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Volume 32, Issue 4

Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993

SEPTEMBER 2025

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Daniel's Farmstead Pop-Up Event

September 27th to October 5th

New England Flying Disc Association (NEFA) is proud to be partnering with Daniels Farmstead Foundation, Inc. to kick-start the effort to bring a course to the Blackstone, Massachusetts Farmstead location.

This pop-up event will include Dawn-to-Dusk public play every day for all to enjoy and get a glimpse at the permanent course development efforts that are taking place at this historic property. On the final day, we will be holding a NEFA point series event to give folks a taste for competition at Daniels Farm.

A \$10 greens fee will be charged during this time which goes directly towards Daniels Farmstead Foundation and their efforts to build a course here but also NEFA and their efforts to bring more courses to areas all over New England.

Daniels Farmstead is located at 286 Mendon Street, in Blackstone, MA. Visit www.daniels-farmstead.org.

Explore the Beauty of Fall with Blackstone Heritage Corridor

Looking for an inspiring way to enjoy the crisp autumn air and colorful foliage? Lace up your hiking boots and hit the trails with the Blackstone Heritage Corridor's Fall Hiking Series, led by dedicated volunteer Trail Ambassadors.

Kicking off on Saturday, September 13, this free series invites hikers of all levels to explore scenic paths

Corridor Tours
continued on page 6

It's Cultural Council Grant Application Time

The online grant application for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community opens September 2, 2025. The deadline for submitting an application is October 16, 2025.

The Blackstone Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state

Cultural Council
continued on page 2



Battle to Beat the BUG

The invasive Spotted Lanternfly has been found in Massachusetts, with confirmed infestations in numerous cities and towns across the state and R.I. Residents are urged to report sightings on the Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project (massnrc.org) and to kill the insects and scrape their egg masses to help slow the spread of this pest that can damage plants, crops, and landscapes.



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Historical Notes

by Helen Murray

Construction continues at the museum for a new front entry and wheelchair ramp. Meanwhile, the museum will be open its usual hours and days. When the "Open" flag is flying from the side porch, the museum and parking lot are available to visitors.

The Historical Commission members wish to thank Linda Alaire and Kathleen Faneuf for their donations of several documents pertaining to town history.

Thanks also to Judy Tyks who donated several items in memory of her parents, Walter & Frances. Among the donations is a large oil painting of the rolling Dam created by the same man who built the original Polish Hall and many homes in the High Rocks.

Museum hours for September are from noon until 3 P.M. every Thursday. Saturday openings will be on September 6th and 20th, from noon until 3 P.M.



by Tony Catalano

I hope you all had a fantastic Summer, it certainly was a good one for our group. The Lions of Blackstone has always looked to the communities of Blackstone and Millville when support is needed. We have been very involved when it comes to the youth and students. Whenever we are called upon to support a team or school activity we do and we try to keep aware of needs.

This is the case with our Scholarship Fund. It has been active for well over 50 years. Over the last 2 years we added an additional scholarship for Blackstone and Millville students attending BVT. We always count on the support of the residents to help make this possible.

This year we were grateful with money raised from the "duck race" to be part of our fundraising. We are continuing with our "Night at Goodstuffs". Thanks to Dave and Kevin and their unlimited assistance to many town organizations, they set Thursday nights for this and give back 15% of sales between 4pm and 9pm to the organization to raise money off the sales for that night. These guys have always been there for us, the Boy Scouts, the Library, the BMR Marching Band, and many more not just from town.

So, I as chairperson, have selected Thursday, October 9, 2025 as a night to eat in or take out to help the scholarship fund. The Lions of Blackstone has been involved from 1959 to pres-

Blackstone Lions

ent, and we are continue helping any time we can. This year alone graduates from BMR & BVT will receive \$750 to use for school, and will receive it at the January 2026 meeting.

We encourage you to come to the restaurant that night, eat in or take out and help us keep this going. We are hoping to give the 2026 Grads as much and maybe more with your help. We are going to "sweeten the pot" by offering a free, yes free raffle ticket to win a \$100 gift card to the restaurant of your choice. Just come down and eat in or take out, that is all.

Money for the gift card was a donation from a friend of the LIONS and we will use it for this purchase. I say again eat-in or take out, you will have a chance to win. You can purchase extra tickets if you want at \$5 each but you will get 1 free. All monies raised that night will be used for the Scholarship Fund.

We are Planning another either Pig Roast or Porketta Dinner in 2026 for the scholarship fund. Details TBA later. The Lions will also have a table at the Fall Festival in September.

Regular Lions meetings are held the 1st Wednesday at the Senior Center in Town Hall at 6:30pm starting in September. New memebers are always welcome! Join us.

Cultural Council

Continued from page 1

legislature provides an annual appropriation to Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, we will distribute \$8,900 in grants. Previously funded projects included: Copper Bookmark Metalsmithing (for adults and teens), Mr. Vinny the Bubble Guy, The Art of Pysanky and The Blackstone Canal – Past and Present.

For local guidelines and complete information contact Julie Wingate at juliewingate@comcast.net. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Don't Fall Victim to Scammers!

Claiming Affiliation with Worcester County Sheriff's Office



[West Boylston] - Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is warning residents about a recent phone scam that involves the Sheriff's Of-

fice. In this scam, the caller pretends to be an employee of the Sheriff's Office and informs the victim that there is an arrest warrant or charges filed against them or a loved one. Another common scam involves claims of missed jury duty and associated fines. The scammer demands payment of a fine to avoid arrest and possible jail time. Residents are urged to be cautious and not to provide personal information or make payments over the phone.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC, this type of scam is called spoofing. Spoofing is when a scammer deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Scammers often use neighbor spoofing so it appears that an incoming call is coming from a local number or spoof a number from a company or a government agency that you may already know and trust.

In the case of the Sheriff's Office scam, the scammers use the names of actual officers and "spoof" the department's phone number. The scammer asks for money to clear up a non-existent warrant or missed jury duty fines. In some instances, the caller requests that payments be made in the form of gift certificates or via apps such as Venmo or Cash App. The scammer will then have the victim remain on the line until the victim purchases the gift certificates or relays specific financial information to the scammer.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office encourages people to be aware of calls like this and to never give personal or financial information over the phone to anyone whom you didn't call yourself.

"Our department does not contact residents and demand payment or ask for credit card information. Today's scam artists are always testing new tactics. Residents need to beware of any unsolicited calls that ask for their personal or financial information," commented Sheriff Evangelidis. "These callers can sound convincing, may be aggressive, and try to intimidate you with threats of jail time or steep fines. We encourage anyone who gets a suspicious call to hang up and contact their associated institutions directly to verify any requests."



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Class Reunions



Class of 1971

The BMR Class of 1971 is celebrating its 55th-year reunion in 2026. Please visit our class Facebook site for more updates. To submit or update your information, please email Liz McGeough at noisomeness4@gmail.com. Anyone in touch with 1971 classmates, please telephone or email them and help spread the word!

Class of 1975

The BMR Class of 1975 is planning a 50th reunion on Saturday October 4, 2025 at the Hopedale Golf Course, 90 Mill St. Hopedale beginning at 5:30 PM with a cash bar and refreshments. Followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 PM. Price of the tickets are \$50pp. Please contact the class for tickets & details, at bmr75@bmr75.org or visit the website at bmr75.org where you can take a minute and fill out our survey. <https://www.facebook.com/bmr75> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bmr75>.

Class of 2000

The BMR Class of 2000 will be celebrating 25 years on November 29 at 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 380 Social Street, Woonsocket. Please email: BMRchargers2000@gmail.com.

From Police Chief Gilmore’s Desk



Intersection Safety



Our department has been asked on more than a few occasions to monitor traffic at the stop sign intersections in town, most notably the 4-way stop signs located throughout the town. We have been setting up patrol cars on at all the major locations such as Farm and Summer, Blackstone and Summer, Lincoln and Mendon, and others. We have been trying to make our presence known in these areas as we continue to get reports of operators not stopping at these intersections. Please make sure to use caution when approaching these intersections; make a complete stop, make sure the intersection is clear before proceeding, and be aware of other motorists that are not stopping to avoid a crash.



