

Blackstone Enlightener



PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Blkstn Enlghtnr
Permit #11
ECRWSS

POSTAL PATRON
Blackstone, MA
01504

www.blackstonema.com



Volume 33, Issue 3

Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993

August 2026

Ice Cream Social & Movie Night at Roosevelt Park

By Celeste Langlois, Parks & Rec

Thanks to a grant awarded to us by the Blackstone Cultural Council, we would love for you to join us for an Ice Cream Social/Movie Night on August 15th starting at Roosevelt Park at 7:30pm. (Rain Date: August 16th).

We will start the evening with ice cream and play the movie as soon as it gets dark. This is not a dog-friendly event so please keep the furry ones at home.

You can register for the event on the town website: <https://www.townofblackstone.org/FormCenter/Parks-and-Recreation-17/Ice-Cream-SocialMovie-Night-103>. You can also find the link on the Parks Facebook page.

Save the dates for the following events:
Town Wide Yard Sale - Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20.
Fall Festival - Sunday, October 4

The Parks and Recreation Commission will hold meetings on August 10 and 26 at 6:00pm in the John Eldridge meeting room in Town Hall. All are welcome to join us.



Photo by Rice City Squadron Aerial



Bellingham Electric
Since 1953
APPLIANCES
APPLIANCE SALES & REPAIRS
(508) 883-7235
WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.COM

**Massachusetts
TAX FREE WEEKEND**
Mark your calendar!
August 8th and 9th

**AMERICAN
BUILDING &
REMODELING**

- Custom Homes
- Renovations
- Bathrooms
- Finished Basements
- Kitchens
- Sunrooms
- Additions

Licensed & Insured
508 883 9701
www.Americanbuilding.com

ADC SEPTIC

"Will meet or beat all competitors discounts Guaranteed"

- Portable toilet rentals
- Excavations
- Title 5 Inspections
- Sewer Connections
- System Installations
- Engineering
- Repairs
- Underground Camera Inspections

WWW.ADCSEPTIC.COM
Email: adcseptic@gmail.com
508-883-9000
Blackstone • MA

Like us on **facebook**



Blackstone Historical Museum

Historical Notes

By Hellen Murray

In recognition of our Country's 250th celebrations, the Blackstone Historical Museum proudly flew the thirteen star flag, commonly referred to as the "Betsey Ross flag", over the 4th of July weekend.

Three members of the Historical Commission took part in the 250th weekend celebrations held at the high school. Rick Guilbeault, Julie Wingate and Lucinda Belairs represented the commission with an exhibit presenting information about Blackstone men who fought in the Revolutionary War. At the time of the Revolutionary War, Blackstone was Mendon's South Parish.

On display for the first time at the 250th Celebration was the large 5.5 x 10 ft banner celebrating our nation's independence. Purchased by the Historical Commission to commemorate our nation's 250 years, the banner will hang in the lower lever of the municipal center.

If you missed the exhibit at the 250th celebrations and would like to search for an ancestor who may have fought in that war, these records are available for viewing at our town museum.

The Blackstone Historical Museum is open every Thursday from noon until 3 p.m. Saturday openings in August will be on Saturday, August 1st and Saturday, August 15th, also from noon until 3 p.m.

Twice Treasured Thrift Store

Twice Treasured Thrift Store of Divine Mercy Parish in Blackstone celebrated their sixth-year anniversary.

Donations of clean, new, like new items may be delivered to the church hall during the hours of operation, which are Monday, Friday and Saturday 8 AM to noon. Please note that donations are only accepted until 11:30 AM.

The thrift store does not accept or carry clothes. However, there is a clothing bin for bagged clothes outside the church hall for your convenience.

The Thrift Store is more than a shopping experience. It is a place where strangers become friends and friends reconnect. Stop-in.



From Chief Gilmore's Desk Back to School 2026

Back to school already? Where did the summer go? School should be back in session next month and the Blackstone Police want to remind everyone about the safety concerns with children, school bus regulations, traffic during school hours and overall safety awareness.

Motorists must obey all speed limits throughout town in an effort to keep our school children as safe as possible. This includes reduced speed in school zones. Children will also be in crosswalks more often, and drivers must stop to allow them to cross the road safely. School buses that are loading and unloading students can be dangerous situations. Motorists must pay close attention to the signals on the school buses and obey the law regarding slowing and stopping.

Parents should remind their children about traffic safety as well. They should review all the proper procedures with their children regarding waiting for school buses, walking or bicycling to school. Parents need to remind their older children that are driving to be careful and adhere to the speed limits.

Back to school is an exciting time for everyone. If the community, the school, the police and the kids all work together it will be a great year.

Respect Your Neighbors Don't Speed

The Blackstone Police Department is urging drivers to respect their neighborhoods by slowing down and obeying speed limits. As summer brings more children outdoors and pedestrians onto sidewalks, the risks of speeding have become increasingly evident.

Local law enforcement reports a rise in complaints about speeding vehicles, especially in residential zones. Speeding in neighborhoods isn't just illegal—it's dangerous. One moment of carelessness can lead to lifelong consequences.

Safety advocates remind drivers that respecting the speed limit isn't just about avoiding tickets—it's about protecting lives. A few extra seconds saved on the road aren't worth the potential cost to your community.

Let's all do our part: slow down, stay alert, and show respect for the neighborhoods we call home.

Check Your Smoke Detectors Before They're Needed

By Fire Chief Kevin Roy



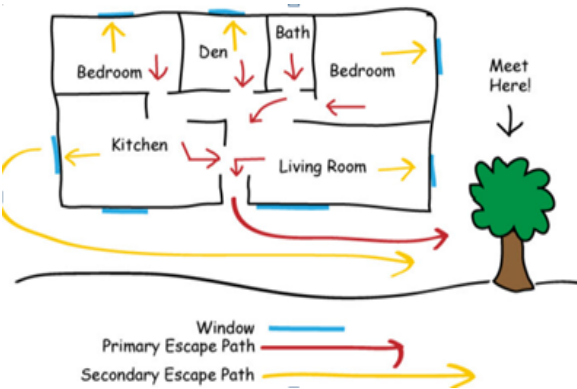
BLACKSTONE — Fire safety officials are reminding residents that a working smoke detector can make a life-saving difference when fire breaks out at home.

Smoke spreads quickly, especially at night when families may be asleep. A properly installed and maintained smoke detector gives people the early warning they need to get outside and call for help

Residents should test smoke detectors at least once a month by pressing the test button. Alarms with replaceable batteries should receive fresh batteries as needed, and any alarm that chirps with a low-battery warning should be addressed right away. Smoke detectors should also be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.

Fire safety experts recommend placing smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Residents should install only UL-certified smoke detectors to help ensure the alarm has been tested to recognized safety standards.

Families should also review and practice a home escape plan so everyone knows two ways out and where to meet outside.



Taking a few minutes to check smoke detectors today can help protect lives tomorrow.

