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Volume 33, Issue 1

Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993

June 2026

UniBank Announces Leadership Promotions

UniBank, the largest Mutually-Owned Community Bank headquartered in Central Massachusetts, announced leadership promotions at their recent Annual Meeting held at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton.

Recipients of Senior Vice President promotions include Cindy Gleason, Stacey Johnson, and Matt Wally. Vice President promotions include Keith Lippert, Dori Asllani, and Shannen Gray. Assistant Vice President promotions include Meredith Corey and Andrew Foley. Officer promotions include Vinny Mazzarella, Misty Caiola-Croak, Will Dennis, Caitlyn Freeman, and Maureen Crehan.

Chris Foley, President of UniBank, said, "These leadership promotions reflect the depth of talent we've built at UniBank and our continued commitment to developing leaders from within. Each individual has demonstrated exceptional dedication to our customers, our communities, and our mission, and I'm confident they will continue to move the bank forward in meaningful ways."

Ed Augustus, CEO of UniBank, said, "The new promotions are well deserved and underscore our belief that strong leadership, collaboration, and a shared vision are essential to serving our communities and shaping our future."

UniBank is headquartered in Whitinsville, MA with assets of \$3 Billion as of December 31, 2025. A full-service, mutually owned community bank, UniBank has branches in Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. UniBank is dedicated to contributing to the overall quality of life and economic health of the communities it serves, while maintaining an elevated level of financial soundness and integrity. UniBank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. NMLS #583135. The company website is www.unibank.com.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Convening 250: Telling America's Story



Lisa Cheever, Library Director at the Blackstone Public Library, Blackstone, MA has been invited to represent the Blackstone Library at the IMLS Library Convening 250: Telling America's Story in Washington, D.C. Taking place from June 10-12, 2026, the convening aims to inspire and empower

librarians responsible for small and rural libraries to participate in telling both the national and local American story, reaching audiences who are often overlooked. Through dynamic speakers, thoughtful panel discussions, and hands-on breakout sessions, participants will gain fresh ideas and renewed energy to create meaningful programs that honor our nation's history while strengthening civic understanding and pride across all age groups.

This training opportunity is fully funded by the IMLS, and Mrs. Cheever is excited for this hands-on learning experience and how it will benefit the patrons of the Blackstone Library. Mrs. Cheever believes that "Civic history and the American story is part of the rich tapestry our Country's past and future. Libraries play an important part in educational and outreach for all individuals."



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Blackstone Historical Museum

Historical Notes

by Hellen Murray

There will be many celebrations to observe our nation's semiquincentennial this summer. If you would like to find out more about Blackstone's part in the events of 1776, and even before that time, plan a visit to your Blackstone Historical Museum.

The museum is open to the public every Thursday from noon until 3:00 p.m. There will also be Saturday openings on June 6th and 20th. There is never an admission charge and members of the Blackstone Historical Commission will be pleased to guide you through the museum's three floors, filled with Blackstone's history.

Mrs. Sue Demers recently donated a photograph of 1945 Welcome

Home Banquet, held by our town to welcome our returning war veterans.

Emile Legendra donated a copy of the graduation exercises of the B.H.S. Class of 1897, along with the last will and testament of local physician, Dr. Frank J. King.

Major Al Albbondanza donated a uniform from the 167th Civil Affairs Unit in Iraq, a flag representing the Warrior Citizen National Guard Reserves, and an embroidered quilt "The Heart of America" honoring those who perished on 9/11.

The Historical Commission wishes to thank these donors for their contributions to the museum's information about Blackstone's past.

Lions Assist the Blackstone Millville Food Pantry

by Denise Catalano, Lions V.P.

Please join us in supporting our Food Pantry on June 20th when the LIONS will be in front of the Town Hall collecting nonperishable food, including the following much needed items:

- Toilet paper, paper towels
- Peanut butter, Mac & Cheese
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Pasta of any variety & jar/canned sauce
- Juices or juice mixers of a powder type
- Soaps ,detergent
- Toiletries of a personal nature



Dad's Roots Go Deep in History

by Elizabeth McGeough

It was a gray day in June, 2013, in the Boyne Valley, County Meath, Ireland – the land of my father and his ancestors. I was on a tour of a lifetime, bound to find my roots and discover the McGeough family history. Due to a lack of extensive written historical records, the early history of Meath and my ancestors is murky and largely mythologized. But I couldn't help but get caught up in the Irish myths and folklore that surrounds my heritage, like the heavy mist and murk that surrounded me that day in Meath, at the Newgrange Passage Tomb – the 'home' of the High Kings of Ireland.

Newgrange was constructed about 5,200 years ago, which makes it older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids of Giza. Archaeologists classified Newgrange as a "passage tomb" (or burial mound), however Newgrange is recognized as much more than that: an ancient temple and a place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial significance.

Divine Mercy Annual Picnic & Family Fun Day!

Join us on Sunday, June 28th from 11:30am - 2:30pm. We welcome everyone to join in an afternoon of Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

Burgers - Dogs - Salads and more!
Live Music: THE GOOD LIVING BAND is back!

