



# GRANVILLE'S COUNTRY CALLER

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

APRIL 2024

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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.

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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 CLERK'S CORNER....****by Christina Teter****Telephone: 413.357.8585 Ext. 3****Email: [townclerk@townofgranville.org](mailto:townclerk@townofgranville.org)****Website: [www.townofgranville.net](http://www.townofgranville.net) (Board and Committees, Town Clerk)****Office Hours: Monday evening 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10 am - 12:30 pm by appointment****2024 Elections****Town Elections ~ Monday, April 8, 2024, 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Town Hall**

The position of Selectboard will be a contested seat between Nicole Berndt and Tony Novak. Please come vote and support your candidate. NO EARLY VOTING BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED FOR THE TOWN ELECTION. Contact my office if you are in need of an absentee ballot.

**State Primary - September 3, 2024, 7 am - 8 pm, Town Hall.****Presidential Election - November 5, 2024, 7 am - 8 pm, Town Hall****Annual Town Meeting**

Monday, May 13, 2024, 7:00 PM, Granville Village School

**Dog Licenses**

If you have a dog(s) and I missed sending you a form, call or stop in. 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. Fee for a spayed or neutered dog is \$10. Fee for an unaltered dog is \$15. It is the owner's responsibility to register their pets by April 15th. A late fee of \$20 will be charged after May 1st.

**Marriage Intentions**

If you wish to marry, you can contact my office (357.8585 Ext 3) or any other Town Clerk in the Commonwealth. The first document that the couple must complete is the Marriage Intentions Form and both must be present at the same time to do so. Following this, a license is issued and you can be married any place in the Commonwealth. Your marriage license is filed at the Town Clerk's Office where the Marriage Intentions Form is completed.

**Vital Records**

Birth records are filed based on residence. If you are a resident of Granville at the time of the birth of your child, then the child's birth certificate will be filed in Granville. Death records are filed in the community in which you died. Certified copies of vital records (Birth, Marriage, Death) are \$10.00.

## Get Help Paying Medicare Costs

Apply to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) NOW to save up to \$3,000 a year on Medicare costs

### What is the Medicare Savings Program?

Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) will pay for some or all of Medicare premiums, deductibles, copayments, and co-insurance. Depending on your income, MSP will pay for your Medicare Part A & B premiums and cost sharing, or Medicare Part B premium, as well as lower your prescription costs. This is not an insurance plan.

### Who qualifies?

Medicare beneficiaries who meet the following income limits:



You Are	Your income is at or below
Single	\$2,824 per month
Married	\$3,833 per month

**NEW AS OF MARCH 1, 2024:  
THERE IS NO ASSET LIMIT**

**Call 1-800-841-2900 to  
Receive an Application**

Learn More at [Mass.gov/MedicareSavings](https://Mass.gov/MedicareSavings)



### **GRANVILLE BUDDY PROGRAM**

The Granville Buddy Program Pilot review meeting took place Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 5 pairs of Buddies, and each pair had one or both of the members represented. Selectperson Nicole Berndt also attended.

The experiences reported were overwhelmingly positive! With comments such as:

- “ brought our friendship up to another level...”
- “...longtime friends, but prodded us to take time for us...”
- “ learned about one another...a blessing...”
- “ sense of security...”

The group easily determined that they wish to continue. Interestingly, each pair determined in their own way how and how often to contact each other. One pair decided phone calls daily at 8:00 a.m. would work and this became a helpful “check in” with each other. Another pair called in a less structured manner as their schedule permitted, another pair sent cards in addition to phone calls and getting together for lunch and walks also were shared. The group determined that they would meet again in three months for a further update, and in addition might plan a social get together for lunch.

We were happy to hear of these positive experiences, and the discussion moved to the group's desire to figure out ways to expand the Buddy Program to anyone who might be interested. We will begin our expansion in two ways: 1. Personal informal contact by a current Buddy with anyone whom they think might be interested. 2. Fliers around town and in the County Caller. One of the ideas we have been asked to make clear is that the Buddy Program does not need to be restricted to Seniors only.

If all this good news has you wishing for a Buddy, we welcome you to join the program. Please feel free to contact Terry at 413 357-8537 or Bobbi at 413 297-0445.

### **UPDATE ON HEALTHY BONES & BALANCE CLASS**

The Healthy Bones and Balance program is an exciting opportunity for people to attend a fitness program targeted on flexibility, gentle movement and balance. This will be a no cost weekly program with instructors who have been trained to provide specifically identified exercises to muscle groups and increase balance and coordination. Although we had hoped to be operating by now, we have had “snags” that caused some delay. We are still hoping to have a “demo” class sometime in April. The date has not been determined. Everyone who expressed an interest will be contacted. After this first class, we anticipate another slight delay, but within a month hope to have the weekly classes up and running. The sponsoring agency, RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program), asks that local volunteer instructors who are themselves 55 or older become trained and provide classes in the future. It is not too late to express an interest in the class, although class size is limited. Contact Bobbi at 413 297-0445 or Terry at 413 357-8537.



