



## Christine M. Burns

June 22, 1969 - September 27, 2023

Christine M. Burns, age 54, of Spring Lake passed away in her home on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. She was born the daughter of James and Emily (Northon) Mester on June 22, 1969, in Clare, Michigan. Chris married William L. Burns Jr. on September 22, 1990, and they raised two children of whom she is very proud. Her passion for public service began in Clare where she started her long career in local government. She served more than 20 years across the communities of Clare, Oxford, and Cedar Springs before her current position serving as Spring Lake Village Manager from 2012-2023. Chris earned her MSA in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and was passionate about mentoring students, particularly women, pursuing public administration as a career. She held several leadership positions in the field including President of the Michigan Municipal Executives, President of the West Michigan Local Government Management Association, and Chairperson of Michigan Municipal League's Workers' Compensation Board. Chris was an avid traveler having seen over 25 countries and organizing many group trips with family and friends.

Chris was predeceased by her father, James Mester. She is survived by her husband, Bill; her mother, Emily Mester; her brother, Brian and Robin Mester; her children, Bradley Burns, Breanna and Corey Lee; her grandson, Liam Lee; and her adopted son, Daniel Ojeda Juarez.

A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the Spring Lake Presbyterian Church, 760 E. Savidge St., Spring Lake, Mi., 49456. Friends may meet with her family at the church for visiting on Wednesday evening from 5 to 7 PM, and on Thursday from 11 am until 1 PM.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made towards the Christine M. Burns Memorial Scholarship for Professional Leadership in Local Government, through the Grand Haven Community Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Spring Lake Presbyterian Church  
760 E. Savidge Rd.  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

## Visitation

OCT 5. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Spring Lake Presbyterian Church  
760 E. Savidge Rd.  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

## Service

OCT 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

Spring Lake Presbyterian Church  
760 E. Savidge Rd.  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.



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October 04, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.



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October 04, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.



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October 04, 2023 at 10:20 AM

DC

“ Chris and I served Cedar Springs together...she as our City Manager and I, as the local Library Director. We were in the throes of having fundraisers for a new library building. Chris was so supportive and fun to work with. She also came to our Open House Celebration in 2017. I was so delighted to see her and Linda Lehman, our City Finance Director. She will be very missed. I send my love and condolences to you, her family and friends. Donna Clark

Donna Clark - October 03, 2023 at 09:52 PM

HE

“ I've worked and known Chris for just a short time in her role as Chair of MME. Each time I interacted with her she was always optimistic, positive, authentic and a true professional. What a loss for those who knew her and those impacted by her dedication in all she did. Thoughts are with her family.  
- Heather Carmona

Heather - October 03, 2023 at 04:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.



October 03, 2023 at 12:59 PM

MP

“ My sincerest condolences from my family to yours. May her memory be a blessing to all. With love, Marcus Peccia

Marcus Peccia - October 02, 2023 at 03:41 PM

SF

“ My deepest sympathy to Bill and the Burns family. Chris was an amazing woman and one of the kindest, smartest people I've ever met. Whenever I think of Chris I get a mental image of her and Bill at the library at Central Michigan University, where I met them to do an interview for a story for the Morning Sun. I found them quietly reading together while holding hands and that memory always makes me smile. I'm so very sorry for your loss. Chris was loved and will be missed by so many. Rest in peace, my friend.

Sue Field - October 02, 2023 at 02:35 PM

MH

I worked with Chris since 2012 as the Spring Lake beat reporter for the Grand Haven Tribune. I'll never forget the bright, colorful, cheerful dress she wore to her interview for SL Village Manager. It matched her personality. Will miss this lady and the sparkle she added to Spring Lake.

Marie Havenga - October 16, 2023 at 03:00 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.



October 02, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christine M. Burns.

October 02, 2023 at 11:37 AM

DH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Christine will be missed.*

**Dennis and Deb Howell** - October 01, 2023 at 12:31 PM

AR

“ *Emily, am so sorry to hear of your, and her family's loss! Arlene*

**Arlene. Robison** - October 01, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christine M. Burns.*

October 01, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.*



October 01, 2023 at 10:19 AM

BH

“ *My heart goes out to her families, gone too soon. I had the privilege of being one of her many teachers and watched as her family grew and her career progressed. She will be missed.*

**BRUCE HALES** - September 30, 2023 at 10:07 PM

RH

*Our deepest sympathy for you Emily, Brian & family, and Christine's family.. prayers of support..*

**Roni Howard** - October 02, 2023 at 05:55 AM

SM

*To all the Burns Family I send my deepest sympathy. Very sorry for this tragic loss!*

**Shirley Latocki MacDonald** - October 02, 2023 at 08:32 AM

KD

*Heartfelt condolences to Emily, Brian and Christine's families. She was a special lady. Love to all.*

**Karen Day** - October 03, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christine M. Burns.

September 30, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.



September 30, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christine M. Burns.

September 30, 2023 at 07:19 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Christine M. Burns.*



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September 30, 2023 at 07:19 PM



“ *I drive slowly past the family house in Clare remembering Chris, Bill, Bre and Brad. My heart hurts with the loss I feel and I pray for them at this dreadful time. She was and is one special woman and I will always cherish her!* 💕🙏

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**Rev. Margaret Vredeveld** - September 30, 2023 at 06:41 PM