Bouncy House - Games for all ages!

Our Adult Seniors Ministry is hosting a "crafty" craft during their monthly June meeting. Join our Seniors on Wednesday, June 10th in the Parish Center Lower Hall from 1pm - 3pm.

Seniors within the community are welcome - please contact Sandy to be sure enough craft supplies are available at 774-462-2468.

Adoration Under Stars on Thursday, June 18th on the parish back lawn at 7:45pm. All are welcome - bring your lawn chair or blanket!

Blackstone Enlightener June 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

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From Chief Gilmore's Desk

Summer 2026

The Blackstone Police Department is encouraging everyone to get out and finally enjoy the warmer weather. Driver's should remember with the warmer weather comes the increased risk of encountering cyclists and pedestrians in the roadways, especially kids. We are reminding all residents to use caution when approaching or passing bicycles or pedestrians. Cyclists should adhere to the rules of the roadway but motorists must also give riders as much space as possible to avoid collisions. When approaching crosswalks motorists need to yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway.

Blackstone Police will be sending out police mountain bike patrols and the officers will be looking for any violations. And a quick note to cyclists: anyone 16 and under must wear a helmet when riding a bike, traveling on one as a passenger, or using in line skates, a scooter, or a skateboard on a public way or path. The Blackstone Police Department encourages all parents and children to abide by these laws.

Reminder: What to Do When You Strike an Animal on the Road

The operator of a motor vehicle that strikes and injures or kills a dog or cat shall forthwith report such an accident to the owner or custodian of said dog or cat or to a police officer in the town wherein such accident has occurred. Failure to do so can result in fines or imprisonment.

If the operator a motor vehicle strikes a non-domestic animal (typically deer), the operator should report the collision to the Environmental Police and/or the local police department, especially if the vehicle sustains damage. This is considered a motor vehicle accident and requires such notification.

ALSO REMEMBER: If you are driving and you encounter a cow, horse or other daft animal being led, ridden or driven you are required to remain stationary so long as may be reasonable to allow the animal to pass (if traveling the opposite direction) or to pass the animal with reasonable caution (if traveling in the same direction). The duty is on the motor vehicle driver to slow down.

When Scammers call Just Say NO

Residents should be aware that scammers seem to get more active as the weather warms up. With the change of seasons, new scams pop up involving such things as yard cleanup, mowing, general landscaping, etc. It is generally perpetrated by men asking residents, often the elderly, if they would like this type of work done. They often try to get cash in advance. Or they do a minimal amount of work and demand money before the job is completed.

Always be on guard when someone you do not know knocks on your door offering services. Demand to see their proof of insurance and business license, and never pay cash. Use established, well referred contractors. When in doubt, call the police right away so we can further investigate the situation. It can be tempting to accept the offer of help from a stranger that is "down on their luck" or "just trying to make a few bucks" but don't do it.

Also, it's not just the scammer that knocks on your door that citizens need to be aware of. Phone scammers will try to con people out of money in dozens of devious

ways. There are some red flags to listen for, though. Whenever someone asks for personal information over the phone (social security number, dates of birth, bank information) you can almost guarantee it's a scam. Legitimate businesses will never do this unless you, the customer, initiate the call. Another big red flag is Western Union. If someone calls and asks you to wire money (a relative is in jail; the IRS is after you; they sent you a check for the wrong amount) NEVER do this. The best bet is to hang up the phone. If you're uncertain, call the police.

No Dogs Allowed!

Blackstone Police Department would like to remind residents that **dogs are not allowed on school grounds or in posted recreation areas.** The school department has taken steps to increase the signage indicating these bans, and we would like to reinforce these restrictions in advance.

Chapter 63 of the Town of Blackstone by-laws specifically addresses these areas and outlines the fines that can be imposed if these by-laws are violated. Please respect your neighbors and fellow residents by adhering to these prohibitions. If you are on school grounds and the by-law is being violated, feel free to call our department so we can respond accordingly.



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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.

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

PLEASE NOTE: The Senior Center will Close at Noon on Thursday June 18th, and be Closed on Friday, June 19th. Weekly Programs & Activities:

New this month: Coffee Club is moving from Wednesday to Thursday Morning!

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: 10am: Pound Fitness, Game Day. 12pm – 4pm: Artist Alley

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.

June Happenings:

1st: Movie Monday, 12 Noon, "Walk the Line" Johnny Cash BioPic. PG13, 2h16m Walk-ins Welcome.

3rd: Travel Breakfast, 9:30 AM Bus. Bacon N Beans RSVP by May 27

4th: Lunch & Learn: The High School Building Project. 12 Noon. RSVP by May 28

8th: Mystery Lunch, 10:45 AM Bus. RSVP by June 1.

9th: Bus to Adventure, 9:15 AM Bus. Hopkinton Center for the Arts guided gallery tour (free) & Lunch at 110 Grill. RSVP by June 2

10th: Memorial Butterfly Release, 11 AM. Made possible by Amedisys & MetroWest Hospice. RSVP by June 3 – Space Limited. You are invited to stay for lunch at 12 noon: roast beef sandwich & soup, RSVP for lunch by June 3. \$3 for Seniors 60+, \$6 for all others.