Property Taxes Due Dates

August 3rd, 2026
November 2nd, 2026
February 1st, 2027
May 3rd, 2027

508-883-3472
3 Main Street
Blackstone, MA

BETTY'S COFFEE SHOP
BREAKFAST • LUNCH • BAKERY

August Special!
16oz. Flavored Lemonade...\$2.00
With Coupon Only See Shop for details

CHECK OUT WEEKLY SPECIALS ON FACEBOOK!
Closed Mondays, Open Tues - Fri. 4 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Sat & Sun. 5 a.m. - Noon

DRIVE THRU
DOORDASH

NEW ENGLAND CHIMNEY & ROOFING

- Roofing
- Chimneys
- General Contracting

Licensed & Insured
269 Main Street
Blackstone, MA

Dan Keefe, Supervising Contractor
Cell: 508-294-3757

MASS License
#078916
RI License #13222

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**
**VENUE
CHANGE**

BMR Class of 1971 55th Reunion Update

The BMR Class of 1971 55th Reunion has been cancelled at Crystal Lake Country Club, Burrillville, RI. But please keep your calendars marked for a less formal gathering on the same date, September 24th, 2026 at the Cercle Laurier, 165 E School St, Woonsocket, RI, upstairs lounge, 6PM. Do not despair! Though the venue has changed we are still the first-class, first BMR graduating class of 1971 AND we know how to Keep the Party Going!

Thank you for being flexible and supportive. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. For anyone who contributed financially, we will refund your check by mail. (New price TBD.)

Please stay tuned at Facebook, Class of 1971 Blackstone-Millville Regional HS, or contact Liz McGeough at noisomeness4@gmail.com, 508-883-0038 or 774-277-0560.

Life is a collection of moments, some remembered, some forgotten, some treasured forever. Let's keep the BMR Class of 1971 alive with memories!



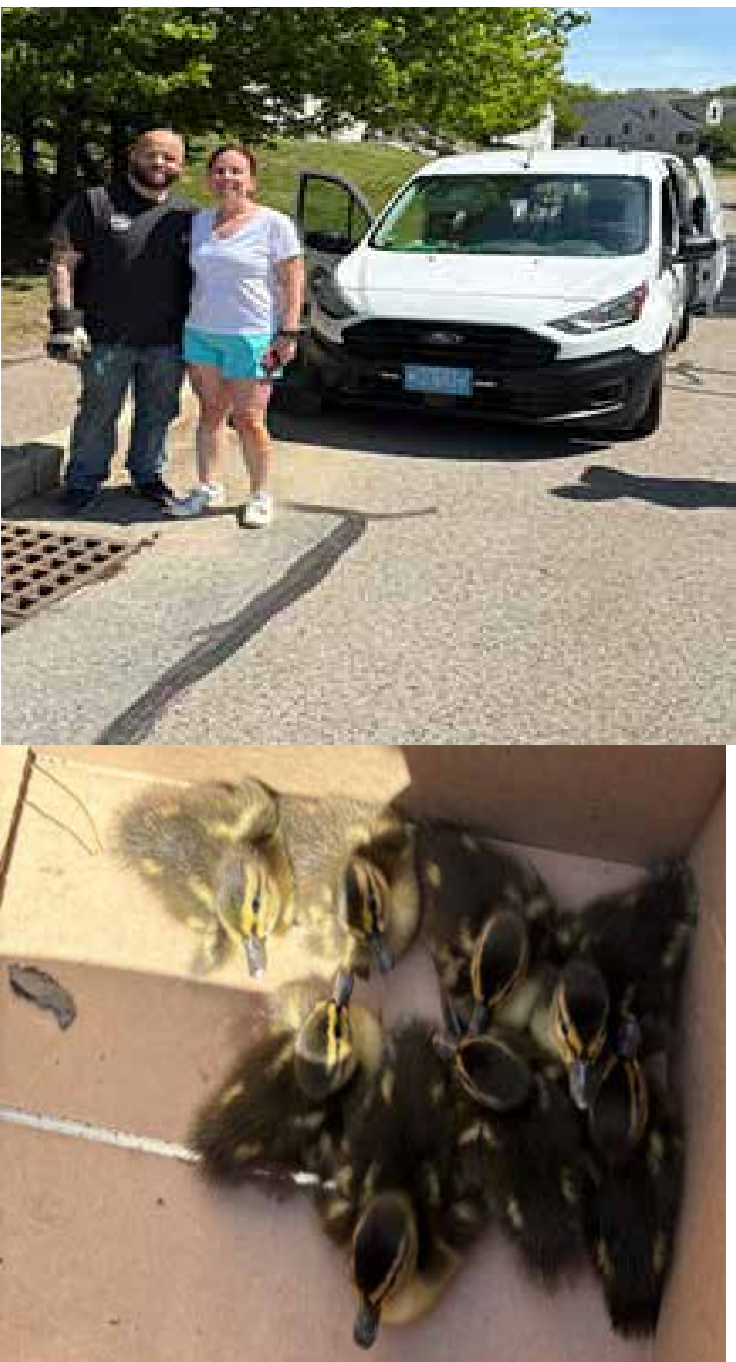
Animal Control to the Rescue

While on her daily walk, a member of the senior center stopped to witness a duck running around frantically. She immediately contacted Kevin Sullivan, the Animal Control Officer. Once he and his wife arrived at the location, they noticed several ducklings had fallen into a manhole.

Sure enough, Kevin climbed down into the manhole and rescued the little ducklings.

Just another day in the life of the Animal Control Officer.

Photos by
Diana Simononi



UniQue Checking.

Designed Around Your Life.

Experience a UniQue way to bank.

Our new UniQue Checking accounts make banking feel effortless. With two custom crafted accounts, you're able to choose the benefits that fit your lifestyle. Prefer an enhanced experience? Step up to our UniQue Plus Checking for even more rewards, access, and value.

Select the checking account that fits your goals. Apply online or visit any branch to get started.

Member FDIC | NMLS #583135 | 800.578.4270

49 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01568

Blackstone COA

Senior Center Updates

Tiziana Milano COA Director 508-876-5135

See our Newsletter online for full program descriptions & lunch menu: www.townofblackstone.org/326/Newsletters. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Fri: 8:30AM – 12 Noon.

Unless otherwise stated, RSVP 1 week in advance for all trips, presentations, performances, events, and meals: in person at the Blackstone COA, by phone (508) 883-1500 ex 151, or via email KCoffey@TownOfBlackstone.org.

Thank you to the Blackstone Cultural Council for helping fund our Birthday Bash performance last month! A great big thank you to ACO Kevin and the Blackstone Regional Animal Shelter crew for the amazing Dog Days Cookout!

Highlights:
Celebrate Seniors on the 20th with fun, games, and entertainment.
Laughter is the Best Medicine on the 17th.
“Too Old to Change” and other Therapy Myths on the 27th.
Another Laugh Out Loud Radio Hour on the 31st.

Weekly Programs & Activities:

Meals are served Tues-Thurs at 12 Noon. See Newsletter for Menu & Price details. Most meals are \$3 or \$4. Please RSVP 1 week in advance.

Mondays: Game Day. 12pm – 4pm: Artist Alley (Pound Fitness will return in the Fall)

Tuesdays: 9:15am: Strength & Stretch. 10:10am: Chair Yoga. 11am: Walking Club. 12pm: Lunch. 1:15pm: Strength Circuit.