Submitted photo

Comfort Dog Captain on the Mend

Blackstone Police Department’s comfort dog Captain had a “ruff” Sunday. Captain and School Resource Officer (SRO) Joseph Niemczyk were on their way to train along Blackstone River Bikeway when Captain suffered a lower leg fracture while exiting the vehicle. SRO Niemczyk immediately took Captain to the Foster Hospital for Small Animals, part of the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, where an excellent surgical team, led by Dr. Vivian Ojeda-Rosenthal, put him back together. “We’re thankful Captain is expected to make a full recovery,” said Chief Gregory Gilmore. “The Tufts doctors did an amazing job patching him up. We can’t thank them enough.” Although Captain’s training will be temporarily “pawsed” while he recovers, he’s expected back on the beat soon. The Department wishes to thank District Attorney Joseph Early for his generous donation of \$2,000 to help with the purchase and training for Captain and the Comfort Dog program.

Blackstone Enlightener SEPTEMBER 2025 email: enlightener@blackstonema.com



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Blackstone COA

Tiziana Milano COA Director 508-876-5135

The Blackstone Council on Aging will celebrate harvest time, Halloween and the diverse cultural heritage of the New England Region by presenting a performance by Parents' Choice Award winning performer Davis Bates. Entitled Halloween Harvest, the program includes harvest stories and songs from the past and present, songs of the supernatural, Native American stories, true life ghost stories and family tales. There will also be plenty of sing-alongs, a short lesson in how to play music with spoons from a kitchen drawer and an appearance by a dancing wooden dog named Bingo.

Pete Seeger has called Davis "thoughtful, creative, human, and a fantastic storyteller." Davis' traditional and participatory style of telling empowers and encourages audiences of all ages to join in the fun, and to take the stories home with them to share with others.

Pete Seeger has called Davis "thoughtful, creative, human, and a fantastic storyteller." Davis' traditional and participatory style of telling empowers and encourages audiences of all ages to join in the fun, and to take the stories home with them to share with others.



Davis Bates has been telling stories for over forty-six years, in schools, libraries, colleges and community settings around New England and across the country. His recording of Family Stories won a Parent's Choice Gold Award and was named one of the year's best Audio Recordings by Booklist Magazine. Davis has also served as director and consultant for several local and regional oral history and folk arts projects. Davis lives in the village of Shelburne Falls, MA, and when he isn't collecting or learning stories, he spends his time gardening and working at the Clapping Hands Farm Arts Camp in North Carolina and volunteering with the Family Table Collaborative in South Yarmouth, MA.

The performance will take place at the Blackstone Senior Center on Monday, October 27th, following a noon lunch. Admission is free. Be sure not to miss this wonderful program of traditional interactive seasonal entertainment. For more information please call (508) 876-5151. This performance funded, in part, by a grant from the Blackstone Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Weekly Programs & Activities:

Please RSVP for meals one week in advance, see newsletter for menu. Meal donation \$4.

Monday: 9AM Advanced Line Dance. 10AM Game Day. 10AM Pound. 1PM: QiGong

Tuesday: 9AM Walking Club. 9:15AM Strength & Stretch. 10:10AM Chair Yoga. 12 Noon Lunch. 1:15PM Strength Circuit

Wednesday: 9:30AM Coffee Club. 9:30AM Tap Dance. 10:30AM Line Dance. 11:30AM Meditation. 12 Noon Lunch. 1PM Bingo. 2:15PM Zumba Gold.

See the town website for additional programs. www.townofblackstone.org.

Millville COA

Tina Cook, COA Director

The hours for the Center are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-3, 508-883-3523.

The Senior Bus is available on Monday thru Friday, please call to set up an appointment between the hours of 8am to 3pm, 774-573-6084. Medical trips are given priority.

TRIP: Hobby Lobby, Friday September 12. Bus leaves at 10am, we'll be stopping for lunch afterwards. Call to RSVP, limit 18 people.

MONDAY:

September 1st closed for Labor Day.

September 8th: Zumba at 9:30 am.

Senior Club Luncheon 11:30 am. Entertainment to follow, Joey C. The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.

September 15th: Jenna Community Health Worker at 9:30.

BINGO 1pm. Come for the fun and snacks.

September 22nd: ZUMBA for Seniors 9:30 a.m., no charge.

September 29th: Craft Class 10am. The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.

TUESDAY:

September 2: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30pm

September 9th: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30pm

September 16: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.

September 23: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30pm.

All Are Welcome

WEDNESDAY:

Hand, Foot & Knee Card Game is every week at 11:00 am. Come and enjoy the fun. All Are Welcome.

THURSDAY:

September 4th: BINGO is the first Thursday of the month at 1 pm. Come for the fun and snacks. Lunch is at noon \$3.00.

September 11th: Painting starts at 10 am. Call to register \$5.00 508-883-3523. Lunch \$3.00 at noon Meatloaf with gravy. The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council. You don't have to be a painter to come for lunch.

September 18: Lunch \$3.00 Noon Turkey with gravy. COA Meeting at 1pm.

September 25th: MOVIE: 11am "Going in Style" Lunch \$3.00 Noon.

MISC Information:

SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps) Please contact me if you need assistance signing up for this program.

Blackstone/Millville Food Pantry is open Tuesdays 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Saturdays 10:00am – 11:00 am at the Divine Mercy Parish Hall, St. Paul Street, Blackstone, MA.

Senior/Veterans Tax Work Off Program: you can save up to \$1,000.off property tax. Call us.

New England Country Music Club

UXBRIDGE – The New England Country Music Club will host dances, with country bands on the following Sundays, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm:

Sep 7 Al Carter (line dance lesson)
Sep 21 South County Line

All dances are held at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., North Uxbridge, MA. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. Music is 1-5 p.m. Coffee, water & snacks may be

brought. Alcohol & soft drinks must be purchased at the bar.

Admission: \$ 9 pp for members & Veterans. \$ 11 pp for Non-members. For more information, visit Facebook. com/NECountryMusicClub.



The Silver Travel Club

by Sue L'Heureux

Join us from Sept. 14-20 for a trip to Charleston, SC. Ten meals included, a guided tour of the city, a tour of a historic plantation, a harbor cruise, a visit to Middleton Place, a visit to the Charleston Tea Garden along with a trolley tour, a tour of an historic home, and more.

Please call Sue at 508-341-0797 for more information. The bus will leave from the Millbury Park and Ride in Millbury.



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Fire Department Now Hiring On-Call Fire Fighters & EMS Staff

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Chief Kevin Roy

by Chief Kevin Roy

Step up and make a difference in your community! The Blackstone Fire Department is seeking dedicated, motivated, and community-minded individuals to join our team as On-Call Firefighters and EMS personnel.

Positions Available:

- On-Call Firefighters
- On-Call Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) / Paramedics

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Valid driver's license High school diploma or GED
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Daniels Farmstead Antique Tractor, Truck & Car Show

Mark your calendars for the Annual Antique Tractor, Truck, and Car Show at Daniels Farmstead on Sunday, September 28, from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This highly anticipated event showcases one of the Blackstone Valley's best collections of antique vehicles, offering a unique display of automotive and agricultural history.

Car enthusiasts and families alike can enjoy a full day of classic tractors, vintage trucks, and antique cars, each with a story to tell. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet collectors, learn about vehicle restoration—all while enjoying music from CruisinBruce.

Event Highlights: Antique Tractor, Truck, and Car Showcase – View a diverse collection of restored and original-condition vehicles spanning decades of history.

Live Music – Enjoy a lively atmosphere with CruisinBruce spinning great tunes throughout the day.

Farmers Market – Shop fresh produce, baked goods, homemade crafts, and more from local vendors from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Historic Tours – Explore the farmhouse and cider mill.

Museum Of Work & Culture Offers Annual Children's Baking Workshop

WOONSOCKET – The Museum of Work & Culture, 42 South Main St., will offer its annual Children's Baking Workshop with Wright's Dairy Farm & Bakery on Saturday, September 6, at 11 a.m, themed around Grandparents' Day (September 7).

This year's event features a fruit tart-making demonstration and Q&A with the pastry chef from Wright's. Follow along with the chef to fill and assemble your pastry, then enjoy a presentation on Wright's Farm's dairy operation. Finally, join museum educators in an interactive French language matching game and baking bingo.

Tickets are \$25 per child and include the attendance of one adult. Space is limited, and early registration is strongly encouraged. Tickets are available for purchase at rihs.simplertix.com.

