug Roberts, Superintendent

WINTER ROADS POLICY 2022-2023 In effect from November 1 - to April 30

- On-street parking is prohibited. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Parking at the Town Hall, Library, or School is restricted to those doing Town business during business hours.
- During winter road operations, main roads are a priority.
- Town Roads with low use may be closed for the winter.
- Depositing snow on a Town road is prohibited.
- Plowing snow across a Town road is prohibited.
- "All season" tires are not a substitute for snow tires.
- High quality snow tires, preferably studded, are essential for winter driving.
- Limit travel during storm events.
- Drive below the posted speed.
- Be aware of changing road conditions, flurries, and frost. Shaded areas become hazardous rapidly. An isolated weather event will create hazardous conditions. Notorious for this are the Gorge and Hairpin Turn on Route 57, the North end of Old Westfield Road, and Water Street by the Transfer Station.



TOWN CLERK'S CORNER.... Telephone: 413.357.8585 Ext. 3 Email: <u>townclerk@townofgranville.org</u> Website: <u>www.townofgranville.org</u> (Board and Committees, Town Clerk) Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment

Census:

The Town Clerk's Office will be sending out the 2023 Annual Census forms by mail mid/late January. Per Massachusetts General Law, census forms must be mailed to street addresses. If you have your mail sent to a post office box and do not receive a form call to be mailed a form to complete.

Dog Licenses:

The census package will also include a dog license application for dog owners to license their dog(s). All dogs that are six months of age or older must be licensed annually under M.G.L. Ch. 140. An updated proof of rabies vaccination is required prior to licensing as well as proof of spaying and neutering.

Nomination Papers:

Nomination papers for candidates running for town offices will be available at the Town Clerk's office for the annual town election to be held Monday, April 10, 2023. If you wish to run for a position within our municipality in April, please call the office and we can either meet via appointment or I can mail you a nomination paper for completion.

Incumbent officer holders must submit nomination papers by February 18, 2023. New candidates for town offices must obtain at least 30 signatures of registered voters town wide. The last day to file nomination papers with the Board of Registrars will be March 7, 2023 at 5:00PM.

The following slates of office will be on the April 10, 2023 ballot:

one member of the Selectboard for three years; one Moderator for one year; one Assessor for three years; one Library Trustee for three years; one Constable for three years; one Tax Collector for three years; one Treasurer for three years; two members of the Planning Board for three years each

If any resident has questions pertaining to the census form, the dog license form or nomination papers, you may call Town Clerk's office for assistance. Forms can be returned by mail or to the drop box at the Town Hall addressed to the attention of the Town Clerk.



NURSE HOUR AT GRANVILLE TOWN HALL

Tricia Sedelow, BSN RN, is the Regional Public Health Nurse from the Southwick Board of Health serving the towns of Granville, Southwick and Tolland. Tricia will begin to hold monthly "Nurse Hour" for blood pressure checks, health education and to answer questions or concerns. No appointments are needed.

The Nurse Hour sessions will be located in the Granville Town Hall, 707 Main Road, beginning in February. The schedule is as follows:

<u>First Thursday</u> of each month from 10:00am to 11:00am starting **February 2, 2023** <u>Third Thursday</u> of each month from 3:00pm to 4:00pm starting **February 16, 2023**

Also, the nurse will hold an office hour at the Granville Library, 2 Granby Road, monthly on the <u>Second Thursday</u> of each month from 3:30pm to 4:30pm starting **February 9, 2023** (All dates are weather dependent).