15th: Beach Day! 9:30 AM Bus. Spend the day at Hopkinton State Park at their lake beach. RSVP by June 8 – Space Limited. No trip in inclement weather, no rain date, pack your lunch. Trip will repeat in July & August.

16th: Birthday Bash Meal at 12 Noon – Pasta Bar – and Jumpin Juba in concert at 12:30 PM. Concert made possible in part by the MA and Blackstone Cultural Council. RSVP for meal by June 9. Concert walk-ins welcome.

18th: In-house Coffee Club Breakfast, 9 AM, Catered by Betty's! Join us for a bite before Cribbage! RSVP suggested, \$3

22nd: Pop Up Beer Can Museum at the Senior Center! 1 PM. A presentation and tour of some of the artifacts from the Beer Can Museum and Hall of Fame. Trivia, Door Prizes, & Q&A included! RSVP Recommended by June 15.

23rd: AARP Presents: 6 Pillars of Brain Health 10 AM. RSVP Recommended by June 16.

Upcoming Big Trips:

More Details in Newsletter

July 23 – Indian Princess Cruise & Meal.

Sept 10 – Lobsterfest @ Newport Playhouse.

Oct 6 – Turkey Train Tour & Meal.

July Save The Dates:

1st Travel Breakfast – RSVP by June 24

6th Movie Monday – Walk-ins Welcome

7th Birthday Bash w/ Hot Dog Bar at 12, Performance by Roger Tincknell @ 12:30.

Performance possible in part by MA & Blackstone Cultural Council. RSVP for meal by July 1. Performance walk-ins welcome.

8th Henry Quinlan presents: All For Seniors. RSVP by July 1.

13th Beach Day

14th AARP Presents: Retirement Planning for the Already Retired

20th Mystery Lunch

21st Dog Days Cookout, Sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Animal Control

31st MahJong Tourney for International MahJong Day – We Play Simplified Filipino, come by any Friday to learn!

See our Newsletter for additional information.



Millville COA

Tina Cook COA Director

508-883-3523

The hours for the Center are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-3. 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: June 12th: Iggy's Doughboys & Chowder House, Warwick. Bus leaves at 10:30 am, \$5 bus donation, lunch on your own.

MONDAY: June 8th: Senior Club Meeting and Lunch 11:30 am. Entertainment: Music Bingo! If you can't come for lunch, join us for the entertainment! This is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council. June 29th: Craft Class – 10 am. The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.

TUESDAY: June 2nd: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm June 9th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm June 16th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm June 23rd: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm June 30th: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Tina's Retirement Party 1:00 pm All Are Welcome.

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

THURSDAY: June 4th: BINGO is the first Thursday of the month at 1

pm. Come for the fun and snacks. Lunch is at noon \$3 June 11: 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. June 18th: Lunch at noon, \$3. 5 Wishes – Aging with Dignity Advanced Care Planning 10:30 am, COA Meeting at 1 pm. June 25th: Movie: Remarkably Bright Creatures Lunch at noon, \$3. June 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.

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



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BMYBL Announces Exciting Community Color Run Fundraiser

The Blackstone Millville Youth Basketball League is thrilled to announce the upcoming BMYBL 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, June 20, 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 May 29 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

Campaign ID: 39418

Scan the QR code below to register:



For more information about the BMYBL Color Run, please visit donate.schoolathon.org or contact BMYBL at bmy-bl2017@gmail.com

Parks and Recreation Summer 2026

by Robert D. Gilbert

Spring is here! The fields and basketball courts are busy with sporting activities for children, youths, and adults. Let's hear it for all the league associations and coaches who dedicate their time and efforts to make this happen!

John Cristina, President of the Blackstone Millville Youth Soccer Organization (BMYSO) is stepping aside. He helped maintain and expand a successful program in the spirit of a community where participants feel valued and supported. Thank you John for your countless hours of dedication and inspiration.

The playgrounds are bustling anytime there is good weather. We recently completed an extension of the rubber surface pathway and general maintenance at the Turbesi Park Playground. Our appreciation goes out to all those that abided by the M-F closure during this work and to Ultiplay Parks and Playgrounds for a job well done.

Parks & Recreation is excited to introduce our new Event Sponsorship Program, giving local businesses, organizations, and individuals the opportunity to support community events while promoting their brand. Our events bring residents, families, and visitors together while creating the experiences and memories that make Blackstone such a great place to live.

Supporting the community while showcasing your business is a win for everyone! Sponsors receive recognition on The Town of Blackstone Parks & Recreation website, event promotional flyers, Parks & Recreation social media, and recognition on the day of the event. Businesses can sponsor one or multiple events throughout the year. Some of the annual sponsorship opportunities include Easter Egg Hunt, Ice Cream Social, Movie in the Park, Fall Festival, and Hometown Christmas Celebration. Sponsorship levels vary by event, and all funds support Parks & Recreation programs and community events. Interested in becoming a sponsor? Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.townofblackstone.org/837/Event-Sponsorship-Opportunities>

Plan ahead: Parks and Recreation will be providing kids' activities at Daniel's Farmstead Freedom Festival on July 5th from 11 AM to 3 PM.

