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Volume 33, Issue 6 | **Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993** | **November 2026**



Congressman Auchincloss Visits Daniels Farmstead

Congressman Jake Auchincloss met with Daniels Farmstead board of directors at his October visit to Blackstone. He also visited the New City Bridge (Bridge Street) that he selected for FY27 Community Project Funding.

BMRSD SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTION TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026

Election Day: December 1, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Blackstone voters may cast their ballots in person at their regular polling locations.

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Special District Election will ask voters to authorize $197,248,502 in borrowing for the design, construction, original equipping, and furnishing of a new Blackstone-Millville Regional Middle/Senior High School.

ABSENTEE VOTING – NO VOTE-BY-MAIL OR EARLY VOTING

Vote-by-Mail ballots and general early voting are not available for this election. However, eligible voters who are unable to vote at their regular polling location may apply for an absentee ballot.
Absentee voting is available through two options:
Absentee Voting by Mail: Applications must be received by

BMRSD Special Election continued on page 5

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Sat. November 14, 2026
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
BMR High Auditorium
Lincoln Street



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VETERANS DAY
★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

Veterans Breakfast see page 9

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Blackstone Historical Museum
23 Main Street

Historical Notes

By Helen Murray

Staff of the Blackstone Historical Museum were pleased to host a tour of the museum for local seniors in October. The completion of a new wheelchair ramp now makes the first floor of the town museum accessible to more members of the community.

Preparations are in place for the “Salute to Veterans’” program, that is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th at 1 pm. The program will be delivered by Glenn Dusablon of the Veterans Military Museum. All are welcome to attend.

Members of the Blackstone Historical Commission will hold a Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 5th, from 1-3pm. The museum will be “decked out” both inside and out for the holiday season. Refreshments will be served and views of events from past Christmas events will be showing on the big screen. All are invited to attend and partake in the treats and reminiscing.

Special thanks to Maddy Guilbeault for her recent donation of a book, “The Lower Blackstone River Valley" to the museum’s reference collection.

Please note that the museum will be closed for the entire week of Thanksgiving. The museum is customarily open every Thursday from noon until 3pm. Saturday openings in November will be on the 7th and the 21st.

A SALUTE to VETERANS
Saturday, November 7th
at 1:00 pm at the
Blackstone Historical Museum
by Glen Dusablon
curator of Veterans Memorial Museum
featuring
a display of military weapons & military history of town resident Sgt. Edward W. Busko, a veteran of World War II

Admission is free and refreshments following speaking program.

From Chief Gilmore’s Desk

Don’t Fall for Crypto ATM Scams

Crypto ATMs have become a popular tool for fraudsters to steal money from unsuspecting victims. These scams often begin with phishing emails or fraudulent phone calls that pressure you to withdraw cash and deposit it into a Crypto ATM (located in Woonsocket, Mendon and Northbridge). The scammer will claim this step is necessary to secure your money. In reality, once the cash is deposited and converted to cryptocurrency, the funds are sent directly to the scammer’s digital wallet. At that point, recovery is nearly impossible.

How Crypto ATM Scams Work

Many of these scams begin with a phone call or email claiming there is suspicious activity on your account, such as an unauthorized bank charge. Other scammers claim you owe the government money, your computer’s been hacked, or an old friend is trying to reconnect. They then instruct you to withdraw money from your savings, checking, or investment accounts and deposit it into a Crypto ATM. The scammer will insist this is the only way to protect your funds or resolve the issue. Once you make the deposit, the money is gone.

Why Crypto ATMs Are Risky

Crypto ATMs operate with minimal oversight and lack the same fraud protections as traditional banking systems. Transactions are often anonymous, irreversible, and difficult to trace. As a result, scammers utilize these machines to transfer stolen funds quickly and anonymous.

To protect yourself, keep these tips in mind:

Be skeptical: Legitimate companies or government agencies will NEVER ask you to withdraw cash and deposit it into a Crypto ATM.

Ignore urgency: Fraudsters rely on panic and pressure. Take a moment to stop, think, and verify.

Verify independently: If you receive a suspicious call or email, contact the company or agency using a known and trusted number.

Protect yourself: If anyone tells you to use a Crypto ATM to resolve an issue or protect your money, it is almost certainly a scam. No credible financial institution or government agency conducts its business in this manner.