Wise Advice from a Farmer's Wife:

- •Whenever you return a borrowed pie pan, make sure it's got a warm pie in it.
- •Make home a happy place for the children. Everybody returns to their happy place.
- •Always keep a small light on in the kitchen window at night.
- •It's a whole lot easier to get breakfast from a chicken than a pig.
- •Always pat the chickens when you take their eggs.
- •Biscuits brown better with a little butter brushed on 'em.
- •Check your shoelaces before runnin' to help somebody.
- •Homemade's always better'n store bought.
- •A tongue's like a knife. The sharper it is the deeper it cuts.
- •It's easy to clean an empty house, but hard to live in one.
- •Enjoy doing your children's laundry. Some day they'll be gone.
- •All children spill milk. Learn to smile and wipe it up.
- •There's no such thing as woman's work on a farm. There's just work.
- •Invite lots of folks to supper. You can always add more water to the soup.
- •A good neighbor always knows when to visit and when to leave.
- •A city dog wants to run out the door, but a country dog stays on the porch 'cause he's not fenced-in.
- •Always light birthday candles from the middle outward.
- •Nothin' gets the frustrations out better'n splittn' wood.
- •You'll never catch a runnin' chicken but if you throw seed around the back door you'll have a skillet full by supper.
- •Visit old people who can't get out. Some day you'll be one.
- •The softer you talk, the closer folks'll listen.
- •The colder the outhouse, the warmer the bed.
- -Unknown



GRANVILLE
FIREWinter Safety Tips from the Granville
Fire Department!DEPARTMENTBy Lt. Peter Sorrajja- GFD Firefighter/EMT

While we have a fairly mild winter this year there is still an opportunity through the months of February, March and even early April for us to encounter winter weather. That is why we would like to provide you with some ways you can better prepare yourself for the cold and snow.

- The first tip is it is imperative that you ensure that your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are in working order. With woodstoves, pellet stoves and other heating sources being used during cold weather, these two devices are your first line of defense in the event of a malfunction. Proper working smoke detectors and CO detectors can alert you to a problem before you even know you have one.
- Our second tip for you this winter is to create and store an emergency kit in your car. This can contain items such as a flashlight, first aid items (band aids, heat packs, etc..), a portable cell phone charger, non-perishable foods, and anything else you may need in the event you get stuck in a storm. Living in a rural town could mean extended periods of time between the roads being plowed and limited accessibility for a tow truck in the event you get stuck. You should always be prepared for the unexpected.
- The third tip for you this winter is to take periodic breaks when shoveling snow so as to not put unnecessary stress on your body. The combination of the cold weather and the high energy exertion can lead to several types of medical emergencies such as pulled muscles, hurt backs, and in severe cases heart attacks. If you are able to give your body a break from shoveling, we highly recommend you do so.
- Our final tip to you this winter is to check on your neighbors. Granville is a small-town rural community. If you know your neighbor has medical concerns or issues with heat, don't be afraid to reach out and offer help in a time of need. We pride ourselves on being a close-knit community and that's because of our willingness to help others when help is needed. Its one of the many things to love about this town and I know you all will continue to keep that small town feeling alive.

While these are not the only tips for keeping you safe and prepared this winter, we feel these are some of the important ones that can keep you relatively prepared in any situations. We hope that everyone stays warm and safe during these colder months of the year and we look forward to interacting with the wonderful residents of Granville at various events this spring and summer. Stay tuned for information on things we have planned in the coming months.

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GRANVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

707 Main Road • Granville, MA 01034 413-357-8585 Ext. 7

Phone-based scams are on the rise across the country. While most of these scams target elderly victims, it is not uncommon for victims of any age to be taken advantage of. These scammers are often from other parts of the country, or even the world, and tracking them is difficult at best. Many will attempt to steal your money, but others could target your personal information or even your home. These scammers are very good at what they do and have tricked people of every age and background. Normally they will know something specific about you to trick you into believing they are legitimate. They will be aggressive to get what they want, they may threaten you with fines or loss of funds. They may say that someone is going to come to your home, work, or find you in person.

