

# OBITUARIES

## Veronica “Ronnie” (Mihlek) Avery, 86

Veronica “Ronnie” (Mihlek) Avery, age 86, of Blandford, passed away peacefully on Feb. 9, 2025.

She was born on Oct. 26, 1938, the second of nine children to Manley Sr. and Bernice Mihlek. She was educated at Westfield Public Schools. She married Melvin Avery of Chester Hill and they lived and raised their family in Huntington.

Veronica loved all animals and frequently



donated to animal shelters. She loved to cook, spend time with family and enjoyed listening to old country musicians such as Ray Price, Merle Haggard and Patsy Cline.

She will be deeply missed and is survived by her three sons; Marc, Ken and Lloyd and four grandsons: Jacob “Jake”, Cole; Tyler and Evan Avery.

Services to honor her life and memory will be private.

## Ann Quimby Southworth, 93

Ann Quimby Southworth, age 93, passed away on Feb. 9, 2025 with her loving family by her side, after a multi-year struggle with dementia. Born in Springfield, she was the daughter of the late Mary (Bruyn) and Horace Alonzo Quimby. She was a graduate of Classical High School and 1952 graduate of Mount Holyoke College where she obtained her Bachelor’s Degree. She was a wonderful mother, chief organizer and professional volunteer.



In later years she enjoyed chair yoga/exercise at the East Longmeadow and Longmeadow Senior Centers. Ann always found peace tending to her gardens at her beloved summer home in Blandford, both flower and vegetables. She and John enjoyed entering their flower arrangements and vegetables in the Blandford Fair. Her family gave her much happiness, spending time together in work and play.

Besides her parents, Ann is predeceased by her devoted husband, John H. Southworth; her brother, Irving Quimby and son-in-law, David Bourdeau. She leaves to cherish her memory, her children: David Southworth and his wife Ann M. of Springfield, Polly Southworth and Peter Southworth both of Longmeadow; six grandchildren: John Southworth, Emily Bourdeau (Tommi Hurme), Daniel Bourdeau (Angeliky Santos), Blair Southworth, Story Hungahunga (Apollo) and Hallie Southworth and two great-grandchildren: Valtteri and Helmi Hurme. Her friend Jill Hartnett was a great companion and care-giver.

To celebrate and honor Ann’s life visiting hours will be on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025 from 4-7 p.m. at Forastiere Smith Funeral & Cremation, 220 N. Main St., East Longmeadow. On Friday, Feb. 21, 2025 a funeral service will be at 11 a.m. at South Congregational Church, 45 Maple St., Springfield. Burial will be held privately for the family in Springfield Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations maybe made to Blandford Historical Society – The White Church Fund, 2 North St., Blandford MA 01008 or to South Congregational Church, 45 Maple St., Springfield MA 01105. For more information or to share a memory or condolence, please visit www.forastiere.com.

Ann found joy in many things, being a wife and mother were number one. She was a natural competitive athlete and enjoyed skiing, golfing, paddle tennis and tennis. She was a multi-decades golf champion at Longmeadow Country Club and The Blandford Club and was inducted into the Western MA Golf Hall of Fame. Her tough, kind and fair demeanor made her a wonderful coach, who ran the children’s golf program at The Blandford Club, a platform tennis instructor and someone, who engaged the neighborhood to keep the backyard ice rink ready for action.

Ann was a passionate volunteer; she was the first woman elected Selectman for the town of Longmeadow in 1978. She was President of the Junior League and Chestnut Knoll/Glenmeadow, as well as President of Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) and she took action to help reduce water usage by spearheading “A Brick In Every Tank” effort for toilet tanks, she also was an enthusiastic and successful fundraiser for The White Church of Blandford, continuing her Aunt Gertrude’s efforts leading the first development office at Mount Holyoke College. Ann kept busy throughout her life; she was focused on living and was ready for the next moment; her motto was, “what are we doing next?” She was always accompanied by her beloved Golden Retriever dogs.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

### Gateway Regional FY ‘26 School Budget Public Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 71 Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Law the public hearing for the 2025-2026 Gateway Regional School District budget will be held in the Performing Arts Center at the Gateway Regional Middle/High School Complex located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050 on **Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** Reference: Massachusetts Newspapers Publishers Association website: masspublicnotices.org 02/20/2025

### GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public

hearing: On **Monday March 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Back Room of the Goshen Town Offices, 40 Main St., Goshen, MA 01032 regarding a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by the Department of Conservation & Recreation under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (G.L. C 131, Sec. 40) for the resurfacing of an existing roadway within the Daughter’s of the American Revolution State Forest.

For further assistance, please contact the Conservation Commission (413) 268-8236 X451. All interested people are invited to the public hearing. 02/20/2025

### TOWN OF RUSSELL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Town of Russell, as lead community for the FY 2025

Southern Hilltowns Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application, is seeking proposals from qualified social service organizations and agencies to include in the application. Activities eligible for funding include a range of social services that meet the needs of low and moderate-income residents in the Towns of Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, and Russell. Agencies providing the following services are encouraged to submit proposals; adult education/GED preparation, literacy programs, job training, domestic violence prevention, services for seniors, emergency food, family/youth activities and other social service programs.

The Town of Russell may choose to fund all, any or none of the proposals submitted. Agencies or organizations identified for inclusion in the Town’s grant proposal will be required to submit additional information

as part of the full CDBG application to be submitted to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC). Programs funded by EOHLC will begin in the summer of 2024. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is assisting the Town in the coordination and administration of its community development programs. Please contact Joseph Hagopian to receive a request form or with any questions regarding this program at (413) 781-6045 or jhagopian@pvpc.org.

All proposals must be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street – 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104, fax 413-732-2593, or jhagopian@pvpc.org by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, March 6th, 2025. 02/20/2025

## NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

# Public Notice CHANGES

Deadline has changed to **FRIDAY at 3 p.m.**



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