

BCEP Solid Waste Facility requests police presence

Poulin then reported on recent changes at the department. He said that when he recently met with each staff member – full-time and on-call – to hear



New Durham Police Department K9 Izzy recently competed in the Region 9 United States Canine Association Competition with her handler Police Chief Shawn Bernier. The team finished first, scoring 676 points out of a possible 700. The competition included criminal apprehension with a running recall, criminal apprehension with gun fire, officer assault, obedience, agility, suspect search and hide, and article search. After the completion of the Patrol Dog 1 trials, K9 Izzy and Chief Bernier competed in the Police Dog 2 tracking title, for which they received their Police Dog 2 tracking title for 2020.

ABA needs your help to remember the fallen

Please email photos and information to info@altonbusinessassociation.com by May 21. Thank you for your support and honoring our lost heroes this Memorial Day!

Adjusting to a COVID-19 world

“Week one of work-from-home was overwhelming,” one woman reported. “I



Video conferences, an increase in email usage, printing and scanning take care of the business at hand.

Not everyone has had their workday

SEE **COPING**, PAGE **A9**

COURTESY



Prospect on parade

Norm Gilbert, a paraprofessional at Prospect Mountain High School and a beloved school bus driver, called on friends and colleagues throughout the community last week to organize a vehicular parade through Alton and Barnstead celebrating the hard work of students, in particular the Class of 2020, whose school year was brought to an unexpectedly abrupt end by the COVID-19 outbreak.



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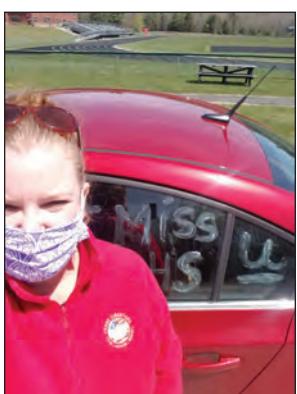
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Be excellent to each other

It seems as though human kindness has taken a back burner as of late, and we're not sure why. The remarks on social media between people bashing one another over politics or whether or not businesses should reopen, or whether or not the new Coronavirus is as 'real' as 'they' say, are over the top. Social media is certainly both a blessing and a curse.

Social media is a great way to keep in touch with friends and family, but it's also a platform for strangers to draw baseless conclusions and put each other down from behind the comfort of a keyboard. Once upon a time, those on opposing sides had face to face productive conversations. Those have since been replaced with this new format complete with emoji's and other memes or belittling GIFs.

Even more worthy of a raised eyebrow is how many people read a post or a news story from some random, disreputable source and then share it as incontrovertible fact. Nine times out of ten, a simple fact check will prove these "click-bait" posts to be non-factual. There are fake doctors putting out interviews on YouTube and people will just fall for them hook line and sinker. Please pause a moment and question what you're looking at objectively and always check the source.

It seems as though the regard for how we treat one another has been given a new standard, and we believe we know why; however, we'll leave that for our readers to decipher. Kindness and empathy along with professionalism is still alive and well and it's how our country has moved forward the way it has since its inception. Let's not forget that despite the current climate. What we need to remember is that no matter what you think, we are all on the same side.

When we're perusing online, it's not our job to correct a person if it can't be done in a positive way. If a person is being negative and inappropriate in how they interact online, then your best bet is to simply not engage. A heated argument never ends with any side switching to the other. A more productive means of conversation over a hot button issue would be to simply ask the other person questions. This is the best way to make a person think. A lighthearted example: "I see you think blueberry pie is better than Boston Cream pie — can you explain why?"

Asking questions from a meaningful angle can go a long way. Here's the truth of the matter, we don't know everyone we interact with online. With that being said negativity just fuels more negativity. It's easy to disagree with someone in a positive way. Another example could be, "I understand the point you're trying to make; however, I don't agree. With that being said, enjoy your day. It should be a sunny one!" Always try to leave things on a positive note. If you're feeling angry, go for a run or a drive. Don't take your frustration out on strangers online.

As Fred Rogers always said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" This has never been truer than in our current situation. With this pandemic, the outpouring of love and support we have seen does far outweigh any negativity. In Brooklyn, N.Y., every night at 7 p.m., everyone bangs pots and pans outside their windows as a way to show appreciation for local healthcare workers. This is something we have seen happening in several cities across the country. On a local level, people are raising money for food pantries and running errands to protect the elderly and other vulnerable populations. We dig it. At the end of the day, the glass should always be half full.

To quote one of our favorite duos from our childhood filmgoing experiences, Bill and Ted, "Be excellent to each other!"