Wednesdays: 9:30am: Tap Dance. 10:30am: Line Dance. 11:30am: Meditation. 12pm: Lunch. 1pm: BINGO. 2:15pm: Zumba.

Thursdays: 9am: Tai Chi Beginner, Coffee Club. 9:30am: Cribbage. 10am: Tai Chi Intermediate. 11am: Journey Through Grief. 12pm: Lunch. 1pm: Aging Gracefully.

Fridays: 10am: Mah Jong, Pound Fitness. 9am: Walking Club.

August Happenings:

3rd: 9:30 Bus, Beach Day
4th: Potluck Lunch at Noon!
5th: Travel Breakfast at Betty's! Bus at 9:30, or meet us there at 9:40. PLEASE RSVP so we can let Ashley know how many to expect!
10th: Mystery Lunch, “Snow White’s Favorite” Bus at 11:45. RSVP
12th: Henry Quinlan presents: Stories

from 50 Years in Publishing. The youngest Medal of Honor recipient, the movie star returning to the stage, a spy coup that nearly happened, and stories of meeting some of the biggest names in living memory, as told by someone who knew them. 10 AM. RSVP.

17th: “Laughter is the Best Medicine” an interactive 60 minute show for seniors. Mime, childhood stories, comic improv, and more! 11 AM. RSVP.

18th: 11AM: Ron Murray in Concert: blend of styles creates a captivating experience, featuring songs from the 1940’s thru today. 12 Noon: Birthday Bash Meal: Tri-Valley Baked Potato Bar (\$3 Donation) RSVP, Space Limited.

20th: Join us to celebrate Senior Citizen Day a day early. Food, Fun, Games, special guest star Vini Ames, lunch, and a short performance by the Past-Our-Prime Time Players. RSVP, Space Limited.

24th: Bus to Adventure: Candlepin Bowling at Ryan Family Amusements. \$10 at the door for 2 games and shoe rental. 9 AM Bus, Space Limited, RSVP.

27th: “I’m Too Old To Change” and Other Therapy Myths. Therapy can be a deeply healing way to engage with intense, uncomfortable, or scary feelings at any age; but we often tell ourselves that it’s “too late” to benefit from this kind of support. If you’ve ever considered therapy but talked yourself out of it, this presentation is for you! 12 Noon, RSVP. Presentation during lunch: bring your own or sign up for ours. (Tri-Valley, \$3 donation).

31st: It’s time for another Radio Hour, presented by our own volunteer Past-Our-Prime Time Players. Join us for a good laugh as we venture back to the heyday of radio programming – before “the tube” took over our evenings and weekends. 1 PM. RSVP, Space Limited.

Save the Dates:

September 1: Closed for Voting Day;
2: Travel Breakfast;
3: Myths & Truths About Modern Hospice;
8: Communication Skills & Mental Health;
14: Mystery Lunch;
15: Men in Retirement w/ Henry Quinlan;
17: Craft w/ Celeste;
22: Birthday Bash w/ Melodious Zach (thanks Cultural Council!);
29: Friends of the BCOA Celebrate the Seniors.

Millville COA

Anne Marie Mertz, COA Director 508-883-3523

The hours for the Center are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

TRIP: August 24th: Brunch/Lunch at B-Town Diner, Bellingham. 11:00 am. Bus leaves at 10:30 am. \$5.00 donation for the bus ride. Call to sign up by 8/20/2026.

Monday:
August 10th: Senior Club Meeting & Lunch 11:30 am. John Duggan Entertainment.
Entertainment is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.
August 31st: Craft Class – Summer Door Hanging, 10 am.
The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.

Tuesday:
August 4th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.
August 6th : Lunch 12 noon, Ice Cream Social after lunch 12:30, Bingo 1.
August 11th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.
August 18th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.
August 25th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.
August 31st: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.
All Are Welcome

Wednesday:
Community Pitch League is every week at 6:00 pm. However, there is no Pitch League on August 26. It will resume September 1. Call Kathy at 508-883-3523 for more information.
No Hand, Knee & Foot Cards during the summer.

Thursday:
August 6th: BINGO is the first Thursday of the month at 1 pm. Come for the fun and snacks. Lunch is at noon \$3
August 13th: Painting starts at 10 am. Call 508-883-3523 to register - \$5.00. Lunch at noon, \$3.
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.
August 20th: Lunch at noon, \$3. COA Meeting at 1 pm.
August 27th: Movie: “Grease” 10 am.
Join us!



TELLSTONE
GARAGE INC.
78 Mendon St., Blackstone, MA.
508-883-6402

MASSACHUSETTS
STATE INSPECTION

- Tires
- Oil Changes
- Repair Facility
- Front End Work
- Fuel Injection Work
- Complete Brake Work
- Engine Tune-ups

FREE ESTIMATES

Enjoy this warm weather, while we brighten up your interior rooms, patios & fences.

Owner does work, keeps cost fair-

Michael S. Butler, Owner
Cell (774) 248-5454

mike.15@comcast.net
InsideOutPainter.com

Legal Painting
Since 1975



The Polish Hall “It’s more than you think”

By Dennis Maloney

In a 2024 edition of the Blackstone Enlightener (Helen Murray’s “Window On the Past”) reported on the early settlement of the Polish Hall (PACC) in the High Rocks section of Blackstone. The following individuals, (Larnoe Kaczor, Eddie Baldyga, Frankie Tycks, Alex Makowski, Bolac Maston), carried on the iconic tradition for many years.

Who can forget those Polish Picnics featuring the old world recipes for Pierogies, Golumpki, Cabbage Soup (Kapusniak) and Central Falls kielbasa, which complimented the menu. Remember dancing on the member-constructed floor that supported the bands’ polka songs? Local residents came out in droves with their lawn chairs to enjoy the festivities, and invited guests from Coventry, R.I., were a fixture at the event.

Concerning sports, the Hall was instrumental in forming the five-team softball league with games being played on Sunday mornings. Time passes on, however. The above named individuals are no longer with us and the picnics and softball games are history. Due to growing pains and limited parking, the Hall relocated to its current site on Mill Street – the Golden Arches.

Approximately 20 years have passed, so membership decided to update the interior of the building to make it more patron friendly so as to enjoy events such as the St. Patty’s Day Celebration, the 100 for 100 event, Friday night cards, Bar Bingo, Karaoke, Polish Open After Party and Super Bowl - with pools, raffles, and home cooking. Working with town officials and local contractors (to obtain required approvals), the project was completed at the end of June.

So, what better time is it for patrons to come down to check out the remodeled facility, have a cold beer or a pint of Archie’s famous Sangria and take in a Patriots Sunday Football game on the newly installed 96” inch TV. It should be an exciting season since the elite NFL teams (Bills, Bears, Packers, Vikings, Chiefs and Bronco’s) will be the opposition. One can only imagine seeing Drake Maye throw that 50 yard bomb to A.G. Brown – the newly acquired pro wide- receiver from the Eagles.