While the number of scams is growing daily, there are some general steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Register your phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry. You may register online or by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236). If you still receive telemarketing calls after registering, there's a good chance that the calls are scams.
- Be wary of callers claiming that you've won a prize or vacation package. Many of these scams will request that you send a "fee" to release the money.
- If something doesn't seem right, hang up on the phone call. You can always check out their request and call them back if you determine it to be legitimate.
- Be cautious of caller ID. Scammers can change the phone number that shows up on your caller ID screen. They may even show up as your own number, or that of someone you know. This is called "spoofing" and is extremely easy to do.
- Independently research any business opportunities, charities, or travel packages that the caller offers.
- Don't give in to pressure to take immediate action. Take some time to do your own research and ask a trusted friend or family member.
- Don't say anything if a caller starts the call asking, "Can you hear me?" This is a common tactic for scammers to record you saying "yes." Scammers record your "yes" response and use it as proof that you agreed to a purchase or credit card charge.

- Don't provide your credit card number, bank account information, or other personal information to a caller.
- Even if a caller has some of your personal information, such as birthdate, social security number or banking info, it does not mean they are from a legitimate organization. This information can be bought by scammers and used to fool you into trusting them.
- If a caller claims that they are from a government organization, you should look up the number online or in a phone book and call back. Do not ask them for a call back number. This will help ensure you are speaking to the actual organization.
- If a caller states that you or a loved one are in legal trouble, or had some kind of medical issue, and needs money, hang up and call your local Police Department. They will be able to determine if the situation is legitimate and help you respond if needed.
- Never send payment in the form of gift cards. Also, never wire or transfer money until you are 100% sure where that money is going.
- If you believe you have been scammed, immediately notify your local Police Department, bank, and credit card companies. They can help place a "Fraud Alert" on your accounts and will contact you if something doesn't seem right on your account.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Granville Police Department at (413)-357-8275.

GRANVILLE'S COUNTRY CALLER





Dear Friends,

Greetings and Happy New Year! Last year I wrote of how 2021 was a year of recovery and renewed hope as we began to move forward from the Covid-19 pandemic and how it cleared a path for our community to be stronger than ever. This past year, I believe has demonstrated that strength as 2022 was a year of resilience.

With record inflation and energy prices at an all-time high, we've had to face new hardships as the cost of food, gas, prescription drugs, and other basic goods have skyrocketed. For many in our community, especially those on fixed or low incomes and with large families, the effects of inflation have been devastating. I've heard from many constituents throughout the district that are not only struggling to make ends meet, but have had to choose between putting food on their table or filling their prescriptions.

While these stories are heartbreaking, it's the response by our community to those in need that have exemplified the compassion we have for one another and our collective strength. This past year has shown that the tougher the times are, the more resilient we become. Qualities that make Agawam, Southwick, and the Hilltowns among the best places to live, work, and raise a family.

My office has assisted hundreds of people and families in need with issues like unemployment, food insecurity, and rental assistance. However, the true measure of our community, the true heroes, are all of you. The small business owners who create jobs and reinvest back into the towns, the nonprofit leaders who serve their organization's mission to improve lives, caregivers for the elderly and disabled, first responders, nurses, teachers, parents, the list goes on. The countless untold stories that happen every hour of every day, where someone helps someone else make their lives just a little bit better....that is what truly defines who we are and where we live.

What does resilience look like?

Despite the challenging circumstances, dozens of new businesses opened their doors throughout the district this past year.

Just to name a few:

The Turnbull Family opened the Autumn Mist Farm to Table Restaurant & Retail Store Owners Valerie & Nick opened the doors to Scoops of Agawam Neilsen realty Celebrated the Grand Opening of an Agawam Flagship Office

Recognizing that more and more people were in need, Joe Deedy and the Southwick Civic Fund stepped up their efforts by saving a regional food pantry. I was honored to work with Joe and secure \$150,000 in

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state funding to expand their food pantry programs to address food insecurity throughout the community

In Huntington a little known nonprofit called The Village Closet is making a huge difference by serving thousands of new mothers and young families in Western Massachusetts. They provide at no cost, everything from clothing to diapers to children books as well as counseling and other critical postpartum support.

Those examples of our district in action are only just beginning to scratch the surface. Again, it's the countless untold stories. The food drives at schools and churches, volunteers preparing and serving meals during the holidays, and the random acts of kindness that are made selflessly and that will go unnoticed except by the person on the receiving end.