CITIZENS Radar/ Traffic Enforcement Request Form

If you need to report speeding or other traffic violations in your community area, the Blackstone police department offers a Citizen's Radar/Traffic Enforcement Request form. This form allows residents to notify law enforcement about ongoing or recurring traffic concerns such as speeding, running red lights, etc.

The forms requires information as your name, address, the type of complaint, specific times and locations of the violations, and description of the vehicle involved. This helps law enforcement address the issues more effectively. To access the form visit Citizens Radar/ Traffic Enforcement Request Form (blackstonepolice.org).

WANTED
Snow Plowing Contractors



The Blackstone DPW needs snow plowing contractors for the 2026-2027 winter season.

All vehicles must be equipped with a snowplow, legally registered, and covered by the owner’s compulsory vehicle insurance.

For rates and more information call 508-883-9331 or email jsullivan@townofblackstone.org.

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with coupon only! See Betty’s for details.
CHECK OUT WEEKLY SPECIALS ON FACEBOOK!
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Blackstone, MA
Dan Keefe, Supervising Contractor
Cell: 508-294-3757
MASS License #078916
RI License #13222



To our wonderful community,

We want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support of Dunton Energy Services. Because of the trust you place in our team every day, we are able to give back to the community we love in ways that truly matter.



With Veteran’s Day upon us, we wanted to thank those who have served and continue to serve our country. To show our appreciation, we recently had the profound honor of installing a brand-new oil heating system for Jacob and Jerilyn Ethier right here in Millville, MA. Jacob is a disabled veteran who dedicated his life to protecting our country, serving first in the Army as an infantry sniper from 1996 to 2000, and later in the Navy as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialist from 2001 to 2005.



During his Navy career, Jacob deployed several times. His role required immense bravery—jumping out of planes, diving under ships, and intentionally walking toward dangerous devices meant to eliminate his fellow soldiers, all to deactivate them and keep others safe. Tragically, while overseas, Jacob suffered a life-changing gunshot wound that ultimately led to his medical discharge. While he misses the work, the camaraderie, and his life before the injury, his sacrifice is something our community will never forget.



With winter just around the corner, ensuring Jacob and Jerilyn have a warm, safe home was a project incredibly close to our hearts. We installed an Energy Kinetics System 2000, an extremely efficient, high-performance boiler. Thanks to its low-mass design and thermal purge technology, it stops heat from wasting up the chimney and delivers up to 40% fuel savings compared to conventional systems. To ensure total peace of mind and safe fuel storage for years to come, we also provided and installed a brand-new oil tank.

We are incredibly proud of our dedicated technicians who poured their time and expertise into this installation. Most of all, we are proud to serve a community that makes initiatives like this possible. When you choose to support Dunton Energy Services, you directly help us support neighbors and heroes like Jacob and Jerilyn.



Thank you for standing with us, for honoring our veterans, and for helping us keep our community warm.

With sincere gratitude,

The Team at Dunton Energy Services

Community Church Craft Fair



L to R standing: Lynne Cignarella, Julie White-Wronski, Barbara Greenwald, Hope Robeau. Seated: Shelia Robeau and Bunny Roy.

The Events Committee of Christ Community Church of Blackstone is gearing up for their Annual Fall Arts & Craft Show and Silent Auction on November 21, 2026. The event will be held at the Woonsocket Elks' Club, 380 Social Street from 10 am to 3 pm.

The ladies are displaying goods available at the craft fair as well as items for the Silent Auction. Over 25 local artisans will be offering their handmade creations. Come and browse and you just might find that perfect gift for the upcoming holiday season! Food will be available to purchase. The Silent Auction always has some interesting surprises you just might want to bid on! Look forward to seeing you there!

Friends of COA

By Mary Jane Benjamin

We invite you to two upcoming November events:

1. Seniors, join us for our annual "Fall Fling" on Thursday, November 5th from 3:00-4:30 pm at the BMR High School for an incredible Intergenerational event, with students and seniors of Blackstone/Millville. Sponsored by the Friends of the BCOA and under the supervision of Carol Conti, Enjoy snacks and fun.Be sure to register with the Blackstone Senior Center in advance at 508-876-5151. You won't want to miss it!

2. On Wednesday, November 11th, we are holding an all day fundraiser at UNO's Pizzeria in Bellingham. Grab a coupon from our bulletin board in the dining room at the Blackstone Senior Center. Present the coupon to UNO's when you pay your bill and a portion of your meal ticket will be donated to the Friends of the Blackstone Council on Aging. Dine-in or take out. Bring your coupon. Enjoy a great meal, create some memories and help a good cause!