Lending a helping hand to those in need was, is, and will be a Hall legacy. Core donations include: The BM Food Pantry: Football season restarts the weekly meat raffle under the supervision of patrons Sharon Guilbeault and Harry Elgar. Profits are then transferred to the Saint Paul Street facility to help overcome the economic problem of demand exceeding supply. Later in

the year, a \$1,000 donation is made to “Adopt a Family for Christmas Giving” – the true meaning of the holiday season.

Cancer Research: Cancer is the number two cause of deaths in the United States. Unfortunately, many patrons (past and present) have experienced the trauma associated with this dreaded disease. Accordingly, an annual donation is made to the Cancer Department at Milford Hospital to help find a cure.

Sport Teams: Little League, Girls Softball, Junior Football, Adult Basketball (The Masters) and neighborhood clubs, and golf tournaments always find the Hall as a willing sponsor.

Scholarship Awards: In recognition of her 37-years of dedicated service, the Board of Directors established the annual Sue PACC Memorial Scholarships - \$500 to those students making the transition from high school to college. Follow-up on student status after graduation is an integral part of the program.

Tags & Trout: This fishing tournament for youngsters has been a success for many years thanks to Hall coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, the town’s Parks & Recreation Commission and local merchants. Youngsters with tagged fish received a valuable prize (bikes, fishing gear, tablets).

Since January 2026, the PACC has responded to the following fund drives:

- \$600 for the Uxbridge police officer killed in the line of duty while assisting a motorist on Route 146 (truly a tragic event).
- \$1,700 to fill additional slots in the local Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club summer program.
- \$250 each for the Milford Hospital Volunteer Luncheon, American Foundation for Suicide, East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House & Cemetery Association, and Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Support was also provided to Blackstone’s

First Responders for their Beer & Dynamite event. And, a joint venture was taken with the local Boys and Girls Club to hold a dynamite cook-off competition, profits going to each club’s favorite charity.

Several patrons have remarked that the Hall mirrors the sitcom Cheers – a Boston bar where a group of locals meet to drink, relax, socialize and escape from their daily issues. So, take up the invite and come-on down and enjoy the atmosphere “where everybody knows your name.”



Every student belongs on the Dean’s List

As a student; classwork, homework and studying is a full-time job. Students deserve to be rewarded for their efforts. That’s why we created Dean’s List, the account for students from elementary school through college. This fee-free account* offers a premium interest rate of 4.07% APY on balances up to \$3,000**, rebates on all Foreign ATM charges***, a personalized debit card, Online & Mobile Banking and more! It’s the ideal account to help students start their journey to financial independence while earning interest and rewards in the process.

For complete details, visit www.deanbank.com/deans-list-account/

Open your Dean’s List Account online in just minutes



or visit our 8 Main St. Blackstone Branch and speak to a member of our branch team.



*Pre-authorized debit card transactions may cause an overdraft fee of \$5.00. Speak to a banker for details.
**APY = Annual Percentage Yield. 4.07% APY on balances up to \$3,000. .07% paid on balances greater than \$3,000 with a resulting 4.07% to 0.50% APY, valid as of September 1, 2025 and subject to change without notice.
\$25 minimum deposit required in order to earn APY. \$1.00 minimum deposit required to open an account.
***Dean Bank does not charge its customers for ATM or Debit MasterCard® transactions made anywhere in the world. However, other banks and owners of ATMs may impose a “surcharge” or “convenience fee” for using their machines. The Dean’s List Account provides unlimited rebates for such transactions each month. Rebate will appear as a statement credit approximately 2 Business Days after surcharge is incurred.

The Muscle That No One Talks About...Until it Becomes a Problem

by Carol Archambault

Many women in midlife begin to notice subtle changes in their bodies, changes that are often brushed aside as a normal part of aging. It might start as a small leak when laughing or coughing. A sudden urgency to find a restroom. Or a feeling of pressure that's hard to describe.

While these experiences are common, they are simply not something we have to live with. These symptoms are often connected to the pelvic floor, a group of muscles that plays an essential role in everyday function and long term health.

Understanding The Pelvic Floor
The pelvic floor is a network of muscles located at the base of the pelvis. These muscles support the bladder, uterus, and bowel, and are involved in bladder and bowel control, core stability, posture and sexual health.

Like other muscles in the body, the pelvic floor can weaken or become less coordinated over time.

Why Changes Occur In Midlife
Hormonal shifts during perimenopause and menopause, most importantly the decline in estrogen, can affect muscle tone and connective tissue throughout the body, including the pelvic floor.

In addition, life factors such as pregnancy, childbirth. and physical activity patterns, chronic stress, and posture can influence how well these muscles function.

As a result, many women begin to notice changes in their 40's, 50's, and beyond.

Common Signs To Be Aware Of

- Urine leakage with coughing, sneezing or exercise
- Increased frequency or frequency of urination
- Difficulty fully emptying the bladder
- A sensation of heaviness or pressure in the pelvis
- Discomfort in the lower back or hips
- Changes in sexual function

Recognizing these symptoms is an important step to addressing them.

Moving Beyond Outdated Advice
For years, pelvic floor health has been simplified to just doing kegel exercises. While kegels can be helpful in some cases, they are not a one-size-fits- all solution. Some women may have pelvic floor muscles that are overly tight, or not functioning in coordination with the rest of the body.

A more comprehensive approach includes proper breathing, core strength, and overall movement patterns.

Practical Steps For Support

- Practicing diaphragmatic breathing to reduce unnecessary pressure
- Incorporating strength training exercises that engage the core

and lower body

- Maintaining regular movement, such as walking
- Being mindful of your posture throughout the day
- Seeking guidance from a pelvic floor physical therapist when needed
- There are some tools you can purchase that also help (message me for more info)

Pelvic floor issues are common, but they are often under- discussed. Increasing awareness can help women feel more comfortable seeking support and understanding their options. Addressing these concerns early can improve your quality of life. And you deserve to not have to worry about leaking, especially when you are out.

Carol Archambault is a Certified Menopause Coaching Specialist, who helps women navigate perimenopause and menopause with strength training, nutrition, lifestyle with compassion. You can reach her at 774-573-8030, email carolarch23@gmail.com or follow her on instagram at Balance_in_midlife.

Seniors Travel Club

by Sue L'Heureux

On Monday, September 28 to Sat, October 3 there will be a six day trip to Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg, and Historic Norfolk including 5 nights lodging, and 8 meals as well as all the sightseeing for \$819.

Please call Sue L'Heureux at 508-341-0797 for details.

Buzz Off!

by Elizabeth McGeough

If you've noticed more aggressive or unusual bee and wasp behavior this year its likely due to warmer spring temperatures that caused many bees and wasp species to emerge earlier than in the past, which led to more frequent encounters with humans before nests were fully established. Some species are moving into new areas as climate zones shift. This can result in unexpected sightings in unexpected places – like outdoor decks.

Recently, while watering my flower boxes on my deck, I had a stinging bee encounter. Angry bees swarmed, stinging me multiple times as I was chased and followed into my home. I'm not a Melittologist, (scientific study of bees), but I'm guessing these buzzing critters were carpenter bees.

