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Volume 33, Issue 2

Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993

July 2026



**Blackstone
Celebrates
the 250th**
July 23 -26 at
Blackstone Millville
Regional High School
Grounds
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see page 3



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Blackstone Historical Museum

Historical Notes

by Hellen Murray

The same temperature controls that keep exhibits safe provide the same comfortable atmosphere for museum visitors in summer temperatures. With three floors of displays, several hours may be spent viewing exhibits or reading resource materials.

With renewed interest in our country's history, you may find it rewarding to look for your family's name in the museum's many records and town reports.

The Historical Commission has commissioned a banner commemorating our country's sesquicentennial. The banner will be hung on the lower level of the municipal center as a reminder of our forefather's fight for freedom. Be sure to look for the banner, which will be draped behind the school bell that was forged by the same foundry once owned by Paul Revere. Commission members would like to thank Paulette Boyko for her invaluable assistance in facilitating the creation of this banner.

The Blackstone Historical Museum is open free of charge every Thursday from noon until 3:00PM. One Saturday opening will be on July 11th.

Watch for commission members at the sesquicentennial celebrations!

Friends of the Blackstone COA

by Mary Benjamin

Friends of the Blackstone Council On Aging invite everyone to join us at the BMR high school on Lincoln Street for the Blackstone 250th Anniversary Celebration of America.

We will host a vendor table in the cafeteria on the following days: Friday, July 24th at 4 pm, Saturday, July 25th at Noon, and Sunday, July 26th at Noon. You will be able to purchase Hilliard's chocolate bars and grab your piece of history with our very own patriotic commemorative coffee mug.

For even more fun join us on Saturday, July 25th beginning at noon at our ever-popular Dunk Tank! Come on over and take a chance or two at Dunkin our very own local celebrities. They include Chairman of the Board of Selectman Dan Keefe, Board of Selectman member Billy Castonguay, our Fire Chief Kevin Roy, Madison Marcotte (representing our outreach coordinator, Donna Marcotte), an our Public works employee, Johnny Costa!

Be sure to mark your calendar and come on down for a fun-filled family day of celebrating our nation's 250th Anniversary!

From Chief Gilmore's Desk

Fireworks 2026

Our department, along with many other communities across the commonwealth and across the country have seen an increase in calls for service regarding fireworks. It's a serious issue that deserves attention. People are having trouble sleeping, children and pets can be frightened and it's a fire hazard. Our department is reminding residents that fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts and their possession and/or use in Blackstone will not be tolerated. Please respect the law and your neighbors and refrain from these activities.

BMR Safe Graduation

Our department, along with BMR school officials, welcomed Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early to the high school for a check presentation donated to the school from the DA's office. The check was to help with the safe graduation events held at the school every year. This event encourages graduating seniors to gather at the school and safely celebrate their exciting graduation rather than celebrate with alcohol or other unsafe methods. We commend the school, Mr. Early, and most importantly the graduates for keeping themselves and the community safe.

Generator Safety

by Kevin Roy, Fire Chief
/Emergency Management Director

Protect your home, your family, and yourself. Generators are a valuable tool during power outages, especially after storms. When used correctly, they can keep your essential appliances running and your family safe and comfortable. However, it's important to operate them wisely and follow all safety guidelines to avoid serious risks such as carbon monoxide poisoning, electrical hazards, or fire.

- Place the Generator Outdoors At least 25 feet away from your home, including windows, doors, and vents. Use Proper Grounding Connect - a portable GFCI to prevent electric shocks. Use the Right Extension Cords Heavy-duty, outdoor-rated and grounded cords only.
- Start First, Then Plug In - Turn on the generator before connecting appliances to avoid power surges. Use a Transfer Switch Safely connects to home wiring and prevents back feed.
- Keep Children & Pets Away Generators. They get hot and pose burn hazards. Monitor While Running. Check for overheating, leaks, or unusual sounds.
- Cool Down Before Refueling. Let the generator cool to prevent fire risk.
- Have a Fire Extinguisher Nearby. Be prepared for emergencies. Read the Manual. Follow the manufacturer's specific safety instructions.
- Don't Run Indoors or in Garages. Carbon monoxide is odorless and deadly.
- Don't Overload It. Only power essential appliances. Don't Connect Without a Transfer Switch Back feed. It can electrocute utility workers and damage your home.
- Don't Open Nearby Windows/Doors. Prevents carbon monoxide from entering the home.
- Don't Refuel While Running. Wait until it's off and cooled to avoid fire hazards.
- Don't Touch with Wet Hands. Risk of electric shock.
- Don't Use Damaged Cords. Inspect for fraying or wear every time.
- Don't Ignore CO Poisoning Symptoms. Watch for headaches, nausea, dizziness, fatigue. Don't Run in Wet Conditions. Keep dry to avoid electrocution.
- Don't Store Fuel Indoors or Near Heat. Store fuel in a well-ventilated area, away from heat sources.

Property Taxes Due Dates

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

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MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE

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 one 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 KCofey@TownOfBlackstone.org.

Please Note: The Senior Center will close at noon on July 2nd, and will be closed on Sat., July 4th. There will be NO BINGO on July 29th.

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.

July Happenings:

July 1, 9:30 Bus, Travel Breakfast: Bellingham Palace.

July 6th: 12 Noon, Movie Monday: Hamilton (Filmed original Broadway production) PG-13, 2hr40min+ 10min intermission. \$2 for soda & popcorn combo.

July 7th: Birthday Bash. 12 Noon, Hot Dog Bar from Tri-Valley (\$3 suggested donation), RSVP by June 30. 12:30: Roger Tincknell presents "This Land is Your Land" made possible in part by the MA & Blackstone Cultural Council.

July 8th: 10 AM: Henry Quinlan Presents: AI for Seniors. An hour presentation about AI capabilities, uses, dangers, safety, and how to try it. RSVP by July 1, All Welcome.

July 13th: 9:30 – 2, Beach Day at Hopkinton State Park. RSVP by July 6. Pack your own lunch & beach gear and join us for a day out. No trip in inclement weather, no rain date.

July 14th: 10 AM: AARP Presents: Retirement Planning for the Already Retired. An informative and practical presentation & discussion. RSVP Recommended by July 7th, all are welcome.

July 15th: 9-10:30: First Annual Senior Art Show Reception. Join us at the Senior Center to kick off our first Art Show. Art will be on display until August 26th. RSVP for Reception, all welcome.

July 21st: 12 Noon: Dog Days of Summer Cookout, sponsored by Blackstone Valley Animal Control. RSVP required; space limited.

July 23rd: 10AM Bus: Indian Princess Lake Cruise & Waterfront Meal. RSVP by July 9, all welcome. \$55 per person, choice of Chicken Picatta, Baked Fish, or Steak Tips.

July 27th: Portrait Day. Make an appointment to have your photo taken by Photographer & BMR Student Nathan Burden. Photos will be made available for download via email, or as prints on normal paper, after August 10.