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

Thank you to Kevin & the Blackstone Regional Animal Shelter Team for the wonderful meal at our November Birthday Bash! Thank you to the Friends of the Blackstone Senior Center for our Coffee Club snacks on the second and third Wednesdays, and for sponsoring the Fall Fling put on by the BMR High School Students.

Highlights:
Closed November 3rd for Voting, and the 11th for Veteran's Day, We are closing at 12 on the 25th, Closed 26th & 27th.
Every Vote Counts! Thank You Veterans, & Happy Thanksgiving to all!
Nov. 5th-Fire Safety over Lunch & Fall Fling Event @ BMR, 3 to 4:30: 17th-Birthday Bash, $5 Turkey Lunch & Johnny Pizzi Comedy & Magic.

Weekly Programs & Activities:

Meals are served Tues-Thurs at 12 Noon. See Newsletter for Menu & Price details. Most meals are $3 to $5. Please RSVP one week in advance.
Mondays:10am Game Day, Pound Fitness 12pm- 4pm: Artist Alley.
Tuesdays:10 am: Chair Yoga 11am: Walking Club, 12pm: Lunch 1:15pm: Strength Circuit. Best wishes to Lisa at her new full-time job!
Wednesdays: 9 am Coffee Club 9:30am: Tap Dance 10:30am: Line Dance 11:30am: Meditation 12pm: Lunch 1pm: BINGO 2:15pm: Zumba.
Thursdays: 9am: Tai Chi Beginner | 9:30am: Cribbage 10am: Tai Chi Intermediate | 11am: Journey Through Grief | 12pm: Lunch | 1pm: Aging Gracefully.
Fridays:9am: Walking Club | 10am: Mah Jong

November Happenings:
2nd: Recipe Swap – No Cooking, just swapping! Walk-Ins Welcome.
4th: Vet's Brunch @ 10, Speaker on Vet's Benefits @ 11. RSVP Required for meal, non-vets welcome.
5th: Holiday Fire Safety Refresher during Lunch, RSVP Required for Lunch 5th: Fall Fling Intergenerational Event @ BMR High, 3 – 4:30.

Visit: www.townofblackstone.gov for more info.

Millville COA

Ann Marie Metz, Senior Center

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, 508-883-3523 ext. 2 Medical trips are given priority.

Weekly programs:
Monday: November 2: BINGO will be at 1:00 on Monday this month. Come for the fun and snacks. Lunch is Chicken Pot Pie with Ice Cream for dessert, and is at noon, $3 donation for lunch.
November 9: Senior Club Meeting and Lunch, 11:30 am. John Duggan will provide the entertainment.
Entertainment is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council,and the Millville Cultural Council.The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.
November 16: Harvest Fest Turkey dinner, 12:00 pm. FREE Call 508-883-3523 to register.
November 23: Movie Day "Planes, Trains & Automobiles" is at 10:00 am. Comedy. Join us for popcorn and fun. Lunch is at noon and is American Chop Suey and is at noon. $3 donation for lunch.
November 30: Craft Class "Festive Candle". Perfect for the holidays! 10:00 am. $5 for supplies. Call 508-883-3523 to register.
Tuesday:November 3: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm. November 10: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm. November 17: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.November 24: Line Dance 9:30 am, Pitch 10:45 am, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm. All Are Welcome.
Thursday:November 5th: Beginner Crochet is at 10 am. Cardio, Strength & Stretch is from 10:45 am-11:00 am. Lunch is Pork Loin w/apple onion gravy and is at noon, $3. Sock Hop with music from the 60s & 70s, 1:00 pm. Fall Fling at the BMR High School Cafeteria from 3:00-4:30 pm. Bus leaves at 2:30 pm. $5 bus donation. Come to the Sock Hop, then continue the party at BMR as the high school students entertain us. Heap Fuel assist will be here 11 am -2 pm to help anyone who needs assist with Heating Sheila Elliott is handling this.
Visit our website for more info.