Often mistaken for yellow jackets, they are smaller, with stream-lined bodies typically ranging from 1/2 inch to 1 inch long, with a shiny, smooth black abdomen and a slightly yellow or white patch on the face. They mate in April or May. The female carpenter bee starts looking for a suitable nest site, such as weathered areas on buildings, fences, or telephone poles, and people often report seeing them hovering around buildings or in this case, decks. She chews into the wood and lays her eggs. Adult carpenter bees then emerge in August.

Carpenter bees seldom pose a threat to humans. If you suspect that a carpenter bee has nested in your home or yard, it's important to avoid disturbing the nest as they can become aggressive when defending their young. When encountering them, keep exposed extremities away from them. Avoid sudden movements or loud noises that provoke attack.

Carpenter bees are generally beneficial to the environment, as they help pollinate plants and flowers. However, they can cause substantial damage to wood if infestations go undetected.

If stung, clean the area with soap and water, apply a cold compress to reduce swelling, and monitor for allergic signs. If you have a history of bee sting reactions, seek medical help promptly.

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

A+ Plus



TIRE AND AUTO CARE

aplustireandautocare.com

Get your MA Inspection Here!



MA INSPECTION STATION NO. 1024

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

MA State Inspections
Oil & Filter Change
Tires - All Brands
Computer Engine Analysis

Mufflers
Shocks & Struts
Brakes & Tune-ups
Axles & CV Joints



"Support Blackstone Businesses"

633 Rathbun Street
Blackstone, MA 01504
508-883-8881

250 PULASKI BLVD.

Bellingham Electric

Since 1953

APPLIANCES

**BOSCH**

**FRIGIDAIRE**



**LG**
Life's Good

SAMSUNG

KitchenAid

APPLIANCE SALES & REPAIRS
(508) 883-7235
WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.COM

Main Street Business of the Month



While you're experiencing these dog days of summer, the intense heat and humidity, and you're trying to cool down, there's one thing you're thinking of, and that is...ice cream!

Brothers David Forgit and Kevin Miller, owners of the famous GOODSTUFF Smokehouse are excited to bring you COLDSTUFF Ice Cream. While they've had this idea for a while, it just wasn't the right time. But one thing about time – it always presents itself at the right moment. Now, the brothers are proud to bring you COLDSTUFF Ice Cream.

COLDSTUFF Ice Cream opens August 8, 2026, at 1:00 PM with a ribbon cutting at 97 Main Street, Blackstone. They're located in the same parking lot as their famous GOODSTUFF Smokehouse, just a quick walk across the parking lot.

COLDSTUFF Ice Cream offers the famous Gifford of Maine Ice Cream: hard scoops, Sundays, lots of specials, their notable GOODSTUFF Root Beer and Orange Cream Soda.

So, when you finish your delicious meal at GOODSTUFF Smokehouse and you're looking for something sweet to finish it off, stop in at COLDSTUFF Ice Cream.

August hours are: Closed Mondays. Open: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 1:00-9p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 3:00-9:00p.m. Stay cool!

Got rewards?

With Dean, you could have 5,000!

When you open a checking account with Dean Bank, we'll reward you with **5,000 Uchoose rewards points** to redeem however you like; think travel, gift cards from more than 50 retailers, merchandise and so much more.

We're right around the corner:

- 8 Main Street, Blackstone • (508) 883-2122
- 411 Pulaski Boulevard, Bellingham • (508) 883-2000

When others leave you high and dry, Dean Bank will always be here with the financial advice you need and special offers to keep you going!

¹ Owners of non-Dean Bank ATMs may impose a surcharge.



Free Checking

- + Unlimited free ATMs, point-of-sale, and Debit Mastercard® transactions anywhere your card is accepted¹
- + No monthly fees or minimum balance requirement
- + All deposits fully insured, regardless of the amount, through both the FDIC and DIF

Open your
account and
get rewarded!



DEAN BANK
It's my bank.SM

deanbank.com • (508) 883-2000



Member FDIC Member DIF



The Tole Booth

Treasures for the Home, From the Heart

- Country • Primitive
- Decorative Decor and a Whole Lot More...

The shop is filling up with all your summer into fall decorating needs!

Tax Free holiday
Aug. 8 & 9
Enjoy an additional 10% Off your purchase

508-876-8900
August hours are Wed.-Fri 10-5, Sat.10-4

 FOLLOW US ON **facebook**

129 Main Street, Blackstone, MA





Paisley's Posh Paws

EXCEPTIONAL CARE
TAILORED TO EVERY DOG



LUXURY GROOMING
One-on-One Care



PRIVATE BOARDING
Spacious, Home-Like Suites



POSITIVE TRAINING
Good Manners, Happy Life



AROMATHERAPY WELLNESS
Calming, Relaxing, Balanced



SPECIAL OFFER
\$5 OFF
your purchase
OF \$15 OR MORE
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
LOCAL & SMALL BUSINESS!



116 Mechanic St., Ste 6
Bellingham, MA 02019



508-762-5568



paisleyposhpaws.com



Potluck

Blackstone Millville Garden Club Summer Harvest Potluck & Raffle

August 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
at the Millville Senior Center





COOK'S

SEPTIC & SITE SOLUTIONS

LOCAL. RELIABLE. PROFESSIONAL.
Proudly serving homeowners and businesses with dependable septic and site solutions you can count on.

**EXPERIENCED.
EQUIPPED.
COMMITTED TO
QUALITY.**

508-509-9967 | 508-726-0488

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • SITE WORK • EXCAVATION • SOLUTIONS THAT LAST
Call today for a free estimate!



Annual Touch the Trucks Event at Blackstone Library

By Tressy N. Collier

On Friday, August 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., truck lovers of all ages are invited to drop by the Blackstone Library to explore a variety of trucks including construction vehicles, fire trucks, school buses, farm equipment and more. All vehicles will be accompanied by an attendant. No registration is required for this event. Touch the Trucks will take place in the library parking lot, so attendees must seek off-site parking.

Blackstone Public Library's Long Range Plan Survey 2026

Help us with our upcoming Strategic Planning goals by taking our survey! We appreciate your time in assisting us! Patrons can access the survey via the library's Facebook page, website or by filling out paper copies at the library. Thank you.https://forms.gle/kVU9XVa2DfB7LN1v5

Lego Club at the Blackstone Library

by Tressy N. Collier

Lego Club is back! Lego Club meets one a month on Thursday evenings and is strictly for ages 6 and up. Participants are given a monthly challenge with a general theme: you may be asked to build animals, buildings, vehicles, people or even food! Team up with friends or a parent or work alone. Space is limited to twenty participants. Registration begins on Monday, August 31 for Blackstone residents and Tuesday, September 8 for all library patrons. The first session of Lego club will be held on Thursday, September 24 at 6 p.m. To register, please contact Miss Tressy at 508-883-1931 or email tcollier@cwmares.org. Please be sure to include your child's full name, age, your email and phone number. More information can be found at www.blackstonepubliclibrary.org or by visiting the library's Facebook page.