BMRSD 2025-2026

Dear Blackstone-Millville Community,

I am pleased to share that we had a successful and smooth start to the 2025–2026 school year across the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. It has been wonderful to welcome back our students, whose energy and excitement have filled our school buildings and reminded us why we do this important work.

Students returned on Wednesday to well-prepared schools and dedicated staff. I had the opportunity to visit each of our buildings. The sense of readiness, excitement, and community was clear. I look forward to continuing weekly visits with our principals to stay connected and witness firsthand our students in action and the teaching and learning happening in our classrooms.

From months of thoughtful planning and preparation, the beginning of the year has been marked with a strong sense of purpose. Our schools are energized, and we are focused on ensuring every student has what they need to succeed.

We welcomed students and staff back to Millville Elementary School, and look forward to a positive and productive school year ahead.

We also continue to make strides in our long-term planning. Our Feasibility Study has progressed with the submission of our Preferred Schematic Report, which identified a new 7–12 building as the preferred option. This is an important step as we work to shape the future of our facilities, learning environments, and community. Our next step will be to move forward with the Schematic Design phase.

With the new school year now underway, I look forward to serving as Interim Superintendent. It's an honor to take on this role at such an important time for our schools. As we begin the year, I'm appreciative of the efforts already underway by our staff and leadership team and confident in our shared focus on supporting students and building positive learning environments across the district.

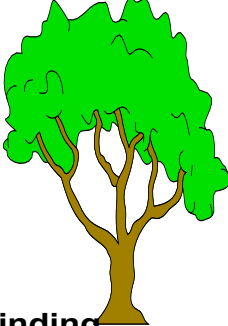
Sincerely,
Jill Pilla-Gallerani
Interim Superintendent
Blackstone-Millville Regional School District

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TOWN WIDE YARD SALE!

by Celeste Langlois

People are registering for Parks & Rec's Town-Wide Yard Sale happening on September 20 and 21 all over town between the hours of 8:00am and 3:00pm.

Anyone holding a yard sale can determine if they want a one or two day sale. Roosevelt Park will once again be used for any non-profit, organization, or family that need a place to hold their yard sale. If you are using the central location, use the Parks and Recreation Location on the Registration form.

Also at the Central location, we will have stations set up for donations of clothes, textiles, books, and non-perishable foods.

Your address and a list of what you are offering for sale will be available for all on our website and Facebook sites. You will also receive a sign showing that you are participating in the Town-Wide Yard Sale. If you are interested in having a yard sale either at your home, business, or joining others at a central location, you can register at <https://www.townofblackstone.org/FormCenter/Parks-and-Recreation-17/2025-Town-Wide-Yard-Sale-92>.

FALL FESTIVAL at BMR Homecoming Day!

Parks & Rec are partnering with both the Blackstone Lions and BMR as we are holding our Fall festival at BMR High School during their Homecoming Day on September 27th. We are excited to partner with these groups to make our Festival even better. The Blackstone Valley Community Concert Band and The Strumdawgs will provide some great music. Enjoy games, and pumpkin decorating.

There is still time to be a vendor so if you are interested, send a note to Cindy Crawford at Crawford499@aol.com for an application. The games and pumpkin decorating are all free. This event is rain or shine and is planned from 11:00am to 4:00pm. In the case of rain, the event will be held indoors.

Blackstone Corridor Guided Tours

continued from page 1



and historic landscapes across the Blackstone River Valley. Covering 25 communities across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor is rich in natural beauty and industrial history. Trail Ambassadors—seasoned volunteers with a passion for the outdoors and local heritage—will lead guided hikes on trails showcasing the region's vibrant fall colors and fascinating past.

Two experienced Ambassadors will spearhead the series: Phil Johanson will guide hikes through the Massachusetts portion of the Corridor, while Ernie Germani will lead treks through Rhode Island. Together, they'll highlight just a few of the 100+ trails available in this unique and storied region.

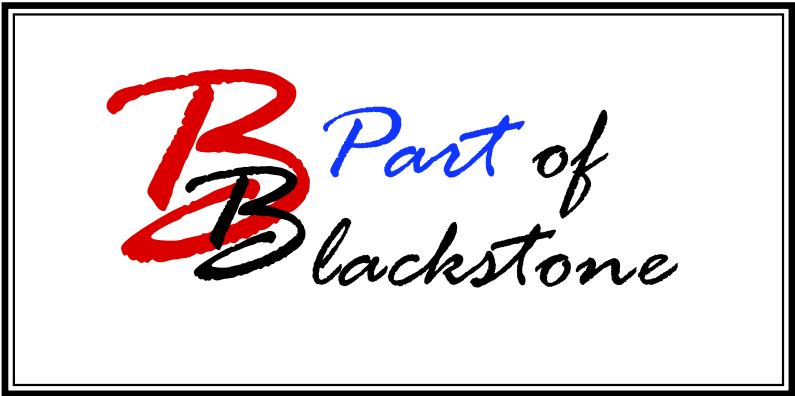
Fall Hiking Series Schedule:

- Saturday, September 13 – Cormier Woods, Uxbridge, MA
- Saturday, September 27 – Waters Farm, Sutton, MA
- Sunday, September 28 – Turner Reservoir, East Providence, RI
- Saturday, October 11 – Wallis Pond Foliage Hike, Douglas, MA
- Saturday, October 25 – Peppercorn Hill, Upton, MA
- Sunday, October 26 – Moshassuck River Preserve, Lincoln, RI
- Saturday, November 8 – Hopedale Parklands, Hopedale, MA
- Saturday, November 22 – Douglas State Forest – Grand Trunk Line, Douglas, MA
- Friday, November 28 – Wolf Hill, Smithfield, RI
- Saturday, December 6 – Shaw Farm, Sutton, MA
- Saturday, December 20 – Gummere Woods, Grafton, MA

Whether you're a seasoned trekker or a casual stroller, the Fall Hiking Series offers a perfect opportunity to get outside, meet fellow nature lovers, and discover hidden gems throughout the Corridor.

Hike details and RSVP information can be found at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org/events.

The Blackstone Heritage Corridor is a nonprofit collaborating with community partners to provide strong leadership to preserve, promote and celebrate the Blackstone Valley's resources for current and future generations. Learn more at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org.





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Blackstone Parks and Recreation in Partnership with the Blackstone Lions Fall Festival at BMR Homecoming

September 27 from 11am to 4pm
BMR High School Grounds

Pumpkin
Decorating

BMR Sporting
Events

Blackstone Valley Community
Concert Band

The Strumdawgs

Food

Games

Vendors



Main Street Business of the Month

Casa Burrito Inc. Authentic Mexican Cuisine!

by Elizabeth McGeough

Casa Burrito is a small, family-run, authentic Mexican restaurant located in the heart of Blackstone, at 114 Main Street. Owned by Pawtucket resident Felix Fernandez, his family helps to run it – his daughter Michelle and her fiancé Leonardo, and Felix’s nephew is head chef.

Previously the owner of a cell-phone store, Fernandez decided to tempt fate and follow his dream – to open his own restaurant. Three years later, Casa Burrito is still in full swing. They take pride in their famous foil-wrapped burritos, melty quesadillas, addictive birria tacos, and generous portions.

In addition to tables and booths in a cozy, comfortable, authentic atmosphere, this summer Fernandez expanded to an outdoor patio-seating area, and also acquired a beer and wine license. Besides your front row seat to an open kitchen design, Casa Burrito maintains a true Mexican atmosphere. Michelle proudly explained that her dad, Felix, installed the hand-made Mexican tiles at the service counter

(see photo). It’s also an excellent spot to watch your favorite sports with ample TVs. And you can enjoy entertainment on select Friday nights.

With a menu of appetizers, soups, salads, tacos, burritos, enchiladas, and house specialties, some of the more popular dishes include the “XL Burrito”, 4x8 inches of over two pounds of gastronomic euphoria - your choice of meat, filled with cheese, beans, rice, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, and guacamole. Another specialty is the Tula Burrito, their most famous; another 12” massive indulgence.

The menu features some vegetarian and gluten free options. All dishes are made from scratch, using fresh ingredients, as well as seasonings and marinades common to several regions in Mexico. As for drinks, Casa Burritos offers a variety of beers, a made-from-scratch sangria, and a wine-based margarita.

