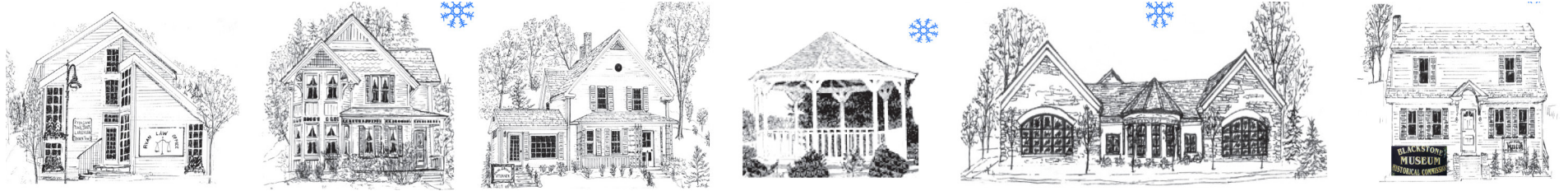


# Blackstone Enlightener

www.blackstonema.com



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

POSTAL PATRON  
Blackstone, MA  
01504

Volume 32, Issue 9

Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993

February 2026

## Nomination Papers are Available for the April Election

Annual Town Election papers were made available January 15, 2026, from the Town Clerk's Office. They are due back by February 17th by 5 PM.

The following positions will be on the ballot at the Annual Town Election:

- One member of the Board of Assessors for a 3-year term
- One member of the BMR District School Committee for a 4-year term (Blackstone Representative)
- One member of the BMR District School Committee for a 4-year term (Millville Representative)
- One member of the Board of Health for a 3-year term
- One Moderator for a 3-year term
- Two members of the Parks & Recreation Commission for 3-year terms
- One member of the Planning Board for a 5-year term
- Two members of the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms

The deadline to submit nomination papers to the Town Clerk's Office is Tuesday, February 17, 2026, by 5:00 PM.

Vote by Mail applications for the 2026 calendar year are now available. Paper applications can be found on the Town Clerk's website <https://www.townofblackstone.org/829/Voting-by-Mail> or may be requested online through the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx>

The last day to apply for a Vote by Mail ballot for the Annual Town Election is Monday, March 30, 2026, by 5:00 PM.

Additional election dates, deadlines, and information can be found on the Town Clerk's webpage <https://www.townofblackstone.org/827/Annual-Town-Election>. Residents with questions are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk's Office for assistance.

### AMERICAN BUILDING & REMODELING

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

508 883 9701

Licensed & Insured [www.Americanbuilding.com](http://www.Americanbuilding.com)

## Blackstone Police Welcome New Officers

Chief Gilmore is pleased to announce the hiring of two new patrolmen to fill our short-handed roster. Officer Corey Giguere and Officer Nicholas Green both join our ranks with experience from other smaller departments.

Officer Giguere was born and raised in Blackstone, attending Blackstone-Millville Regional High School and is currently pursuing a degree in criminal justice. He has worked closely with our officers over the past several years and holds numerous advanced police related training certificates. He is highly motivated and looks forward to working in his hometown of Blackstone.

Officer Green is another officer that has worked closely with many of our current officers

**New Officers** continued on page 2

## Sheriff's Office Warns Public of Phone Scams

[Worcester County, MA] — The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is alerting residents to a phone scam in which callers falsely claim to be Sheriff's Office employees and use spoofed phone numbers to appear legitimate.

According to reports, scammers contact residents and claim there is an arrest warrant, missed jury duty, or another urgent legal matter involving the recipient or a loved one. The caller then demands immediate payment to "avoid arrest" or other legal consequences. In many cases, the scammer:

- Requests payment through gift cards, cash, wire transfers, or other unusual methods.
- Insists the victim remain on the phone while purchasing the cards.

**Scams** continued on page 8



## Bellingham Electric

Since 1953

### APPLIANCES

APPLIANCE SALES & REPAIRS

(508) 883-7235

WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.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

Like us on  
**facebook**

508-883-9000

Blackstone • MA



Blackstone Historical Museum  
23 Main Street

## Historical Notes

by Hellen Murray

The historical museum's wheelchair ramp is temporarily closed. Adjustments are being made to the structure. Our hope is that it will be available for use soon.

We would like to acknowledge the donation by Mrs. Shirley Deacon in memory of Bill Powers. Mrs. Carolyn Powers donated photographs of early museum events for our records.

Now on display at the museum, courtesy of a donation by Selectwoman Mary Bulso, is an interesting collection of baseball cards. "Mill Town Baseball in the Valley League" contains a series of cards, produced by the Blackstone Heritage Corridor. A photo of an early league player is on the front and facts about the teams on the back of the cards. These are nice additions to the museum's collection of sports memorabilia.

The Blackstone Historical Museum is open every Thursday from noon until 3:00 PM. Saturday openings for February will be on the 7th and 21st.

Note: Museum volunteers follow town guidelines. If schools and municipal center are closed due to inclement weather, the museum is also closed.

## Winter Sand and Salt Mix for Residents Salt Mix Notice

FOR RESIDENTS ONLY

Sand/salt mix is available outside the salt shed. Residents of Blackstone are allowed to fill up to two 5-gallon buckets for use on their own property.

The filling of pick-ups, SUV's, other vehicles, and use by contractors is prohibited.

BYOB-Bring your own bucket (and shovel) Location is 6 Rear Mill Street - Behind the Polish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact the DPW at 508-883-9331.

## New Officers

continued from page 1

and will integrate seamlessly with our department. He comes with several years of police related experience along with a decorated time with the Mass Department of Correction. He also holds many advanced police related training certificates and will be a great asset to our department.

I wish them both great success in their time with our department and I expect the residents of Blackstone will embrace them as they get to know each new officer.



## Winter Parking Ban

Effective December 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026, the winter all-night parking ban is in effect.

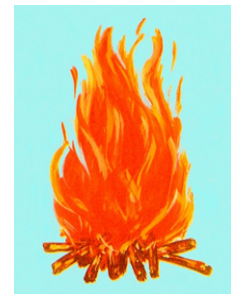
Parking will be prohibited on all streets for a period no longer than one hour between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., with the exceptions of the following streets listed below:

Parking will be allowed on the odd number side of Prospect St., First Ave., County St. and Old Mendon Street.

Parking will be allowed on the even numbered side of Raynor St., Washington St., Howard St. and Ives St.

However, if it snows during the night or there is a warning that we are expecting snow, all vehicle owners must make arrangements to move their vehicles off the roadways so they will not interfere with snow removal operations. If it snows and vehicles are not moved, they will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Blackstone Chief of Police Gilmore



## Open Burning Season Blackstone

Kevin Roy, Fire Chief

The Blackstone Fire Department reminds residents that the open burning season runs from January 15, 2026, through May 1, 2026. Burning is limited to brush only and is permitted between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., weather permitting. No burning is allowed on Red Flag Days. A valid burning permit is required, and residents must call each day they wish to burn.

Burning permits may be obtained in person at the Blackstone Fire / Police Dispatch Center, 15 Saint Paul Street, or online at [www.townofblackstone.org](http://www.townofblackstone.org) under "Permits."

For more information, contact the Blackstone Fire Department at (508) 883-1030.


## Water & Sewer Abatement Forms Available

Abatement forms for the Water & Sewer bills are available online at the town website. <https://www.townofblackstone.org/DocumentCenter/View/1994/Abatement-Application-Form>.

For questions you may call the Water Sewer Department at 508-883-9331.

The Water Sewer Commissioners are:

- Bruce Paterson- Chairman
- Rob Paterson-Vice Chairman
- Tommy Devlin-Member
- Jacob St. Amant-Secretary
- Harry Martin-Member.



**Dog License renewals are available online.**



**Salon Fox**  
Men~Women~Children  
508.883.8309  
Valentine's Day February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Accepting New Clients  
Arlene & Debbie  
Tina & Lynn  
157 Main St. Blackstone HOURS: Tues 9-1 & 5-7, Wed 10-5, Thurs 9-7, Fri 9-6, Sat 9-2



**BETTY'S COFFEE SHOP**  
3 Main Street • Blackstone  
BREAKFAST • LUNCH • BAKERY  
**February Special**  
Buy one lunch, get one free!with this coupon ONLY! Restrictions apply, see Shop for details  
Exp. 2/28/26  
CHECK OUT WEEKLY SPECIALS ON FACEBOOK!  
Tues - Sat 4 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., 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

# STAY WARM STAY SAFE!

Heating Safety Tips for Families this Winter

Fire Chief Kevin Roy

## KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment:

- Furnaces
- Fireplaces / Wood Stoves
- Portable space heaters
- Create a 3-foot "KID-FREE ZONE" or "PET-FREE ZONE" around open fires and space heaters.