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Woonsockets Veterans Memorial Museum

The Veterans Memorial Museum in Woonsocket is a nonprofit organization founded with a mission to honor veterans and preserve history. Its goal is to serve the community as well as servicemen and women from across the nation through outreach and conservation. It provides a large display of artifacts, from weapons and uniforms, to medals, and everyday items. Every period of American history is represented in its extensive collection and is brought to life by many rare items. The Museum strives to create an environment of respect and remembrance, as well as provide a fulfilling experience for all visitors. Veterans Memorial Museum takes artifacts on loan and through donation, giving owners an opportunity to share a piece of history and continue their mission to honor, preserve, and educate. Open Tuesdays and Saturdays 10:00am - 4:00pm, 78 Earle Street, Woonsocket. Admission is free for Veterans and students, and $5.00 for everyone else. Open by appointment for group tours, by calling 401-222-9025.

BMRSD Special Election

continued from page 1

the Town Clerk's Office no later than Monday, November 23, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Absentee Voting in Person: Eligible voters may apply for and cast an absentee ballot in person at the Town Clerk's Office no later than Monday, November 30, 2026, at 12:00 PM.

Absentee ballot applications are available on the Town of Blackstone website. Voters are encouraged to apply as early as possible to allow sufficient time for processing.

For additional information, contact the Blackstone Town Clerk's Office or visit the Town of Blackstone website.INFORMATIONAL SESSION - MSBA BUILDING PROJECT & IMPACT.

PLEASE NOTE:
There will be an
INFORMATIONAL SESSION - MSBA BUILDING PROJECT
& IMPACT meeting Immediately following the
Special Town Meeting
of Saturday,
November 14, 2026 at 10:30am
Blackstone-Millville Regional High School in the Moloney-Sullivan Auditorium
175 Lincoln Street
Blackstone, MA 01504.

to answer any questions.

ONE BALLOT. TWO TOWNS. ONE FUTURE.

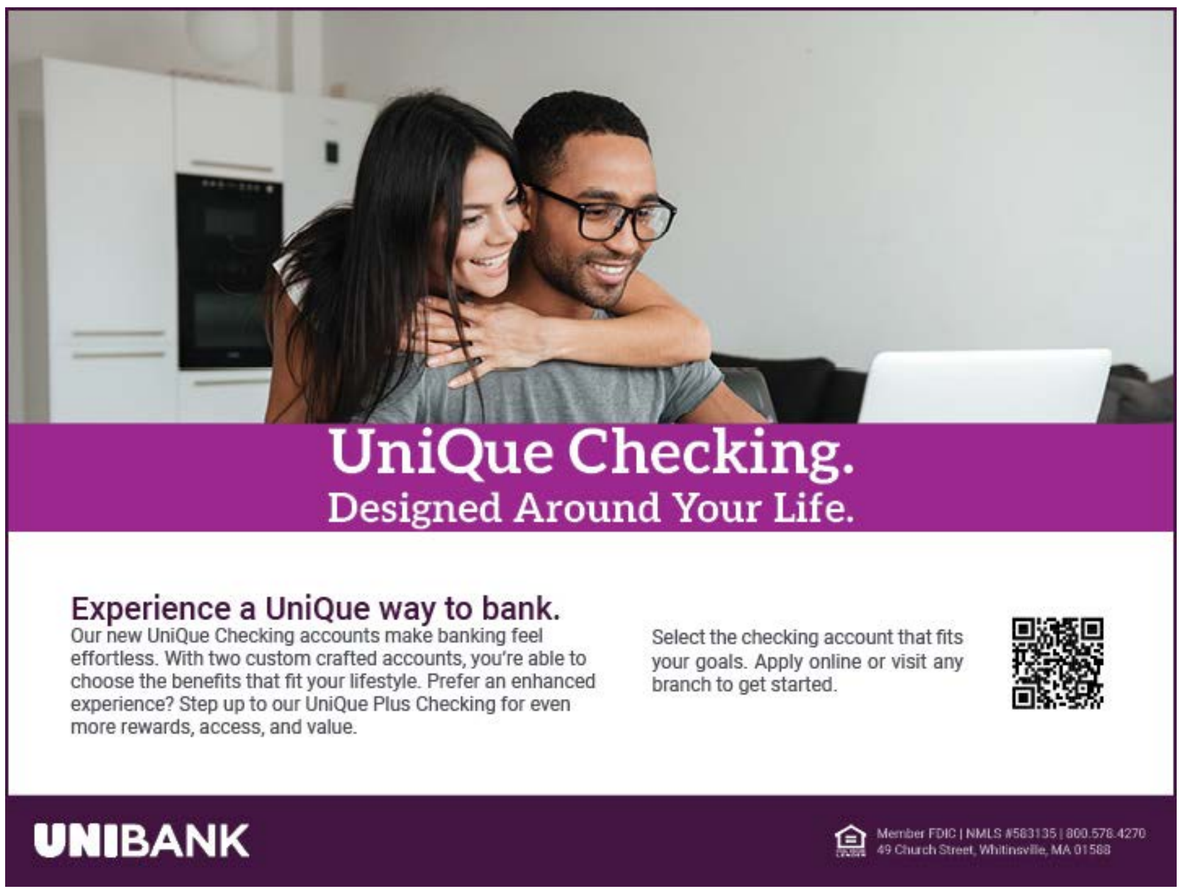
On December 1, 2026, voters in Blackstone and Millville will decide one question: Do we replace the 1970 BMR High School with a new High School for 685 students in grades 7-12?
$197.2M TOTAL PROJECT
$78.3M STATE FUNDS APPROVED
$118.9M COST TO TOWNS
Constructing a new building maximizes state funding. This will provide the towns a modern school facility built for 21st century learning with reduced operating costs and minimal fossil fuel use. Repairs of the existing building are projected to be $147M, with perhaps $10.2M in non-guaranteed state funding.
VOTE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026
Unified district-wide ballot: Blackstone and Millville votes are counted together, and a simple majority decides.
There are two choices: Yes or No.
Poll Hours: 11am-7pm
Blackstone: Town Hall (15 St. Paul Street) & Fire Station #2 (666 Rathbun Street)
Millville: Town Hall (8 Central Street)