Dine In: Monday - Saturday 11 AM–9 PM | Sunday 12 PM–9 PM. Takeout: Monday - Saturday 11 AM–9 PM | Sunday 12 PM–9 PM. Call 508.928.0904, or visit casaburritoma.com. Bienvenidoto a Casa Burrito. Buen provecho!



Michele Fernandez, family owner of Casa Burrito Restaurant, stands inside the establishment, in front of the Mexican tiled counter her dad helped build.

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UniBank Acquires Historic Whitinsville Property to Honor Legacy and Advance Philanthropy

WHITINSVILLE, MA – (August 7, 2025) – UniBank is proud to announce the purchase of a historic property located at 456 Hill Street in the heart of Whitinsville, Massachusetts. This property is connected to the family of John C. Whitin, one of the founders of the bank.

More than a real estate transaction, this acquisition represents a new chapter in the long and proud history of UniBank. The Bank traces its origins to Whitinsville Savings Bank – founded in 1873 by John C. Whitin – and Uxbridge Savings Bank, which merged to form UniBank in 1988. The purchase also reflects UniBank’s deep commitment to honoring its roots while strengthening its future impact on the communities it serves.

The house, built in 1926 by Lawrence Murray Keeler and his wife Elizabeth (Whitin) Keeler — great-granddaughter of Bank founder John C. Whitin — will be thoughtfully renovated in a way that preserves its historic character while incorporating the modern infrastructure needed to serve as a Training and Education Center for the Bank, as well as the future headquarters of the UniBank Charitable Foundation.

“This is far more significant than just a purchase of real estate — it’s a bridge between the past and the future,” said Timothy P. Wickstrom,

Chairman of the Board of Directors at UniBank. “The historic homes in the Village of Whitinsville helped define an important period of advancement in our Country’s history. Sadly, several of those historic homes have been lost, making this preservation project all the more vital. With this purchase and renovation, UniBank ensures that an important piece of Whitinsville’s heritage remains intact – not just as a landmark, but as a living part of its future.”

Michael Welch, CEO of UniBank, added, “When we established the UniBank Charitable Foundation in 2018, it was to ensure that our legacy of giving back would live on in perpetuity. Now, the Foundation will have a home rooted in our history — once owned by the family of John C. Whitin, whose commitment to philanthropy, civic leadership, and community helped shape our mission today.”

UniBank is headquartered in Whitinsville, MA with assets of \$2.9 billion as of June 30, 2025. A full-service, mutually owned community bank, UniBank has branches in Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. UniBank is dedicated to contributing to the overall quality of life and economic health of the communities it serves, while maintaining an elevated level of financial soundness and integrity. UniBank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. UniBank NMLS #583135. The company website is www.unibank.com.



Future home of the UniBank Charitable Foundation will preserve a meaningful past while investing in the future of the Blackstone Valley.



As the state continues to experience dry conditions, and with little rainfall expected in the immediate forecast, it is important that we all implement water conservation practices to reduce stress on our water supply system.

In accordance with the Blackstone Water Department’s Water Management Act Permit, we have UPDATED the mandatory non-essential outdoor water use restriction starting August 15, 2025.

BAN ON ALL NON-ESSENTIAL WATER USE.
The use of lawn sprinklers and irrigation systems is not allowed at any time.

Non-essential outdoor water uses that are subject to the mandatory restrictions are:

- Irrigation of lawns and landscaping via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
- Washing of vehicles, exterior building surfaces, driveways, decks

Residents are allowed to water gardens and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose.

The Blackstone Water Department continuously monitors consumption and water tank levels. We will only institute use restrictions and modify them as necessary to maintain customer household pressure, firefighting capabilities, and when directed to do so by the State to address regional concerns such as drought.

These restrictions are mandatory and enforceable by fines. Questions regarding water use restrictions should be directed to the Water Department 508-883-9331.

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The Hidden Link Between Estrogen and Inflammation in Midlife Women

When women enter perimenopause and menopause they expect a few common symptoms: hot flashes, mood swings, and sleep disturbances. But what they may not realize is that a major biological shift is taking place – one that affects far more than just hormones.

That shift? A rise in chronic low grade inflammation, triggered in part by the natural decline of estrogen.

The Role of Estrogen As An Anti Inflammatory Protector: Estrogen does more than just regulate our reproductive system. It also plays a critical role in reducing inflammation in the body. Estrogen supports the immune system and helps regulate oxidative stress and inflammatory markers.

So, when estrogen starts to decline in perimenopause (which can begin as early as your late 30's or early 40's) that natural anti-inflammatory protection fades, opening the door for inflammation to creep in – often silently at first.

Without enough estrogen, the body is prone to systemic inflammation, which has been linked to:

- Joint pain and stiffness
- Brain fog and memory issues
- Increased belly fat
- Higher risk of heart disease and diabetes
- Faster skin aging
- Worsened mood and anxiety
- Increased risk for osteoporosis and Alzheimer's Disease

What many women label as "just getting older" may be signs inflammation gone unchecked.

The good news is there are many ways to lower inflammation, even as estrogen is declining.

Eat an anti inflammatory diet – Prioritize certain foods: Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Cold Pressed Single source; Leafy Greens, Berries – raspberries and blueberries; Fatty Fish – Salmon & Sardines; Fermented Foods – Sauerkraut, kimchi and greek yogurt.

Move your body daily – Walking and strength training are two of the best ways to lower inflammation, build bone density and support metabolic health. Even 20 minutes a day can make a difference.

Prioritize good quality sleep – poor sleep can increase inflammatory markers. If you're having trouble sleeping, try drinking tart cherry juice before bed or a calming tea.

Manage your stress – chronic stress = chronic inflammation.

Advocate for your hormonal health – if symptoms are impacting your quality of life, talk to your health care provider about hormone replacement therapy. You don't have to "just deal with it."

Midlife is a time for a deeper understanding of your body and to empower you to take control of your health – not just for today, but for decades to come.

Carol Archambault is a Certified Menopause Coaching Specialist and a Midlife wellness advocate who helps women navigate menopause with holistic tools, strength training and compassion. She believes knowledge is power and midlife is a time to be celebrated. You can reach her at 774-573-8030, email @carolarch23@gmail.com, or follow her on Instagram @Balance_in_Midlife.

Who will you walk for?

2025 Jimmy Fund Walk Blackstone Participants

- Bernard Benjamin
- Stephanie Letalien
- Logan Letalien
- Ross Atstupenas
- Jeanne Lunny
- Ann Costello
- Debby Nolan
- Dominique La Rosa
- Michael Perron
- Jamie Giguere
- Tanya Deguire

Join the Blackstone participants in supporting the Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Every participant has a why, In memory of a parent lost to cancer, in honor of a friend undergoing treatment, in support of the world-class cancer care and research happening every day at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Regardless of the many reasons, there is one common goal: to reach a world where everyone—adult or child, rare cancer or common cancer, in Boston or across the globe—can be free from the burden of cancer.

Decide who YOU walk for and then join us on Sunday, October 5, to put your reason into action. Choose a route along the historic Boston Marathon® course:

- 5K
- 10K

- Half Marathon
- Marathon

Or walk virtually in your own community. Every step will make a difference in the lives of patients at Dana-Farber and around the world. Use code EMAIL5 for \$5 off the registration fee. Contact the Walk Staff at 866-531-9255 or Jimmy-FundWalk@dfci.harvard.edu.

Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC)

Saturday, October 4 ride, volunteer, and experience PMC Unpaved on Saturday, October 4, at Camp Mah-Kee-Nac in Lenox, Massachusetts. This gravel bike ride through the scenic backroads of the Berkshires raises vital funds for groundbreaking research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Choose from 30- or 50-mile routes along picturesque country roads. The fun kicks off Friday night with a campfire, s'mores, and live music. After the ride, the PMC Unpaved camp experience continues Saturday afternoon and evening with live entertainment and a special Living Proof ceremony to honor cancer patients and survivors.

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is Dana-Farber's largest single contributor, accounting for 66% of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. In 2024, the PMC exceeded incredible \$1 billion raised since its inaugural ride in 1980. The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox Foundation.