WANTED  
GARDENERS  
To  
Plant a Row  
For The Hungry

***Join the NATIONAL EFFORT to feed the hungry by planting an extra row in your garden.***

***Help Us Help Our Neighbors and Friends in Need.***

***Please sign up to donate your extra produce this season to:***

***Our Community Food Pantry  
222 College Highway  
Southwick, MA***

***For more information and to sign up, go to  
<https://www.ourcommunityfoodpantry.org>***



Granville/Tolland  
*Spring Clean-up*  
Sunday, April 21st

(Rain date: 4/27)

10am-2pm



Pick up bags and street assignments at the Granville Town Green or the Tolland Public Safety Complex the day of the event. Please wear bright colors & take precautions to prevent mosquito & tick bites.

Refreshments available to participants!

Many hands make for light work!

Questions? Please reach out to:

Nicole Berndt: [nberndt@townofgranville.org](mailto:nberndt@townofgranville.org) or 413-579-1545 (for Granville)

or

Paula Sharon: [pjsharon64@gmail.com](mailto:pjsharon64@gmail.com) or 860-841-9540 (for Tolland)



# 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.org](mailto:GranvillePrograms.org)

Our Hours:

Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 10AM - Noon

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

*Bible Study*

JOIN PHIL POTHIER AT THE GRANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR A NEW FAMILY FRIENDLY BIBLE STUDY



EVERY MONDAY AT 7PM

APR 1ST  
APR 8TH  
APR 15TH  
APR 22ND  
APR 29TH

[granvilleprogams@cwmar.org](mailto:granvilleprogams@cwmar.org)

Let's Laugh & Play with Friends

GRANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

# GAME NIGHT

THURSDAY APR. 25

AT THE GRANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
4:00PM - 6:00PM

A MONTHLY DAY FOR CARD & BOARD GAMES  
SOME SUPPLIED OR BRING YOUR OWN!  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ARE ALLOWED!

More Information: 413-357-8531  
[granvilleprograms@cwmar.org](mailto:granvilleprograms@cwmar.org)

Granville Public Library and Pathways for Parents

GROW, PLAY & LEARN

PLAYGROUP

For children ages Birth-2 with caregiver.

**Monday March 11**  
**10:00 AM-11:00**




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

GRANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY & PHIL POTHIER PRESENT

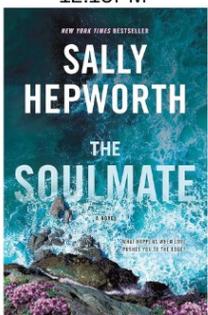
# LIBRARY POETRY SLAM



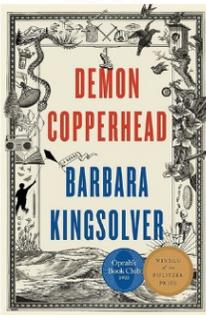
APR 18TH, 2024  
BEGINS AT 4PM & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ARE WELCOME

[granvilleprograms@cwmar.org](mailto:granvilleprograms@cwmar.org)

All Booked Up!  
Sat Apr 13  
12:15PM



Book Club with Gloria  
Wed Apr 10  
7:00PM



**Storytimes**  
(April Showers)  
APR 13  
10:30-11:30AM  
(Mother Nature)  
APR 27  
10:30-11:30AM



## 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**

April Bible Study will meet Wednesday, April 3rd and Wednesday, April 17th at 10:45 a.m. We are studying the Book of Acts.

#### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Our April Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday, April 3rd at noon. Bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert are provided.

#### **CHURCH DINNER**

We will be hosting a church dinner on Friday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. This month we are changing the format of our dinner in that it will be 'Sit Down' and not 'To Go'. The To Go meals were our solution during the Covid crisis and we feel that it's time to perhaps spend a little time talking face to face and getting to know each other again. On the menu are Pork Loin, Roasted potatoes, Vegetables, Salad and roll, Apple Crisp and coffee and bottled water. Call Fran at 357-6492 or Bobbi at 357-0914 to make reservations. Please join us!

#### **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

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

### MISSIONS NEWS

Many thanks to all who contributed food for the Southwick Tolland Granville Food Pantry. It will be distributed to our neighbors in need.