Where we live is a community of hard workers, families, small businesses and organizations that are committed to one another, kind and compassionate. We live in a community that strives to be its best. A community that celebrates the good times and stands in solidarity in the difficult times. We live in a community that is growing, that represents life in small towns to rural farmland to the Hilltowns that stretch all the way up to Middlefield. Our community is diverse in culture, education, and ideas. Most importantly we live in a community that we are proud to call home and that we do all we can to ensure it's a welcoming place to live for years to come.

Typically I would review the past legislative session, however this year I felt it would be far more meaningful to highlight some of those in our community like above. I will say this about the legislature and the upcoming session. To see so many struggling over the past year has only strengthened my resolve to stand up for hardworking people, small business owners, and farmers.

We need greater transparency in government, lower taxes, and we must rein in out of control spending. Over the next 2 years my commitment to serve all of you and represent this incredible community in Boston continues to be an honor and privilege.

Many blessings of peace and good health this year. My door is always open and I look forward to seeing you in 2023!

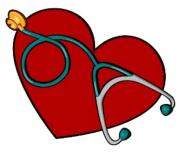
icholes Soldyga

Nick Boldyga State Representative Third Hampden District Proudly Serving the Communities of Agawam, Blandford, Chester, Granville, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick, and Tolland.



Granville Public Library 2 Granby Rd · 357-8531 Website: www.GranvillePublicLibrary.org Email for general inquiries: Granville@cwmars.org Email for ALL program registration: GranvillePrograms@cwmars.org Email for YOUTH program information: GranvilleYouth@cwmars.org Our Hours: Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 10 AM-Noon Monday 5-8 PM, Wednesday 3-8 PM, Thursday 3-6 PM

Nurse's Hour Thursday, Feb 9: 3:30-4:30 The Regional Public Health Nurse, Tricia Sedelow for the towns of Southwick, Granville and Tolland will hold a monthly "Nurse Hour" the 2nd Thursday of each month. Register or drop in.



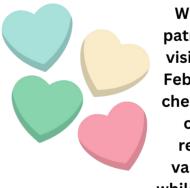
FEELING BLUE, DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO? IT COULD BE SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER (SAD)- Love yourself and come to learn!

COME TO A PRESENTATION BY CHRISTINE SOUTHWORTH, RN at the Granville Public Library

Monday Feb 13, 2023 1:00- 2:00 pm LEARN PRACTICAL WAYS TO FEEL HAPPIER DURING THE LONG, DARK WINTER MONTHS CHRISTINE IS A REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE OUT OF SOUTHWICK, MA COVERING SOUTHWICK, GRAANULE, TOLLAND, BLANDFORD, RUSSELL AND MONTGOMERY SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE MASSACHUSETS PROVIDED BY THE MASSACHUSETS AND HELD ICHEALTH RECELLENCE GRANT

Email GranvillePrograms@cwmars.org or call: 413-357-8531

Happy Valentine's Day Kids!



When a young patron (age 3-15) visits the library, Feb 1-Feb 25, and checks out a book or LOT, they receive a free valentine's gift, while supplies last.

Book Club with Gloria Wednesday Feb, 7:00 PM "The Kept" by James Scott- Club is limited to 10 Patrons: Contact Gloria Knoener, at 357-8706, for location during renovations





We are undergoing basement program room renovations! Mid -January to March or April

Thanks to Granville Library Club, CPA funds and the town, the program room is getting rid of old the asbestos floor and replacing it with new flooring. The old plaster walls are getting refinished and a supporting column begin replaced. Library is open during the renovations, but some programs will be held upstairs or the Granville Federated Church



Monday February 13 10:00 AM Playgroup for Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers Join Tina and other families and build new relationships

This Monthly event is funded by Pathways for Parents and Parent Child thru the Coordinated Family Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