Mask makers extraordinnaire

COURTESY

The Lady Crafters of Suncook Lake, now renamed the group the FMMs (Face Mask Makers), have been hard at work trying to fulfill a request from a member's daughter in Michigan for masks for herself and fellow health care workers. By Early May, more than 2,000 masks and counting had been sewn and delivered to local New Hampshire locations, nurses in Boston, the homeless in Chicago, Navajo Nation in Arizona, healthcare facilities in Michigan, neighbors on Suncook Lake, friends and loved ones. Pictured here is a sign posted above a member's mailbox with a basket full of masks that are available for free for those who need one.

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Apple Blossoms

It's apple blossom time. A wonderful time of year. My house growing up was located on a quarter acre lot where upon there were seven apple trees, two pear trees, a cherry tree, a scotch pine, and two birches, all sharing the space with the house, a small two story with two 2-bedroom residences, house all surrounded by a tall hedge of lilac. When spring arrived, the scents of it all permeated the place. There were also many smaller flowering plants scattered throughout. Apparently, my mother, who grew up in the house, ordered some kind of mail order horticultural assortment when she was young and went about the yard planting. A peach tree had been cut down before my time.

I lived on the first floor with my two older sisters, and both parents. Us kids shared the small bedroom. My sisters had a bunk bed and I slept in my crib till I outgrew it, then graduated to a couch. This lasted till trampolineing compro-

mised it's frame. Then I got another couch. It was a small house, you couldn't escape being close.

My mother's job was to stay at home and take care of domestics. Laundry day, ironing day, vacuuming day, cook treats day, etc. She made breakfast every day for everybody and we each had a bagged lunch every day for school or work and supper was served every evening at five to five thirty. My father worked in a roasting hot sweat shop where he ran a molding machine making grinding wheels eight hours a day for about thirty years and never missing a day. I was never told "I love you"; I knew it.

Upstairs lived my mother's mother and her ward, my godfather, totally unrelated, but they lived together and took care of each other in a shared living way, each having their own bedrooms. He took care of the driving and going places and she took care of the home duties. I remember my sister

talking to my mother once, and questioning why they weren't married. They weren't about to have any babies so there was no need for them to be married. Marriage is about making babies and families. Otherwise it doesn't make sense.

Moving up one more floor was the attic. Where my mother's uncle lived. I could write a whole letter on him, and I probably will some day, but he was the alcoholic of the family. When he was young, he used to work at my grandfather's gas station. He got a liking for licquer and ceased to be a productive member of society. He managed to survive by doing odd jobs to buy his bottles and beans, and living up in the attic, where he stored up mountains of newspapers and magazines to be read some day. He had them piled high around his attic room.

As spring transitioned from one flower to the next, the windows would be opened to let the varying fragrances

flow through and wake up the stale old house that had been closed up all winter. Even so, walking out the back door onto the porch and heading off to school, a blast of aroma would hit you in the face. To me, that was spring. When all the petals fell, the yard looked like it had snowed.

Today, I have a small patch of lilacs that just may flower this year now that I've cut down the large overshadowing trees, and one scrawny apple tree that I've been trying to resurrect. It does manage to produce some blossoms. But that's about it. I'm thinking of planting another apple tree for company. Since deer are so brutal on young apple trees, I'll have to rig up some sort of fencing. Around here spring has become black flies and pollen everywhere. Everything gets coated with this yellow layer of pollen dust that you try to keep out of the house. It's a different world.

NOTES FROM WINDY HOLLOW

BY VIVIAN LEE DION
Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, we had a dusting of snow in our area. This may be the last snowfall we'll see for some time, and I marveled at the beauty of the evergreen trees as they snuggled in their white blankets. The calendar also signaled that it is time to get hummingbird feeders from the cellar, and make their sweet syrup. My husband Ray washed the feeders and made the enticing liquid. Two days passed by, and while we were having supper, I saw this year's first hummingbird. Even with the strong winds and white caps on the pond that little male was able to sip the liquid and fly back in forth before nightfall. He put on quite a show and we're glad to help him quench his thirst.

Nature is awakening once again, and it

couldn't have come at a better time. You see, I've been staying at home cleaning closets, painting trim around doorways, and organizing my bookcase. All the while baking, preparing delicious meals, and reading a few of good books, especially the seventh edition of The Norton Reader. But I neglected one thing and my attitude suffered because I felt stressed and anxious; I hadn't been to the gym or taken a walk around the neighborhood since the stay at home order began.

I was determined to change things, and it was a real eyeopener. I noticed that Mother Nature is busy at work decorating the yard and woodland with mayflowers, bluets, and yes even dandelions, and my perennials have awakened. My bleeding-heart plants are budding and showing some blossoms,

and the hosta plant has little pointed shoots ready to leaf out any day. They all survived the winter.