Come to the Semiquincentennial (America's 250th Anniversary) Celebration brought to you by the Semiquincentennial Committee. The event runs from July 23-26 at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. Activities include a carnival, live music, vendors, food trucks, 5K road race, fireworks, and more. Parking is at the JFK-AFM complex. Visit the town website for more information.

Visit these sites for our Parks and Recreation upcoming activities:

Town Website: www.townofblackstone.org/496/Parks-Recreation

Facebook: [BlackstoneParksandRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/BlackstoneParksandRecreation).

Blackstone Enlightener June 2026 email: enlightener@blackstonema.com



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BVT Named a 2025-26 PLTW Distinguished School

UPTON – The hard work and continued dedication of students and staff at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT), have once again earned national recognition from the nonprofit organization Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

"We are proud to honor BVT for providing students with hands-on, career-connected learning that builds the confidence, knowledge, and skills to navigate their futures," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. "Their commitment to real-world, project-based learning ensures students experience education that is meaningful and directly connected to what comes next."

"It is an honor to be named a 2025-26 PLTW Distinguished School for the ninth consecutive year," said Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. "This recognition reflects our shared commitment to high-quality instruction and the dedication of those who make it possible."

The PLTW Distinguished School designation recognizes schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in PLTW programs. To qualify, schools must meet rigorous criteria, including the number of PLTW courses offered, and the percentage of students enrolled in multiple PLTW courses.

BVT remains proud to be part of the PLTW community, united in preparing students for school, work, and life through engaging and empowering learning experiences. The school continues to expand its PLTW course pathways, strengthening opportunities for student success.

If You Can't Balance on One Foot for 10 Seconds Read This

by Carol Archambault

What if I told you that one of the strongest predictors of your future independence has nothing to do with your weight and everything to do with your balance.

It sounds simple, almost too simple, but your ability to balance, move well, be steady on your feet, becomes critical in midlife and beyond. And yet, most women aren't thinking about this at all.

Why Balance and Mobility Matter More Now

As we move through perimenopause and menopause, our bodies are changing in ways we don't always see:

- *Muscle mass naturally declines
 - *Joint stiffness increases
 - *Bone density begins to decrease (this is silent)
- This combination can quietly increase your risk of falls... and falls are one of the leading causes of injury in women as we age. But here is the empowering part: this is something you can actually improve.

Let's Talk About a Simple Test

Right now, wherever you are, stand on one foot. Can you hold it for 10 seconds without wobbling, grabbing onto something or putting your foot down?

Did that feel harder than you expected? If so, it's time to start working on your balance.

What's Really Behind Poor Balance?

It's not just about your feet. Balance is a full body effort that depends on:

- ***Strength** (especially in your legs and core)

***Mobility** (your ankles, hips and joints need to move well)

***Coordination** (your brain and body communicating efficiently)

When one of these is off, your stability suffers.

The Good News: You Can Improve This Quickly

Start here:

- *Stand on one foot while brushing your teeth, or doing the dishes
- * Incorporate simple mobility exercises for the ankles and hips
- *Start strength training 2-3x a week.

Even doing this a few times a day can help retrain your body.

The truth is, losing mobility and balance doesn't happen overnight, it happens gradually.

I want you to feel confident and strong in this chapter of life, so don't wait to start working on your balance, just a few minutes a day can make a big difference in your life.

If you would like to start, but don't know where to begin, that's where I can help you. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, or if you're interested in working together.

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



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Main Street

Business of the Month



Marked for Meaning at Forever Ink

A tattoo artist is more than just someone who inks skin — they are a creative professional who combines artistry, technical skill, and client care to turn personal stories into lasting body art. At Forever Ink, 3 Main St., Blackstone, in the Park and Shop Plaza, you'll find skilled and professional artists, producing phenomenal work and offering high-quality services.

The artists, Zach, Mike A., "Goofy" (owner), Derrick, Owen and Adam have over 30 years experience. The atmosphere at Forever Ink is comfortable, clean, and sanitized, making clients feel at ease. They specialize in creating new designs to conceal or alter original artwork that you no longer want. And they will also take your ideas and create a one-of-a-kind custom tattoo design.

The shop is noted for reasonable and fair pricing compared to other local tattoo studios. They are accommodating with walk-ins and have been known to handle last-minute requests. Forever Ink Blackstone is a top choice for anyone looking for a great tattoo experience. Open Monday through Saturday, 12PM-8PM. Closed Sundays. Call 508.928.1562.