July 29th: 11 AM – 1 PM Round Table Discussion. Join Director Tiziana & Town Admin Lauren to discuss the future of our Senior Center as we plan our move to the Augustine F. Maloney building. RSVP by July 29 for a complimentary light lunch.

July 31st: 8:45 – 11:45; MahJong Tournament! We play by simplified Filipino rules. Full game & tournament rules available on request from Activities Coord. Kim. Limit 16 seats, RSVP by July 24.

Register Now for August:

3rd: Beach Day 4th: Potluck Lunch 5th: Travel Breakfast 10th: Mystery Lunch 12th: Henry Quinlan Presents: Stories from 50 Years in Publishing.

Save the Dates:

17th: Robert Rivest Presents: Laughter is the Best Medicine, a fun 60 minute show of funny stories, classic mime skits, comic improv, and tips on cultivating happiness and joy in your life.

Aug 18: Bday Bash

Aug 20: Senior Citizen Day Celebration!! Entertainment by Vini Ames, BBQ Cookout, lawn games and a "Radio Hour" teaser.

Aug 24: Candlepin Bowling Trip, \$10/2 games, shoes included.

Aug 27: Rhiannon Chiacchiaro, LMHC presents: I'm Too Old to Change & Other Therapy Myths

Aug 31: Past-Our-Primetime Players Present another Radio Hour performance. See website for additional information.

Millville COA

Tina Cook COA Director

508-883-3523

The hours for the Center are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-3. Call 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.

TRIP: July 20th: Breakfast at Grams, Uxbridge. Bus leaves at 9 am, arrives at 9:15 am. \$5.00 donation for the bus ride. Breakfast on your own, cash only at restaurant. Call to sign up by 7/13/2026.

MONDAY: July 13th: COA Annual Cookout at Noon – FREE, call to sign up. Entertainment: Joey C Singer/Songwriter. Entertainment is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.

July 27th: Craft Class – Butterfly, 10 am.

The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.

TUESDAY:

July 7th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.

July 14th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.

July 21st: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.

July 28th: 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.

Community Pitch League is every week beginning July 15 at 6:00 pm. Call Kathy at 508-883-3523 for more information.

THURSDAY:

July 2nd: BINGO is the first Thursday of the month at 1

pm. Come for the fun and snacks. Lunch is at noon \$3

July 9th: 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.

July 16th: Lunch at noon, \$3. COA Meeting at 1 pm.

July 23rd: BINGO at 1 pm. Come for the fun and snacks. Lunch is at noon, \$3.

July 30th: Movie: "The Patriot" with Mel Gibson. 10 am Lunch at noon, \$3. July Birthday Celebration at 1 pm. 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.

Drop Off Box: The Millville Senior Center has a drop off box to dispose of unused or expired prescription and non-prescription drugs. The Millville Senior Center is collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Feel free to come in to drop these items off.

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

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Ella with her mom and dad Kristen and Timothy Reilly.

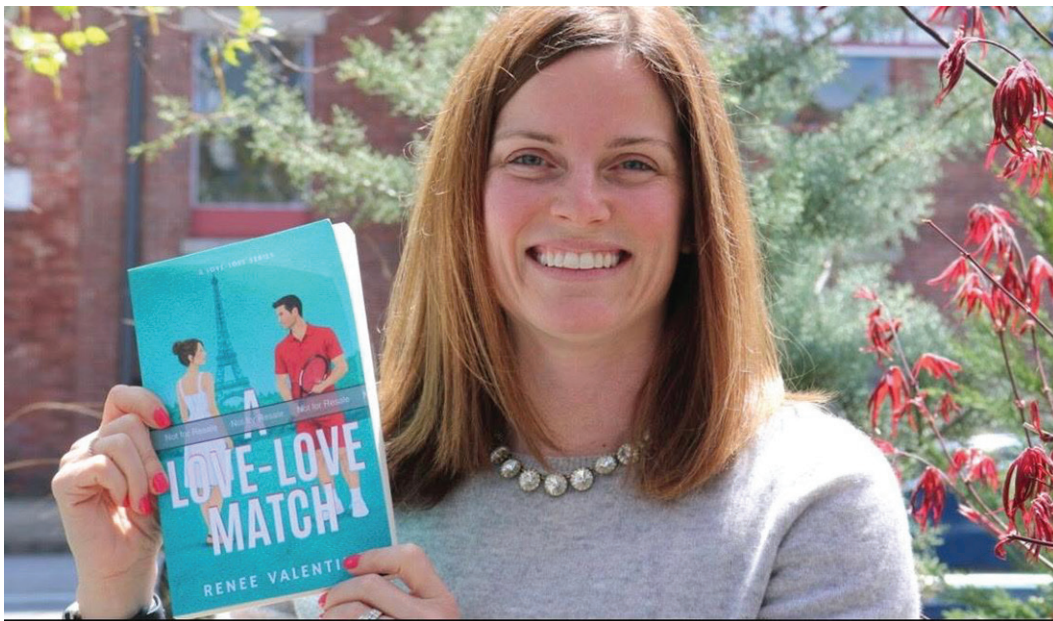
Scout Ella Reilly's Environmental Project for Millville

By Tina Cook, Director

Ella Reilly, a scout from Millville, visited the Millville Senior Center to share her interest in completing her Eagle Scout Project at the Senior Center. Her grandmother, Kathy Reilly, is one of the Senior Center's regular participants, and often speaks about how much she enjoys the center. Ella wanted to give something meaningful back to the community that her Grandmother loves so much.

Ella's project focused on beautifying the Center's grounds by adding hydrangea bushes and a variety of flowers to brighten up the space. She organized her own fundraising to purchase all the plants and materials. Ella, along with her friends and family, spent a full Saturday working in cold, rainy weather, stopping only briefly for lunch. They returned again on the following Sunday, faced another day of miserable weather, and still completed every task with the same dedication and teamwork.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ella, as well as to the friends and family members who supported her throughout this project. Her hard work has made a lasting impact on our Center. A special thank you also goes to Mullaly Construction for their generous contribution to Ella and her project. Job well done!