I read an article that says, "It takes five minutes to reap mental health benefits from Mother Nature, according to research recently published in the Journal of Positive Psychology. College students who spent time in a park (sans electronic devices) reported an increase in feelings like comfort and gratitude, while those who rested in a windowless room did not. And the greenery group literally needed to just take five: A 15-minute break outside didn't ramp up the positive effect. So, step away from the screen. A quick dip in the great outdoor can quash your stress in the time it takes to fire off a few e-mails."

As one of my favorite writers explained in

her writings, Journal of a Solitude, "Keep busy with survival. Imitate the trees. Learn to lose in order to recover, and remember that nothing stays the same for long, not even pain, psychic pain. Sit it out. Let it pass. Let it go. That's exactly what I did. I'm happier, calmer, and aware of the moment. Because of my mile walk every other day, I'm not focusing on the negative and worrying about the future. Mother Nature thrills me every time I walk along the road and see a chipmunk cross the road, or hear the birds sing, while the tapping sounds of a pileated woodpecker high in a white pine strives to make a hole for his mate and future chicks.

Vivian Lee Dion of New Durham is a writer and speaker and can be reached at windyhollow@metrocast.net.

And now, the eagle’s nest in view of the Golden Dome



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

Not so long ago, in terms of generations, it was accepted practice in some rural areas to try to shoot raptors out of the sky. Thus, any hawk--the bigger, the better the target--was seen as fair game.

The idea of such a thing almost takes our breath away today. Yet I well remember a casual conversation with a dairy farmer just down the road.

Like most farmers, he ranged far and wide on foot or on tractor to find the occasional errant cow, and had far-flung pastures and hayfields on both sides of the hill. Like everyone who owned and worked the land, he left it open for all to enjoy.

I happened by one day just as he was pulling his tractor into the front dooryard, and hopped out to say hello. He had a leather scarab wired to the right-hand side of the tractor, and within it a weathered rifle.

I glanced at the old Winchester. “Oh, that’s for when I see a fox or a hawk,” he said, tilting



COURTESY
An adult eagle and chick in the nest along the Connecticut River in Orford. (Photo by Judy Lombardi, courtesy NH Audubon)

his head back for a look at the sky. “I used to be able to hit ‘em, first time.”

Now, it’s worth remembering this man’s origins and the times. He grew up before the Depression, well before the Rural Electrification Act. Every farm’s complement included chickens, hence “chicken hawks,” and large raptors, meaning eagles, could haul off newborn lambs.

Thus, it was open season on any predator, raptors included. Shooting one—fisher, fox, hawk soaring high--was as natural as hoeing the garden or milking the cows.

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That barnyard visit was in the mid-1960s. Within a very brief time, in the early ‘70s, I’d find myself sitting with John Lanier high atop a ledge in the White Mountains, doing a story for the New Hampshire Sunday News about the effort to restore Peregrine falcons to their original New Hampshire habitat.

John was chief wildlife biologist for the White Mountain National Forest, and was working on the falcon project with Audubon, Cornell University, UNH, and New Hampshire Fish and Game. A key part of this involved raising newly hatched chicks in cliffside nests.

Several UNH grad students and a professor or two were camped up on the ridge and occasionally rolling small pieces of raw chicken down PVC pipes to plop into handmade nests, harboring barely fluffed, beak-extending chicks. It was a festive atmosphere to match the sunny day. Everyone living and working up there thought it was a job worth doing, and rejoiced in it all.

Today, falcons are gradually reclaiming their former habitat. John, who became a lifelong friend, never stopped scanning cliff-sides for the telltale signs of raptors’ nests.

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Eagles, meanwhile, have just as eagerly re-



An adult pair and endless skies along the Androscoggin River in Shelburne. (Photo by Ravenel Bennett, courtesy NH Audubon)

claimed more and more or their original territory. Now, I’m dating myself when I say that I can remember when eagles were so rare in New Hampshire that wildlife officials thought there was only one nesting pair left.

This pair annually returned to a legendary nest atop an ancient pine stub on the northwest end of Umbagog, a big lake on the Maine-New Hampshire border above Berlin. Longtime game warden Warren Jenkins took me there by boat, and I went there a few years later by canoe.

Public interest in these sole reminders of a seemingly lost past was so great that Fish and Game and volunteers placed warning buoys and signs, asking boaters to stay well back. Still

they came, and watched and photographed from afar.

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Fast-forward to today, when eagles are common enough along the Connecticut and Androscoggin rivers to cause no great stir, if not exactly yawns, and the days of the last lone nest seem far gone.

Eagles have even established a nest in Concord, the state’s capital, for the first time in more than a century. The Concord Monitor’s David Brooks reported that the pair is nesting near Horseshoe Pond. “A decade or two ago their appearance here would have been astonishing, but these days it’s almost expected,” Dave wrote.