## USE HEATERS SAFELY

- Always use the correct fuel recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Turn off portable heaters when going to bed or leaving the room.

## FIREPLACE SAFETY

- Use a sturdy fireplace screen to stop sparks from flying.
- Let ashes cool completely before placing them in a metal container.
- Keep ash containers a safe distance away from your home.

## INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Make sure heating systems and water heaters are installed by qualified professionals and follow local codes.

## ALARMS SAVE LIVES

- Test smoke alarms monthly.
  - Test carbon monoxide detectors monthly.
- A few simple steps can help keep everyone safe this winter!

Brought to you by the Blackstone Fire Department

## Winter Weather Reminder!

Before your scheduled delivery service please make sure

- Your driveway is clear of snow and ice.
- The oil/gas fill location is accessible.
- There is a safe path for the delivery driver or service person.
- Your exhaust vents are clear.

2 5 0 P U L A S K I B L V D .



Since 1953

## APPLIANCES

 <b>BOSCH</b>	FRIGIDAIRE
	 <b>LG</b> Life's Good
<b>SAMSUNG</b>	<b>KitchenAid</b>

**APPLIANCE SALES & REPAIRS**  
**(508) 883-7235**  
[WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.COM](http://WWW.BELLINGHAMELECTRIC.COM)



James Walsh center with his parents at his Eagle Court of Honor in January.

Photo credit Tim Ryan

## James Walsh Soars to Eagle Scout

James Adam Walsh, a senior at Beacon Charter High School for the Arts in Woonsocket RI, earned the highest rank in Scouting at his Eagle Court of Honor on Saturday, January 17, 2026. His parents, Adam and Courtney Walsh, friends, family and Troop celebrated his success.

For his project, James worked with the Audubon Society of RI to build trail markers with QR codes along the 5-mile nature hike at the George B. Parker Woodland Reserve in Coventry RI. By adding a touch of the new age technology, hikers are now able to scan the QR code to obtain either historical or nature-based information at specified locations along the path. James has added important points of reference for everyone who will enjoy this trail for years to come.

An Eagle Scout Project is more than just "doing something"; it's project management, budgeting and physical labor. James excelled in these points and set a high standard for the younger Scouts in his Troop.

Congratulations to James on his years of scouting devotion!



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](http://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](http://www.unibank.com)

 Member FDIC - NMLS #983125 Homeowner's Insurance required. Subject to credit approval. Other terms, fees, and conditions may apply.

Blackstone Enlightener February 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

# Blackstone COA

Senior Center Updates

**Tiziana Milano COA Director 508-876-5135**

See our Newsletter online: [townofblackstone.org/326/Newsletters](http://townofblackstone.org/326/Newsletters). Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM-4:30 PM Fri: 8:30AM-12 Noon.

RSVP in person at the Blackstone COA, online @ MyActiveCenter.Com, by phone (508) 883-1500 ex 151, or via email [KCoffey@TownOfBlackstone.Org](mailto:KCoffey@TownOfBlackstone.Org).

Please RSVP for meals one week in advance, see newsletter for menu. Suggested Meal Donation: Tri-ValleyTuesdays: \$3, other meals \$4.

## Weekly Programs & Activities:

New This Month: Join us on Monday afternoons for Artist Alley! Bring your craft or art project, and work alongside other artists. More info in the newsletter!

Monday: 10: Pound Fitness, Game Day. 12 - 4: Artist Alley.

Tuesday: 9:15: Strength & Stretch. 10:10: Chair Yoga. 11: Winter Walking Club. 12: Lunch. 1:15: Strength Circuit.

Wednesday: 9:30: Coffee Club, Tap Dance. 10:30: Line Dance. 11:30: Meditation. 12: Lunch. 1: BINGO. 2:15: Zumba.

Thursday: 9: Tai Chi Beginner. 9:30: Cribbage. 10: Tai Chi Intermediate. 11: Journey Through Grief. 12: Lunch.

Friday: 10: Mah Jong, Pound Fitness. 11: Winter Walking Club.

## February:

2nd at 12: Movie Monday: Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray.

3rd, at 9:30 Bus: Travel Breakfast (Yes, on Tuesday!): Missy's Family Restaurant.

4th, at 11: AgeSpan Presents: Medicare Fraud Prevention. Free, open to public, all ages.

5th, at 12: Lunch & Learn about CaptionCall, free subtitles for your

phone calls! Presentation Free, open to all ages. Register for lunch separately.

10th, at 10: AARP Presents: Retirement Planning for the Already Retired. Free, open to public.

11th, at 11: Debra Vascera Presents: How Public Health Nurses Improve Health in Communities. Free, open to public, all ages.

13th: Deadline to register for Andy Cooney Irish Celebration – Lunch & Show. \$99. See newsletter for more information. Open to public.

18th, at 12: Potluck Lunch! Sign Up to bring a dish in person or via phone.

23rd, 10:45 Bus: Mystery Lunch. "All Roads Lead to Rome!" Lunch Menu: \$10-\$25 per entree. RSVP required.

24th, at 12: Birthday Bash Lunch! RSVP Required, \$3 suggested donation. 1: Concert - Lori Brooks, singer & guitarist. Concert is free, RSVP required.

25th, at 10:30: Jessy Dugay of Amedisys presents "The 5 Wishes" – a method to ensure your wishes about end-of-life care are known and followed. Open to public, all ages, RSVP Required.

26th, 11:30 – 12:30: BP & Medication Clinic

## March:

3rd: AARP Home Fit Workshop CANCELLED.

4th: Travel Breakfast, Patriot's Dinner.

10th: Andy Cooney Irish Celebration, Danversport event venue in Danvers MA – See Newsletter for Details.

12th, at 12: Lunch & Learn about "Navigating the Home Health Care Decision" with Noah from My Personal Home Health Care. Presentation free & open to public, all

ages. Register for lunch separately.

19th, at Noon: Lunch & Learn about the Worcester Registry of Deeds & Probate Courts with Kathryn Toomey and Stephanie Fattman.

# Millville COA

**Tina Cook COA Director**

**508-883-3523**

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

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.

## Monday:

February 2nd: Lifeline Presentation 11 am coffee & pastry.

February 9: Valentines Day Free party Noon, Music Bingo to follow.

February 16th: President's Day CLOSED.

February 23rd: Craft Class 10 am. Unibank Cyber Meeting at 11:30.

## Tuesday:

February 3rd: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm

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

February 17th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm

February 24th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm. All Are Welcome.

## Wednesday:

Hand, Foot & Knee Card Game is every week at 12:00 pm. Come and enjoy the fun. All Are Welcome.

Thursday: February 5th: Lunch \$3.00 noon, BINGO to follow at 1pm All Are Welcome.

February 12: Painting starts at 10 am. Call to register \$5.00 508-883-3523. Lunch \$3.00 at noon. 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.

February 19th: Surprise Lunch noon \$3.00. COA Meeting at 1pm.

February 26: Movie at 11 am, "An Affair to remember", Lunch noon \$3.00.

February Birthday Celebration at 1. If you have a birthday in February, please come join us.

## 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. from your property tax bill by volunteering to help the town. Please call for more information to sign up.

The Millville Senior Center has a drop off box to dispose of unused or expired prescription and non-prescription drugs. Feel free to stop in.

The Millville Senior Center is collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Feel free to come in to drop those off.

Medical equipment is available for loan, such as wheelchairs, canes, and shower chairs. Please call for more information, 508-883-3523.

Thank you to all those who made a contribution in memory of Sue Robbins. We truly appreciate the kind gesture and also thank Tina Landry.



## The Big Easy Celebrates!

The party has already started in New Orleans! It officially kicked off the Carnival season on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, also known as King's Day. Carnival season culminates on Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, February 17, 2026 (Mardi is French for Tuesday, and gras means "fat."). The holiday marks the culmination of Carnival season, which is a tradition of feasting on rich foods, joyous street parties, lavish balls, colorful parades, and sweet (or savory) king cakes before the 40-day Lenten period of fasting, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Get your throws and let the good times roll!



## AI's Tree Service

### 508.883.4900

**FIRE WOOD**

Tree Pruning, Trimming,  
Brush Chipping & Stump Grinding

## 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**

Blackstone Enlightener February 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com



Grand Knight Jeff Highcove (center) is presented the Columbian Award by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelley. Presenting the award is District Deputy Timothy Ryan (left) and State Advocate Michael Gibson. Highcove is the Grand Knight of the Blackstone-Millville Council. (submitted photo)

## Knights of Columbus Columbian Award

The Knights of Columbus Council recently received the Columbian Award, which recognizes excellence in a council's programming and charitable outreach. The award is given to councils that exhibit, through programs and events, a focus on community outreach, life, faith, and family. Earning the award is the marker of a "high performing Knights of Columbus unit," according to the Knights of Columbus official website.