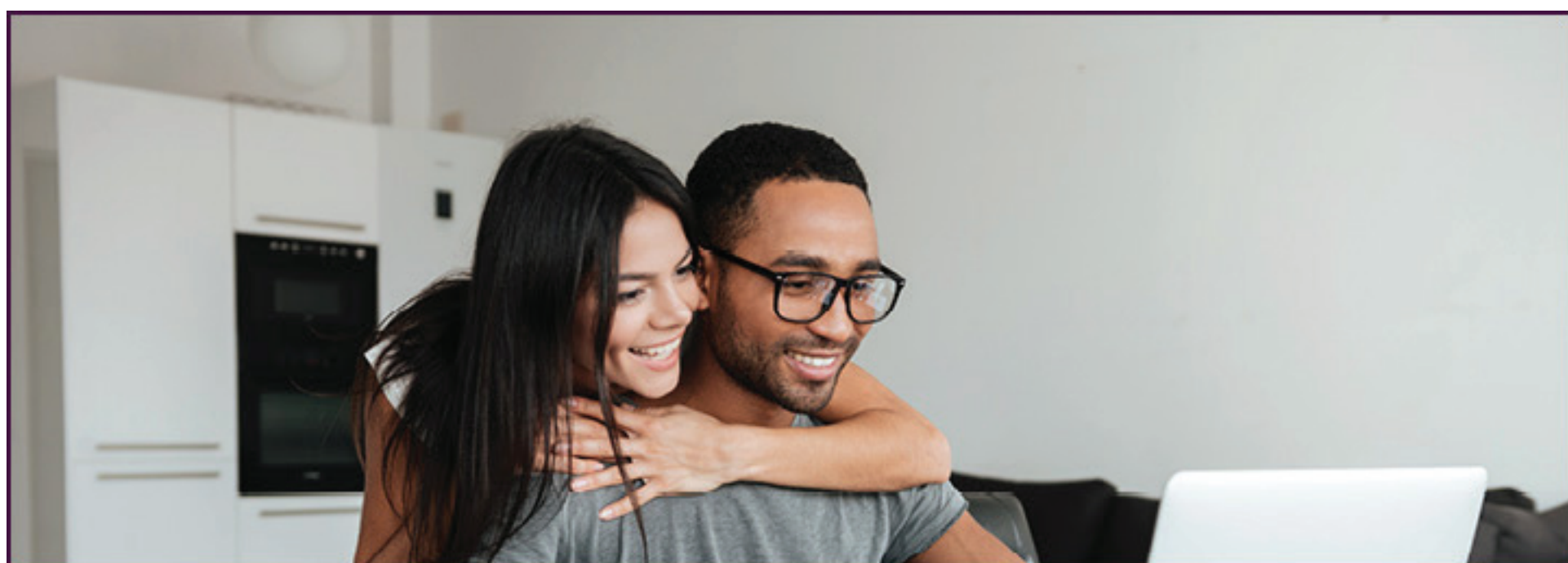
Blackstone's Latest Author Serves Up Love, Drama, and On-Court Action

By Elizabeth McGeough

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Renee Valentine is currently Blackstone's very own resident author. Renee made her debut with *A Love-Love Match*, a contemporary second-chance romance set between the worlds of professional tennis, Paris fashion, and small-town life. The novel follows Lily, a former fashion intern whose life takes an unexpected turn after tragedy forces her home to work in her family's pharmacy—until a spontaneous return to Paris reunites her with Jake, her childhood best friend turned world-famous tennis player. Available on Amazon. For more information see reneevalentinebooks.com.

A former Division I tennis player and current pharmacist (she hails from Duquesne University), Valentine drew inspiration while writing the novel from her own passions for tennis, fashion, and healthcare. What began seven years ago as a creative outlet to strengthen storytelling skills in her professional career, eventually grew into a passion project and debut novel. When she's not writing, Valentine enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and hosting themed parties. Watch for her sequel to *A Love-Love Match*!

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RSVP BMR Class of 1971 Reunion Date September 2026



The Blackstone-Millville Regional High School Class of 1971 will hold its 55th reunion on

Thursday, September 24, 2026. Classmates and guests are welcome to attend the celebration at 5:00 P.M. at Crystal Lake Golf Club, located on 100 Bronco Highway, Mapleville, RI. Tickets are \$55 per person.

If you've already sent your reunion fee, thank you! Otherwise, I'd be so grateful if you could complete your payment by July 20 so that I can finalize attendance and ensure everything is prepared. I apologize, but I had to up the payment due date as a result of unresponsiveness and low head count.

So, let's make this a revolutionary celebration and party like it's 1776! We are 55 years and still Golden! I truly want everyone to be part of this special celebration, and your timely payment helps the occasion happen without a hitch.

If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to me directly at 508.883.0038 or email noisomeness4@gmail.com.

Payment Details: Please make checks payable to BMR Class of 1971 and mail to me, Liz McGeough at 18 Devlin Circle, Blackstone, MA 01504. Venmo also available.

Looking forward to catching up, sharing laughs, and building memories one reunion at a time!

Four Signs of Perimenopause Most Women Brush Off Until They Can't Ignore Them Anymore

by Carol Archambault

For most women perimenopause doesn't arrive with a clear announcement. There is no moment where someone taps you on the shoulder and says, "This is it". Instead, it whispers. It shows up in subtle ways that are easy to dismiss, explain away, or blame on a busy life. And because many women aren't taught what to look for, these early signs often go unrecognized for years.

If you are in your 40s (and sometimes even in the late 30s), here are four common signs of perimenopause that are often brushed off... until they can't ignore them anymore.

1. You are exhausted... but can't sleep

You feel drained all day, relying on caffeine just to get through the afternoon. But when your head finally hits the pillow, you're wide awake, sometimes staring at the clock until 2 or 3 am. Many women just assume this is stress or a busy schedule. But shifting hormones, particularly declining progesterone, can disrupt sleep long before hot flashes ever begin.

2. Your mood feels "off"

You may notice you're more irritable, less patient, or more easily overwhelmed than usual. Little things that never used to bother you suddenly feel like too much. This isn't a personality change... it's hormonal. Estrogen plays a key role in brain chemistry, including the regulation of mood. As levels fluctuate, emotional changes can follow.

3. Brain Fog That Makes You Question Yourself

You walk into a room and forget why you're there. Words slip mid sentence. You lose your

train of thought more often than you would like to admit. It's easy to laugh it off, or chalk it up to being busy, but cognitive changes are very real and very common...part of perimenopause. For many women this is the most frustrating and least discussed symptom.

4. You're Body Is Changing...Even If Nothing Else Is

You're eating the same, exercising the same, but you're body is responding differently. Weight may start to accumulate in the abdomen, and what "use to work", no longer does. Hormonal shifts can affect how your body stores fat and how it responds to insulin, making these changes feel confusing, and at times, discouraging.

Why This Matters

Perimenopause is not a sudden event. It's a transition that can last anywhere from 5 to 8 yrs. And the earlier you recognize the signs, the sooner you can support your body with the right nutrition, movement, sleep habits and lifestyle changes.

Too often, women are told to power through, or just accept these changes as this is just part of aging. But awareness changes everything! When you understand what your body is going through, you can respond with intention, instead of frustration.

Carol Archambault is a Certified Menopause Coaching Specialist who helps women navigate midlife with strength, confidence, clarity, mindset and lifestyle changes. You can reach her at 774-573-8030, follow her on instagram @Balance_in_midlife.

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Main Street

Business of the Month



Paint the Town

Located at 63 Main St, Blackstone, MA, the Artful Dodger Ceramic and Painting Studio will help you discover your inner artist with owner, Diane Mayers. As a retired art teacher for Woonsocket High School, Diane always had a dream of opening her own art studio. Her goal was to help develop and grow the talents of those willing to explore their own creativity in a safe and nurturing environment. The Artful Dodger team consists of Diane, her husband Kit and Diane Bousquet, Artful Bountea Crafts.