Christian Martin, an eagle specialist at New Hampshire Audubon,

said eagles have come a long way since the lone-nest days.

“We’re in the middle of trying to determine how many breeding pairs in state this year,” he told David Brooks. “There’s at least 70, probably closer to 75, which is a huge change from ten to 20 to 30 years ago. They’re everywhere from the seacoast to Pittsburg to Hinsdale. You name the lake, there’s probably a pair of bald eagles that utilizes it now.”

A long way indeed, in thought and deed, from a few generations ago.

(Mail is welcome, with phone numbers, please, at campguyhooligan@gmail.com or 386 South Hill Rd., Colebrook, NH 03576)

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Richard Conant Davis, 93

ALTON — Richard Conant Davis, of Alton Bay, passed away on Wednesday April 29, 2020 with his loving daughter Jane by his side.

Richard was born on Jan. 27, 1927 in Lynn, Mass. He was the adored son of Charles and Evelyn (Rose) Davis, and younger brother of Carl and Robert.

Richard grew up in Saugus, Mass., and graduated from Saugus High School, class of 1944. He enjoyed playing foot-

ball, running track, ice skating, skiing, driving his first car which had a rumble seat, and court- ing his future beautiful wife, Marion.

After high school, Richard served in the United States Army during World War II. His ship arrived in Japan just as the war ended, and he spent a year working as a carpenter rebuilding infrastructure. Richard was a very proud veteran, always telling detailed stories of boot camp in Georgia

and his time overseas.

In 1949, he married the love of his life, Marion. Richard and Marion were neighbors growing up - true childhood sweethearts. They were married for 68 wonderful years, raised two children, and were blessed with six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The two lived in Saugus, Mass. until 1966, then moved to Wakefield, Mass., and retired in Alton Bay in 1988.

While living in Saugus and Wakefield,

Richard had a long and successful career serving the manufacturing industry. He began his career by joining the General Electric apprenticeship program and worked for GE for many years. During this time, he also took many engineering courses at Northeastern University. Richard worked at various manufacturing engineering jobs until he retired from Gaulin Corporation at the age of 62.

After his retirement in 1988, Richard and Marion travelled extensively in the United States and Europe. They also spent many winters in various parts of Florida.

In Alton Bay, Richard and Marion lived in a beautiful home on a sandy beach, that they were fortunate enough to build themselves next to the historic family summer camp. They loved sitting on the beach soaking up the sun, while watching the kids play in the water and build sandcastles. Richard would help Marion set up the sea-doo and watch her speed around the cove with the kids on the back! The grandkids also remember Grandpa taking them up the hill behind the house, picking blueberries, and making blueberry pancakes. We will cherish those happy memories forever.

In addition to the fun, there was never a shortage of projects to do at the lake - luckily, Richard was a skilled woodworker, plumber, electrician, etc. He was quite the handy man. He helped to renovate his son's house in Tuftonboro, and helped



Richard Davis

his daughter with many home projects in Laconia, building a shed in recent years.

Richard was an extremely dedicated patriarch of the family, always very involved with the lives of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He attended countless sporting events, followed academic and creative achievements, and was always willing to offer his wisdom and to lend a helping hand.

Richard enjoyed conversing with almost anyone, had a great sense of humor, and loved storytelling. Some of his favorite subjects were politics, history, sports, and stocks. Richard enjoyed playing chess, and held chess games at this house. He researched family genealogy, and was always eager to share his findings. Richard was a descendant of artists, inventors, and founders, and was proud of his family history. He was an avid sports enthusiast - he enjoyed watching all sports, especially football, baseball, and hockey. Richard also loved dogs, especially his black lab "Brandy."

For the last three years, since his wife,

Marion, passed, he lived alone at the lake, and very much enjoyed visits from family and friends. Even though Richard was sometimes critical of the world, he was always extremely optimistic about his own health, and was a very resilient and independent man until the end. In fact, less than a week before he passed away, he drove himself to the grocery store, went shopping, and hauled his groceries up the stairs - he was tough!

Richard was a proud, sincere, and loving man. He is very loved and will be greatly missed by his children, Jane and Alan, and the rest of the family.

Richard was preceded in death by his wife, Marion R. (Oliver) Davis.

He is survived by his daughter, Jane Davis of Laconia; son, Alan Davis and his wife Deborah of Hollis; and grandchildren, David Young, Debbie Young Albergo, Brina Young, Michelle, Emily, and Elizabeth Davis; and five great-grandchildren, Kiersten and Bryan Slater, Michaela Young, Keith Albergo, and Grayson George.