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by Tressy Collier

Adult Programs

Button Tree Craft with Celeste Langlois Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 pm. Enjoy an evening of crafting with Celeste Langlois. This program is sponsored by the Blackstone Cultural Council

Photography Club Tuesday, September 16 at 6:30 pm. Join other photographers to discuss various topics including equipment and techniques. This club is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Quilting Club Thursday, September 25 at 1:00 pm. If you love quilting already or just want to start, come join a group of like-minded crafters. Each meeting will be a relaxing time to get together, share ideas, and do some quilting. This club is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Ongoing Book Groups New members are always welcome. Books are available for pick up at the library:

Horror Book Club Tuesday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmar.org.

Evening Book Group Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm. Contact Renee Milliken at rmilliken@cwmar.org.

Senior Center Book Club Tuesday, September 16 at 11 a.m. Contact Ellen Goudreau at egoudreau@cwmar.org.

Heritage Book Group Thursday, September 25 at 2:00 pm, Contact Renee Milliken at rmilliken@cwmar.org

Afternoon Book Club Tuesday, September 30 at 3:00 pm. Contact Donna Foster at dfoster@cwmar.org.

Adult Programs with Jean
Puzzle Race
Saturday, September 13 at 11 AM.
Test your skills by racing to complete

a 500-piece puzzle in teams of up to 4 players. Solo participants will be assigned to a team on the day of the race. For ages 14 and up. Registration is required. Funded by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Folded Book Vase
Tuesday, September 16 at 1:00 PM
Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 PM
Registration is required. Funded by LIG MEG.

Dried Flower Bookmarks
Thursday, September 18
1:00 PM at the Blackstone Library. Participants must be 60 years of age or older. Registration is required. Funded by LIG MEG.

Scrapbooking
Thursday, September 18 at 5:00 PM
Registration is required. Funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Federal Library Services Act as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Young Adult Programs

Choose Your Own Adventure Book Club.Join your fellow adventurers as we read a Choose Your Own Adventure book and decide together which path our group should take! Meetings are held every Tuesday at 4 PM. Registration is required. Open to 5th - 8th grade students.

Teen Advisory Board
Share your opinions on books, materials, and programs at the library! Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5 PM. Registration is not required. Open to 5th -12th grade students.

YA Cursive Club
Learn/practice cursive writing! Meetings are held every Thursday at 5 PM, beginning in September.
Visit www.townofblackstone.org.



by Lee Holfelder

Welcome September!
Enjoy the cooler weather!

Save the Date
The Friends annual fundraiser at Goodstuff Smokehouse will be held on Thursday, September 18th from 4:00 – 9:00 pm. We will be collecting clothes/textiles for our Saver's fundraiser which concludes on October 25th. Free raffle tickets will be given to those who donate clothing.

Museum passes are available for:
• Franklin Park Zoo/Stone Zoo
• New England Botanical Gardens in Boylston
• Patriot's Hall of Fame
• Providence Children's Museum
• RISD Museum in Providence
• Sturbridge Village

Thank you to the Lion's Club for sponsoring these museum passes:
Ecotarium in Worcester
Battleship Cove - Coming Soon!
To reserve a pass, go to the library's website and click on Museum Pass Program or contact the library.

The next Friends of the Blackstone Library Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm. New members are welcome!



Community Ice Cream Social

On Wednesday, September 3 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM, stop by the Millville Library and celebrate the end of summer with a Community Ice Cream Social! Enjoy some FREE ice cream served by local ice cream shop Black Sheep Creamery, and try your hand at some fun lawn games. There will also be a bubble machine for the little ones to enjoy. All ages are welcome to attend this event!

For this event, the library parking lot will likely be full; you should be able to find parking nearby on Main St. Upon your arrival, be sure to head inside the library and grab a ticket so you can exchange it for your free ice cream.

Play-Doh Club

Are you looking for a free weekly activity to keep your kids entertained? Look no further! Every Tuesday during the month of September, come to the library any time between 11 AM - 3 PM so your kids can get creative with Play-doh! The best part is, you don't have to worry about cleaning up after they're done... just leave that to us! This is a drop-in event, no registration required.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

On Monday, September 15, drop your stuffed animal off at the Millville Library between the hours of 3:00 - 6:00 PM. When you come pick up your furry friend on Wednesday, September 17, you will be given a slideshow of photos so you can see what mischief your furry friend got up to while it stayed overnight at the library!

The Millville Free Public Library is located at 169 Main Street in Millville, MA. For more information, please email librarian@millvillema.org.

Blackstone Parks and Recreation

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B&M Garden Club Meeting Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 6:30-7:30PM Blackstone Library

Keeping The Promise To “Never Forget”



by Elizabeth McGeough

Following the September 11, 2001 tragedy, a group of 9/11 families and leaders, headed by Cofounders David Paine and Jay Winuk, joined together to create 9/11 Day, the nonprofit that annually organizes the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. Mr. Winuk’s brother, Glenn Winuk, an attorney, volunteer firefighter and EMT, was killed in the line of duty at the World Trade Center. Glenn’s devotion to community service and his courageous actions were Jay’s inspiration to join Paine in creating 9/11 Day. Together, they worked to transform the anniversary of 9/11 into an official day of doing good as a tribute to those killed and injured on 9/11, as well as to honor the many brave rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and members of our military who rose in service in response to the attacks. They wanted something positive and good to come from the tragedy, to help give meaning to the loss of so many innocent people.

In 2009, as a result of 9/11 Day’s efforts, President Barack Obama joined with the U.S. Congress on a bipartisan basis to formally designate September 11 as an annually observed National Day of Service and Remembrance under federal law. Today, this observance, known widely as “9/11 Day,” (or Patriot Day, not to be confused with Patriots’ Day, celebrated the third Monday of April each year), is the largest day of service in the United States, with tens of millions of people participating annually. Each year, millions of Americans join the call of the national nonprofit 9/11 Day to inspire a spirit of unity and giving through good deeds,

performing acts of service, kindness, and volunteering on September 11th.

Turning a day of tragedy into a day of doing good, encourage your friends, family and others to participate, dedicating time on 9/11 to helping others in need, and rekindling the spirit of unity that brought Americans together in the days following this horrific tragedy.

Join the historic coalition of nonprofits, faith-based groups, employers, educational institutions, government entities, associations and others from all across America that will be helping to transform the **25th anniversary of 9/11 in 2026** into the largest day of service in American history. Eligible organizations that sign up for more information by September 11, 2025 will be entered into a sweepstakes to win a trip for two to visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City. Sign up at <https://911day.org/programpartners>. There’s no cost or obligation.

Please don’t forget to visit our own 9/11 Memorial in front of the Blackstone Town Hall on September 11th. Observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM Eastern Time to remember the day in 2001 when the first plane hit the World Trade Center in Manhattan.

Other times to observe a moment of silence on 9/11 include:

- 9:03 AM: Hijackers crash United Airlines Flight 175 into the South Tower,
- 9:37 AM: Hijackers crash American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon,
- 9:59 AM: The South Tower collapses,
- 10:03 AM: Passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 counterattack the hijackers, who then crash, the plane into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania,
- 10:28 AM: The North Tower collapses

Remember to never forget and pledge to do good on September 11.

Lexington Minute Men Seek to Enlist the Next Generation of Members

"We Know Their Names"
Keeping History Alive for
America250 and Beyond

LEXINGTON — After the wildly successful reenactment of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and the commemoration of the start of the American Revolution, the Lexington Minute Men are thrilled to announce that one of the nation’s longest serving independent military organizations is launching a new recruitment campaign to enlist the next generation of men and women who will proudly serve to keep the history of American liberty alive for the 275th and 300th anniversaries, and beyond.

As part of the fabric and vital history of the Town of Lexington and America, the Lexington Minute Men are entrusted to preserve the stories of our nation’s first veterans who fought and died during the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775. Every member of the Lexington Minute Men portrays an actual member of Captain John Parker’s Lexington Company or a woman of Lexington who answered the call on that fateful day, hence our motto: "We Know Their Names."

The Lexington Minute Men currently have approximately 60 volunteer members who have dedicated themselves to helping keep Lexington’s place in American history alive by educating the public through reenactments, living history programs, community events, and more. Their premier event each year is the reenactment of the Battle of Lexington, where the ‘Shot Heard Round the World’ rang out on April 19, 1775. This event brings thousands of visitors and spectators to Lexington each year.