Children's Fall Story Times

The Blackstone Public Library will soon begin its 2026 fall session of story times. For preschoolers and kindergartners ages 3 – 5, two Story Time & Craft classes will be held on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Each class consists of two stories and a simple craft and can accept up to 15 children. The Monday class will last six weeks and will begin on Monday, September 14. The Thursday class will also last six weeks and will begin on Thursday, September 17.

For babies and toddlers ages 6 months – 3 years, we offer Toddler Story Time on Friday at 10:15 a.m. In this six-week program, we'll read

board books, sing songs and fingerplays, play games, and also play with books and toys. This story time lasts 45 minutes and will begin on Friday, September 18.

Registration for the these programs begins on Monday, August 31 for Blackstone residents and Tuesday, September 8 for all library patrons. Space is limited and registration is accepted on a first come, first serve basis. As always, patrons are welcome to attend drop in story time every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register, please call 508-883-1931 or email Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmares.org. When emailing, please be sure to include your child's full name, age, and the caregiver's email and phone number.

Adult Programs

Music & More from Down Under & Beyond Monday, August 17 at 6:30 pm. Music & More from Down Under and Beyond takes the audience on a musical journey to Australia and other distant lands. This program is best for adults, but it's OK for kids with parental accompaniment. Registration is required. Register by visiting the Blackstone Public Library's event page or call the library for more information.

Photography Club

Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 pm. Join other photographers to share ideas, tips, tricks. This club is funded by Unibank.

Quilting Club

Thursday, August 27 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Join other quilters to share ideas, tips, tricks, and do some quilting. This club is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Adult Programs with Jean

Library Craft at the Senior Center - Floating Candle Paper Straw Vases. Tuesday, August 4 at 12:30 PM. Participants must be 60 years of age or older, or a member of the senior center. Please call the library at 508-883-1931 to register.

Scrapbooking

Thursday, August 6 at 5PM. Registration is required. Senior Crafty Corner - A Mermaid's ClotheslineTuesday, August 18 at 1PM. Participants must be 60 years of age or older.Registration is required.

Adult Craft at the Library – Fairy Tables Thursday, August 20, 1 PM and 6:30 PM. Registration is required.

Puzzle Swap

Saturday, August 22 10 AM to 12 PM Bring in your well-loved puzzles between August 3-20 and a receive a ticket for each to be re-deemed for a new-to-you puzzle at the swap!

Ongoing Book Groups

New members are always welcome. Books are available for pick up at the library.

Horror Book Club

Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmares.org.

Evening Book Group

Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm.Contact Renee Milliken at rmilliken@cwmares.org

Senior Center Book Group

Tuesday, August 18 at 11 a.m. Contact Ellen Goudreau at egoudreau@cwmares.org..

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, Augus 25 at 3:00 pm.Contact Donna Foster at dfoster@cwmares.org.

See our website for additional programs and events.



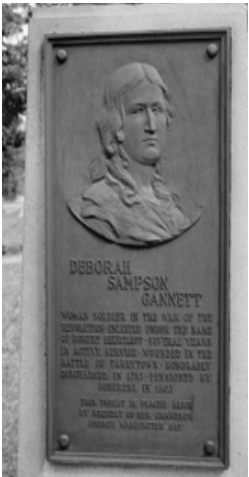
By Lee Holfelder

Welcome August! We hope you all are having a great summer! Looking for something to do while summer lasts? Check out the museum passes at the library.

- Museum passes are available for:
- Battleship Cove in Fall River
 - Ecotarium in Worcester
 - Franklin Park Zoo/Stone Zoo in Boston
 - New England Botanical Gardens in Boylston
 - Patriot's Hall of Fame in Foxborough
 - RISD Museum in Providence
 - Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge

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 Public Library Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome. Hope to see you there!



Farm Girl on Front Lines

BLACKSTONE – The Blackstone Public Library, 86 Main St., presented the program “Farm Girl on the Front Lines” on Thurs-

day, July 30. Janet Parnes of Historical Portrayals by Lady J portrayed Deborah Sampson, the only woman known to have disguised herself as a man to serve in George Washington's army without getting caught. The portrayal is a celebration of America250.

Guests discovered the story behind this principled deception and the character of the humble rebel who pulled it off.

Twenty one-year-old Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army. She enlisted with the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment under the name Robert Shurtleff after having been in indentured servitude to a Massachusetts family since age 10. When she received a gunshot wound during a skirmish, she pulled the bullet out herself to avoid medical care that might have revealed her true gender.

Sampson served undetected as a woman until falling unconscious with a high fever while on a mission in the summer of 1783. The attending physician notified her general by letter of her gender, and she received an honorable discharge in October. Sampson was one of the first women to receive a pension for her military service. She died at age 66, and her headstone in Sharon, Massachusetts, refers to her as “Woman Soldier in the War of the Revolution.”

BMR High School Building Project Update

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District (BMRSD) submitted the Schematic Design(SD) package to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on June 25, 2026. Between the dates of June 25 and August 26, 2026 the MSBA will review the SD package and provide questions and comments to the design team and district. During the review period, the design team will clarify and/or implement the comments provided by the MSBA.

On August 26, 2026 MSBA will hold a Board of Directors Meeting to review the scope and budget of the project and approve moving forward with developing the Project Funding Agreement and Project Scope and Budget.

Following MSBA approval of the Schematic Design, the next step would be for the communities to hold a District-wide ballot vote in the Fall of 2026 to consider whether the project advances to the detailed design development phase.

WHY BUILD A NEW HIGH SCHOOL?

The existing building is aging and requires significant upgrades to better support current educational programs, building systems, and learning environments.

VISIT the Blackstone Millville Regional School District at BMS-RD.NET to check out the School Building Project and view the PROPOSED SCHOOL & CAMPUS

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The new BMR High School will house grades 7-12. The 3rd floor will be substantially for the 7th Grade Academy and will include dedicated administrative offices.

The new building will be built on the site of the current lower soccer field and baseball and softball fields. During construction the current BMR High School would run as normal. Demolition of the existing building and construction of the new fields and additional parking spaces would be part of the final phase of the project.

Our current track & field will remain where they are - with the track being replaced, handicap access incorporated. A new tennis court and new competition spaces for our track & field events are also in the plans.

Our current timeline projects the new building will be occupied no later than January 2030 - that means today's 8th graders would be our first graduating class from the new campus and our current 3rd graders will enter as 7th graders!

HOW WOULD THIS BE FUNDED?