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Arianna Figuirido



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Kylie Frazier



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Miya Gagne



Isabella Gaudette



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Adrianna Girard



Kelsey Goyer



Marya Grady



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Stefanos Hatjopoulos



Madison Healy



Cherylyn Hersey



Gabrielle Hilditch



Colin Jacob

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IR 2026 Graduates ~



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Nathan Kacsor



Savanna Klopff



Julia Korencsik



Beatrice Korj



Sophia Lafrenaye



Austin Lily



Faith Livingston



Christian Iobisser



Abigail Loc



Caden Lockwood



Nicolas Lucas



Rowan Mahan



Ella McCourt



Ella McDonald



Tristin McGregor



Kassady Mello



Nicholas Membrino



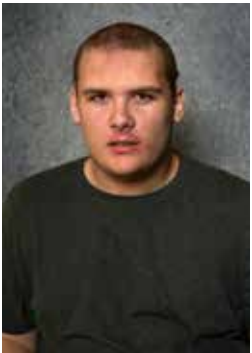
Alyssa Millette



Kyla Moore



Ethan Parenteau



Dylan Paterson



Karissa Peach



Marissa Pedorella



Mattheus Pinto



Clay Poirier



Jared Rainville



Aidyn Randor



Turner Reeve



Ava Riley



Bryce Rodenhiser



Nathan Rodriguez



Noah Rodriguez



Jayden Ryan



Joshua Ryan



Shelby Scoggins



Julia St.Gelais



Jacob Stearns



Logan Surfus



Donpaul Thekkan



Thomas Tomasi



Taylor Truscott



Brandon VanHorne



Felix Vega



Brenna Welch



Amber Whitner



Joshua Young



Aiden Zilonis



Hailey Zuidema

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Adult Programs

Manage the Chaos with Calm and Grace Parenting Group with Cheryl Marino-Page, Tuesdays, June 2 & 9 6:30 pm. Parenting is one of the toughest jobs you may ever have. Please join us to learn about the 5 Cs of parenting and how to manage the challenges facing parents today.

Belagana! Author Talk with Muriel Holfelder Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 pm. Registration is required. Register by visiting the Blackstone Public Library's event page or call the library for more information.

Stars, Stripes, and Strings Sing Along with Abigail Epplet. Monday, June 15 at 6:30 pm. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

First-time Homebuyers Seminar with Paula Sullivan. Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30 pm. Registration is required. Register by visiting the Blackstone Public Library's event page or call the library for more information.

Adult Programs with Jean Scrapbooking

Thursday, June 4, 5:00 PM. Registration required. Funded by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

The Senior Crafty Corner at the Library Painted Flower Plaque

Tuesday, June 16 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 Patriotic Flowerpots

Thursday, June 18, 1:00 PM and 6:30 PM Please note that both the afternoon and evening sessions will be taking place on the same day. Registration is required. Funded by LIG MEG.

Ongoing Book Groups

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

Horror Book Club

Thursday, June 5 at 6:30 pm. Contact Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmar.org.

Evening Book Group

Tuesday, June 10 at 6:30 pm. Contact Renee Milliken at rmilliken@cwmar.org.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, June 24 at 3:00 pm. Contact Donna Foster at dfoster@cwmar.org.

The Senior Center Book Club

meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. Books are available at the front desk at the library. Contact Ellen Goudreau at egoudreau@cwmar.org

Graduations and graduation parties

are just around the corner. Remember...the library has a canopy and several new outdoor games in its Library of Things ready for check-out. Just call the library to reserve them with your library card.

Summer Reading Program for Kids, Young Adults, Adults Coming Soon

By Tressy N. Collier

Avoid the summer slump while keeping occupied with a variety of fun and exciting activities! This year's theme is all about planting seeds, both in the dirt and in your imagination! There's something for everyone with the library's 2026 Summer Reading Theme, "Plant a Seed, Read".

Participants will track their reading on a daily basis using paper reading logs. Prizes will be awarded to everyone who brings in their reading logs on a weekly basis, with an ice cream finale for the kids, "Candy Bar Bingo" finale for the young adults and a TBD adult finale.

Summer Reading events for kids include:

- Ready, Set, GROW! Magic Show (Kickoff): This energetic magic show uses hilarious comedy, amazing magic tricks, music, sound effects and riveting storytelling to inspire kids to read all summer long.
- Caravan Puppets, Our Flying Friends: Featur-

ing wildly creative handcrafted puppets, beautiful staging and original music, this puppet show celebrates flight from the prehistoric to the avian.

- Sensory Night: Can you pass the blind baby food taste test: Can you identify the scent of cinnamon from vanilla? Will you touch something while blindfolded?

Visit our website for additional program information.



By Lee Holfelder

Welcome June! Looking forward to sunny days and warmer weather!

Thank you to all the folks who stopped by our Spring Book Sale on a rainy Saturday. Thank you also to all who supported our Krispy Kreme fundraiser!

As we look forward to summer vacations we offer Museum passes for the following:

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

To reserve a pass, go to the library's website and click on Museum Pass Program or contact the library.

The next Friends of the Blackstone Library Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! Hope to see you there!

Blackstone Enlightener June 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

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High Prom, Graduation Highlights, Busy Month At BMR

By Kelsey Goyer
BMR Correspondent

In May, the BMRSD High School held many exciting events.

One of the first major events was the annual prom on May 1. Prom this year was hosted at a beautiful golf club in Burrillville, Rhode Island called Crystal Lake. Students in grades 11 and 12 were invited to attend along with their optional accompanied guests. Students had a blast at the photo booth, on the dance floor, and enjoyed a buffet-style dinner with many options such as pasta, chicken, potatoes, salad, rolls and more.