"Receiving the Columbian Award is a distinct honor, but I truly believe this recognition belongs to the entire council. Our success isn't the result of one person's work; it's fueled by every brother who unselfishly donates his time and energy to help us thrive. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together, and I want to thank my fellow brothers for their tireless dedication to our mission," said Highcove.

## Partners for Blackstone River Restoration Project

Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Study is Crucial Step Toward Restoring 48-Mile River System from Worcester to Pawtucket

SANDWICH, Mass. – Horsley Witten Group, an environmental consulting firm specializing in sustainable and resilient design, and the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and resilience of the Blackstone River have initiated a hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) study of the Blackstone River.

The study is the foundational element of the Collaborative's broader two-year river restoration planning project, named Mish(kittacuck) sepe Restored. Throughout the project, the Collaborative is committed to engaging an inclusive community of stakeholders, including the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band as funded partners to create a representative collective vision for the river. The project name is a combination of the Narragansett's and Nipmuc's names for the river.

Funded by a \$1.1 million National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant through the RI Department of Environmental Management, the plan will identify priority projects to improve natural hydrology, aquatic connectivity, and public access.

The H&H study will be completed in 2026 by Horsley Witten Group. The study will analyze potential infrastructure changes along the river's mainstem that could help to improve more natural flow in both drought and flood conditions. It will also create a detailed inventory of dams and other sites on the river to identify opportunities to improve river connectivity, habitat, and recreational access, such as possible dam removals. An H&H study is a critical step in the long-term restoration of the Blackstone River. It is a computer modeling exercise informed by field data to evaluate how water that originates as precipitation moves through the river system and its adjacent floodplain under different conditions. It is ca-

pable of estimating the river's elevation and flow rate at discrete points throughout the system and is useful for evaluating how theoretical changes to the system's geometry might affect water elevation and flow upstream and downstream of that hypothetical change.

The Blackstone River is a historic waterway that played a pivotal role in the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution yet was significantly compromised and was once considered one of America's most polluted rivers. Since the 1970s, dedicated river advocates across the watershed have advanced river improvements, and the Blackstone River is in the midst of an environmental comeback.

"The time to restore the Blackstone River is now— this waterway has been used and abused for centuries," said Stefanie Covino, Executive Director, the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative. "While there has certainly been an improvement in river water quality during the past 50 years thanks to dedicated advocates and investments throughout the watershed, there is so much that we can do through this regional approach to improve capacity and enable effective action at the watershed level."

"As long-time supporters and partners of the Collaborative, we are honored to work together with the organization to chart a course for the restoration of the Blackstone River to improve its conditions for ecological benefits and recreation activities for all," said Nick Cohen, Senior Environmental Planner, Horsley Witten Group. "The extensive fieldwork and modeling to be conducted during the H&H study will provide significant information to help guide potential river restoration efforts and decision-making, and we look forward to sharing these findings with all watershed stakeholders to help inform their efforts."

Learn more at <https://www.blackstonecollaborative.org/river-restored>.



## Lexington Minute Men Continue Recruitment Campaign with Focus on Musicians

The Lexington Minute Men are looking to recruit fifers and drummers to join the Company. (Photo Courtesy Lexington Minute Men)

LEXINGTON — In June 2025, the Lexington Minute Men launched a campaign to enlist the next generation of men and women to keep the history of American liberty alive through the 275th and 300th anniversaries, and beyond. This effort was tremendously successful, quickly meeting the targeted goal to recruit 25 new members eager to participate in the Minute Men's mission of preserving the stories of our nation's first veterans who fought and died during the Battle of Lexington.

The Lexington Minute Men are now actively recruiting musicians to join the company's ranks. Part of the Lexington Minute Men's unique appeal as one of the nation's longest serving independent military organizations is that each member portrays an actual member of Captain John Parker's Lexington Company or a woman of Lexington who answered the call on April 19, 1775, hence the motto: "We Know Their Names."

Included in those men and women are fifers and drummers such as William Diamond, who drummed the militia onto the Lexington Common, and Jonathan Harrington, a fifer of Captain Parker's company.

The Lexington Minute Men are a member of the Company of Fifers & Drummers, and are looking for musicians to represent the Company at Fife & Drum musters throughout New England and beyond.

Experienced musicians are welcome, but no experience is required. Fifes, drum pads, sticks, and lessons will be provided to members by the Lexington Minute Men. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Those interested can fill out a membership inquiry here: <https://lexingtonminutemen.com/inquiry/>.

"Musicians played a critical role in the Revolutionary War. Fifers and drummers were, in many ways, the radio of the 18th-century battlefield," said Captain Commanding Stephen Cole. "It was their duty to echo officers' commands on fife and drum, carrying orders across the field and keeping units moving together amid the chaos of battle."

# Blackstone Millville Garden Club Update

by Kate Donovan, President

The Garden Club 2026 season is in full swing. We have already had two seed sowing events, one was held at the Blackstone Senior Center, and the other was at the Chestnut Hill Community Center in Millville. The participants donated 36 milk jug mini-greenhouses full of spring lettuce, cabbage, coneflower and many other plants that will create productive and beautiful gardens for the Community Garden of Millville and the Blackstone Senior Center. Participants also brought home some milk jug planters for their own gardens.

On Saturday, February 7th, at 12:00 we will be having our Blackstone and Millville Garden Club Annual Seed Swap at the Millville Senior Center. This fun event is where plant

lovers get together to trade and buy seeds, eat and talk about our shared hobby and purchase a few raffle tickets. This popular event is open to the public. Kids are welcome.

The Blackstone and Millville Garden Club is a welcoming 501c3 charitable group. New members are always welcome. We accept plant lovers from all locations, all walks of life. We currently support a charity garden, a senior center garden, two seed banks and will be spinning up two native pollinator gardens this year. So, join us as we continue to cultivate our most important crops...friendships and community. Your membership journey starts by filling out this form: <https://www.blackstonemillvillegarden.club/join-us/>.

# Brain Fog Isn't Aging— It's Your Body Talking To You

by Carol Archambault

If you've ever walked into a room and forgotten why you're there...lost your train of thought mid sentence...or struggled to find a word you have used a thousand times...? Let me reassure you, you're not imagining things and you're not "getting old". This is one of the most common concerns I hear from midlife women. Many quietly wonder if brain fog is just part of aging or worse, something to fear. It's not. Brain fog is information.

## What's Really Going On

Brain fog isn't a medical diagnosis, it's a collection of symptoms – forgetfulness, trouble concentrating, feeling mentally cloudy – they often show up during perimenopause and menopause. Hormones play a bigger role in brain health than most women are ever told. Estrogen, in particular, supports memory, focus and mood. When hormone levels fluctuate, the brain feels it, sometimes before we notice changes anywhere else. That doesn't mean your brain is failing. It means your body is adjusting.

## Why It Can Feel So Scary

What makes brain fog unsettling is that many women experiencing it have always been sharp, capable, and on top of things. So when focus slips, it can really shake your confidence. Layer in poor sleep, ongoing stress, and a constantly busy nervous system, and it becomes harder for the brain to do what it once did with ease. This isn't a lack of effort. It's biology.

## The Stress Connection

Midlife often comes with a full mental load – careers, family responsibilities, aging parents, and big life transitions. When the nervous system is always "on", the brain shifts into survival mode. Clear thinking becomes less of a priority. This is why pushing harder, drinking more coffee, or blaming yourself rarely helps... and usually makes things worse.

## What Actually Helps

You don't need extreme measures. Small, supportive habits matter:

- \*Better Sleep
- \*Eating enough protein and nourishing foods
- \*Strength training to support brain and metabolic health
- \*Simple daily practices that help regulate stress

These are not quick fixes... but they work with your body, not against it.

## A Better Way To Look At It

Brain fog isn't a sign that your best years are behind you. It's a signal that your body needs something different than it used to. Midlife is about caring for yourself in a new way. As a certified menopause coach, and a menopausal woman myself, I wish I had learned this in my 30's!

*Carol Archambault is a Certified Menopause Coaching Specialist, who helps women navigate perimenopause and menopause with strength training, lifestyle and nutrition with compassion. You can reach her at 774-573-8030 or email at [carolarch23@gmail.com](mailto:carolarch23@gmail.com). Follow her on Instagram at [Balance\\_in\\_midlife](#).*

Discover the Best of Local!

VISIT  
**JD'S**  
**MARKET**

Fresh · Unique · Local

Give us a try...  
You'll Be Pleasantly Surprised!