The family will have a celebration of life in the coming months. Richard will join Marion at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery. May his spirit fly freely!

In memory of Richard Conant Davis, donations may be made to New Hampshire Veterans Home, 139 Winter St., Tilton, NH 03276-5415.

Peaslee Alton Funeral Home, compassionately, helped with these arrangements.

Mary Kathryn Burk, 66

MELVIN VILLAGE — Mary Kathryn 'Kathy' Burk, 66, of Lowell, Mass. and Melvin Village, a beloved wife, sister, aunt and daughter, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 15, 2020 at Concord Hospital after a courageous fight with lung cancer and COVID-19 Disease.

Kathy was born in Lowell on Jan. 17, 1954, and was a daughter of the late Edward E. and the late Rita M. (McMahon) Burk. Kathy was raised in Lowell, and was educated throughout the area, graduating from Lowell High School. Kathy moved to New Hampshire, where she and her husband David resided for over 35 years.

Kathy's infectious smile brought joy to all who knew her. Kathy loved spending time at the beach with her family, toes in the sand and laughing in the sun. Kathy loved the lake, a good book and a crisp glass of wine. Kathy was an avid gardener, spending countless hours beautifying her yard and deck.



Mary Burk

Professionally, Kathy spent over 30 years as an office manager. Most recently, she worked with Charles Simpson, DDS, and she will be dearly missed by her patients and coworkers alike.

Kathy loved her husband David dearly. They spent 35 wonderful years together. Their time was spent traveling, with many sunshine filled trips to Florida, taking leisurely drives to antique car shows, adventurous snow cat rides up Mt. Washington and skiing the mountains of New Hampshire.

Kathy's zest for life was unparalleled, and she will be dearly missed by all. She is survived by her husband, David Ea-

ton; her three siblings, Edward F. Burk of Lowell, Susan E. Garrigan (Burk) of Lowell, and Richard J. Burk and his wife, Carol of Westford, Mass.; her three nephews, Kevin Burk and his wife Jackie of Lowell, Philip Garrigan, Jr. and his wife Nicole of Lowell, and Patrick Garrigan of Lowell; and her two nieces, Kimberly Burk of Westford, and Kristen Burk of Westford. Kathy also leaves behind many aunts, uncles and cousins, including Martha Flood who she thought of as another sister.

Due to the unfortunate social restrictions that are currently in place, there will be no public funeral proceedings. However, there will be a celebration of life at a later date in Lowell.

The Baker-Gagne Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Wolfeboro is assisting the family with the arrangements. To share your condolences, messages, stories and sign an online guest book, visit www.baker-gagnefuneralhomes.com.

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Donald Roberts Minor, 81

LACONIA — Donald Roberts Minor, 81, of Gilford succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease on Wednesday, May 6 at Franklin Regional Hospital.

He was born March 14, 1939 to Shirley and George Minor in Ludlow, Mass., the middle child of three children. The family relocated to Alton Bay, where he later graduated from Laconia High School in 1957.

His parents owned and operated the Mt. Major Country Store in Alton Bay, where he worked. It was in the Bay that he discovered his love for Lake Winnepesaukee and his wife Judith at the beach in Harmony Park. They were married in October of 1962, and moved to Methuen to start their family. Don worked at Raytheon in Andover before starting his real estate investment business. He wanted to be his own boss so he began purchasing investment properties in the Greater Lawrence area, amassing an impressive self-grown business with over 20 employees. His work ethic was unmatched as was his tenacity to "get the job done." It was his philosophy to never ask anyone to do something he would not do himself. He was a member of the First Church Congregational in Methuen, serving on multiple boards and growing a friendship with Rev. Ladre. For several years he would purchase toys and play Santa, delivering them to tenant's children he knew would go without Christmas morning. In 1985, the family returned to his beloved Lake in New Hampshire to "retire," moving into a lakefront home in Gilford. Never one to sit still long, retirement did not suit Don and he started buying investment properties in the Lakes Region, establishing the Lakes Region Rental Association.

Don's greatest passions after his family



Donald Minor

were wood boats and he loved taking his family for rides on the big lake in his Chris Craft's. Saturday morning donut runs with his grandchildren were very special for all involved. A member of the Antique & Classic Boat Society, Don chaired the Antique Boat Show at the Weirs multiple times. He was also instrumental in the founding of the New Hampshire Boat Museum, spreading his passion of wood boats to the Lakes Region. There was nothing he loved more than having large gatherings with close friends and family. He always felt the more the merrier! His love for his family was unmatched. Heaven truly took in a good one, pretty sure he has his tool belt ready to go and willing to help with any necessary repairs. He will be forever remembered for his kindness, compassion, generosity and integrity.