Please note:
Vote-by-Mail ballots are NOT available for this election. If you are unable to vote in person on Election Day, you must complete and submit an Absentee Ballot Application to the Town Clerk's Office. Contact your Town Clerk for more information.
A "YES" VOTE MEANS:
• The state reimburses $76.8M. The MSBA Board unanimously approved the funds for the new BMRHS on August 26, 2026.
• The local share is $118M (197.2M total minus the grant). As per the regional agreement. The split is 75%
Blackstone (≈$89M) and 25% Millville (≈$30M)
• Detailed design and construction documents begin in 2027; construction begins around February 2028.
The $1M already allocated for the feasibility study is included in the cost.
• A new 685-student school for grades 7-12 opens in 2030 on the current site. The original building comes down, and new athletic facilities are constructed.
• There is no disruption for students and teachers to the educational environment during construction.
• Every home has a different tax impact. You can run your own estimate with the tax calculator on the project website at bmrsd.net under the project page.

A "NO" VOTE MEANS:
• The School Committee will go back to a Capital Planning Committee and move projects forward, likely increasing costs over time.
• Loss of the $76.8M state grant, which was approved only for a new 7-12 school.
• Required repairs that run until 2040 that are projected to cost $147M.
• Projections of up to $10.2M in non- guaranteed state funding for repairs. Nearly all of the cost would be bonded by both towns.
• There is significant disruption to the educational environment for students and teachers during repairs
• Potentially re-entering the MSBA pipeline, which can take up to four years with no guarantee of a new invitation or a new grant.
Reach out to the committee admin-sbc@bmrsd.net, visit the website www.bmrsd.net, or Facebook Group: BMRSD School Building Project for information.

ONE BALLOT. TWO TOWNS. ONE FUTURE.

Submitted by the BMRSD Building Committee



Blackstone Enlightener NOVEMBER 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Menopause and Your Gut: Why Does Digestion Feel Different In Midlife?

by Carol Archambault

Have you ever wondered why your belly feels more bloated than it used to be? Or why can't you eat the same foods you enjoyed for years?

If this sounds familiar, you are not alone.

When we think of menopause, we often think of hot flashes, night sweats, mood swings and sleepless nights. But there are other changes that don't get nearly as much attention, including changes in our digestion.

As a certified menopause coach, I want women to understand that menopause can affect more than our periods. It can influence how we feel in our bodies in ways that we may not connect to changing hormones.

So What's Happening to Our Gut?

During perimenopause and menopause, our estrogen levels change. These hormonal shifts may affect digestion, and some women notice more bloating, gas, constipation or changes in their usual bowel habits.

You might notice that your belly feels uncomfortable by the end of the day, or that your digestion isn't as predictable as it once was.

It's important to remember that not every digestive issue is caused by menopause. Stress,sleep medications, what we eat and how much we move can all play a role too.