A vibrant creative hub located in the heart of Blackstone, this welcoming space offers a diverse range of classes and events suitable for all ages and skill levels. Unlock your artistic potential

and create something special – gather friends and family and book a special event to celebrate a memorable occasion at a Step by Step Paint Night, Paint Party, or High Tea. They also offer "Grab and Go" Ceramics, Oil Painting Lessons, Drawing Classes and art classes for home schooled students.

Hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. Closed Saturday through Tuesday. For more information call (508) 883-1356 or see <https://artfuldodgerstudio.wixsite.com/website-1>.

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What To Do If You're in a Car Accident in Massachusetts

by Christopher J. Ryan, Esq.



Car accidents happen quickly, and in the moment, it's easy to feel shaken or unsure about what to do next. Knowing the right steps can protect both your health and your legal rights.

Here is a simple, practical guide for what to do if you are involved in a car accident.

1. Make Sure Everyone Is Safe

Your first priority is safety.

- Check yourself and your passengers for injuries
- If possible, move vehicles out of traffic
- Turn on hazard lights

If anyone is injured or you are unsure, call 911 immediately. Even seemingly minor injuries can become serious later.

2. Call the Police

In Massachusetts, you should call the police if:

- Anyone is injured
- There is significant damage
- The roadway is blocked
- You feel unsafe

Having a police report can be extremely helpful later when dealing with insurance companies and determining fault.

3. Exchange Information

Get the following from the other driver:

- Name, address, and phone number
- Driver's license number
- Insurance company and policy number
- License plate number

If there are witnesses, try to obtain their contact information as well.

4. Take Photos (If You Can)

Use your phone to document the scene:

- Damage to all vehicles
- The position of vehicles
- Road conditions, traffic signs, or signals
- Any visible injuries
- Picture of their license plate
- If the other driver is okay with it, take a picture of their driver's license

These photos can become important evidence later.

5. Do Not Admit Fault

It is natural to want to apologize, but avoid saying anything that could be interpreted as admitting fault. Even a simple "I'm sorry" can be used against you later. The cause of an accident is often more complex than it appears in the moment.

6. Seek Medical Attention

If you feel pain, dizziness, or discomfort, get medical treatment as soon as possible.

Some injuries—particularly neck, back, or head injuries—may not show symptoms immediately. Prompt medical care also creates documentation linking your injuries to the accident.

7. Notify Your Insurance Company

You should report the accident to your insurance company promptly. In fact, your insurance policy requires you to report all accidents promptly so make sure to do as soon as possible.

Provide them with:

- Basic facts about the accident
 - Date, time, and location
 - The other driver's information
 - Copies of any pictures that you took
- Stick to the facts. Avoid speculation.

8. File a Massachusetts Crash Report (If Required)

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90, Section 26 requires you to file a Motor Vehicle Crash Operator Report within 5 days if:

- There was injury or death, or
- Property damage appears to be \$1,000 or more
- In my view, just a little damaged paint can cost over \$1,000 so when in doubt, report.

This report must be sent to:

- The Registry of Motor Vehicles
- The local police department

Failing to file this report can result in penalties.

9. Be Careful When Dealing With the Other Driver's Insurance Company

You may receive a call from the other driver's insurance company soon after the accident.

Keep in mind:

- You are not required to give a recorded statement immediately
- Their goal is often to minimize what they pay
- Be cautious about accepting early settlement offers

If you have any doubt, speak with an attorney before proceeding.

10. When Should You Speak to a Lawyer?

Not every accident requires a lawyer, but you should consider it if:

- You were injured
- Fault is being disputed
- The insurance company is delaying or denying your claim
- The accident involves significant damage or lost wages

A short conversation can help you understand your rights and options.

Bellingham High School 50+ Year Reunion

Event Welcomes Graduates from 1976 and Earlier New Website and Facebook Group Launched

The Bellingham 50+ Reunion Committee has officially announced plans for its next multi-class reunion, set for Sunday, September 20, 2026, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Milford, Massachusetts. This gathering, which takes place every three years, welcomes all who graduated from or attended BHS fifty or more years ago, along with their guests. The tradition began in 1988 as the "Fifties Reunion" and has grown to include all eligible classes from across the decades.

This year's event will run from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM, featuring music from the high school years, a full buffet dinner, cash bar and opportunities to reconnect with old friends. Alumni from the classes of 1976 and earlier are invited to attend, and registration is now available online at the committee's new website: bellingham50.org. Attendees can also update their contact information on the site to ensure they receive future communications.

For alumni who prefer to register by Mail, please send your check payable to BHS 50+ Reunion, along with your name while at BHS, current last name (if different), address, email address (for your registration confirmation) and guest name and mail to: BHS 50+ Reunion, 22 Harbor Ave, Falmouth Ma 02540. The cost is \$60 per person.

The committee will continue to reach out via email and postal mail to alumni who have current contact details on file, ensuring everyone has a chance to participate. To further connect classmates, the Reunion Committee has launched a new Facebook group, "Bellingham High School 50 Years Plus Reunion Bellingham, Massachusetts," where alumni can request membership and stay updated on reunion news and events.

Uxbridge Seniors Silver Travel Club

The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center will be taking 2 overnight trips this summer. From Sun, August 30 to Sat, Sept 5 there is a 7 day trip to Niagara Falls for \$989 including 6 nights lodging, 6 breakfasts, 4 dinners, sightseeing and tours.

Then from Monday, Sept 28 to Sat, Oct 3 there is a 6 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 more details.

Final Thoughts

Most people hope they will never need this information—but if an accident does happen, knowing what to do ahead of time can make a stressful situation much more manageable.

The key is simple: **Stay calm, protect your safety, document what happened, and be thoughtful about your next steps.**

Attorney Christopher J. Ryan is the principal owner of Ryan Law Office, 181 Main Street, Blackstone. See the web site at www.ryanlawoffice.com.

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"Game of Shrooms" a Whimsical Treasure Hunt to Blackstone

by Chie Ferrelli

Over the weekend, local parks, historic sites, and community landmarks played host to a unique kind of treasure hunt. Hidden tucked away behind benches, nestled near school grounds, and perched on historic monuments, tiny, handmade mushroom art pieces were waiting to be discovered as part of a global, collaborative art movement known as "Game of Shrooms."

Started in 2019 by the artist Attaboy, Game of Shrooms functions like a massive Easter Egg Hunt for art, celebrating the spirit of unexpected surprises. Every year, thousands of artists and gatherers from across the world—spanning from Hong Kong, Berlin, and Japan to the UK, India, Russia, Switzerland, Tasmania, and the US—participate in their local areas to hide and hunt safely. It is a worldwide movement free from religious dogma, where people actively create, share, and encounter moments of absolute wonder.