- MSBA's Project Funding Agreement (PFA) sets the maximum facilities grant, based on eligible costs and reimbursement rates. Currently the reimbursement rate is projected to be 58% of eligible project costs. The reimbursement rate is finalized after the 8/26/26 MSBA Board Meeting.
- The towns will split the local share using the percentage determined by student enrollment.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

- SBC Meeting: August 12, 2026
- MSBA Board Approval of the SD Submission - August 26, 2026
- Project Scope & Budget Agreement with the MSBA - due fall 2026
- SBC Meeting: September 9, 2026
- District-wide ballot vote: October 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit: www.bmrsl.net
- Attend a School Building Committee Meeting - All meetings are held at the Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School, in the Media Center, unless otherwise virtually posted. All meetings begin at 5:00 PM. *All dates and times are subject to change. Please check the District website for the most up-to-date information.
- Facebook Group: BMRSD School Building Project
- Email us at admin-sbc@bmrsl.net

Stay tuned for next month's update!
— The School Building Committee

Backpack & Supplies Drive

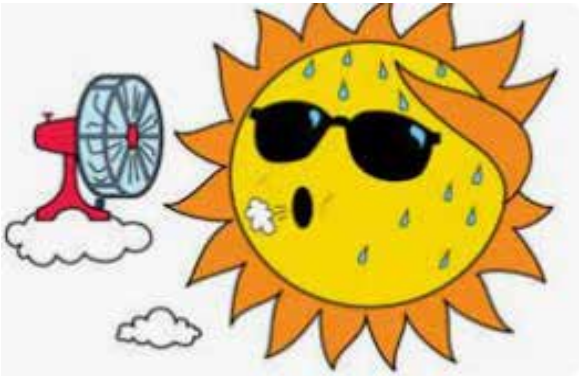
By Ann Lesperance

The St. Vincent de Paul Societies of Divine Mercy Parish are partnering with Unibank of Blackstone to fill a bus with school supplies for students in the Blackstone-Millville School District. We are collecting:

- Backpacks
- Folders
- Markers
- Pencils - colored
- Binders
- Glue Sticks
- Notebooks
- Pencils - regular
- Crayons
- Highlighters
- Pens
- Rulers
- Erasers
- Lined paper
- Pencil cases & pouches
- Scissors

During the month of July, donations may be brought to Divine Mercy Parish. The collection bins are in the rear of the church. Items may also be dropped off at the police departments and libraries in Blackstone and Millville. In early August, Unibank will begin accepting the donations at the bank.

Please contact Ann at 508-883-6873 or at alesperance@charter.net with any questions.





Many Thanks!
To all the volunteers,
supporters, patrons
and organizers of the
Blackstone 250th
Celebration
weekend!

Thank You to all our residents for your
Continued Support!

Blackstone Millville Food Pantry



Divine Mercy Parish Hall, St. Paul Street, Blackstone

AUGUST 2026 Food Pantry Needs

Cereal	Cookies
Jelly/Fluff	Pudding Cups
Coffee (regular & instant)	Brownie Mix
Instant Potatoes	Body wash
Hamburger Helper	Dish detergent
Beef stew	Laundry detergent
Ketchup	Toilet paper
Mustard	

** Fresh vegetables are always needed. They can
ONLY be dropped off when the Food Pantry is Open!

YOUR \$DONATION IS NEVER TOO SMALL!

Mail your check to:
BM Food Pantry-Ann Lesperance
P.O. Box 738, Millville, MA 01529

*Consider making a Memorial Donation in lieu of
flowers in memory of your loved one.*

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesdays: 7p.m. - 8p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
For more information call Ann at 508-883-6873

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



Visit www.townofblackstone.org to many more photos and ceremony.
Photos on pages 8,9, 12 & 13 courtesy of Jackie Cole, Paul S. Robinson,
Sue Trinque, Tim Ryan, Mike Buckley, Chie Ferrelli and Autumn Watson.



**OSTRANDER
INSURANCE**
Established in 1979

Need a
Local
MAPFRE
Insurance
Agent?



Call or visit us to make Ostrander
your dedicated **MAPFRE** agent!

Paul@OstranderInsurance.com | 508.966.1116
OSTRANDERINSURANCE.COM

Divine Mercy Parish

Religious Education & Younger Youth Programs Registration is now Open! Registration for the 2026–2027 Faith Formation year is now open at Divine Mercy Parish. You can register online at the Divine Mercy Parish Website www.divine-mercy-parish-ma.org or pick up a registration form at the back of the church.

Religious Education (Grades 2–10)

- Start Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026
- Schedule: All sessions meet from 10:45 AM to 12:00 PM noon.

JESUS and ME (J.A.M.) – New Program!

Launch your child's faith journey with our brand-new, play-based program designed specifically for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade. Children will learn about Jesus, His family, and God through fun crafts, interactive play, stories, and songs.

- Schedule: Meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Timing: Runs concurrently with the regular Religious Education schedule (10:45 AM to 12:00 PM).
- Registration: Sign up online or registration forms at the back of the church.

Little Lambs Playgroup (Ages 0–5)

- Join us for the second year of our parish playgroup! This is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest children to experience faith and community together.
- Dates: each Thursday, starting September 24, 2026, through April 29, 2027
 - Schedule: Meets every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM.
 - Location: Parish Center
 - Registration: Forms are available at the back of the church.

Questions?

For more information about any of our programs, please contact Toni Harvey at the parish office: Phone: 508-883-6726 ext. 3 or Email: assoicate@divinemercy-parishma.org

Proclaiming Hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ

Come to Christ Community Church of Blackstone to enjoy friendly fellowship. 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.

I've been dwelling this week on Colossians 3:16. It states: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (English Standard Version). As I was continuing to meditate on this Scripture, the phrase with thankfulness to God seemed to jump out as its important foundation.

We lead such busy and complicated daily lives. Demands of work and family, making time with the Lord seem to fall to the bottom of or completely off our priority list each day. Being thankful to people is a choice, it's how we choose to see the various experiences each day. I am not saying that each issue or circumstance will be pleasant or enjoyable but I am saying that no matter what our lot maybe we can still thank God for His unfailing love and nearness to us. God never leaves us but it is we who wonder away as lost sheep do from their shepherd. God has blessed us with a direct line to Him. It's called prayer. Whether we have experienced a mountaintop event or in the depths of our despair we can approach our Heavenly Father knowing that He always hears us. Sometimes we are impatient for a quick answer or for Him to answer in a way that we want. God is not an ATM and that silence might be just what God needs us to hear at that moment.

In Mark 12:30-31 Jesus reminds us that the two most important commands to follow are this: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your

strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." If we are honest with ourselves we must admit that while we love and credit God for the wonderful things in our lives, we find it difficult to love and give thanks to Him when the trials come. Jesus specifically tells us that in this life there will be tribulation but take heart, I have overcome the world.

And finally, loving your neighbor as yourself. If you don't love yourself then how can you truly love others in your life, even those close to you? And if you can't love who you are then how can you ever love the God who created you?

Let me leave you with these final thoughts. Do you have a heart that is thankful and filled with gratitude, respect and appreciation for those you deal with? Do you say Thanks for the various staff members who help you, be it at the Dunkin Donuts or the pharmacy or at the doctor's office? If you are married, do you give thanks to God for just how important they are to you and do you thank them for even the small things they do to make your life that much more easy? If you can't say "I do that" to all of them then reexamine your priorities: Daily time with God in prayers, loving yourself as God commands, and recognizing the goodness in others. If you do these, it is my belief that you will be truly blessed by God.

May the Lord bless you richly,
Pastor Marc Greenwald

Pastor Marc Greenwald is available to meet by appointment. Please phone or email:
Email: pastor.marc@cccob.org
Phone: 508-883-7885 or for immediate response 508-244-8773
Visit our website at <http://www.cccob.org> or our Facebook page at "Christ Community Church of Blackstone" to learn more about us!