5 Simple Ways to Show Your Gut Some Love

1. Add more variety to your plate

Our gut benefits from variety, try adding more vegetables, berries, nuts, beans, lentils and whole grains to your meals. These foods provide fiber that helps support digestion and feeds beneficial gut bacteria. You don't have to change everything at once. Add one new food to your shopping list a week.

2.Don't forget your water

If you are increasing your fiber you want to make sure you are drinking enough water. Fiber and fluids work together to keep things moving, increase fiber gradually, especially if you already struggle with bloating.

3.Give fermented foods a try

Foods such as yogurt, kefir, kimchi and sauerkraut can be easy additions to your routine. You don't need to add a bunch of supplements to begin to support your gut, just start with everyday foods.

4. Move your body regularly

A walk after a meal, strength training or simply breaking up long periods of sitting can support your overall health and may help bowel regularity. Movement doesn't need to be complicated, just move.

5.Take your stress and sleep seriously

Have you noticed when you're stressed or exhausted, your digestion seems to suffer too? Our gut and brain are closely connected. Finding ways to unwind, getting consistent sleep and making a little room for yourself on a busy day can be helpful for your digestion and overall well being.

You Don't Need Another Wellness Hack

I believe in starting with the foundations.

Eat nourishing foods. Don't be afraid to drink plenty of water, get good quality sleep and move your body!!

If you have persistent digestive symptoms, don't ignore them, talk to your doctor about any changes you have noticed.

One thing I want women to understand is that we don't have to accept feeling uncomfortable, exhausted or confused about our bodies simply because we are getting older.

We can learn what's changing, we can ask questions and we can make small adjustments to support our bodies and our health one step at a time.

Remember, we don't have to do things perfectly, just start making small improvements each day.

If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, I would love to chat with you.

Carol Archambault is a Certified Menopause Coaching Specialist who helps women navigate perimenopause and menopause with strength training, nutrition and lifestyle with compassion. You can follow her on IG at Balance_in_Midlife. Her email address is carolarch23@gmail.com.



Coldstuff Takes Care of Their Own

Coldstuff Ice Cream, owned by brothers Dave and Kevin Miller, opened in August, 2026, and recently went viral on Facebook for using profanity and defending their teen employees. Dave Miller told WBZ-TV he "had enough" after a customer was disrespectful to a 16-year-old worker over a 25-cent price discrepancy. "STOP YELLING AT MY F------ EMPLOYEES," the post read. "They are children. This job, for most of them, is their first. They're going to make mistakes. They aren't in charge of anything."

More than 275,000 people have liked the post and it's been shared over 20,000 times.

"This can all be fixed with a smile and a positive attitude. It's ice cream for crying out loud. Grow up..., adding "And NOBODY gives a s--- if you don't come back. We'd prefer it that way."

The brothers were worried about backlash, but they've received thousands of supportive comments and even a bump in business. "I wish I had a boss that had my back when I was a screw-up teenager at my first job," one person wrote. "Looks like a trip to Massachusetts for ice cream is in order," another said. Others praised Dave for protecting the people that work for him. "It's rare to see an employer actually care about their employees–you deserve all the blessings coming your way," said one.

Some pledged patronage to Coldstuff based on Dave's protective post. "Time to start packing your ice cream for shipment..," declared a dairy devotee. "...I know who's getting my business if I'm ever in Massachusetts," said another. "If you decide to branch out and need a regional manager for western Oklahoma, let me know," vowed a third. "Blackstone might become a tourist town because of Coldstuff," proclaimed a visionary.

One crafty commenter even designed a Coldstuff T-shirt quoting, "And NOBODY gives a s–t if you don't come back. We'd prefer it that way."

Dave said he will continue doling out scoops [and hard truths] into the winter months. "We got walls on the tent to keep those fall winds in check."

BLACKSTONE REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER

You can help the Shelter by donating food to assist during this Winter Season.

By donating
For Dogs
Purina Dog Chow
Purina Pro Plan

For Cats
any large bag of dry cat food and Friskies wet pate would be greatly appreciated.

Please drop off at the Shelter
14 Chestnut Street, Blackstone

The animals ***thank you***
in advance.

Blackstone Saint Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Baskets

By Mary Jane Benjamin

As we know the Holiday season is right around the corner. With that being said, Saint Vincent de Paul of Blackstone will be taking names for Thanksgiving baskets starting November 1st until November 10th. All calls MUST come in before November 10th in order for us to place the food order. No Calls after that date.