### 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.



**Joe Pietroniro**

**Granville, MA**

**EST. 1990**

**REPAIR WORK • ADDITIONS  
REMODELS • GAS PIPING  
AND MORE**

**Commercial and Residential**

# **Granville Cultural Council presents a Free Concert!**



## **PaxSax Quartet**

**Jon Weeks, Soprano/Alto   Cliff White, Alto**  
**Dave Trenholm, Tenor   George Owens, Bari/Bass**

**Jazz, Americana, blues & more!**

**At the Granville Federated Church**  
**16 Granby Road, Granville, MA**

**Sunday, May 12, 2024, 2:00**

Performance supported by the Granville Cultural Council  
and Massachusetts Cultural Council.



# Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Bus at Our Community Food Pantry



>The “Wellness on Wheels” (WOW) team, brought to you by Baystate Health and TD Bank, will be on site to offer:

- Blood Pressure Screening
- Heart Health Education & Resources
- At-home COVID test kits
- At-home blood pressure cuffs
- Answers to your questions

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 | 9:30AM-12:30PM**  
**220 College Hgwy | Southwick, MA 01077**



***PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SIT DOWN  
DINNER IN  
FELLOWSHIP HALL***

*GRANVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH*

*APRIL 26, 2024, 5:30 P.M.*



**PORK LOIN, ROASTED POTATOES,  
VEGGIE, SALAD & ROLL  
APPLE CRISP A LA MODE,  
COFFEE & WATER**

**\$15.00**

*PLEASE CALL FRAN AT 413 357-6492 OR BOBBI AT  
413 297-0445 TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT*



**THE 2024 APPLICATION IS OPEN!**

Financial Information is not required for our local scholarship. Any resident of Granville or Tolland who will be an undergraduate student next spring is eligible to apply for 2024. The average award in recent years was \$3000! Don't miss out! The application is due May 1st.

For more information or to apply for the scholarship, go to: <https://granville-tolland.dollarsforscholars.org/>



Want to support our Scholarships? Here are a few ways you can:

- Volunteer with us! We appreciate all volunteers from one-time event helpers to future board members. Coming up we will need readers for the essay portion of the application scoring in May, as well as help setting up for our 50th Celebration event in June. Email GranvilleTollandDFS@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.
- And of course we welcome financial donations! Donate online (scan the QR code) or mail a check to:

Granville-Tolland Dollars for Scholars  
PO Box 214  
Granville, MA 01034



[If you wish your donation to go toward one of our endowment funds, please write the name of the endowment in the memo of your check or email us at GranvilleTollandDFS@gmail.com to let us know which fund to put it in]



The Granville-Tolland Lions club Bertha Parker & Eddie Gogol Memorial Student Award applications are due May 1, 2024. Any graduating high school senior from Granville or Tolland with plans to further their education in a structured program is eligible for this award. Please submit applications to the Granville Tolland Lions Club  
PO Box 84  
Granville, MA, 01034

Applications are available from the area school guidance departments or emailing Art Adams:  
[artsadams8@gmail.com](mailto:artsadams8@gmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 7, 2024

CONTACT: Joel Dusoe  
joel.dusoe@mahouse.gov

## **Representative Boldyga opposes bill to spend an additional \$245 million on migrant shelter crisis**

*Supports efforts to ensure emergency housing services are available to longtime Massachusetts residents, including veterans*

**BOSTON** – State Representative Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) recently opposed a spending bill that would commit an additional \$245 million in state funding to cover the ongoing costs of providing emergency housing to migrants, saying the bill does nothing but throw more taxpayer money at the problem without addressing the underlying policies that are incentivizing migrants to flood into the state.

According to Representative Boldyga, House Bill 4460 that was adopted on March 6 on a vote of 121-33, will bring total spending on the emergency housing assistance program to over \$820 million in Fiscal Year 2024 alone. “Less than 4 months after the governor and democrats in the legislature passed a \$250 million spending bill to support migrant housing, they once again are fleecing taxpayers and residents of the Commonwealth” said Representative Boldyga. “There is no end in sight to this reckless spending spree that prioritizes illegal migrants over the wellbeing of our own citizens.”

Representative Boldyga expressed concerns that Massachusetts residents who are citizens and in need of services, including veterans, are being frozen out of receiving housing assistance as more migrants continue to arrive from out of state. “My office gets heartbreaking calls every week from single moms looking for shelter and are being told they have to wait” said Representative Boldyga.

There were several attempts to amend the bill that would have ensured emergency housing programs were prioritized for legal residents of the Commonwealth who have lived in the state for a minimum of 6 months. However, those amendments were all rejected by House democrats who hold a supermajority in the legislature.

“The motivation of democrats in Boston has become crystal clear. They would prefer to keep the flood gates of migrants coming into the state open, rather than provide for the wellbeing of the state’s legal residents who are in need” said Representative Boldyga. “Make no mistake about it, it’s their failed progressive policies that created this crisis and it’s their failed policies that will continue to make it worse.”