Over the next year, the 501(c)3 non-profit volunteer-run organization will invest in its recruitment efforts through a campaign that will seek to enlist 25 men and women to support the cause of liberty. Anyone age 18 and older with a love of history can apply for membership. The Lexington Minute Men will also be posting short interviews with various members explaining why they have joined, as well as historical facts, and information about upcoming events.

"Our mission has and will always be to preserve the story of the Battle of Lexington, and the brave men and women who rallied for our Independence," said Captain Commanding Stephen D. Cole Jr.

For more information, visit our website: lexingtonminutemen.com Please visit our website to learn more.





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EVENTS ARE HELD WEATHER PERMITTING*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

D.P.U. 25-85

July 9, 2025

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00 for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.

On June 13, 2025, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Company” or “Liberty”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for an increase in gas base distribution rates. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 25-85 and has suspended the effective date of the proposed rate increase until May 1, 2026, to investigate the propriety of the Company’s request. Liberty was last granted an increase in base distribution rates through an approved settlement in Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 15-75 (2016).

Liberty seeks to increase its gas base distribution rates to generate approximately \$55.8 million in additional revenues. Liberty states that the proposed requested increase includes the transfer of capital investments made from 2015 through 2024 as part of the Company’s gas system enhancement program to base distribution rates. According to the Company, the net effect of the request is expected to be a 55.5 percent rate increase, on average, across all customers on a total bill basis, and an increase of approximately 45.0 percent in total operating revenues. The proposed base distribution rate increase is in addition to changes in other rates, such as reconciling mechanism rates, that occur during the year. Liberty states that its cost of service and revenue deficiency reflects the Company’s acquisition of Blackstone Gas Company in 2020, and the Company’s filing addresses the recovery of integration costs and other issues related to that acquisition. Liberty also seeks to recover, through an existing reconciling mechanism and over a five year period, approximately \$50 million (inclusive of interest), representing the balance of deferred, unrecovered, previously authorized gas system enhancement program related revenue requirements. The Company proposes to begin recovering the interest associated with the deferral balance on June 1, 2026, but to delay beginning recovery of the deferral balance until July 1, 2027.

As part of its filing, Liberty proposes to implement a performance-based ratemaking (“PBR”) plan, which would allow the Company to adjust its base distribution rates on an annual basis through a mathematical formula using a revenue cap benchmark. The Company proposes to implement the PBR plan for a term of five years. During the PBR term, the formula increases base distribution revenues by the rate of inflation up to a five percent cap and includes components to account for the typical increase in customer base, recover or return exogenous costs outside of the Company’s control, and share excessive earnings. Further, Liberty proposes several individual performance metrics to gauge the Company’s progress on its PBR commitments.

The Company’s filing also includes depreciation related proposals and proposed adjustments to certain revenue and expense categories, as well as the recovery of capital investments made in 2025 and certain information technology costs. Further, the Company proposes a one time adjustment to revenue, to be made in the 2028 annual PBR adjustment filing, to account for the revenue requirement associated with investments the Company will make in 2026 and 2027 to implement pipeline safety regulations. The Company also proposes to retain certain reconciling mechanisms, establish new reconciling mechanisms, and to modify its policy for contributions in aid of construction. Liberty’s filing also addresses the Company’s relocation of its headquarters and the associated purchase and sale of land.

Further, Liberty’s filing includes various rate design proposals, including equalizing the base distribution rates for the Blackstone Gas Company service area with the Fall River and North Attleboro service areas, increasing certain customer charges, maintaining the current low income total bill discount of 25 percent, and revising tariffs to implement the proposals in this proceeding.

The foregoing is not intended to be an exhaustive list of issues set forth in the Company’s filing. Additional information regarding the foregoing proposals, and all other proposals set forth by Liberty, can be found in the Company’s filing, which is located on the Department’s website as noted below. Liberty customers in the Fall River/North Attleboro and Blackstone service areas who are in the same rate class currently pay the same base rate for that class for gas distribution service. Other reconciling charges for each rate class may differ by service area. Liberty provides that if its petition is approved as requested customers can expect the following bill impacts, effective May 1, 2026:

For Fall River/Attleboro area residential customers:

- A residential heating customer in the Fall River/North Attleboro service area, receiving service under Rate R-3, that uses on average 100 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$78.86 (an approximate 37.0 percent increase in current rates);
- A residential non heating customer in the Fall River/North Attleboro service area, receiving service under Rate R-1, that uses on average 21 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$44.50 (an approximate 80.9 percent increase in current rates);
- A residential low income heating customer in the Fall River/North Attleboro service area, receiving service under Rate R-4, that uses on average 100 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$59.15 (an approximate 37.0 percent increase in current rates); and
- A residential low income non-heating customer in the Fall River/North Attleboro service area, receiving service under Rate R-2, that uses on average 21 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$33.38 (an approximate 80.9 percent increase in current rates).

For Blackstone area residential customers:

- A residential heating customer in the Blackstone service area, receiving service under Rate R-3, that uses on average 100 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$103.39 (an approximate 60.6 percent increase in current rates); and
- A residential low-income heating customer receiving service under Rate R-4 that uses on average 100 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$77.54 (an approximate 60.6 percent increase in current rates).

For Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) customers:

Commercial and industrial (“C&I”) customers can expect bill impacts to vary depending on usage and rate class. The Company provides that:

- The average monthly bill impact for small C&I customers in the Fall River/ North Attleboro service, at each class’s average use, will range from an approximate increase of between 43.0 percent and 49.7 percent;
- The average monthly bill impact for small C&I customers in the Blackstone service area, at each class’s average use, will range from an approximate increase of between 43.0 percent and 46.7 percent;
- The average monthly bill impact for medium C&I customers in the Fall River/ North Attleboro service area, at each class’s average use, will range from an approximate increase of between 23.6 percent and 34.4 percent; and
- The average monthly bill impacts for large C&I customers in the Fall River/ North Attleboro service area will range from an approximate increase of between 1.1 percent and 19.2 percent.

C&I customers should contact the Company, as indicated below, for specific bill impacts.

Liberty states that additional, less significant bill increases are expected in May 2027 to account for changes in the Company’s gas adjustment factor and local distribution adjustment factor. Additional bill impact information and additional detail about the filing can be found at: <https://mass.gov/info-details/liberty-utilities-2025-gas-base-distribution-rate-case>. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”) has filed a notice of intervention in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General has filed a notice of retention of experts and consultants to assist in her investigation of the Company’s filing and has requested Department approval to spend up to \$300,000.00 in this regard. Pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the costs incurred by the Attorney General relative to her retention of experts and consultants may be recovered in the Company’s rates.

The Department will conduct the following public hearings to receive comments on the Company’s filing:

- **The Department will conduct an in person public hearing on September 30, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at North Attleboro High School auditorium, 1 Wilson Whitty Way, North Attleboro, Massachusetts 02760.** Interpretation services (Spanish) will be available at the in-person public hearing.
- **The Department will conduct an in person public hearing on October 1, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Blackstone Millville Regional High School auditorium, 175 Lincoln Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504.**
- **The Department will conduct an in person public hearing on October 3, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at B.M.C. Durfee High School, Nagle Auditorium, 460 Elsbree Street, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720.** Interpretation services (Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer) will be available at the in-person public hearing.
- **The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing using Zoom video-conferencing on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81706654438>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at **1-309-205-3325** (not toll free) and then enter the **Meeting ID# 817 0665 4438**. Interpretation services (Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer) will be available over the Zoom platform by clicking the “Interpretation” button on the menu at the bottom of the Zoom application screen and selecting your language (i.e., English, Spanish, Portuguese, or Khmer).

If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **September 15, 2025** to DPU2585.LibertyRateCase@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **September 15, 2025** at 1-617-305-3729 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address. Interpretation services will be available over the Zoom platform upon request. To request interpretation services for the public hearings, please email Kaylee Burgess at dpu.ej@mass.gov, specifying your preferred language and contact information by **September 15, 2025**.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **October 8, 2025**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and DPU2585.LibertyRate-Case@mass.gov, and the Company’s attorneys: Kevin Penders, Esq.; Molly Karg Agostinelli, Esq.; Joseph Kelly, Esq.; and Ronald J. Ritchie, Esq.; at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com, MAgostinelli@keeganwerlin.com, jkelley@keeganwerlin.com, and r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com, respectively. The text of the email should specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-85); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the comments; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. **Please note that, in the interest of transparency, any comments will be posted to our website as received**

and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **July 31, 2025**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. All responses to petitions to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed. Any person who seeks to intervene in this matter and desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants must file the comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **July 31, 2025**.