The BMR High School Drama Club hosted a talent show on May 9. This experience was given to all students with the option to show off their skills and impress the crowd. We had many acts such as singing, dancing and playing instruments.

Seniors at BMR High School had a very fun-filled final month. On May 20, seniors went to the Boys and Girls Club in Blackstone MA and volunteered to help clean up for the upcoming camp season. That night, they also attended the Senior Banquet at Twelve Acres in Smithfield RI, where the seniors spent time with peers and reflected on the past years as the 2026 Yearbook was handed out.

The senior trip followed on May 27 where students went whitewater rafting at Crab Apple Whitewater in Charlemont, Massachusetts. They enjoyed a day filled with sun and fun. BMR Awards night, where many students received scholarships and awards, was held on May 28. Graduation was held on May 29 at BMR High School. Family, friends and students celebrated this great accomplishment as students were handed their graduation diplomas and threw caps into the air.

Graduates photos are on pages 8 & 9.

One other note. BMR's Nicholas Liggett's family and the Blackstone-Millville Youth Basketball League (BMYBL) are hosting a Color Run for all children grades k-12 and their families on June 20. Proceeds from the event will go to the BMYBL.

For more detailed accounts on the above items and all the happenings at BMR, check out the Pony Express, the Official Student Newspaper at BMR. Go to the web and search "BMR Pony Express" and then click on any of the issues from this year, or click on "Pony Express Past Years" and click on any issue dating all the way back until October of 2005.



As voted by the Senior Class in the 2026 Yearbook, Class Couple Nathan Kaczor and Taylor Truscott are shown at the Prom. (Photo by Cera Trepanier).



Kaleb Nieber (center) is shown showing off his moves as an encircling group of students cheer him on. (Photo by Cera Trepanier).



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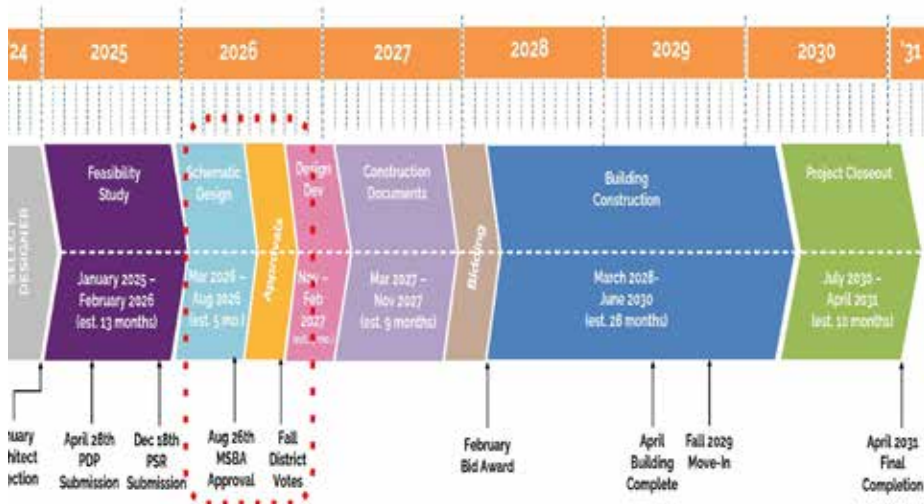
Blackstone Enlightener June 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

MAY 2026 Blackstone Millville Regional High School Monthly Building Project Update

The BMRSD High School Building project (Feasibility Study) with the MSBA continues through Module 4: the Schematic Design (SD) Phase which entails developing and refining the Building Design, Project Budget & Construction timeline

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 located within those classrooms. Our current timeline projects the new building will be occupied not 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!

When? Project Timeline



HOW WOULD THIS BE FUNDED?

- MSBA's Project Funding Agreement (PFA) sets the maximum facilities grant, based on eligible costs and reimbursement rates.
- Currently the reimbursement rate is projected to be 58% of eligible project costs. The reimbursement rate is subject to change as the project moves forward to the August MSBA Board Meeting.
- The reimbursement rate is finalized after the 8/26/26 MSBA Board Meeting. The towns will split the local share using the percentage determined on student enrollment in October 2026.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

- SBC Meeting: June 10, 2026 – Cost Estimate Review
- SBC Meeting: June 17, 2026 - Vote on Schematic Design Submission
- Schematic Design Submission - due to MSBA June 25, 2026
- MSBA Board Approval of the SD Submission - August 26, 2026
- Project Scope & Budget Agreement with the MSBA - due fall 2026
- The communities will vote to determine whether the project will move forward.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

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

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. Impacts to the baseball & softball fields would result in these teams playing off campus during construction. 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.

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

Design Update: Conceptual Site Plan



LIFE TRIBUTES

EVERLASTING MEMORIES OF LOVED ONES



Joseph J. Filip

Joseph "Joe" "Pa" John Filip, 97, of Blackstone Mass, passed away peacefully on May 19th, 2026 at the Friendly Home in Rhode Island. Born on August 6th, 1928, he was the son of the late Anthony and Ellen (Lynch) Filip residing in the town of Blackstone his entire life.