63 Main St, Blackstone, MA  
Open Daily 9am-7pm

# Main Street

## Business of the Month



### Knead to Unwind?

by Elizabeth McGeough

Jennifer ("Jenni") O'Connell is the proud owner of Unwind, located at 61 Main Street, Suite 104, Blackstone. She is a graduate of Bancroft School of Massage Therapy and a licensed therapeutic massage therapist specializing in deep tissue massage, injury recovery, and therapeutic techniques that focus on helping the body heal itself. In January, 2024, Jenni made her dream come true and opened Unwind.

Jenni became a massage therapist because she found the anatomy of muscles fascinating, as well as being a people person, she always had a strong sense of wanting to care for others—Jenni couldn't imagine herself doing anything else. She is dedicated to providing tailored care for each client, taking the time to listen to their needs and concerns. She believes in the power of building meaningful relationships with her clients, ensuring they feel supported both physically and emotionally throughout their wellness journey.

The types of massages that Jenni offers are: deep tissue massage, myofascial release, sports massage and stretching, cupping therapy, Swedish or relaxation massage, oncology massage, hot stone massage, and prenatal massage. Each massage starts with a consultation to discuss what's best for you. Whether you're recovering from an injury, dealing with chronic pain, or simply in need of relaxation, Jenni is there to help you unwind and feel your best.

Jenni hails from Franklin and now lives in North Smithfield with her high school sweetheart. They have an 8-year old terrier (their baby). Jenni is a devoted gardener, loves to travel, read, and practices yoga.

Unwind's hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Closed on Sundays. You can book an appointment by calling 508.257.1551 or visit the website at <http://unwindmassagetherapyspa.com>.

## 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!

<sup>1</sup> 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 accepted<sup>1</sup>
- + 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.™

[deanbank.com](http://deanbank.com) • (508) 883-2000



Member FDIC Member DIF

## INTERIOR PAINTING

Choosing a painter based on cost only,  
(not considering experience and quality)  
will cost you time and money in the long run.

**Inside  
Out**

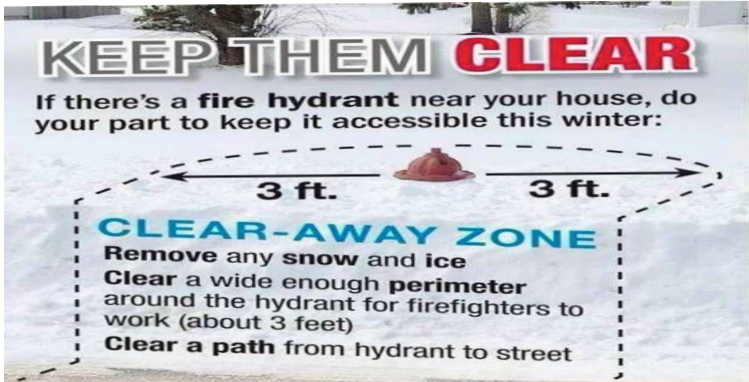
*Owner does work, keeps cost fair*

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

**Legal Painting Since 1975**  
mike.15@comcast.net  
InsideOutPainter.com

## Adopt a Hydrant!

Help keep our community safe by clearing snow from around fire hydrants. When every second counts, a blocked hydrant can put lives at risk.



## Beware of Scams

continued from page 1

- Demands the card codes or personal financial information.
- Pushes to meet locally.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office emphasizes that this is a scam. The Sheriff's Office will never call individuals to demand payment, fines, or personal financial information, nor will it request payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or similar methods.

How to Protect Yourself:

- Do not provide personal or financial information to unsolicited callers
- Hang up immediately if you receive a suspicious call
- Report the incident to your local police department

Residents are encouraged to share this information with friends, family members, and neighbors to help prevent others from becoming victims.

For additional updates and public safety alerts, follow the Worcester County Sheriff's Office on official social media channels.

## Parks & Rec

Starting on February 18th, we will have a craft and game night at Blackstone's Town Hall starting at 6:00pm. There will be a craft set up in one room and games set up in another room so everyone can come together for some fun. There will be light refreshments.

We have so many events this year and we hope you save the dates for our events for the first half of 2026!

They are: March 28th - Easter Egg Hunt  
April 18th - Town Hall Clean Up Earth Day  
April 25th - Tags n Trout  
April 30th to May 2 - Blackstone Derby Day (Think Kentucky Derby Fun)  
June 20 - Ice Cream Social  
July 23, 24, 25, and 26 - Blackstone's 250th Semiquincentennial Celebration.

Information on all of these events will be available in future Enlighteners as well as on our Facebook and Town Website pages. See our display Ad on page 11.

Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 6:00pm in the John Eldridge meeting room and all are welcome.



**TeachUCPR.com**

*A division of Torrey Enterprises, LLC*

# CPR/AED TRAINING

Sign up in seconds!

**Blackstone Senior Center**  
15 St. Paul Street  
Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504

Join us for a comprehensive CPR and AED training session designed to empower you with the knowledge and hands-on skills to respond effectively in life-threatening situations.

**TUESDAY**  
05-05-2026



**TIME**

5:00PM TO 7:00PM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**EMAIL**

[dtorrey@teachUCPR.com](mailto:dtorrey@teachUCPR.com)



**\$40.00 per person**

# BMR High Happenings

by Caitlin Juba  
BMR Correspondent

The end of 2025 and start of the new year have been action-packed here at BMR. From winter sports victories to senior commitments, there is a lot to cover.

Our very own Junior Lucas Vinacco was featured in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with the Spartan Drum Corps. He marched with his fellow band members and was featured on TV, with millions watching both in person and at home.

On the topic of band, BMR's Marching Band season finished at Nationals, where they placed second overall with a score of 96 points. They performed their show titled The Last Broadcast.

The Mock Trial team had their first scrimmage of 2026. It took place on January 10 at Malden Catholic. They also defeated Holliston at a trial on January 15. They are getting ready for more competitions to come.

The Drama Club has announced that their Spring Musical is going to be Mamma Mia and they are already hard at work to prepare for the performance.

In terms of sports, Senior Marissa Pedorella is finishing her swim journey as a co-op athlete with Grafton High School. She had her Senior Night on January 24. Another co-op that BMR participates in is hockey with Bellingham. Junior Ryan Smith is the only student from BMR who plays on the

team this year. The Boys and Girls Basketball teams have been busy practicing and playing in games. The boys recently defeated BVT at an away game and the girls had a winning streak of three wins in one week. BMR also has an Indoor Track team this winter for the first time in many years.

As for the soon-to-be graduating Class of 2026, many members have started to make future commitments. One very notable commitment is Adrianna Girard. As first reported in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette on January 5, Girard will be joining the Marines after graduation. For this dedication to her country and her athletic prowess, she was named that newspaper's Athlete of the Week.

"It was a cool and exciting experience to see a whole story written about me," Girard says. "I felt proud that my work and efforts were being recognized. I was very grateful for the opportunity." Girard is looking forward to seeing the person she becomes as she ventures off into her future endeavors.

The January edition of the Pony Express also features exclusive photos from the recent Disney themed Pep Rally event, which the seniors were victorious in. To read further in depth about or see more photos of sports, bands, clubs, events and more, easily access it online by searching "BMR Pony Express" and clicking the link.



BMR Girls Basketball senior Adrianna Girard has committed to joining the Marines after she graduates from BMR this May. (Photo by Nathan Burden)



BMR's Lucas Vinacco is shown playing during last November's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.



**OSTRANDER  
INSURANCE**  
*Established in 1979*

Need a  
Local  
**MAPFRE**  
Insurance  
Agent?

**MAPFRE  
INSURANCE**

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

Paul@OstranderInsurance.com | 508.966.1116  
OSTRANDERINSURANCE.COM

# A+ Plus

## TIRE AND AUTO CARE

[aplustireandautocare.com](http://aplustireandautocare.com)

Get your  
MA  
Inspection  
Here!

MASSACHUSETTS  
MOTOR VEHICLE  
INSPECTION STATION

The Massachusetts Enhanced Emission & Safety Test

EXPIRES

1

2  
0  
2  
4

MA INSPECTION STATION NO. PFD00028

### COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

<p style="margin: 0;">MA State Inspections Oil &amp; Filter Change Tires - All Brands Computer Engine Analysis</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Mufflers Shocks &amp; Struts Brakes &amp; Tune-ups Axles &amp; CV Joints</p>
--	--

"Support Blackstone Businesses"

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



### February Adult Programs with Jean

Scrapbooking – Tuesday, February 3 at 5:00 PM  
Registration is required. Funded by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

The Senior Crafty Corner at the Library – Lighted Valentine Gnome Thursday, February 5 at 1:00 PM. Participants must be 60 years of age or older. Registration is required. Funded by LIG MEG.

Adult Craft at the Library – Luck of the Irish Wreaths Monday, February 23 at 1:00 PM  
Thursday, February 26 at 6:30 PM. Registration is required. Funded by LIG MEG.