Don was predeceased by his parents, George and Shirley Minor; stepfather Al Recks; and daughter Kelly Ann.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Judith Minor; his sisters, Gail Babin and husband Louis and Penny Jones and husband Russell; sons Donald R. Minor II and wife Amy, Scott Minor, Tim Minor and his wife Sheri, and Shawn Minor and his partner Rachyll Patten. He will be truly missed by his ten grandchildren (Jessica, Jennifer, Alexa, Mikayla, Scott Jr, Donald III, Meya, Parker Rhiannon Lefrancois and husband Aaron and Chelsea Briggeman and husband, Hunter); his two great grandchildren, Wesley and Griffin Briggeman; and also several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Due to Covid-19, there will be a celebration of life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St. Jude Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 164 Pleasant St., Laconia, is assisting the family with the arrangements. For more information and to view an online memorial, go to www.wilkinsonbeane.com.

Arthur Herbert Moulton, 87

ALTON — Arthur Herbert "Skip" Moulton, age 87, lifelong resident of Alton, crossed to the other side on May 11, 2020, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on Sept. 26, 1932, in Alton, a son of Herbert John Moulton and Lillian Mae (Varney) Moulton, he was immensely proud of being born, lived, worked and died in Alton. He was a veteran of the Korean War.

Skip lived a quiet life, happy to be home, where he loved and cared for his family and home with pride and great admiration. He was the one everyone went to for help or advice, which he gave freely and with much generosity. He loved fabricating metal and tinkering in his garage. He loved being outside working on his wood pile, mowing his lawn, working on his vehicles, or helping to fix things people brought to him, he enjoyed those mechanical challenges. He also thoroughly enjoyed arguing about politics and no one had any difficulty knowing where he stood. He was quite curious and interested in life. He read extensively to satisfy

his inquisitive mind. Learning to Google was a highlight of his most recent years.

Skip was a wonderful husband to the love of his life, Ann, of 53 years, who predeceased him in 2009. He loved his children, Alan Moulton of Concord, Amy and husband Steve Madden and daughter Brenna of Wolfeboro; brother Carl and wife Linda Moulton, their children Scott and Chris; sister in law Diantha Moulton, her daughter Sharon and husband Glenn Lamper; sister in law Albia Bondar, her daughter Kathy and husband Brian Pitts and baby Kinsley; also, other nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by brothers Frederick

Moulton and Francis Moulton.

Due to the unexpected events visiting the world at present, we will determine an appropriate time to gather to celebrate Skip's life, sometime in the future. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his memory to: Central NH VNA/Hospice, 780 No. Main St., Laconia, NH 03246. To express condolences, please visit: www.peasleefuneralhome.com.



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BOS

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their individual comments and concerns, a major concern was that the staff did not all have email accounts, and now each staff member has an email where they can receive announcements and important documents. He said that the staff members all worked together to strip the floors back to the original flooring, renovate the kitchen and update the office space. He said that there's now a "lobby" area in the office space, and all electronics are in one area. The department is currently reviewing policies to ensure that they are up to date, and some staff members are being given assignments based on their specialties.

"Each one of you is a

valuable resource," he said of the fire department staff members.

Poulin also discussed future goals for the department. He said that the department had building inspector Fab Cusson come to the facility and approve the future installment of a bathroom upstairs. He said that the staff at the department have volunteered to do as much of the work as possible on the project once it occurs. Regarding training, Poulin said that "it's hard to get groups together," but "every day, we're training, learning something new."

Poulin and Mulcahy both expressed concern about the low number of regular on-call members. While right now the department is focusing on limiting exposure of staff who go on calls,

Mulcahy said that, ideally, he would eventually like to have a dozen on-call members and some per diem staff.

At the end of the update, Vice Chairperson Diane Beijer added that the pay matrix, an ongoing project throughout the town departments, is a priority.

"We're really pleased with what we're hearing," Mahar added.

In addition to the primary conversations of the meeting, Selectman Gary Madden said that, with the board's permission, he would like to work with the Police Department to target certain areas of town as a continuation of the discussion about illegal dumping in town from the May 12 meeting. Madden also suggested posting on the town website with a warning

about the consequences of illegal dumping, including the \$250 fine for littering.

The sole public announcement was from Beijer, who said that during the next livestreamed board of selectmen meeting, the board will open a public input session wherein viewers can enter comments that will be relayed to the board so that they can respond in real-time.

The next board of selectmen meeting will be held on May 26 at 5 p.m., with the link to the livestream available on the homepage of barnstead.org.

Rachel M. LaGraize, 48



Rachel LaGraize

Frechette, Diedre Frechette, and Domonique

ALTON — Rachel M. (Maki) LaGraize of Alton passed away Friday, May 8, 2020.