Joe was an athlete while in school with basketball being his preferred sport before graduating from Blackstone High School in 1947. From there Joe drove and delivered furniture for McCarthy's before entering the service where he proudly served in the Korean War. Upon arrival home from Korea, Joe got married, started a family and became the Town of Blackstone's favorite and friendliest mailman, eventually retiring with honors after 29 years of devoted service.

Joe really enjoyed reading history books, watching sports, doing puzzles, playing cards, and painting. His truest joy in life was raising his children and his grandchildren. Summers of family, fun, and sun at Hampton Beach were treasured dearly. He was in the stands for every game, competition, recital, parade, concert, first communion, confirmation, graduation, and wedding. He was the epitome of what a husband, father, and grandfather should be. There was nothing he couldn't do and did it all with the patience and kindness of an angel on earth.

Joe is survived by his children Gary Filip and his fiancée Kim, Gail and her husband David Dionne, and Tami Lemay; 4 grandchildren, Tashia and her husband Jay Roberts, Tabatha and her husband Steve Daigle, Heidi Lemay, and Kyle Lemay; 7 great grandchildren, Torri, Laini, Lehvi, Sadia, Harlo, Talula, and Jagger; a niece, Donna and her husband Bob Boronski, and two nephews, Jay and Kevin Breault. Besides his parents Joe was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Shirley (Barker) Filip, his sister Ann and her husband Joe Breault, and his son-in-law Michael Lemay.

The family would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to the staff at both the Friendly Home in Woonsocket RI and to Continuum Care of Rhode Island for the wonderful care they provided.

Family and Friends attended a visitation on May 26, 2026 at Holt Funeral Home, 510 South Main Street, Woonsocket, RI. A funeral followed on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 10am with a burial at St. Charles Cemetery, Farm St, Blackstone MA.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in honor of Joe Filip to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as he was passionate about their cause. You can donate online at www.stjude.org, by mail at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or by phone 800-805-5856.



Walterine Deraleau

Walterine E. "Wally" (Burns) Deraleau, 90, of Blackstone, died May 13, 2026 in HopeHealth Huiltar Inpatient Center, Providence. She was the wife of the late Alfred G. "Fred" Deraleau. Born in Woonsocket, she was the daughter of the late Richard M. and Carolina (Elkinson) Burns.

Wally was extremely proud of Blackstone, where she resided most of her life. The best times in her life were her years in Blackstone High School, where she was proud of skipping school quite often. High school was where she met her future husband, Fred Deraleau. They were married on May 28, 1955 in St. Paul's Church. Wally's life after marriage was raising their four children. She only got her driver's license after Fred had a stroke at a very young age.

In July of 2021, Wally's family hosted a Living Funeral/Celebration of Life for her, complete with a New Orleans style marching band, The Catnip Junkies. The band played lively music from Wally's home on St. Paul St. to Roosevelt Park where many friends, relatives and acquaintances gathered. A food truck complete with donuts and beverages were enjoyed along with sandwiches and salads. Dancing was held under the pavilion with people from all over the country, including California, Washington and South Carolina. It was an exceptional day celebrating Wally! She truly loved this day.

She is survived by her children; Kimberly Poirier and her husband Stephen, Richard Deraleau and his wife Lisa, David Deraleau and his wife Sheila, and James Deraleau; nine grandchildren; Brian Vandemoortele, Jill Vandemoortele, Michael Deraleau, Steven Deraleau, Keith Deraleau, Erika Deraleau, Aaron Deraleau, Ivy Deraleau, and Aiden Deraleau; ten great grandchildren; Tyler, Sean, Campbell, Casen, Carver, Cameron, Nathan, Theodore, Helene, and Corinne, and one very special great granddaughter, Grace, who was so kind to Gigi that Wally often mentioned her; and four nephews, Patrick and Kenneth Burns, and John and Thomas Wheeler; one great nephew, Thomas J. Wheeler. She was the sister of the late Richard J. Burns and Mary Jane (Burns) Wheeler. She was the former mother-in-law of the late Dennis Vandemoortele. She was the mother-in-law the late Helene (St. Louis) Deraleau.

Her funeral was held Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Holt Funeral Home, 510 S. Main St., Woonsocket, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Divine Mercy Parish, 48 St. Paul St., Blackstone, MA. Burial was in St. Charles Cemetery, Blackstone, MA. Please omit flowers, and consider a donation to the charity of your choice.

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. R.L.

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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. L.C.

Blackstone Millville Food Pantry

June 2026 Food Needs

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Instant Rice	Pudding cups	
Hamburger Helper	Brownie Mix	Thank you for your support
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Mustard	Dish Detergent	
Cookies		

Blackstone's Window On The Past

Before the Revolution

© Helen Murray 2026

It may be difficult in the present time to imagine the Blackstone area before European colonists arrived. Long before their arrival, Native Americans fished the river we call "Blackstone", harvested native plants and even planted seasonal crops as they moved from place to place. Deer, red fox, wolves, woodchucks and skunks were found in abundance.