Seasonal Family Recipes Cooking Club, Tuesday, February 24 at 6:00 PM. Share your favorite “Winter” recipe in this potluck style club. Funded by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

### February Programs for Children

By Tressy N. Collier

On Tuesday, February 18 at 3 p.m., join us for Story Time with a Blackstone Firefighter! Deputy Fire Chief Brian Gartland and his crew will read two stories about firefighters. They’ll also bring equipment for the kids to touch and try on. This event is appropriate for all ages. No registration required.

On Thursday, February 19 at 2 p.m., join award-winning storyteller Diane Edgcomb as she presents “Digging Dinosaurs” – a high-energy storytelling event perfect for dino lovers of all ages. Diane’s popular dinosaur adventures complement their scientific facts with a happy dose of humor, large, colorful posters, dino sign language and lots of audience participation that will leave the audience roaring for more! Ideal for ages 3 – 8. Registration for Blackstone residents begins on Monday, February 2. Registration for all library patrons begins on Monday, February 9. Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

From 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Friday, February 20, join Miss Tressy for a drop-in psychedelic snowflake craft, appropriate for ages four and up. No registration required.

Registration for “Wag and Read: Read to a Therapy Dog” is currently being accepted. Register for a 15-minute slot to read to Lady, Willoughby, Bear or Pearl. Therapy dogs visit on Monday evenings.

Drop-in story time is held every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Join Miss Tressy for 30 minutes of your favorite picture books. For more information, please call 508-883-1931 or email Tressy at [tcollier@cwmar.org](mailto:tcollier@cwmar.org). You can also

“like” us on Facebook or visit [www.blackstone-publiclibrary.org](http://www.blackstone-publiclibrary.org) to stay informed about upcoming programs, events, closings and more.

### Young Adult Programs

Open Play with One Up Games, February 12, 4-7 PM. Registration is required. Open to 5th-12th grade students.

Movie Night! February 19, 6 PM. Registration is required. Open to 5th-12th grade students.

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. Registration is not required. Open to 5th-12th grade students. For more information or to register for these programs, call (508)883-1931 or email Mandi at [mwhipple@cwmar.org](mailto:mwhipple@cwmar.org).

### Adult Programs

Help with Jenna Gouin. Thursday, February 5 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Monday, February 23 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Jenna Gouin will provide assistance with MassHealth, fuel assistance, Medicare and referrals to other community organizations. Registration is required. Call the Blackstone Public Library to register for a 30-minute time slot.

Village Shaker, Puzzle Maker with Christian de Rezendes. Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 pm. Discover the nearly two-decade process that has gone into the making of the Emmy® Award-winning docuseries Slatersville: America’s First Mill Village in Village Shaker, Puzzle Maker, a presentation by the film’s Director Christian de Rezendes. Registration is required. Register using the library’s event page or call for more information. This presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Photography Club, Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 pm, Join other photographers to share ideas, tips, tricks. This club is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Watercolor Bookmarks with Miranda Beech, Friday, February 20 at 6:30 pm. Registration is required. Call the Blackstone Public Library to register or for more information.

Quilting Club  
Thursday, February 26 from 1 pm to 4:00pm.

Join other quilters to share ideas, tips, tricks, and do some quilting. This club is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Adult Paint Night with Lisa, Two date options: Friday, February 27, 2026 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Join us for a fun night of painting a surreal mermaid scene. This a beginner painting class for adults. No experience is necessary. Supplies will be provided, please just bring your enthusiasm. Please bring an apron or wear old clothes as it can get messy. Limit of 16 seats per class. Registration for Blackstone residents begins on Thursday, January 15. Registration for all others begins on Monday, January 26. Individual registrations only. Please call the library to register.

Technology Help with Hannah and Matt, Blackstone Public Library Technology Assistants Matt Marchand and Hannah Rishel offer one-on-one help sessions by appointment. Topics covered can include computer, smart phone, and internet basics; email; and accessing online library services, such as ebooks. More complex issues, such as hardware problems, virus scans, and installing software are not included in the scope of these sessions. Appointments are limited to one hour, once per week. To request a personalized session please call the library at 508-883-1931, email Matt at [mmarchand@cwmar.org](mailto:mmarchand@cwmar.org), or email Hannah at [hishel@cwmar.org](mailto:hishel@cwmar.org).

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

Horror Book Club, Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Tressy Collier at [tcollier@cwmar.org](mailto:tcollier@cwmar.org)

Evening Book Group, Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm. Contact Renee Milliken at [rmilliken@cwmar.org](mailto:rmilliken@cwmar.org)

Senior Center Book Club, Tuesday, February 17 at 11 a.m. at the Blackstone Senior Center Contact Ellen Goudreau at [egoudreau@cwmar.org](mailto:egoudreau@cwmar.org).

Afternoon Book Club  
Tuesday, February 24 at 3:00 pm  
Contact Donna Foster at [dfoster@cwmar.org](mailto:dfoster@cwmar.org)

**Visit the Blackstone Public Library website for additional information.**



**child care**  
Licensed Day Care  
Provider for over 35 years  
license number 622797

Part-time openings for toddlers 11 months to 5 years of age. I watch my 2 granddaughters and am looking for someone who needs daycare as well as socialization.

My days and hours are as follows Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays  
7:00 to 4:00  
If Interested please call Jane at 508-883-0375

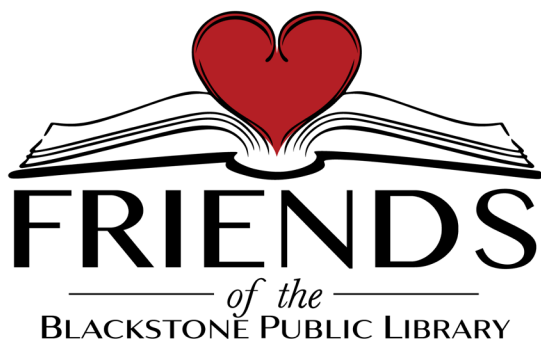


**We are Here to Serve Our Community!**  
Heating • Air Conditioning • Installations



**FAWCETT ENERGY**

25 Montcalm Avenue • Blackstone  
508-883-6010



by Lee Holfelder

Save the dates! March 12, 2026. Friends fundraiser at Goodstuff Smokehouse.

April 10, 2026, 6:30 pm, Pam Patalano, Professional Intuitive medium.

The Friends of the Blackstone Library's ongoing book sale has a wonderful selection of fiction, non-fiction, biographies and DVD's and CDs for adults, young adults and children. We also have a great selection of jigsaw puzzles.

The ongoing book sale is open during regular library hours and is located to the right of the front desk and just before the Children's Library.

The next Friends meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! We thank our community for their support!

## Be Part of Blackstone's Semiquincentennial Celebration!

The Town of Blackstone is preparing for America's 250th anniversary, and we are looking for volunteers to assist with everything from planning to support on the day of our community celebration.

If you would like to lend a hand and be part of this historic milestone, please complete our short volunteer application form: Semiquincentennial Volunteer Application, located on the town website.

Your participation will help create a memorable and enjoyable experience for all. Even a few hours of your time will make a big difference—thank you for helping us make history!

## Mary Bulso for Select Board

Experience + Integrity = Results

I am running for re-election to the Blackstone Select Board

During my term, I believe in hands-on volunteer service and successful grant writing. I've helped bring outside funding to Blackstone-supporting infrastructure, preservation, and community projects while easing the burden on taxpayers.

My service on multiple volunteer boards provides early insight into upcoming grant opportunities, allowing Blackstone to prepare strong projects and compete effectively for state and regional funding.

I believe in open meetings, informed decision-making, and leadership that puts residents first.

**On April 6th Please Vote  
Mary Bulso  
Blackstone Select Board**

"The future is not a gift. It is an achievement."  
\_Robert F. Kennedy

Paid by Mary Bulso

## Divine Mercy Parish Youth Ministry Craft Night

Join us on Friday, February 27th 6:30pm - 8:30pm in the Parish Center Lower Hall. Youths from grade 7 thru grade 12 are invited. Questions? Contact Toni Marino at [divinemercycparishma.org](mailto:divinemercycparishma.org).

## Twice Treasured Thrift Store

Twice Treasured of Divine Mercy Parish celebrated their sixth year in business. Thank you to the community!

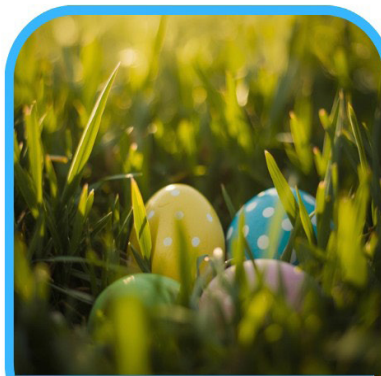
They would like to remind everyone that hours of operation are Monday, Friday and Saturday, 8 AM to noon, although donations are only accepted until 11:30 AM. Donations may be new, like new and must be clean. The thrift store does not accept clothes, but there is a clothing bin for bagged clothes outside the church hall for your convenience.