Please contact Mary at 508-344-1440. If I do not answer, please leave your name and number and I will return your call as soon as I am able too.

This year we will have a container for non-perishables on the main floor of the town hall. This will be located near the Selectman's meeting room. Please consider to donate Thanksgiving meal fixings.

If you would like to make a donation to this cause please contact Mary at the above number and I will discuss what is needed. Thank you ahead of time for your continued support so we can help people in need in our town of Blackstone.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Scouts Pick up Date
November 7,2026

BMR Happenings

By Charlotte Castonguay
BMR Correspondent

October flew by and the 2026-2027 Blackstone Millville Regional High School year is in full swing. With a new school year comes new responsibilities, as following the updated school rules. These include a stricter cell phone policy. Instead of only banning cell phones during class time, students were also banned from using them during passing time. This leaves only during lunch when students are allowed to text or use their phones.

The BMR Student Council hosted the annual Homecoming Dance. This year, the theme was "Night on the Bayou." On October 1, the students arrived at the BMR courtyard and danced the night away to songs such as "Macarena," "Starships" and "Cotton Eye Joe," among many other dancing songs.

As of Oct. 23, the football team had a 4-2 record and hopes to make it to the playoffs. When asked how the team could pull this off, captain and quarterback Karson Cournoyer said, "We will work as a team and battle through adversity and hopefully, win."



Photo by Cera Trepanier - Members of the drumline, including seniors Kaiden Mahan (with arm in sling)and Jackson Perron (center), perform during a recent Marching Band show.

BMR awards one female- and one male-student athlete who show leadership, collaboration, and kindness an award titled "Charger of the Week." So far this year, Cournoyer, Cody Fletcher, Amber Jonensson, Jasmine Zincone, Keegan Wheeler, Marren Berry, Tristan Roy and Kaylee Burke are among those who won the honor.

The Marching Band is off to an incredible season. They have not lost a show yet and their most recent score on October 17 was an 86.6. The BMR Marching Band is the Division 3A Open nationally. Their theme, "Rebels," is all about teenage angst and rebellion, and includes songs "Heathens" by Twenty-One Pilots, "Hope" By NF, and "My Body is a Cage" by Arcade Fire. If all goes well, they will perform their Nationals performance at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on November 7.

The Drama Club, is doing the play, "Reserve Two for Murder."

The Mock Trial team had a tournament in October.

For all the latest news about BMR, be sure to check out the BMR Pony Express.

NOW OPEN IN BLACKSTONE!
Come check us out at...
98 Canal St., Suite 2
Blackstone, MA 01504
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Physical Therapy
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Aquatic / Pool Therapy
BVPTS
BLACKSTONE VALLEY
PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES
670 Linwood Ave. Suite 2, Whitinsville, MA
508.234.7544 www.bvpts.com
Check our website for more information about our many programs or call!
Providing the quality Physical Therapy you have come to expect over the past 30 years as well as our Wellness Program and more, all conveniently located in the Linwood Mill.
We welcome Mass General Brigham Health Plan Patients
HOURS: Mon-Thurs 6:00 AM-7:30 PM, Fri 6:00 AM-3:00 PM • Sat 8 AM-Noon

Blackstone Enlightener NOVEMBER 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Raffle Madness

Join us at

Divine Mercy Parish
48 St. Paul Street
Blackstone, MA
in the Church Hall

Friday, November 6th
Doors Open at 4 PM,
Raffle begins at 6 PM

Grand raffle! and a 50/50 raffle 175 prizes to be raffled off.
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Annual Tree Lighting

By Celeste Langlois

Our Fall Festival, which was held on October 4th this year, was a big success with Pumpkins donated by Wojcik's Farm, Food Trucks, MyFM providing entertainment, and lots of local vendors. It's one of our favorite events and we are thrilled to see it growing. Thanks to all of our volunteers and everyone that made it such a success.

We participated in the Annual Trick or Treat at Town Hall disguised as Crayons, passing out coloring books, crayons, and stickers to many princesses, firemen, and loads more. It was great fun!

Now that the spookiness of October has passed, we are focusing on our events for November and December. We will hold our Annual Veteran's Breakfast at the BMR High School (175 Lincoln Street) on November 7. Everyone is welcome to attend this wonderful event to honor our local Veterans.