Participating locally in this global event was Blackstone resident Chie Ferrelli and her handmade craft brand, Made By Chie. Typically, Ferrelli spends long hours and weeks of hard work crocheting these detailed toys and artwork to prepare for local craft shows and competitions. For this special weekend, however, the labor of love was entirely free for the community, designed simply to spread a bit of neighborhood joy.

Clues were dropped throughout the day on both Facebook and Instagram in the form of playful rhymes—a fun, signature tradition that Made By Chie has been running for the past three years. Eager treasure hunters scoured the town using these riddles, searching spots like Turbesi Park, local school grounds, and historic landmarks. One of the final, almost-forgotten drops was posted on Sunday at the Civil War monument on Canal Street, sparking an exciting, fast-paced race as folks rushed out to find the shroom. Another incredibly meaningful drop of the weekend took place right behind the donated bench outside the library, celebrating a favorite town gathering spot.

What makes the event truly special is that it is open to all ages, bringing out the absolute best in the neighborhood's community spirit. Over the past three years of participating, Ferrelli has witnessed heartwarming moments where successful hunters have selflessly "given" their newly found treasures away to others they saw out searching.

By the end of the weekend, every single hidden mushroom had been found and successfully adopted into a new home. For those who missed the hunt but want to see the action, photos, videos, and reels of the clues and discoveries are available on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/chiemade-this> and https://www.instagram.com/made_by_chie.

While the hunt has wrapped up for the summer, residents won't have to wait too long to get their hands on these whimsical creations. You can find more of these crocheted mushrooms and artwork available at Made By Chie's upcoming craft shows this year, follow her social media pages for updates, or connect via her website madeby.chieferrelli.com for custom commissions.

Mark your calendars: Game of Shrooms 2027 is already officially scheduled to return and promising even more hidden surprises for sharp-eyed residents.



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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.

Adult Crafts with Jean

Scrapbooking, Tuesday, July 7 at 5 PM
Crayon Painted Totes, Thursday, July 9 at 1 PM and 6:30 PM
Senior Crafty Corner, Painting Flowers with Plastic Bags Thursday, July 9 at 1 PM
Family Recipe Club, Monday, July 27 at 6 PM.
The Senior Center Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. July's meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 21. Books are available at the front desk at the library. New members are always welcome!

Library of Things newest addition to the collection is a portable axe-throwing game! This fun and exciting outdoor game features foam axes and throwing stars with a plastic target. Check it out today with your library card! To reach the library for more information, please call 508-883-1931 or visit www.blackstonepubliclibrary.org.



By Lee Holfelder

Welcome July! We hope you all are enjoying this beautiful summer weather.

Save the date! The Friends will be having a booth at the town's semiquincentennial celebration on Saturday, July 25, 2026.

Coming soon! The Friends will be collecting textiles for our annual Clothing Drive. Watch for details in the August Enlightener.

Looking for something to do this summer? 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 at Tower Hill 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!

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.

BMVBL Announces Exciting Community Color Run Fundraiser

Blackstone, MA – The Blackstone Millville Youth Basketball League is thrilled to announce the upcoming BMVBL Color-A-Thon, a fun-filled community Color Run designed to bring together players, families, friends, and supporters while raising funds for the league. The event promises an unforgettable day of colorful excitement, music, and prizes for participants of all ages. You can run, walk, or dance around to each color station where volunteers will be throwing color!

The Color Run will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2026 at the Hartnett Middle School field in Blackstone, MA. Registration begins at 10:30am, with the run starting at 11:00.

Participants can register online through the School-A-Thon platform and begin collecting donations to earn exciting prizes. The fundraising goal is \$150 per student, and participants who raise funds will unlock multiple reward levels.

Prize Levels Include:

- \$30 – Color-A-Thon Dye Pack, T-Shirt and Event Entry
- \$60 – Dye Pack, Face Gator, and Sunglasses + Prior Prizes
- \$90 – Paint Sticks, Beach Ball, and Dye Pack + Prior Prizes
- \$150 – Color Blaster Bottle + Prior Prizes
- \$250 – Rainbow Tutu, Rainbow Socks, and Crazy Wig Headband + Prior Prizes
- \$500 – Earbuds, Arm Sleeves, Color Blaster Bottle, and ALL previous prizes

Participants must register and raise at least \$30 by July 20 to receive an official event t-shirt and color pack. The event is open to all ages, friends and family, and all participants are encouraged to register before the deadline.

Registration Information

Register online at: donate.schoolathon.org.



For more information about the BMVBL Color Run, please visit donate.schoolathon.org or contact BMVBL at bmybl2017@gmail.com

Thank You to all our residents for your Continued Support!

Blackstone Millville Food Pantry



Divine Mercy Parish Hall, St. Paul Street, Blackstone

JULY 2026 Food Pantry Needs

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Cereal | Fluff |
| Instant Potatoes | Pudding cups |
| Instant Rice | Brownie Mix |
| Hamburger Helper | Body wash |
| Ketchup | Dish detergent |
| Mustard | Laundry detergent |
| Cookies | Tissues |
| Crackers | Toilet paper |

** 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.

BMR High Was a Busy Place in June

By Jocelyn Haggerty
BMR Correspondent

During the month of June, the Blackstone-Millville Regional High School (BMR) held many events leading up to the end of the school year.

Spring sports concluded in June. The overall records for the team sports were: Varsity Baseball: 8-10, JV Baseball: 2-9, Varsity Softball: 4-14, JV Softball: 1-12, and Varsity Tennis: 1-17.

As for the Track & Field team, three athletes participated during the MIAA Division 6 States Meet. Jackson Dunton, who competed in Pentathlon and Javelin, finished in second place overall in Pentathlon and was the Division 6 Boys Javelin Champion. Dunton also qualified and competed in the MIAA Meet of Champions, and earned sixth place overall in District E Boys Decathlon, Isabella Gaudette also competed in

ferred to students at BMR gave many the opportunity to look more into the science behind living organisms and history.

Many “End of the School Year Events” took place. BMR held a Career Fair during the school day on June 9. Each grade, one at a time, had a chance to go to the BMR Cafeteria and talk to professionals and workers in specific fields. Professionals such as therapists, physicians and nurses came to share their experiences in their career along with others in engineering, the trades and the military. This Career Fair was a great way to introduce many students to a possible career or passion they may want to pursue when they graduate.

During the last week of school, BMR had many events to kick



Senior Brooklyn Dullea returns a volley this spring during a BMR tennis match. (Photos by Nathan Burden)



Eighth-grader Ellie McKinley, who was named a CMAC Softball All-Star this spring, fields a ball.

Shot Put, while Natalia Morais competed in Long Jump and Javelin.

Many athletes were also named Central Massachusetts Athletic Conference (CMAC) All-Stars. Varsity Softball team All-Stars were Sadie Robidoux and Ellie McKinley, while the Varsity Baseball team had Zach Bell, James Rebhan and Cody Fletcher. Varsity Track & Field All-Stars were Jackson Dunton, Isabella Gaudette, Natalia Morais and Aaralyn Holmes.