Twice Treasured Thrift Store is more than a shopping experience. It is a place where strangers become friends and friends reconnect.

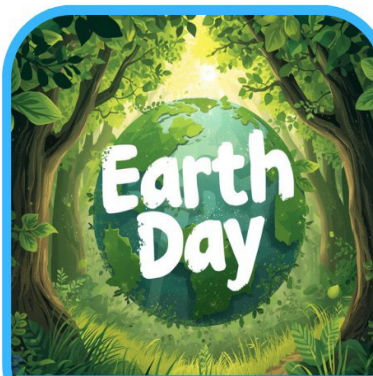
*Twice Treasured*  
**THRIFT STORE**  
HOURS:  
**Mondays & Fridays  
& Saturdays  
8AM to NOON**  
**(508) 861-0065**

## SAVE THE DATES

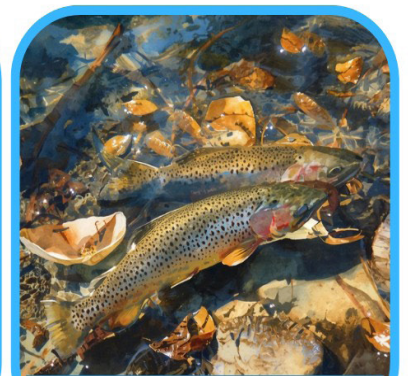
The Parks and Recreation Commission invites you to:



Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
March 28



Earth Day/Town Clean Up  
April 18



Annual Tags N Trout  
April 25



Blackstone Derby Days  
April 30 to May 2



Ice Cream Social  
June 20



250th Semiquincentennial  
July 23, 24, 25, & 26

Watch the Town Website and our Facebook Page for more information!

# BMR School Building Update

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), is currently working on a Feasibility Study for the existing high school.

## PROJECT MILESTONES:

### COMPLETE

#### Module 1: Eligibility Period

- December 12, 2022 - Voted into Eligibility Period
- April 24, 2024 - Began our Feasibility Study Agreement with MSBA

#### Module 2: Forming the Project Team

- September 17, 2024 - Hired Colliers Project Leaders as our Owner's Project Manager
- December 30, 2024 - Hired Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. as our Design Team

### CURRENT

#### Module 3: Feasibility Study

During this phase of the project, the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) will submit two major milestone reports to the MSBA on behalf of the District and its design team: the Preliminary Design Program (PDP) and the Preferred Schematic Report (PSR).

- April 28, 2025 - Preliminary Design Program submitted to the MSBA
- June 12, 2025 - Voted on project grade 7-12 alignment
- December 18, 2025 - PSR submitted to the MSBA

Preferred Schematic Report (PSR). This report summarizes all work completed to date, including the evaluation of various design options, and formally presents the District's recommended Preferred Solution for the future of Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. Report available on [bmrtd.net](https://www.bmrtd.net) under High School Building Project

- February 25, 2026 - MSBA Board Approval of the PSR \*Target Date

### NEXT:

Module 4: Schematic Design February 2026 - August 2026 \*Target Date

Module 5: Funding the Project May 2026 - October 2026 \*Target Date

### MORE INFORMATION

The presentation materials for each meeting, meeting minutes, and summaries related to the Project are all available on our District's website: <https://www.bmrtd.net/>

Want to stay involved? Have questions or comments?

Email us at [admin-sbc@bmrtd.net](mailto:admin-sbc@bmrtd.net)

### Community Presentations

January: TBA

### Upcoming School Building Committee Meetings\*:

January 14, Feb 11

\*Typically 2nd Wednesday of the month. All dates are subject to change. Please check the District's website for the most up to date information.

All School Building Committee (SBC) meetings are held at the FWH Middle School, 35 Federal Street, Blackstone, MA in the Media Center at 5:00pm unless otherwise posted.

Join Us on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 6:00pm

School Building Project Community Presentation

BMR High School Media Center

In person & Livestream (link will be shared, watch email & Facebook posts)

### AGENDA

- Project Status
- New Project Investment vs District Sustainment

### MORE INFORMATION

The presentation materials for each meeting, meeting minutes, and summaries related to the Project are all available on our District's website: <https://www.bmrtd.net/>

Want to stay involved? Have questions or comments?

Email us at [admin-sbc@bmrtd.net](mailto:admin-sbc@bmrtd.net)

### Community Presentations

January: TBA

### Upcoming School Building Committee Meetings\*:

January 14, Feb 11

\*Typically 2nd Wednesday of the month. All dates are subject to change. Please check the District's website for the most up to date information.

All School Building Committee (SBC) meetings are held at the FWH Middle School, 35 Federal Street, Blackstone, MA in the Media Center at 5:00pm unless otherwise posted.

# Quebec Hydro Failure During Cold Snap Confirms 2024 Energy Warnings

BOSTON -- Just two weeks after Governor Maura Healey celebrated Canadian hydropower flowing into Massachusetts, that same power source has twice failed the region when it was needed most.

During the recent cold snap that brought large snow falls and again with the current frigid temperatures, Hydro Québec suspended electricity deliveries to New England in order to meet its own internal demand. As a result, Massachusetts was once again forced to rely on expensive and higher-emission oil-fired power plants to keep the lights on.

This outcome was not unexpected.

In a 2024 energy study, the Fiscal Alliance Foundation warned that Canadian hydropower imports could be interrupted during extreme winter weather because Québec operates a winter peaking electric system that prioritizes domestic heating demand during cold spells.

"Beacon Hill sold Canadian hydropower as a dependable solution for Massachusetts, but reality has once again caught up with the press releases. When temperatures drop and families need power the most, Québec keeps its electricity at home and Massachusetts is left scrambling. Our energy study from 2024 warned of this and it is playing out just as we predicted," said Paul Diego Craney, Executive Director of the Fiscal Alliance Foundation.

The Healey administration recently hailed the New England Clean Energy Connect transmission line as a reliable source of lower-cost electricity for up to one fifth of the state's energy needs. Yet during the coldest stretch so far this year, the line delivered little to no power to New England as Hydro Québec halted deliveries because of extreme cold and surging demand within the province, even while importing power from neighboring regions, including New England itself.

This mirrors the exact scenario outlined in the Fiscal Alliance Foundation's 2024 report, which noted that as New England transitions into a winter peaking system, the long-standing seasonal advantage of Canadian imports will diminish and pose serious risks to grid reliability.

"When politicians build energy policy around climate talking points instead of engineering reality, ratepayers pay the price. This was entirely predictable, and it proves Massachusetts cannot outsource its energy security to another country," noted Craney.

During the outage, nearly 40 percent of New England's electricity was generated by oil-fired power plants, driving up emissions and forcing federal emergency action to keep the grid stable.

The Fiscal Alliance Foundation previously warned that relying on hydro imports while restricting reliable domestic energy sources such as natural gas, would increase costs, weaken grid reliability, and expose the region to dangerous winter shortfalls.

"This is exactly what happens when reliable, affordable energy is pushed off the table, like clean domestic natural gas, in favor of ideological solutions. Massachusetts needs a serious reset that prioritizes reliability, affordability, and base load power, not more ribbon cuttings that collapse during the first real test," said Craney.

The Fiscal Alliance Foundation is calling on state leaders to abandon energy policies driven by ideology and instead pursue a balanced approach that ensures families and businesses have access to dependable and affordable power year-round.

"Energy policy shouldn't be so ideological or difficult. Affordability and common sense should be the driving forces. Our energy studies from 2024 and 2026, show that clean domestic natural gas and nuclear energy are affordable and rooted in common sense. It's the only way forward to keep our region heated and powered," closed Craney.

## Massachusetts Loses Another Iconic Manufacturer as Cape Cod Potato Chips Leaves the State

Hyannis plant closure follows recent Manufacturer of the Year shut-down, underscoring worsening business climate

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance today warned that the closure of the Cape Cod Potato Chips plant in Hyannis is the latest sign that Beacon Hill's economic policies are driving employers out of the Commonwealth.

Cape Cod Potato Chips parent company, Campbell's, announced Thursday that it will shut down the Hyannis facility in April, eliminating 49 jobs and moving production to facilities in states including North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. The plant has operated on Cape Cod for more than four decades and gave its name to one of Massachusetts' most recognizable consumer brands.

Just one week ago, another Massachusetts manufacturer celebrated as "Manufacturer of the Year" announced it was shutting down its local operations. Now, an iconic homegrown brand will no longer be made in Massachusetts at all.