There is a legend of Blackstone having a "Lovers' Rock" near the gorge. Some versions tell of an Indian maid and brave who jumped to their deaths when forbidden to be together. Another less romantic version was that they used to meet at the gorge and a giant boulder rolled over them!

By the 1660's settlers around Boston were looking to acquire more land for their farming. Permission was eventually granted and by the spring of 1665, what would be known as Mendon was opened to settlement. Fifteen families originally claimed land in the area.

King Phillip's War began on July 15, 1675. Homesteads in the area were attacked by King Phillip's warriors. Several residents of Mendon died in the attack and settlers fled to the Boston area. Eventually they returned after peace with the natives was achieved.

The earliest settlers moved into the Blackstone area around 1700. In 1702, Jonathan Richardson had land on the lower Mill River and Quickstream. He would have a metal forge on Forge Pond by 1716.



Between 1705 and 1725, more settlers were moving into the area that would later come to be known as Blackstone. This area became Mendon's south parish by act of the Massachusetts General Court on November 6, 1766. When finally surveyed by H.F. Walling in 1854, the area was roughly estimated to contain 10,295 acres. That area included what is now Millville. By 1753, there were enough farms in the area that James Cargill built a grist mill on the Mill River.

The soil required hard work to grow crops. Settlers raised cattle, hogs and sheep. Orchards

were planted for fruit and there were even a few good cranberry bogs for harvesting.

The Chestnut Hill Meeting House was built in 1769. It was used for public meetings as well as church services. It was built of hand cut beams, with a post and beam construction, held in place with wooden pegs. There was a raised pulpit at the center back of the building with seating all around. In the loft there were rough pine benches to accommodate overflow attendance.

It was here that England's burdensome tariffs and taxes on the colony were discussed. The people felt entitled to the same rights and privileges as citizens in England. Mendon town meeting called for a boycott of English goods until the blockade of the port of Boston was ended. Donations of supplies and food were sent to aid the citizens of Boston.

Mendon men, including those of the South Parish, began practicing military drills on the grounds of the meetinghouse. When the call came from Boston, they would be ready to defend their rights.



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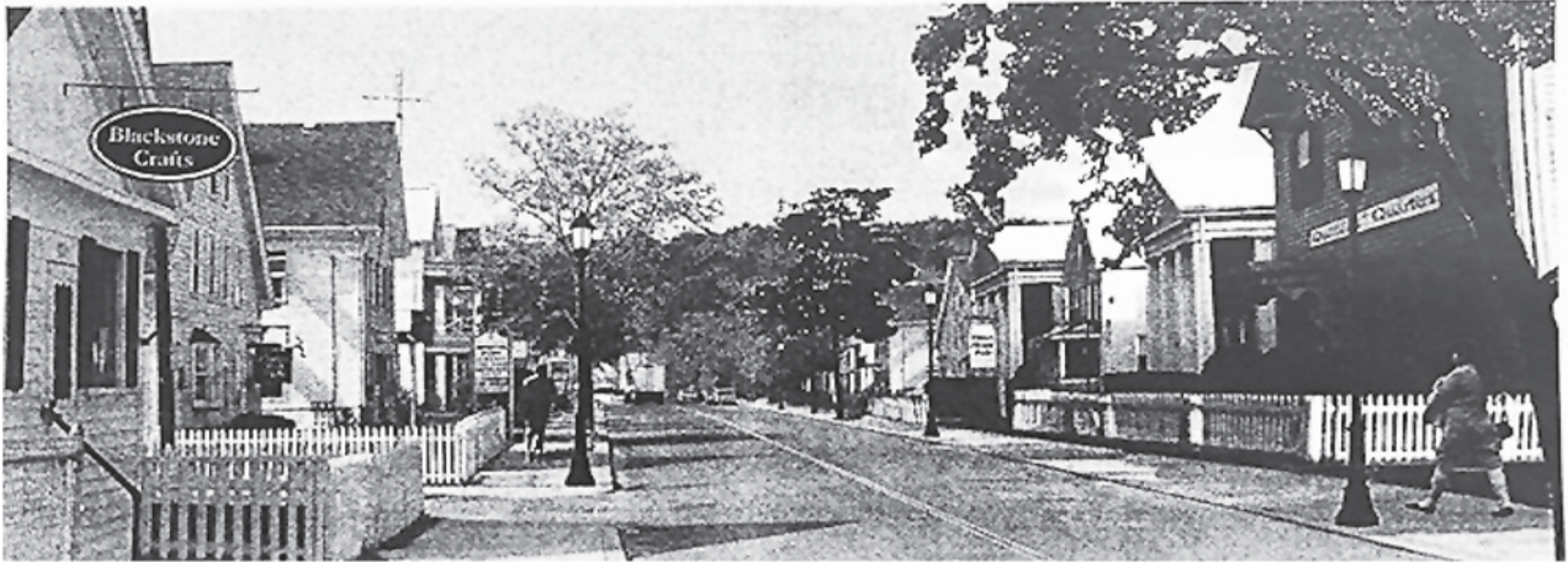
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