Another major event that occurred during last month was the Civics Showcase at the DCU Center in Worcester on June 1. BMR students Ivy Maloney, Aaralyn Holmes and Stephen Simmons were chosen during the schoolwide showcase to present their projects in front of state representatives and leaders. Their dedication and hard work paid off as many adults at the showcase were invested in what these students had worked on to make a change in our community.

The BMR Science Department organized multiple field trips for their classes in June. The Environmental and Biology classes, which consisted of 8th, 9th and some 10th graders, went to the Harvard Museum of Natural History for a day. Other field trips for students in Marine Biology and AP Biology gave those students the chance to spend the day at Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut. The field trips of-

off the summer, including the Book Awards, Bingo and Karaoke. On Monday June 15, BMR held their annual Book Awards, which honors select junior students with possible scholarships and underclassmen from all grades with certificates for their hard work in academics, leadership and service. On Tuesday, June 16, BMR held a School-Wide Bingo where everyone competed to get prizes like free ice cream, candy and more. Finally, on the last full day of school on June 17, a Karaoke Bash was held where students and faculty partook in singing, dancing and competitions. These activities at BMR gave students that perfect end of the year events to kick off their summer vacation.

Just before the month of June, on May 29, the BMR Class of 2026 graduated. As the graduation ceremony began, members of the BMR Pony Express, the school's newspaper, quickly took photos of the ceremony and input them into the newspaper. This issue was about graduation, Co-Valdictionians, and the Class of 2026's future plans as the fall approaches. By the end of the ceremony, the Pony Express was able to print and hand out a newspaper ready for anyone leaving the graduation ceremony to pick up.

Check out the Pony Express, the Official Student Newspaper at BMR, for more information on graduation. Search “BMR Pony Express”, then all issues from this year will pop up for you to read. And you can even click on “Pony Express Past Years” that dates back to all issues all the way from 2005.

Sophomore Ben Wiggin swings at a pitch for the Chargers Baseball team, which just missed out on a spot in the playoffs this spring.



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Residents to Participate in 2026 Pan-Mass Challenge to Support Cancer Research

NEEDHAM, MA (06/24/2026)-- This August 1 and 2, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) will bring together more than 6,000 cyclists and 4,000 volunteers on August 1-2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Participants from local communities will be among those helping support the PMC's mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment.

Local Participants Include:

- Nancy Rinfrette of Blackstone (<https://profile.pmc.org/NR0099>)
- Sue Chase of Blackstone (<https://profile.pmc.org/SC0542>)
- Deborah Nolan of Blackstone (<https://profile.pmc.org/DN0119>)
- Frank Lincoln of Blackstone (<https://profile.pmc.org/BL0284>)

The PMC, which raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraiser in the world, is aiming to raise more than ever this year, with a fundraising goal of \$79 million.

This year's PMC comes at an especially critical time, with federal research support shrinking, grant approval rates reaching historic lows, and cancer cases continuing to rise. For the 20th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will go directly to Dana-Farber, one of the nation's top three hospitals for cancer research and care.

"The theme for this year's PMC, which is 'now, more than ever,' underscores the paramount importance of every single dollar raised in fueling the search for a cure," said Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the PMC. "We are endlessly grateful to every rider, volunteer, donor, and sponsor who makes the PMC possible. Because of their training miles, long hours of volunteering, generous support, and unwavering commitment, we are moving ever closer to a world without cancer."

Since its inception in 1980, the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber, making it the organization's largest single contributor and accounting for 67 percent of the annual revenue of The Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber's community-driven fundraising arm. This unrestricted annual funding has empowered and accelerated advancements in cancer research, deeply benefitting patients across the world.

During each annual PMC weekend, thousands of cyclists and volunteers come together from across the world, hailing from 47 US states and 12 countries, with a shared purpose of raising as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Cyclists ride routes ranging from 25 to 177 miles. Included among these participants is the PMC Living Proof community, riders and volunteers who were previously treated or are currently undergoing cancer treatment and serve as Living Proof of the progress made through raising funds for cancer research and treatment.

There is still time to participate in this year's Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at PMC.org. *The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. Founded in 1980 by Billy Starr - who remains the event's founder & chairman, an annual cyclist, and a fundraiser - the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. As Dana-Farber's single largest contributor, the organization generates 67 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to fueling cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber.*

Going, Going, Gone! BVT to Comply with Records Regulations

Class of 2019: Destruction of Student Records is August 6

UPTON – Attention, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School Class of 2019: In accordance with state and federal regulations, temporary student records, including special education files (IEP), 504 plans, and student health records, will be destroyed seven years after a student leaves the school. For the Class of 2019, records are scheduled for destruction on Aug. 6, 2026.

Members of the Class of 2019 may request their temporary student records (any information not contained in their transcript) before the Aug. 6 shred date by submitting a written request. If you want to obtain your record, please send a written request indicating the year of graduation and your name while attending school to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Student Services Record Dept., 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568.

Student transcripts (records of grades) will be retained for 60 years after a student leaves the school. For the Class of 2019, transcripts are scheduled for destruction on Aug. 6, 2079. Alumni may request transcripts at any time between 2019 graduation and Aug. 6, 2079.

If you want to retain your records, learn how at: www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/studentrecords.

Twice Treasured

Twice Treasured Thrift Shop is located at 48 St. Paul Street in Blackstone, MA in the Parish Center downstairs.

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

You can follow Twice Treasured Thrift Store on Facebook. You'll see our upcoming sales and information with photos and posts. <https://www.facebook.com/profile>. Follow us!

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 (508)-861-0065

American Revolution Word Search

Directions: All words are positioned left to right. Once you have completed the word search; pick eight of the words and write a sentence for each explaining how it applies to the American Revolution.



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 R E G I M E N T Q C K Y O M W Q X R E F A C A
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LOYALISTS	TREASON	SECRECY	STAMP
ARCHIVE	REPEAL	REGIMENT	REBEL
COLUMN	GUERRILLA	CANNON	DISGUISE
SMUGGLING	PREAMBLE	PROFITEERING	REDCOAT

BMR High School Building Project Update

The BMRSD High School Building project (Feasibility Study) with the MSBA is nearing the conclusion of Module 4: the Schematic Design (SD) Phase, which entails developing and refining the Building Design, Project Budget & Construction timeline, and ultimately concludes with the School Building Committee (SBC) review and approval of the Schematic Design on June 17, 2026.

After SBC approval, the Schematic Design package will be submitted to the MSBA for board review to authorize the MSBA Director to enter a Project Scope and Budget (PS&B) and Project Funding Agreement (PFA) with the MSBA to proceed with funding the project to be decided at the August 26, 2026 MSBA Board Meeting.

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 BMSRD.NET to check out the School Building Project and view the PROPOSED SCHOOL.

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!

VISIT the Blackstone Millville Regional School District at BMSRD.NET to check out the School Building Project and view the PROPOSED CAMPUS

HOW WOULD THIS BE FUNDED?