Senior Citizen Day

by Mary Jane Benjamin

Join us on Thursday, August 20, 2026 from 10-2p.m. at the Senior Center. Everyone is welcome. Good friends, great fun, a wonderful time. There will be food, music and sweet treats. Registration is required by August 17th.
Also, hats off to summer at the Senior Center Radio Hour. Starring 'The Past Our Prime Time'. Join us.

St. Jude Prayer

May the Sacred heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.
Say this prayer for 9 days, 9 times each day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred heart and St. Jude. C.S.

St. Jude Prayer

May the Sacred heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.
Say this prayer for 9 days, 9 times each day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred heart and St. Jude. I.L.

Blackstone's Window On The Past

Blackstone's Cadet Band

© Helen Murray 2026

Eight years ago this writer asked for information about a picture that appeared in our town's 1945 History of Blackstone. The only identification was on the band's drum which proclaimed it to be the Blackstone Cadet Band.

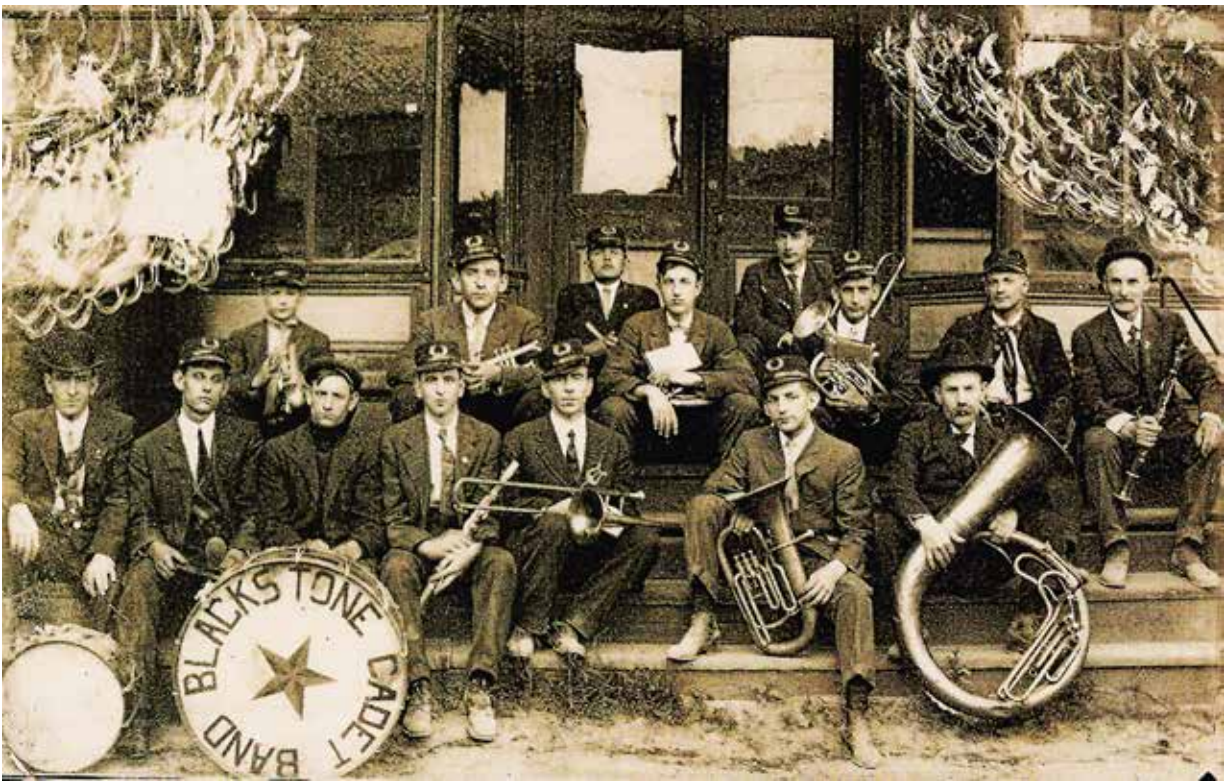
A few years ago, Mrs. Mary Petrowicz donated a different photo of the band to the museum. She mentioned that her grandfather, Joseph Thibault, was a member of the band. Albert Mercier was the only other member identified in the photo.

It appears that this was a loosely formed group of musicians who enjoyed performing. There seemed to be a varying group of approximately twenty musicians at any one time. The band was often mentioned in news stories of the early 1900's.

The band played for St. Paul's social events, yet I have been told they were not affiliated with the church. They also marched in town parades and performed at various other social events.

Recently the photo, donated by Mrs. Petrowicz, came loose on its frame. In remounting it, a list of names was found behind the picture.

Besides Joseph Thibault and Albert Mercier, other men listed included: Joseph Cote, Oliver



iver Goulet, Mathias Thibault, John Bradley, George Landry, Christopher Ray, Malcolm Landry, Fredrick Landry, Arthur Tousignant, Henry Morin, and Horace Kelly. The band's leader at the time was James Barnett.

Were these men just a loosely formed group of musicians or were they affiliated with a local church or fraternal organization? If anyone has more information about the Blackstone Cadet Band, the Blackstone Historical Commission would be pleased to hear more about them.

Photo courtesy of the Blackstone Historical Museum

New England Country Music Club

Uxbridge- If you enjoy line dancing, partner dancing, or just listening to some great country music, come join us at the Uxbridge Progressive Club, 18 Whittin St., Uxbridge, MA. Doors open at 12:15pm. Admission: \$10 for NECMC members & Veterans \$12 for non-members.

Coffee, Water and Snacks may be brought in.

Alcohol and Soft drinks must be purchased at the bar.

For additional information visit www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

Join us on the following 2026 Sundays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

- Aug 9 South County Line
 - Sep 13 Mike Higgins & The Dynamics (line dance lesson)
 - Sep 27 R.I. Rednecks
 - Oct 4 Angela West & Showdown (line dance lesson)
 - Oct 18 Borrowed Time
 - Nov 1 Rustic Country (line dance lesson)
 - Nov 15 TBD
 - Dec 6 TBD (line dance lesson)
 - Dec 20 R.I. Rednecks.
- Come and enjoy the fun!

Local Mortgage Lending. Trusted Guidance.

Whether you're buying your next home, building your dream house, or refinancing, UniBank's local mortgage lenders are here to help.

We'll put our expertise to work for you – offering personalized guidance and making the mortgage process feel a little less overwhelming and a lot more approachable. From your first home to your forever home – we're here to help.

Let's Connect!
Visit unibank.mymortgage-online.com or scan the QR code to connect with one of our trusted lenders today.

UNIBANK
Connecting all offices: 1.800.578.4270
www.unibank.com

Member FDIC - NMLS #988135 Homeowner's Insurance required. Subject to credit approval. Other terms, fees, and conditions may apply.

Serving Blackstone and surrounding towns
Since 1991!

**VALLEE'S
EXTERIOR
HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC.**

Siding & Windows

Call for your Free Estimate!

508-883-7912

Insured MA MA License

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com



Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone Enlightener August 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com