"Massachusetts cannot even keep Cape Cod potato chips in Cape Cod. When a company whose entire identity is tied to this state decides it no longer makes economic sense to operate here, that should set off alarm bells on Beacon Hill," said Paul Diego Craney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

Campbell's stated the Hyannis plant now produces only 4 percent of Cape Cod branded products and no longer makes financial sense to maintain. Instead, production will move out of state, including to North Carolina, a state Massachusetts routinely loses employers to due to lower costs and a more competitive business climate.

"This is exactly what happens when politicians ignore competitiveness and pile on higher energy costs, higher taxes, and endless regulations. Other states are rolling out the welcome mat for manufacturers while Massachusetts leaders continue to pretend everything is fine," noted Craney.

The closure adds to growing concerns that Massachusetts is becoming increasingly hostile to manufacturing and middle class jobs. Businesses face some of the highest electricity rates in the nation and a regulatory environment that favors political insiders over employers trying to stay afloat.

"Beacon Hill keeps talking about economic development while overseeing an economy that is quietly shrinking. These are not abstract numbers. These are real jobs, real families, and real communities paying the price for failed policy choices," said Craney.

The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance warned that without a serious shift in priorities, more companies will follow the same path.

"If lawmakers continue down this path, Massachusetts will keep losing the very employers that once made this state strong. It's time for Beacon Hill to get serious about restoring our economic competitiveness by lowering the tax burden and repealing the net zero mandates that are causing energy prices to skyrocket," closed Craney.

## Healey's Temporary Energy Discount Highlights Failure of Beacon Hill's Energy Agenda

BOSTON — Ahead of Governor Maura Healey's State of the Commonwealth address, the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance today criticized the administration's announcement of temporary electric and gas bill reductions, warning that the proposal underscores the deeper failure of Beacon Hill's energy policies.

"Massachusetts families do not need two months of temporary relief highlighted in a major speech, they need permanent, structural reform. If the governor were serious about lowering energy bills, she would start by reversing the policies that made them unaffordable in the first place," said Paul Diego Craney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

Under the administration's plan, \$180 million in ratepayer dollars will be used to offset utility bills for February and March, a move MassFiscal says is a slight of hand gimmick that doesn't address the root causes of high prices.

"Covering energy bills with money already recovered from ratepayers is not affordability reform, it's cost shifting. Families still pay either way, and once the deferrals expire, the same broken energy system remains," said Craney.

MassFiscal noted that Massachusetts continues to face some of the highest electricity and heating costs in the nation due to years of opposition to reliable energy infrastructure, rigid net-zero climate mandates, and a regulatory system that layers non-energy policy costs onto monthly utility bills.

"For years, Beacon Hill blocked natural gas infrastructure, celebrated pipeline cancellations, and piled mandate after mandate onto monthly bills. Now those same leaders are using ratepayer dollars to temporarily mask the consequences in an election year," said Craney.

The organization warned that short-term discounts announced ahead of the governor's annual address cannot replace meaningful reform.

"Energy affordability cannot be solved with cost shifting and political theater. Until leaders are willing to admit that their own policies are driving prices higher, Massachusetts families will continue paying some of the highest energy bills in the country," closed Craney.

MassFiscal has repeatedly called on Massachusetts leaders to repeal the NetZero by 2050 climate mandate law to drive down energy bills.

*The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance advocates for fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability in state government and increased economic opportunity for the people of our Commonwealth.*

Thank You to all our residents for your continued Support!

## 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.

### February 2026 Food Pantry Needs

- |              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Canned fruit | Pork & beans           |
| Instant rice | Pudding cups           |
| Canned pasta | Shampoo                |
| Cereal       | Toothpaste             |
| Brownie mix  | Laundry/dish detergent |
| Maple syrup  | Body wash              |
| Jelly/fluff  | Men's deodorant        |

Your \$DONATION IS NEVER TOO SMALL!

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

*Memorial Donations in lieu of flowers do consider making a donation to the B-M Food Pantry in memory of your loved one.*

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.

## Proclaiming Hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ

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:

Why The Bible Still Matters – The Bible has been trusted as a source of truth for centuries because it is not a single voice or moment in history, but a collection of writings spanning more than a thousand years, authored by many individuals from different walks of life. Yet its message about God, humanity, and moral living remains remarkably consistent, echoing the claim that “all Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). Its historical accounts are supported by archaeology and other ancient records, and the careful preservation of its manuscripts gives confidence that the Bible read today faithfully reflects the original writings.

Beyond history and scholarship, many trust the Bible because of its proven impact on lives and communities. Its teachings have shaped laws, inspired compassion, encouraged justice, and offered hope in times of hardship. The Bible itself invites examination, stating, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105). Rather than a random collection of ideas, it presents a coherent and tested worldview—one that continues to guide, challenge, and transform those who engage with it thoughtfully.  
God Bless!

Pastor Joe Overly

Pastor Joe is available to meet by appointment. Please phone or email:

Email: [pastor.joe@cccob.org](mailto: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!

Blackstone Enlightener February 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com



S C H O C O L A T E F R W D L O C Y  
R U R A U Y M J P A A E K X T N A A  
E P B T F L S A R G I D R A M S Y D  
W I N T E R S W E E T H E A R T K I  
O D M U B R T E S H R V X J E V O L  
L G L N R E S G I W A F D R E W M I  
F W W S U T P B D L R E H E K F L H  
G R O R A E Y W E N E S E N I H C C  
G J B I R U K N N U F A U M N A E S  
R H R R Y B T S T T I C P L D K R R  
A E E E L I L N S E T U Y Y N E R G  
S E P C N R R O D L I T J K E A A H  
S E U E D S Y E A L R A S G S A R R  
I T S R E P P I Y A W T A P S Q R N  
W F R I E N D S P S G E L K B T O R  
C H Y A D G O H D N U O R G O O W R

ARROW  
CHILI DAY  
CHINESE NEW YEAR  
CHOCOLATE  
CUPID  
FEBRUARY  
FLOWERS  
FRIENDS  
GROUNDHOG DAY  
KINDNESS  
LEAP YEAR  
LOVE  
MARDI GRAS  
NUTELLA  
PARTY  
PRESIDENTS DAY  
SUPER BOWL  
SWEETHEART  
VALENTINES  
WINTER

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

FOR SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS  
RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES



SIGN UP TODAY!

# Blackstone's Window On The Past

© Helen Murray 2026



## Financier or Felon

This is the story of a man born in Blackstone that few have heard about. Albert J. Adams was born on May 22, 1845. His parents were James and Sylvia Adams. A few years after his birth the family moved to nearby Woonsocket. Albert's early life seems to have been uneventful.

When the Civil War began, he enlisted in Company 1 of the 9th Rhode Island Volunteers. He was nineteen at the time of his enlistment and served honorably until he mustered out on September 2, 1865.

For a few years after the war, Albert owned a farm in Rhode Island. In 1871 he moved to New York where he initially worked as a brakeman on the railroad. By 1880, Albert listed himself as "segar dealer" doing business at 23 West 38th Street in Manhattan.

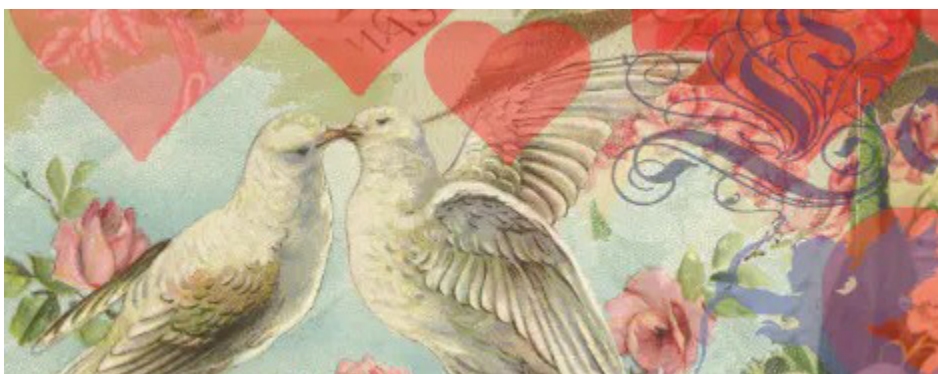
Between the years of 1890 and 1895 he was a policy broker and was referred to as the "Policy King" and in newspaper articles the "Meanest Man in New York"; he was actually an insurance policy broker.

In 1901 a policy campaign against organized crime raided Adams' headquarters. It was documented that Adams ran the numbers game in New York City. He was found guilty of illegal gambling operations and stock market manipulation in 1903. Albert was sentenced to serve his prison term in Sing Sing prison. When released in 1905, Albert said he had quit the rackets forever.