House leadership touted that the bill will impose new limitations on how long people can stay within the shelter system, allowing them to receive benefits for up to 12 months. Representative Boldyga said those “reforms” fall far short from doing anything to address the growing crisis. “What happens at the end of 12 months? Is the state really going to start evicting families from the shelter program?” asked Representative Boldyga. “Mark my words, a year from now democrats will be scrambling to lift or extend those limitations. They are creating a nightmare scenario that is going to end up costing taxpayers billions of dollars” he continued.

Representative Boldyga warned that this problem is only going to get worse. “Taxpayers are fleeing the state, revenue collections are down, and we’re increasing spending on migrant housing. The math doesn’t work” said Representative Boldyga. “Serious reforms need to be made or we’re going to continue to see painful cuts in funding for our schools, public safety, and other areas of critical local aid” he continued.

###

## John W. Mountain

John, age 55, of Granby, CT, beloved husband of Tracy V. (Strniste) Mountain, passed away peacefully with his close family on March 19, 2024, after courageously battling cancer for nearly three years. Born in Westfield, Massachusetts, the son of the late Terrance Mountain and Joan Welch. John attended local schools and was a graduate of Southwick High School. John was very hardworking starting his first job at twelve years old. Following high school, John worked at Big Y, eventually becoming a store manager. After John and Tracy were married in 2007, they purchased the Granville Country Store.

Together hand and hand for the next 17 years they owned and operated the country store. John was very social and always had kind words for his customers and literally knew everyone in town. John was passionate for real estate and enjoyed investing and operating all sorts of properties. He was also an avid fan of exotic cars and enjoyed taking rides with his family in one of his own. On cold nights before a roaring fire, John would often watch classic movies with his family. John was a hard worker who started with very little and reveled in the highly successful business ventures he accomplished over the years.

At his core, John was a family man. John's greatest joy was spending time with his wife, Tracy, and his children. John and Tracy were soulmates, best friends and did everything together. He loved spending time with his children, swimming and biking, traveling and just being the "Fun Dad." He was a great listener, always made his family feel safe, had an amazing personality, a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed sarcasm. John always made his family and those around him laugh.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Tracy (Strniste) Mountain of Granby, CT his daughter, Taylor Mountain of Granville, MA, his son, Collin Terrance Mountain of Granby, CT his daughter, Abbey Gean Mountain of Granby, CT, his mother, Joan Welch of Westfield, MA, and his brothers, Terrance Mountain of Southwick, MA and Corey Welch of Westfield, MA and sister, Michelle Colson of Westfield, MA, and his fathers and mothers-in-law Peter Strniste and Barbara of Granville, MA and Richard and Tina Deblois of Palm Coast, FL, and his brothers-in-law Peter Strniste, Jr. of Boston, MA, Roland Deblois and his wife Alyssa of Palm Coast, FL and Andrew Strniste and his wife Brittany of Rutland, VT, and his beloved Bernese Mountain dog, Bernie.

## Colorado "Coli" S. Willis

Coll, age 53, of East Otis passed away suddenly Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at home.

Born on January 27, 1971, Coli spent his childhood on the family farm in Granville, attending West Granville School and Granville Village School.

He leaves his mother and stepfather Anne and Edward Dubois of Estes Park, Colorado and father and stepmother Mitchell C. Willis, Jr. and Pamela Walker-Willis of Stafford Springs, Connecticut; his children Sienna Willis of Ipswich, MA and Samuel Willis of New York, NY; his partner Carrie Ann Scott of East Otis, MA; siblings Justin DuBois and his wife Karla of Colorado and Arizona; Jessica Willis and husband Matthew Davis, of Vernon, CT; and John and Martin Willis of Colorado; Sister-in-law Kathy Willis of FL; nephew Trent Willis of Atlanta, GA and niece Tylor Willis of FL; many uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Coli was predeceased by two brothers and dearly missed Paul Willis and Mitchel Willis, III.

He will be buried in Woodlands Cemetery in Granville, alongside Paul and Mitch, in the spring of 2024.

Memorial donations to a charity or local food bank of your choosing are appreciated.

## RECORDS and COLLECTABLES WANTED

Buying old vinyl records, LPs and 45s. Interested in most types of music. Cash paid, I will come to you. Also buying old advertising, signs, postcards, stoneware, comic books, Granville related items, etc.

Contact Mark @ 413-626-6396

or 357-6346.

Email- [vinyl4mark@gmail.com](mailto:vinyl4mark@gmail.com)



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to EMS Captain Nate Sindland, Fire Department Lieutenant Peter Sorrajja, and Constable Wes Bauver for their prompt response to our 911 emergency call on January 27th. The professionalism and calm reassuring demeanor you displayed, and the expert, compassionate care you provided while at our home and in-transit to Baystate Noble Hospital Emergency is greatly appreciated.

Diane & Gary Lafrance