She was born in Methuen, Mass. on May 13, 1971 to Constance Boggs (Berube) and George Maki. Rachel was warm and sweet, a devoted mother, grandmother and wife who loved to spend time with her daughters, family, friends and especially her grandson.

She is survived by her loving husband, Edward J. LaGraize IV and her three daughters, Desiree

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ALTON

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smoothly,” he advised.

Of course, suddenly having children home all day can upend any schedule.

“That has been different,” he admitted. “I’ve had to adjust time during the day to work with the kids to ensure they are getting their school work done.”

His final piece of advice? “Take it a day at a time.”

A resident who teaches in another district commented that he “likes his commute” while working from home, but misses his “super kids.”

Instead of teaching in a lab, he loads his units on YouTube.

“Remote learning provides my students with structure and connectivity when they are stuck in home during these strange times,” he said.

One woman in town indicated her family was “weathering Covid right now.”

She has retained her job at a school, working mostly from home, and will be going in to the facility to gear up for the coming year.

“That’s a challenge when you don’t know what next year will bring,” she remarked.

The family is coping by “keeping busy.” Chores have been divided up for all family members and they get outside to hike, bicycle, and walk as much as they can.

“I have always been a gardener, and enjoy baking and cooking, and have involved my son in those activities. Crafts, LEGO building, and board games are big here.”

Being at home has led to new interests, also. “My son discovered yoga online and loves it.”

The family does experience ups and downs, though.

“I am an introvert and love being home,” she said. “My husband is the opposite, so we have had to find ways to help him with that.”

She said he has become the official errand-runner and is doing things for the town.

“I worry about my older and sick family members, my friends who are working in hospitals, the people who I know have lost their jobs, and their support

systems; the list doesn’t end. I pray a lot,” she added.

Like many others, though, she feels “very lucky throughout all of this, and I have been so grateful. I cannot even begin to express the depths of this gratefulness.”

Reduced hours is a term that we’re hearing more and more. A New Durham woman who works out of state considers herself “fortunate” to have had only a reduction in work hours.

“It’s a mixed blessing, to be sure,” she said. “I’ve not had to deal with unemployment and the challenges that go along with an overburdened system, but I have had to adjust my budget.”

There is a bright spot to not having as much money coming in.

“With everything closed, I’ve also reduced spending, so the transition was doable, even if a little uncomfortable, and for that I am grateful,” she said.

Continuing with work has given her life some level of normalcy.

“And extra time at home gave me time to stress cook and share via stoop drops,” she commented. “Who doesn’t like sweet or wholesome treats dropped on their doorstep?”

As head of a single income household, she recognizes her financial situation could have been much worse had she not continued working.

“The social isolation would have also been much more difficult had I not continued working,” she pointed out. “I’ve found the emotional burden of social distancing and isolation to be the greater challenge. I don’t like the new normal.”

She said she has not seen her parents for more than two months and that has been difficult.

“Social media and phone calls help, but it’s not the same,” she explained. “Air hugs really don’t fulfill the need for human contact but as long as I am out in the world, I will remain physically distant. I know that in something as small and innocent as a hug I can potentially expose my parents to something far worse than the dreaded cooties of childhood.”

Being able to remain in contact to a degree is a good thing, though.

“I am truly blessed and grateful that my



Support for New Durham graduating students is popping up all over local lawns, as that class faces a radically different end of the school year.

family and friends are still healthy and safe. The bottom line for me is that I don’t have to like our new normal, I don’t have to like treating everyone as if we all have cooties, but I will continue to do just that because it’s the responsible thing to do. We need to protect ourselves, the ones we love, and even those who don’t believe they need protection,” she said.

Being furloughed isn’t quite as bad as losing your job, and in one resident’s case, it turned out to be a good thing.

“Prior to being furloughed, it was confusing and exhausting to try to figure out what to do to from home and create a home routine,” said a woman who was employed in a near-by town. “It often felt like I was constantly linked to my devices, doing busy work and focusing on media updates, which was extremely emotionally draining.”

She said she was overwhelmed with “too many emails and endless opportunities for webinars. Having to work from home full-time was all new and learning the technology to do so was pretty challenging.”

So when she was furloughed, she felt it to be “actually kind of a relief.”

She is still an employee, but no longer feels the demand to perform a full-time job with the new challenges and uncertainties.

“Being furloughed offered me the opportunity to focus on family, home, and self-care, and once I had the chance to catch my breath a bit and create a better daily routine, I was ready to work again,” she added.

As a furloughed employee, she works a limited number of hours in addition to receiving some unemployment benefits.