All petitions for leave to intervene and comments on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants should be submitted to the Department in .pdf format by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and DPU2585.LibertyRateCase@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-85); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online [File Room](#) as soon as practicable (enter "25-85" on the line for "Docket No."). In addition, one copy of the filing should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, identified above.

The Company's filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "25-85") at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at eadiversity@mass.gov or (617) 626 1282. For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact DPU2585.LibertyRateCase@mass.gov.

Translation and Interpretation Services

English
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Português (Portuguese)
ATENÇÃO: Disponibilizamos nossos serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação de acordo com a sua demanda. Para solicitar um serviço linguístico, envie um e-mail para Kaylee Burgess através do endereço dpu.ei@mass.gov, informando o idioma desejado e seus dados para contato.

繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)
提醒您：
您可依照需求申請筆譯和/或口譯服務。請以電郵聯絡 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ei@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務請求，請在電郵內註明需要的語言和聯絡資訊。

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)
LƯU Ý: Các dịch vụ biên dịch và/hoặc phiên dịch có sẵn theo yêu cầu. Vui lòng gửi email đến Kaylee Burgess theo địa chỉ dpu.ei@mass.gov để yêu cầu dịch vụ ngôn ngữ, nêu rõ ngôn ngữ ưa thích của quý vị và thông tin liên lạc.

العربية (Arabic)
يُرجى الانتباه: تتوفر خدمات الترجمة و/أو الترجمة الفورية عند الطلب لطلب خدمات لغوية يُرجى التواصل مع Kaylee Burgess بإرسال رسالة إلكترونية إلى العنوان dpu.ei@mass.gov، تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)
ជូនចំពោះ: សេវាបកប្រែឯកសារ និង/ឬបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានសម្រាប់អ្នកប្រើប្រាស់។ សូមផ្ញើសំណើមកទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម dpu.ei@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាបកប្រែឯកសារ និង/ឬបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ភាសាដែលអ្នកចង់បក និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

Español (Spanish)
ATENCION: Los servicios de traducción y/o interpretación están disponibles bajo solicitud. Por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Kaylee Burgess en dpu.ei@mass.gov para solicitar los servicios de idiomas, especificando su idioma preferido e información de contacto.

简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)
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Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)
ATANSYON: Gen sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèprètasyon ki disponib sou demann. Tanpri voye imèl bay Kaylee Burgess nan dpu.ei@mass.gov pou mande sèvis lang, ki enfòm lang ou pi pito a ak enfòmasyon kontak ou.

Français (French)
ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation sont disponibles sur demande. Veuillez envoyer un e-mail à Kaylee Burgess à l'adresse dpu.ei@mass.gov pour demander des services linguistiques, en précisant votre langue préférée et vos coordonnées.

Русский (Russian)
ВНИМАНИЕ!
Услуги письменного и/или устного перевода предоставляются по запросу. Для запроса услуг перевода обращайтесь к Kaylee Burgess по адресу dpu.ei@mass.gov. В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

한국어 (Korean)
주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다. Kaylee Burgess에게 dpu.ei@mass.gov로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.



East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House

On Sunday, September 28th, at 2:00 p.m., the East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House at 197 Elm Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts will be the site for the second in a series of ecumenical services sponsored by the East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House & Cemetery Historical Association, Inc. Reverend Sean Amato, from the Slatersville Congregational Church, will serve as the guest pastor. The service will be followed by a special cemetery tour which will be led by Association member Lucinda Bellairs.

Reverend Amato was called to be pastor at Slatersville Congregational Church on July 28, 2024 and preached his first sermon on Sunday, August 11, 2024. Slatersville Congregational Church welcomes all with open arms (its Sunday worship services are held at 10:00 a.m.). Reverend Amato earned a bachelor's degree in history and anthropology from Rhode Island College and received his Master of Divinity degree, with distinction, from Chicago Theological Seminary. Prior to attending seminary, he spent time in Ukraine as a member of the U.S. Peace Corps and in Egypt as a long-term volunteer in the United Church of Christ's Global Ministries. He also worked in IT and the social service field.

John Staples of Mathewson United Methodist Church in Providence, RI, will be organist and music director. Jonathan Steele, organist at Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, and Matthew Vriesema of Cornerstone Church, North Uxbridge, will perform selections in a piano-viola duet. Mr. Vriesema is a graduate of Whitinsville Christian School in Whitinsville and Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI.

The September 28th service will be followed by two additional services this year - a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23rd; and the Association's Annual Candlelight Christmas Caroling Service on Friday, December 19th (snow date of December 21st).

The Meeting House is 213 years old and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Association has been active for over 70 years, sponsoring services in the Meeting House over that time. Anyone interested in information regarding the service, or in learning more about membership in the Association, should visit the Association's website at: <http://www.blackstonequakermeetinghouse.org/>. Membership is open to all persons and any level of participation is welcome.

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Christ Community Church

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Come to Christ Community Church of Blackstone to enjoy friendly fellowship and hear Pastor Joe Overly expound on the word of God. You will be encouraged, uplifted and challenged to live a Godly life. If you are unable to attend in person, please navigate to: Christ Community Church of Blackstone You Tube and join us as we live stream the service. Telecast begins at 9:25 a.m.

Notes from Pastor Joe:

The Bible is not just a religious book; it is a historical and spiritual record that has endured for thousands of years, offering wisdom, guidance, and truth to those who seek it. It has been preserved through time with remarkable accuracy and contains fulfilled prophecies, moral teachings, and personal testimonies that point to its divine origin. Believing the Bible means trusting in a source that provides answers to life's biggest questions—about purpose, suffering, love, and hope. Its consistent message across centuries and authors is that God loves humanity and desires a relationship with each person.

Accepting Jesus into one's life is the central invitation of the Bible. Jesus offers forgiveness, peace, and eternal life to those who believe in Him. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus made a way for people to be reconciled with God, no matter their past. Choosing to follow Him is not about religion, but about entering a personal relationship that transforms the heart and brings meaning and direction. Accepting Jesus is saying yes to grace, to hope, and to a new beginning with God at the center.

If you would like to learn more about the Bible, God and Jesus please feel free to contact us at the information provided.

God Bless!
Pastor Joe Overly

Pastor Joe is available to meet by appointment. Please phone or email:
Email: pastor.joe@cccob.org
Phone: 508-883-7885
Visit our website at <http://www.cccob.org> or our Facebook page at "Christ Community Church of Blackstone" to learn more about us!



Pastor: Fr. John Larochelle
email:office@divinemercyparishma.org
Website:www.divinemercyparishma.org

Weekly Mass Schedule:
Monday • Tuesday • Friday 8:00am
*Rosary before Mass at 7:30am.
Thursday 6:30pm
followed by Adoration.
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00am and 10:30am
Confessions – Saturday 3pm
or by appointment.

A Special Prayer Service

To pray for the return of those who have left the Church is being held at Divine Mercy Parish on Saturday, September 6th from 10am until 11am. The morning will include Prayer, Praise, Song, Scripture & Reflection, the St. Monica Chaplet. All are welcome to attend.

Our Religious Education program begins on Sunday, September 21st. Grades 1 thru 6 meets on Sundays from 9am until 10:15am and Grades 7 thru 10 meets on Sundays from 11:45am until 1pm. Registrations are available in the church or on our website. For questions, please contact the rectory at 508-883-6726.

Jubilee Guest Speaker for September: Monsignor James P Maloney from St Cecelia Church, Leominster MA

Topic: Finding Hope at Divine Mercy Parish, St Paul's Church; Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30pm.

*special Mass time for this evening at 6pm.

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Blackstone Millville Food Pantry

Divine Mercy Parish Hall, St. Paul Street, Blackstone

Thanks to the generosity of our communities, we assist approximately 100 families each month.