- MSBAs 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 in October 2026.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

- SBC Meeting: June 17, 2026 - Vote on Schematic Design Submission
- Schematic Design Submission - due to MSBA June 25, 2026
- SBC Meeting: July 8, 2026
- 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
- October/November: The communities will vote to determine whether the project will move forward.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit: www.bmrtd.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@bmrtd.net

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

Revolutionary Women and Domestic Power

by Elizabeth McGeough



As we mark the 250th anniversary of the United States as a nation, thoughts turn to heroes, influencers, and history makers. For every one of the stories we celebrate, countless others are lost in the history that led up to the semiquincentennial. Such as Boston women who enforced boycotts.

When tensions rose between the colonies and the British Crown in the years leading up to the Revolution, controversy was often expressed through pamphlets, protests, and the discussions of "elected" parties. But in Boston, one of the most powerful forms of resistance came from the efforts of local women who turned everyday economic choices into acts of political defiance.

political defiance.

During the early 1770s, Boston's merchants agreed to boycott British goods. These boycotts were intended to show Parliament that the colonies could not be coerced through taxation or trade restrictions. Enforcing a boycott was a challenge. That responsibility fell largely to Boston's women. They controlled household spending, managed family accounts, and oversaw the purchase of everything from food to textiles. Their choices determined whether the boycott succeeded or failed. Recognizing their power, women across the town organized to oversee the ban.

In several documented cases, groups of women seized contraband tea or confronted merchants who continued to import British products. Sometimes their actions caused enough public pressure to force a merchant to sign a pledge affirming support for the boycott. At other times, the social cost of being labeled disloyal was enough to ruin business. By ensuring that neighbors held to their commitments, Boston's women transformed boycotts from abstract statements into practical, adopted practices.

They visited shops, questioned merchants, and boldly asked whether British goods were still being imported or sold. These conversations were open and direct; shopkeepers knew exactly where their goods came from, so if a merchant tried to evade the boycott or mislead customers, word spread quickly about their deception.

Women's work went beyond simple consumer choices. It became a form of community oversight that helped knit the political ideals of the Revolution into daily life. Their activism also influenced political decisions. When women rejected British goods, it affected harbor traffic, merchant revenues, and the behavior of customs officials. By late 1773, their steadfast refusal to buy taxed tea created conditions that set the stage for the Boston Tea Party. While the destruction of the tea is often portrayed as the main event, the months of organized economic resistance that preceded it were just as significant.

The contributions of Boston's women show how the Revolution depended on far more than declarations and battles. It required communities willing to assert their power and shape their own economic destiny. Their efforts remind us that resistance can grow from the household as easily as the town meeting, and that the choices of individuals can steer the course of a larger movement.

As we mark the 250th anniversary, revisiting these stories helps us understand the Revolution as a collective endeavor. The women of Boston did not simply support the movement. They enforced it, strengthened it, and helped ensure that its principles took root well before war officially began.

U.S. Flag Retirement Drop Box

The Town Hall has a U.S. Flag Retirement Drop Box, which was the 2023 Eagle Scout project of Nick Copolino of Troop 1, Blackstone. For any worn, torn, faded or badly soiled American flags that are dropped off in the box, the Boy Scouts of Troop 1 will gather the retired flags and properly dispose of the flags in a formal flag retirement ceremony. Residents and businesses are encouraged to use the Flag Drop Box located at the entrance to the Town Hall.



LIFE TRIBUTES

EVERLASTING MEMORIES OF LOVED ONES



Marlee Jeanne Martin

Marlee Jeanne Martin, 9, a lifelong resident of Blackstone, passed away June 13, 2026, in Boston Children's Hospital. Born in Boston, she was the daughter of Joseph Martin of Blackstone and Taylor Desautell of Woonsocket, and bonus daughter of Chris Duffy.

Marlee was a third-grade student at Millville Elementary School. She loved the programs at the Blackstone Library, especially the Lego Club. She enjoyed music, especially Taylor Swift, fashion, art, makeup and Minecraft, and was the queen of 6-7. Despite the many challenges and struggles Marlee faced throughout her life, she always radiated positivity and strength. She was a selfless and empathetic child, whose love and light shined in every space she entered.

Besides her parents and bonus Dad, Marlee leaves

her maternal grandparents, Grandma Tenley Bourget and Peepaw, David Desautell and his companion, Anna DiGenni, all of Blackstone; her paternal grandparents, Nonni Janice Martin of Blackstone, and Grandpa Paul Martin of Attleboro; her maternal great grandmother Jeanne Desautell of Blackstone; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends, including John and Shannon Martin of Clinton, MA and Tia Bourget and Ceralynn Masse, both of Woonsocket; the staff and families from Boston Children's Hospital; and her cats and bunnies.

Her visitation was held Sunday, June 28, 2026, in the Holt Funeral Home, 510 So. Main St., Woonsocket. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Boston Children's Hospital Hale Cardiac Center, Attn: Gift Services, 401 Park Drive, Suite 602, Boston, MA 02215. www.holt-funeralhome.com.

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. M.M.

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.

Why prayer as a nation is so important?

As I reflect upon the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States it becomes evident that our founding fathers were men of a deep and abiding faith in their Creator. The very first sentence of the Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." That is, the basics rights of all citizens are derived from God and not from the government. We are told that we are founded on Judeo-Christian values. Basic human values. While our founding fathers were not perfect men, and sometimes far from that, as we matured as a nation and even to this day, we continue to recognize our flaws and work to rectify them.

Prayer was always a part of our leaders' lives before and after the formation of the union. For quite some time the early schools in the colonies and beyond used the Bible as a means for teaching children how to read. Prayer is such an important part of our society that the first Thursday in the month of May has been designated as a National Day of Prayer. As a Christian, Jesus set the example for us of not only just how important prayer is but also gave his disciples and the generations of believers that followed, an example of how we might pray. Biblically, there are 202 references to prayer in the Old Testament and 165 in the New Testament. Jesus tells us to pray not for show or recognition but rather to honor, bless and petition

the Lord. We are told that the fervent prayer of the righteous avails much. I could go on and on.

Praying to Jesus is not like withdrawing blessings from an ATM. Our prayers should be built on a personal relationship with our Savior. Be specific when you pray. Be specific in prayer for your needs or when you pray an intercessory prayer for others. God yearns to hear from us. It's why he gave us a direct line of communications with Him. He does not wish any to perish. Today, it feels like we have strayed far from His biblical truths. I will leave you with the following Scripture to contemplate on prayer as a nation as we ponder our personal relationship we have with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Chronicles 7:14-15 is a statement to His people on prayer within the Old Testament, and it applies to us even today. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place." Prayer on a regular basis is not so much an obligation but rather a privilege. God loves you and He wants to hear from you. He has reconciled us to Him through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. What a joy it is to speak with our Heavenly Father knowing He is with us and will never leave us as orphans.