“As we move to reopen our workplace, set goals and assign tasks

for that, I’m feeling better prepared to be able to be productive again,” she said.

Children may not be breadwinners, but they have had their own ordeals the past few months.

One elementary school student reported that he has adjusted just fine to distance learning; his parents call it “amazingly well.”

But the cancellation of his sports events and camps and athletic classes is “disappointing.”

Parents of very young children did not have to worry about becoming teachers overnight, although that age group presents its own problems.

One family said that the most difficult part of the coronavirus situation is “not seeing grandparents. We also struggled in the beginning with such an overabundance of screen time since visits, classes, playgroups, meetings, church, and everything else is online, but I think we’ve figured out a better balance now.”

As we know, every cloud has a silver lining.

“The best part has been lots of family time,” they said.

The flip side of missing grandparents is missing grandchildren. One grandmother, who, pre-pandemic saw her adult children and grandchildren on a regular basis, said she found the quarantine from them “difficult, but necessary.”

The extended family does regular “family face time,” which she said “brightens my day and makes it easier for the younger ones to understand that things are going to be okay.”

In a time when “drive-way company” has become a new concept, they recently ordered takeout and did a car gathering with everyone in their own cars.

“It was great to see

everyone, but hard not to hug them all,” she said. “We have since met on two other occasions, being careful to wear masks and maintain safe distance. Our visits give us all something to look forward to.”

Their annual family vacation, celebrating several family milestones including a graduation from high school, had to be cancelled.

“This quarantine has really brought home the fact that everything can change in an instant, and we are looking forward to a return to normalcy,” she added.

It has also provided opportunities for people to help others. In New Durham there are many people sewing masks for their friends, family, and neighbors and for health care workers.

“I had to do something positive,” one woman said. “It’s my way of coping.”

“I’d forgotten how much I love to sew,” another woman stated.

She is hard at work on all different sizes of masks.

Eager to make the most effective mask, someone else is working on including “pockets” for filters and waterproof materials.

Masks are becoming more intricate and comfortable. Electrical wire helps with contours around the bridge of the nose for a tighter, more personal fit, and local electrician Ricky Rines donated a spool of it to a stitching team.

One of the most trying states to be in is to have a loved one in a nursing home.

“It is a difficult situation,” a New Durham resident said, “especially being alone. It’s hard not being able to see my husband, but the nursing home is handling the situation very well.”

She said her husband is increasingly confused, “but we are able to communicate daily. I keep busy with being outside and lots of walks. Sunny days make me happy, and good friends have helped.”

What about folks who weren’t out and about much before all of this came down around our ears?

A retired gentleman who is practicing self-isolation noted his situation is “not that much different, I just don’t go anywhere. Maintenance around the house is restricted to what materials I have on hand, since I don’t go to

the store.”

He said he does miss out on activities that he participated in prior to the pandemic, but socially he has been socially isolated ever since his retirement.

“I’m not seeing any indication of depression or anxiety,” he said. “Day-to-day for me is pretty much the same.”

And what must it be like to be bringing a new life into this changed world?

A mother-to-be replied that it has been “scary” contemplating the possibility of contracting the virus while pregnant.

“I stay home mostly and go out only for groceries, doctors’ appointments, and the occasional take out order,” she said.

Big changes in hospitals and doctors’ offices mean big disappointments, however. The New Durham resident listed several that have affected her.

“My husband is not allowed at the appointments with me, he did not get to be there for my last ultrasound, and I’m unable to take advantage of the hundreds of classes and community programs out there for first time parents,” she said.

Things are certainly different.

“I was looking forward to sharing the learning with my husband over these next few months and getting excited, and terrified, about what is to come,” she said. “I hope that when my baby is due the restrictions will have loosened as I’m not sure I could go through labor without my husband being there as my support person.”

She said she is happy to be in a comfortable home, but does miss socializing and connecting with fellow parents-to-be, as well as core friends.

“Our little boy has no idea what is going on out here, and for that I am glad,” she said. “I can’t imagine what it has been like for other pregnant couples that have delivered during this time of uncertainty.”

Financial problems, letdowns, insecurity are facing all of us; and are being met by ingenuity, humor, and friendship. If there is one thing human beings know how to do well, it is how to cope.

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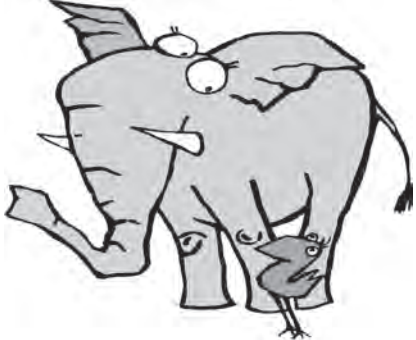
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