September 2025 Needs

• Soup	• Snacks	• Shampoo
• Canned vegetables	• Jelly/fluff	• Dish detergent
• Canned pasta	• Pork & beans	* Laundry detergent
• Cereal	• Ketchup/mustard	• Toothpaste
• Canned potatoes	• Mayonnaise	
• Cereal bars	• Pudding cups	
• Pop-tart	• Brownie mix	

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PO Box 738, Millville, MA 01529

*Memorial Donations in lieu of flowers
do consider making a donation to the B-M Food
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Hours: Tuesdays - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturdays - 10:00 am - 11:00 am

**For information contact
Ann at 508-883-6873**

Blackstone Millville Food Pantry is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Blackstone’s Window On the Past

© Helen Murray 2025

The Old Canal

Growing up in Blackstone as a child in the 1950’s, I would hear people mention the “toe” path. It was easy to imagine people walking along Canal Street on foot so, “toe” seemed logical. Certainly it couldn’t refer to that dirty, stagnant trench filled with water and used to dispose of trash?

Eventually, someone took the time to explain that the “tow” path referred to where the horses used to walk as they towed barges up the stream to Worcester and as an adult, I learned more about the Blackstone Canal.

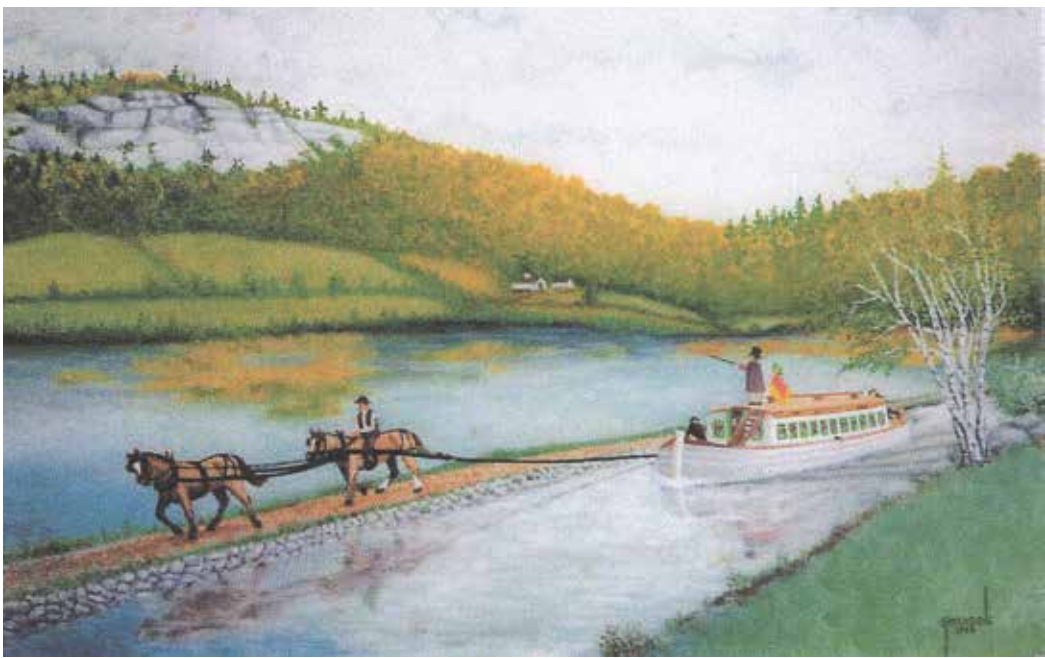
The first development plan was conceived by John Brown in 1796. While he found enthusiastic backers, the project needed the approval of both Massachusetts and Rhode Island legislatures.

In 1822, Benjamin Wright, who had served as engineer on part of the Erie Canal, with the aid of two assistant engineers, completed a survey of the proposed canal route. The Blackstone Canal Company won approval of the Massachusetts legislature in March 1823. In June, the Rhode Island Legislature also approved.

Digging began in Providence in 1824 and in Worcester in 1826. The first canal boat was the Lady Carrington. In 1828 the first passengers were transported ten miles upstream with much celebration for its inaugural trip.

The first boat arrived in Worcester on November 9, 1848. Eventually canal land and structures would be sold off to pay creditors. The arrival of the railroad, dependence on water levels, and vagaries of weather were too much for the canal to last.

Today, once again, due to the hard work and imagination of many organizations and individuals, the old Blackstone Canal is bringing prosperity to the Blackstone Valley.



Canal Boat Washington

Few in the 1950’s could have imagined the cleaned-up canal or the bike path running beside it. For residents and visitors alike, the old canal is providing a source of recreation. Now it really is a “toe” path!

THE MOVEMENT TO END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE STARTS WITH A SINGLE WORD... ENOUGH.



Blackstone Enlightener

The Blackstone Enlightener monthly newspaper is published the first of each month and is mailed FREE of charge to all Blackstone residents.

Our mission is to provide our readers with a portrait of the community where they live, work and play - over 14,000 readers.

The Blackstone Enlightener reserves the right to reject any advertising or articles it deems unfit for publication in a family newspaper. All article submissions must be signed and have a phone number where the writer can be reached. We also reserve the right not to print items submitted. This newspaper does not assume any responsibility for errors in an advertisement, but will reprint without charge that part of an advertisement which was incorrect. Insertions of new advertisement and advertisement changes cannot be guaranteed if copy is received later than the 15th of the month.

Opinions expressed in columns and/or letters to the editor in this newspaper are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.

Publisher: Paulette Boyko
Editor: Michael Boyko
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www.blackstonema.com
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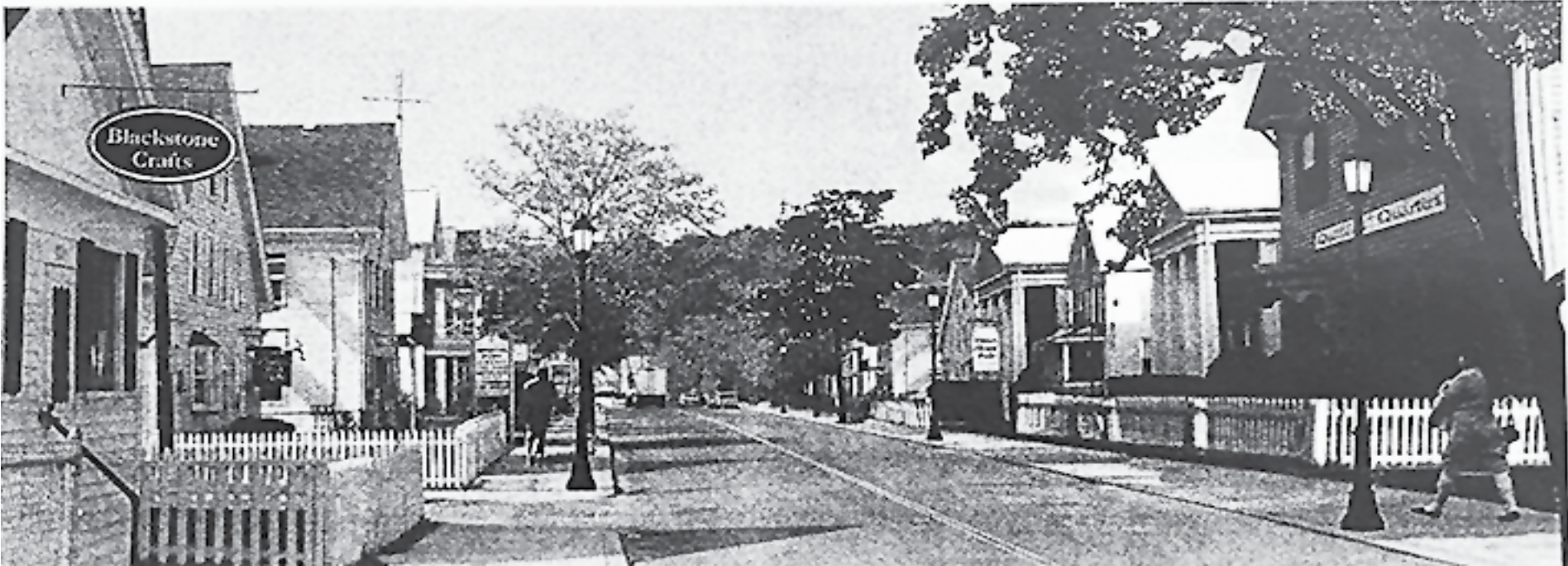
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