DRIVE-UP DINNER

MARCH 17, 2023

GRANVILLE FEDERATED

CHURCH



CORNED BEEF, STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS, POTATOES, CARROTS IRISH SODA BREAD & DESSERT \$12.00 PER PLATE, SERVING 5:00 TO 6:00 PLEASE CALL Fran at 357-6492 or Bobbi at 297-0445 DRIVE UP & PAY AT THE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE TO FELLOWSHIP HALL YOUR ORDER WILL BE BROUGHT OUT TO YOU

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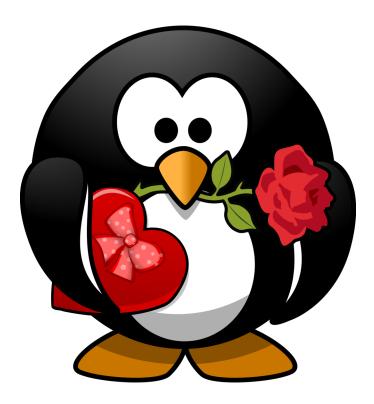
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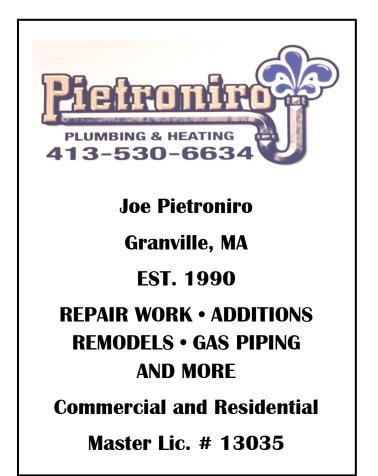
TRADE

325x Crosswalk treadmill for a typewriter 413-244-3258

~Lunch Bunch~ Come join the Lunch Bunch at Granville Federated Church on Wednesday, February 1st and Wednesday, March 1st at noon.

ALL ARE WELCOME!! Provided: Coffee, Tea, Dessert, Fellowship





GRANVILLE'S COUNTRY CALLER

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

February 14- Tell and show someone that you love them.

DRIVE UP DINNERS

WE'RE BACK! Our next Drive-up dinner will be FRIDAY, March 17 from 5 to 6. It will be a traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner with corned beef and all the fixings. To reserve your meal, call Bobbi at 413 357-0194 or Fran at 413 357-6492. See the flyer in the Caller for more information.

BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Johnny has been leading us in a study of the book of James. PLEASE NOTE: We have changed the time to 10:45 am on the first and third Wednesdays. Study dates for February are 2/1 and 2/15.

LUNCH BUNCH

Please consider joining us for our monthly lunch get together in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at 12:00 on Wednesday, February 1st. Bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert and great fellowship are provided

MISSIONS NEWS AGAPE SCHOOL

Our church has been donating to the Agape School in Uganda for many years. Call Bobbi at 357-0194 if you would be interested in joining our efforts to continue to support the school and the children there.

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

We try to help anyone in town who is in need of help in shopping, transportation, running errands, food, emergency fuel, etc. but we need to know. Please call.

To contact the church to leave a message for Pastor Johnny, please call 357-8583. You can also call a Deacon (Dale Flarida 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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday evenings-AA-8:00 pm Tuesday evenings-Church Board and Committee meetings TIME CHANGE: 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

In Assisted Living

Skip and Alice Demarais, The Arbors, 40 Court Street Apt 108, Westfield, MA 01085



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND FUTURE BOARD MEMBERS!

With the departure of several long-serving board members in the past couple years, we are asking you to consider volunteering your time so we can ensure future college students from Granville and Tolland can continue to receive scholarships from us. All eligible students with a complete application receive an award, and the average scholarship this year was \$3000! From stuffing envelopes at our February Mail-a-thon to planning fundraisers to becoming a board member, we would appreciate your time and energy!

Email Lee at GranvilleTollandDFS@gmail.com for more information, or if you would like to join us.