May the Lord richly bless you and keep you. Associate pastor Rev. 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!

Divine Mercy Parish Schedule

Divine Mercy Parish Mass Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 8am *rosary before morning masses at 7:30am
Thursday at 6:30pm
*adoration after Thursday Mass
Saturday at 4pm *confession from 3pm - 3:40pm
Sunday at 8am and 10:30am

Adoration Under the Summer Stars

Thursday, July 16th on the parish back lawn at 8pm.
All are welcome – bring your lawn chair or blanket! *special Mass time for this evening at 7pm in the church.



Blackstone's Window On The Past

The Revolution Begins!

© Helen Murray 2026

For several years town meetings were held before the start of America's revolution against Great Britain, such as one in Mendon. Those meetings denounced unfair taxes on imported goods, penal laws, and finally the blockage of Boston Harbor. When the people of Boston could no longer get supplies by ship, surrounding towns and villages sent food and other necessities to help Boston citizens.

As conditions worsened, local committees were formed to stock gun powder and recruit soldiers. Gunpowder was to be stored in nine locations, including Mendon and its South Parish, which we know as Blackstone. Later, Mendon added two medicine chests and tents to its supplies.

In 1775 Mendon town records listed 162 men in four companies that were ready and another 116 men enlisted over the summer. These local men would meet and drill on the grounds of the Chestnut Hill Meeting House.

On April 18, 1775, the call went out that the British were marching on Lexington and Concord to seize the guns and ammunition stored there. Mendon had four companies of men who responded. It was recorded that the 4th Mendon Company, led by Captain Gerstom Nelson, was on its way thirty minutes after receiving the alarm.

The 1st Company led by Captain John Albee, the 2nd Company led by Captain William Jennison and the 3rd Company, led by Captain Joseph Daniels followed soon after with more supplies and towing two cannons.

In 1776, towns were ordered by the provisional congress to supply 1/7 of their male population to serve a term in the mil-

itary defending the colonies. The town had to supply not only the men but pay their salaries as well. Mendon and its South Parish exceeded its quota.

Town records show that Mendon and South Parish men fought at Bunker Hill, Long Island, Valley Forge, Bennington, Saratoga, and Yorktown. Sadly, some were even led by Benedict Arnold when he surrendered his forces to the British.

Men could volunteer for three or nine months at a time. Those who were drafted served eight months. Meanwhile, wives and mothers left behind tried to maintain their homes and feed their families. They were taking care of crops and animals to sustain themselves and their households.

An example of this is Margaret Daniels whose family home was on the line of Mendon and South Parish. Initially, four of her family members left to take up the fight. Her husband, Captain Joseph Daniels; her son, Private Moses Daniels; son-in-law, Private Preserved Baker; and son-in-law, Private Timothy Wiswall.

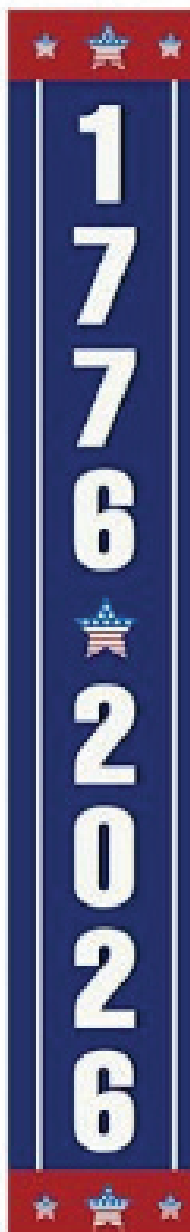


Pine Hill Cemetery near the boundary of Blackstone and Mendon is the final resting place of at least 10 veterans of the Revolutionary War.

Additionally, on December 10, 1775, seventeen year old Joseph Daniels Jr. joined Captain John Tyler's Company with the regiment of Colonel Joseph Reed. In December 1776, Eleazer Daniels, son of Captain Joseph Daniels, only fifteen years old, enlisted in the company of Captain Samuel Baldwin.

Independence was declared on July 4, 1776, but fighting would continue until British General Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown. It was on September 3, 1783 that the Treaty of Paris was signed and Great Britain officially recognized the United States of America!

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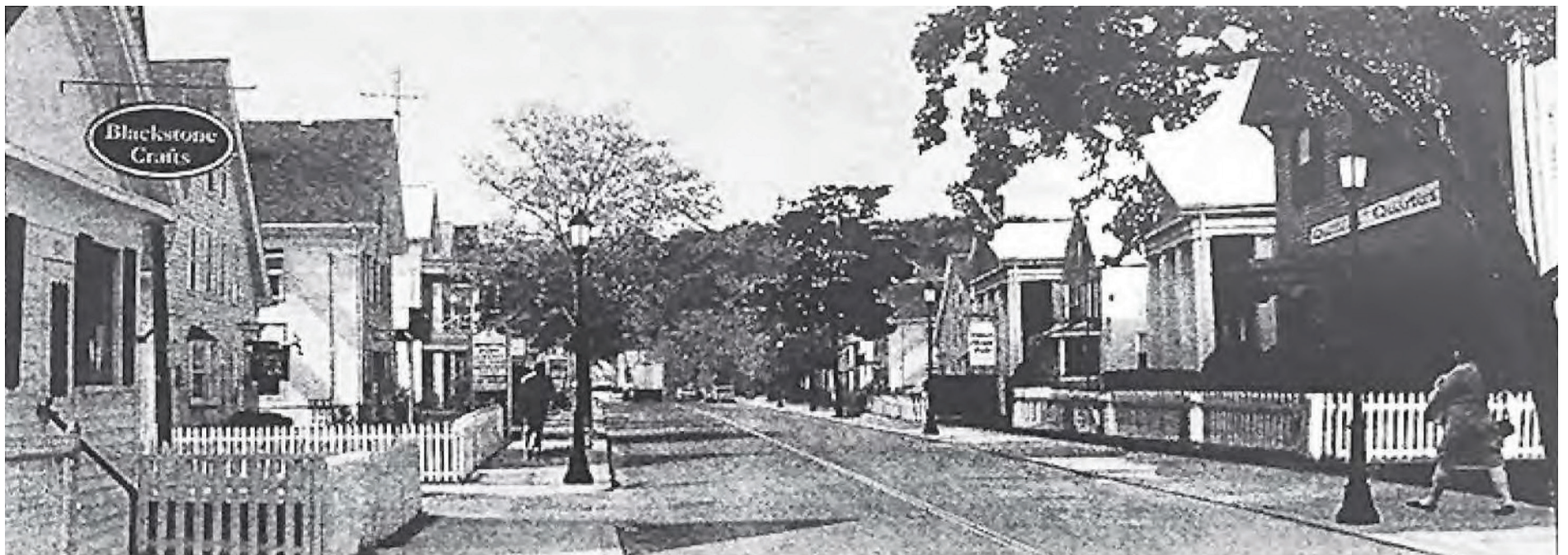
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