At the time of his imprisonment, his estimated worth was 15-million dollars. He held investments in New York City real estate, shares in a Mexican gold mine, and supposedly had millions more in various investments.

Adams and his wife, Isabella, had raised their six children at a fine home in Manhattan. Things started to go downhill for Adams after his release from prison. One son was arrested for trying to shoot him! Some of his investments were failing as was his health.

On October 1, 1906, Albert Adams was found shot to death in the apartment he kept at the Ansonia Hotel in the city. A staff member found him dead with a bullet to his head. Because of his recent financial losses, the police ruled his death a suicide. The New York City coroner had his doubts that Adams had committed suicide but his theory was never followed up and the case was closed.



## LOVE is in the Air

by Elizabeth McGeough

The image of two love birds on a Valentine's card may be considered very corny by some. But there is a strong association between birds and Valentine's Day in folk traditions. One of the earliest literary references linking Valentine's Day to romantic love is found in Geoffrey Chaucer's poem "Parlement of Foules". In it, he writes about birds choosing their mates half way through the second month of the year on St. Valentine's Day. The poem contributed significantly to establishing February 14th as a day for lovers.

February is a time when the changes in the seasons often begin. We may notice the days are longer and an increased urgency in bird calls. The February date is associated with most birds' mating season.

Many birds have associations with love:

Doves: Often seen as the quintessential symbol of love, doves are known for their monogamous nature, forming lifelong bonds with their partners. They frequently appear in wedding ceremonies illustrating love and commitment.

Swans: They are known to mate for life, which reinforces their association with eternal love.

Lovebirds: True to their name, lovebirds are small parrots that are known for their affectionate behavior towards their mates.

They are often seen cuddling and preening each other, making them a perfect representation of deep affection and companionship.

Peacocks: Their elaborate courtship displays are a significant part of their mating rituals, making them a symbol of romance in various cultures.

Partridges: These birds are associated with love due to their mating behaviors, which often coincide with Valentine's Day. They are seen as symbols of loyalty and commitment in relationships.

More importantly, some cultures even used birds to predict their marital future. It was believed that a girl's first bird sighting on Valentine's Day would predict her future husband. Some traditional bird predictions:

Sparrow: a poor man or a farmer; Owl: remain a spinster; Bluebird: a happy man or a poor happy man; Yellowbird: a rich man; Goldfinch: an extremely rich man; Robin: a crime fighter or a sailor; Dove: a kind and good man; a flock of doves: a happy marriage. BUT if you see a woodpecker, you will never marry!

From lovebirds to partridges, our feathered friends are everywhere on St. Valentine's Day. Celebrate the avian world this Valentine's Day – you may find your greatest romance!

**Free Community Seed Swap**  
February 7, 2026, 12 to 2:30 PM  
Millville Senior Center  
40 Prospect St, Millville, MA

Refreshments will be available  
Buy and trade seeds. Meet your gardening neighbors.  
Buy some items and raffle tickets to support our efforts.

*Valentine's Day!*  
February 14th

## The Tole Booth

*Treasures for the Home, from the Heart*

Gifts & Accessories for Your Home!

The shop is brimming with Hearts & Flowers, Curtains & Linens, Candles, Naked Bee Lotions, Signs & Prints, Garden Flags, Locally Made and Made in America needfuls, and so much more!

Country ♥ Primitive ♥ Decorative

129 Main Street • Blackstone • MA 508-876-8900  
Hours: Wed.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

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

**RYAN LAW OFFICE**



**A General Law Practice**

- ~ Mortgage Closings
- ~ Real Estate Law
- ~ Wills, Estates, Trusts
- ~ Land Use, Zoning
- ~ Form Corporations and Limited Liability Companies

181 Main Street  
Blackstone, MA 01504  
508-883-6000  
Christopher J. Ryan  
www.RyanLawOffice.com

**DYAN'S**

**BARBER - STYLIST**

Men • Women • Children

43 Farm Street • Blackstone, MA



**25th Anniversary!** Diane Ryan

508.883.9917 *By Appointment Only!*

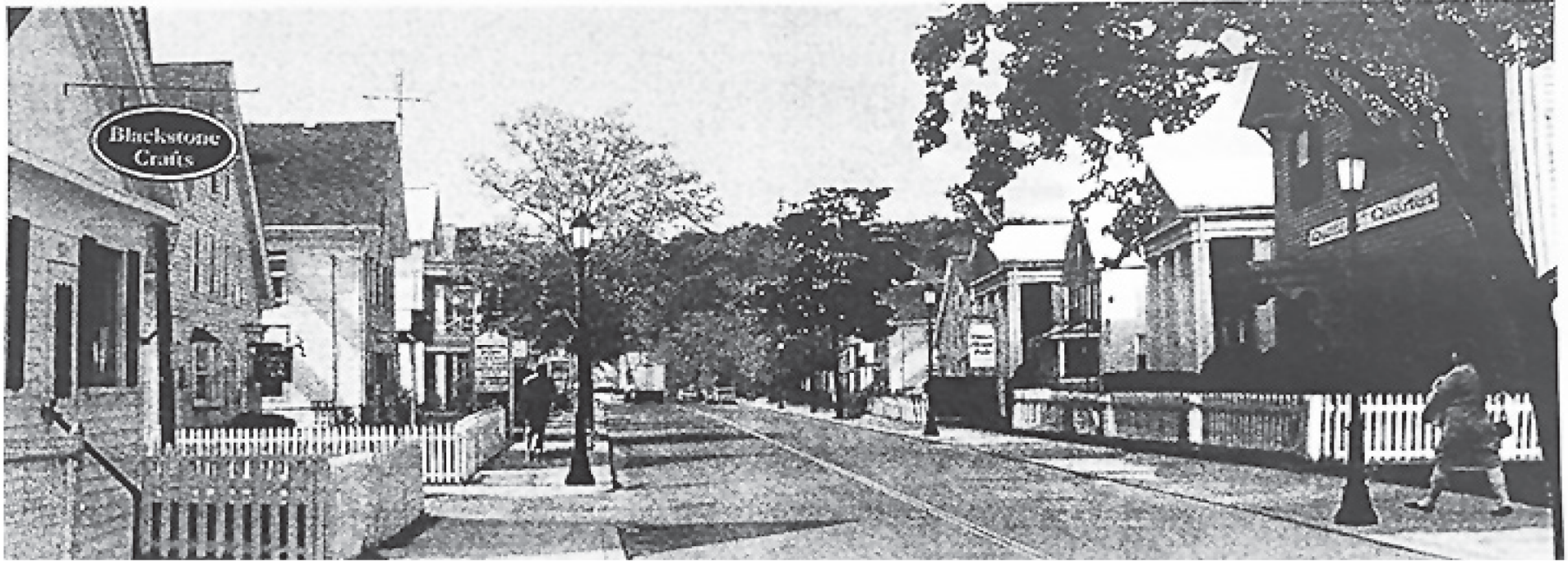
**DSJ Heating & Air Conditioning LLC**

**401-692-1590**

684 Rathbun Street • Blackstone MA  
dsjheatandair@gmail.com



OIL HEAT SERVICE  
DUCTLESS AND DUCTED HEAT PUMPS  
TUNE-UP AND MAINTENANCE ON ALL SYSTEMS  
CENTRAL AIR INSTALLS AND REPAIRS



**Invest in Our Community, Shop Local!**



Blackstone Enlightener February 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

**ANIMAL ARTS**

Professional Dog & Cat Grooming

New Location!

397 Cass Ave.  
Woonsocket, R.I.



508-876-9900

Owner: Kim Giguere

**P.A.C.C.**

**Polish American Citizen Club**

6 Mill Street, Blackstone, MA




(Follow Farnum St. to Mill St. then through Arches)

**EVERY SPORTS SEASON**






**HEADQUARTERS!**

Open daily at Noon!

*"Proudly Supporting Our Community Since 1911"*

Public is Welcome



**COPELAND ROOFING CORP.**

**ALL TYPES OF ROOFING - REPAIRS**

*Covering Blackstone and neighboring communities for over 35 years!*

**1-800-286-3684**

Richard Copeland  
Proprietor

MA Reg# 177070  
CSL # 100413  
RI # 33729

**BLACKSTONE**  
*Automotive*

Est. 1986

700 Rathbun St • Blackstone • MA

**COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK REPAIRS**

**COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS, GENERAL REPAIRS  
FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE ON ALL  
DOMESTIC, FOREIGN & LIGHT DUTY TRUCKS**

ASE CERTIFIED MASTER TECHNICIAN & L1 EMISSIONS CERTIFIED



**508-883-6811**

Pre-Owned Vehicles For Sale

Monday -Thursday from 8-5p.m.; Friday 8-4p.m.

**www.blackstoneautomotive.com**

Find us on Facebook