

OBITUARIES

George E. Sullivan Jr.



George E. Sullivan Jr. formerly of Grand Island, went to his eternal reward on May 28, 2020.

George was preceded in death by his daughter Jacquelyn (Kane) Mau; his sisters Mary Jane (Jean) Cook and Dolores (Dody) Dowd; and his parents, Sabina and George E. Sullivan. George leaves behind his loving wife Jaquelyn (Lehner) of 58 years and his sons Michael (Marion), Paul (Eileen), Brian (Angela), and Jeffrey (Nicole). His pride and joy were his grandchildren: Steven, Jennifer, Christopher, Courtney, Quinn, Lily, Brice, Maggie, Patrick, Matthew, Sophia and Zachary, and his great-grandchildren: Avery, Levi, and Maverick.

Beyond the love of his family, George cherished his Catholic faith. He was an active member of parish communities at St. Stephen R.C. Church on Grand Island, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Bowmansville, and St. Therese in North Fort Myers, Florida. In addition to being instrumental in raising funds to build new churches, he served as religious education instructor, finance council member, usher, and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. He also was a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus Mary Star of the Sea Council 4752 serving as a past grand knight.

George was a lifelong employee of the Buffalo News, working at the newspaper for 43 years, and was the past-president of the New York State Circulation Managers Association. He

was also active in local politics, serving as a councilman for 12 years with the Town of Grand Island. He was past chairman of the Erie County Traffic Safety Board. He coached Little League baseball for many years and served as the chairman of the Grand Island Recreation Committee.

In retirement, he volunteered his time by serving as a guardian ad litem for disadvantaged youths and as a taxpayer advocate with the Internal Revenue Service. George enjoyed golfing, boating, tennis, and spending time with his family and friends. He taught his family the value of hard work and perseverance. The family will hold a funeral Mass at a later date.

Share condolences at kaiser-funeral.com.

Grand Island Fire Co.

Severe storm conditions create havoc for local firefighters

RAY PAULEY
Public Information Officer
Grand Island Fire Co.

A ferocious wind, rain and hail storm swept through Western New York late Tuesday and early Wednesday, causing considerable property damage and a widespread power outage estimated at about 6,000 on Grand Island and in Tonawanda.

Grand Island Fire Chief Mark Sadkowski reports that GIFIC firefighters responded to 14 storm-related emergencies during an eight-hour period commencing at 11:28 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2. Most of these calls involved electrical hazards, wires down, etc.

June 2

- 11:28 p.m.: A reported water leak at the Radisson Grand Island hotel, 100 Whitehaven Road.
- 11:29 p.m.: Wires down in the 3000 block of East River Road between Edgewater and Ransom roads and a large tree across the road.
- 11:35 p.m.: Power problem on Grand Island Boulevard.
- 11:42 p.m.: Power outage on Fix Road.
- 11:52 p.m.: National Grid request for assistance on East River Road.

June 3

- 12:04 a.m.: Wires down in West Oakfield.
- 12:16 a.m.: A gas leak on Hennepin Road was referred to National Fuel.
- 12:49 a.m.: Wires down on Ferry Road.
- 12:49 a.m.: Wires arching on Westwood Drive.
- 2:07 a.m.: Sump pump alarm,



Pictured is one of several broken power poles on Grand Island following a stormy Tuesday night into Wednesday morning. This one is located on West Oakfield near Beaver Island State Park. (Photo Garnet "Sam" Pauley Larry Austin)

- West River Road.
- 2:39 a.m.: Trees across Fix Road.
- 5:08 a.m.: EMS call.
- 6:36 a.m.: CO detector alarm on Cottagewood Lane.
- 7:30 a.m.: A tree was on wires on Legion Drive.

The GIFIC was informed that power repair crews expect to restore power to most of their consumers by late Wednesday.

Grand Island Town Board

Board to send letter regarding gas prices

BY MICHAEL J. BILLONI
Contributor

A motion was passed in Monday's Grand Island Town Board workshop for a letter to be sent from the board to gas station operators on the Island expressing feedback members have received from residents regarding the disparity in fuel costs in comparison to stations over the bridge in Tonawanda.

Jennifer Baney, who brought this to the board's attention at a workshop meeting last month, worked with the town attorney on crafting the letter to ensure it thanked them for their continued service as an Island business while not demanding or requesting a price change.

"We have a responsibility as leaders to pass along to businesses what we are hearing from residents. That information may help them serve their customers better," Baney said before the board voted 4-1 in favor of sending the letter.

Board member Pete Marston, an Island business owner who said the gasoline for all of his vehicles is purchased from stations on the Island, voted in opposition of sending the letter.

"I am very, very concerned with this because I strongly feel government should not interfere with private business," he said. "This is going to a private business and saying we are not happy with their pricing and we want it adjusted. This is a huge

red flag for government control and I wouldn't do it for someone over their fish fry pricing or a bottle of wine."

Board member Mike Madigan said, "It does not hurt to ask and I have a hard time understanding this disparity myself."

Supervisor John C. Whitney, corrected Madigan by stating, "In the letter, we do not ask for a price change. We are just relaying the concerns of the public."

The letter, in part, reads, "We often receive feedback from residents on a variety of topics and we pass along that feedback when necessary. In that regard, we are often questioned by Grand Island residents about the disparity in fuel purchased on the Island as compared to neighboring Tonawanda."

The letter points out on a recent weekend the difference in price for a gallon of gasoline was 16 cents higher on the Island. "This significant price disparity between Grand Island and those close by and located in the same county is frustrating and of concern to many Grand Island residents."

The letter closed by thanking them for their service to the community and the board values their contributions as a local business.

During the Town Board meeting:

- A motion was approved to appoint Gillman Cody Clarke to the position of Senior water

plant operator (provisional), a move necessitated by the recent retirement of James Dlugokinski.

- Robert Westfall, town engineer, also proposed appointing Dlugokinski as a part-time senior water plant operator because of a staff shortage. It was approved with many positive comments about Dlugokinski.
- A motion was approved to hire Chris Cullen as a full-time code enforcement officer in the Building Department.

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