ATTENTION GRANVILLE & TOLLAND MA RESIDENTS

Our Community Food Pantry Serving Southwick-Granville-Tolland is creating a fundraising cookbook. We are looking for some local residents of the Towns of Granville and Tolland MA to participate by submitting a few of your favorite recipes to include in our cookbook. These recipes can be from different categories of your choice. The basic categories are going to be Main Dish, Vegetables, Side Dishes, Appetizers, Beverages, Breads, Desserts, Momma's favorites. If you choose to participate, we ask the recipe is legible, ingredients, measurements and directions are all listed. Please feel free to sign your name if you don't mind your name listed in the cookbook, if not you may sign resident of Granville or Tolland.

We are looking to obtain 25-35 recipes between the two towns. Feel free to submit more than one recipe per person. We cannot guarantee all recipes will be used if we get duplicates or more then what we need from everyone asked to participate in this book. We really appreciate your participation for this worthy cause, the proceeds from the sale of this cookbook give us the financial assistance to provide the services that we do for any client in the towns we serve.

Times are tough now and at any given time we may find ourselves reaching out for help. Our continued mission is never to turn away anyone hungry.

The deadline to submit all recipes is March 1, 2023 in order to meet our timeframe needed to create this book Please mail all recipes to my address Robbin Pope 226 Babb's Road West Suffield, CT 06093 You could also email me the recipe or any questions rfpope@icloud.com

Open for Pancakes Served 8:00am-2:00pm Saturdays and Sundays Feb. 18 - April 8, 2023

Also available French Toast, scrambled eggs, Bacon, Sausage Ham, Juice, Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Pure Maple Syrup

Closed Easter Sunday

Pure Maple Syrup and Maple Products Homemade Jams & Fruit Butters available

> Maple Corner Farm The Ripley Family Beech Hill Road Granville, MA 1-413-357-8829 www.maplecornerfarm.com



John "Zeke" Zielinski

(John, age 69) passed peacefully at home in Granville, MA on Friday, December 23rd with his love Karen, and his daughter Jaime, by his side after a short battle with cancer. He was predeceased by his parents: Stanley J. Zielinski and Alice M. (Lasocki) Slabinski and stepfather John Slabinski. His last days were filled with so much love, wonderful memories, lots of music, family, his three children, loving girlfriend and friends. John lived his life the only way he knew how - loud, proud, and with no regrets. He leaves behind: His children, his pride and joy: Kelly "Princess" Champagne and husband Norm of Westfield, Ma; Jaime "little jock" Zielinski and partner Terrance of Southwick, Ma; and Jacob "little Zeke" Zielinski and partner Jessie of Bedford, NH. His children were his greatest accomplishment whom he would literally move mountains to help in a moment's notice. His cherished, beautiful, grandchildren - Andrew John, Cole Jacob, and Raelyn Mae - who filled his heart with so much pride. Karen J Carpenter - his love of almost 10 years, who found each other again after dating briefly in high school, and spent many years restoring and living in their beautiful home together. He loved the beauty and nature that surrounded him, and spent many days just sitting in the yard with his love and taking it all in. Linda M Zielinski - the mother of his two girls and best friend, confidant and wife of 17 years. Jamin L. Whiting the mother of his son Jacob. His siblings - Joan Wright and partner Patricia "Jenks" of CT; Thomas Zielinski and partner Wendy, and William and Adele Zielinski of FL; along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins who loved "Johnny" beyond measure. He was a jack of all trades - machinist, mechanic, welder, plumber and carpenter. He spent the last few years perfecting his golf game; he loved to fish and spend time with so many of his wonderful friends; and any chance he got he'd take long rides on his beloved Harley "Pearl". He brought the gift of music to our hearts, and friendship to our souls. Music was his lifelong passion, having been the lead singer and guitar player for Homespun and The Bullseye Band, and later in life enjoyed playing solo gigs along with his very talented daughter Jaime Lee any chance he could. John, Johnny, Zeke, Zeker was larger than life, his smile and laughter always lit up a room. He genuinely loved everyone and was loved by all. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will carry on. There will be no services at this time, a celebration of life will be planned for early Spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the celebration directed to: Kelly Champagne. Firtionadams.com