If you would like to attend, simply send a note to Parksandrecreation@townofBlackstone.org or you can call 508-928-7817 with your name and how many will be attending with you. You do not have to be a Veteran to attend. Let's fill the room for our Veterans. We are planning a wonderful big breakfast which will run from 9:00 to 12:00. This is a free event for all.

Save the Dates for our December events (weather permitting):
November 29 - Annual Blackstone Tree Lighting at 5:00 pm at the Town Common located at the corner of County and Main Streets.
December 12 - Hometown Christmas Celebration.
December 20 - Santa Parade.

As always, watch our facebook page and the Town website for updates and information on our upcoming events as things can change with New England weather.

The November meetings for the P&R Commission will be held in the John Eldridge Meeting Room at Town Hall on November 9 and 23 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

The Parks and Recreation Commission wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is Back

We collect blankets, comforters and coats to distribute to your Blackstone neighbors. Give Jackie a call for pick up 508-883 -9476.

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Happy Thanksgiving with Thanks and Giving

by Elizabeth McGeough

Thanksgiving is a special time of year when we gather with family and friends to celebrate the blessings in our lives. It is a time to enjoy delicious food, share laughter, and create beautiful memories with the people we love. But most importantly, Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful for what we have and to appreciate the little things that make life meaningful.

Thankfulness is more than simply saying "thank you." It is a way of looking at life with a grateful heart and kindness. We can be thankful for our family, our friends, our health, our homes, and the opportunities we receive each day. Even when life is difficult, there are still small blessings worth appreciating, such as a kind word, a helping hand, or a warm hug from someone you care about, and even a smile from a stranger. Yes, the same blessings that you give!

Sometimes, we become so busy thinking about what we want that we forget to appreciate what we already have. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to slow down and reflect on the good things in our lives. It teaches us that happiness does not always come from having more, but from recognizing the value of what we already have.

Being thankful also encourages us to show kindness to others. When we appreciate the love and support we receive, we become more willing to share that same kindness with the people around us. A simple act of generosity, a sincere compliment, a smile, or deeds of kindness and support can make a difference in someone's day. Gratitude reminds us that we all have something meaningful to give.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, remember, that thankfulness should not be limited to just one day of the year. We can practice gratitude every day by appreciating the people who care about us, or helping those in need, and just by finding joy in life's simple moments. We may not have everything we wish for, but we can always find something to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving is a beautiful reminder to live with grateful hearts. It teaches us to appreciate our blessings, cherish our relationships, and share love with others. When we choose thankfulness, we begin to see life in a more positive and meaningful way. This Thanksgiving, give thanks not only for what you have, but also for the people you love, for those who love you, and the precious moments that make life special. I am grateful for what I am and have. Happy Thanksgiving to my friends and family, and my long-time Blackstone community!



L-R: Lieutenant James Foster, Chief Kevin Roy, and Lieutenant James Guilmette. Submitted photo

Blackstone Fire Department Promotes Two Firefighters

By Chief Kevin Roy

The Blackstone Fire Department recently celebrated the promotions of James Guilmette and James Foster to the rank of lieutenant during the Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, October 13. Both were recognized for their service and dedication to the department, with family members joining them to pin their new badges. Several members of the Blackstone Fire Department were also in attendance.

Lieutenant James Guilmette, a Fall River native, was pinned by his son, Joey, and daughter, Emma. Guilmette began his career in emergency medical services as an EMT approximately 20 years ago and brings extensive experience in fire and EMS to his new role. Hired by the Blackstone Fire Department in 2024, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to public safety and is prepared to take on the additional responsibilities of leadership.

Lieutenant James Foster, a lifelong Blackstone resident, was pinned by his daughter, Olivia. A member of the Blackstone Fire Department since 2019, Foster has established himself as a dedicated and respected member of the department. His years of experience in fire and EMS, along with his continued commitment to serving the community, have helped prepare him for this next step in his career.

The promotions mark an important milestone for both firefighters as they assume new leadership responsibilities and continue serving the residents of Blackstone.

The Fire Chief and the Blackstone Fire Department congratulate Lieutenants Guilmette and Foster on their promotions and thank their families for sharing in this memorable occasion.

HONOURING YOUR SERVICE
Veterans Day Celebration Breakfast
Saturday
November 7,2026
9:00 AM to Noon
RSVP by November 3, 2026 to ParksandRecreation@townofblackstone.org or call 508-928-7817
Enjoy a ceremony, guest speakers, and a delicious breakfast
BMR High School Cafeteria
175 Lincoln Street
Blackstone, MA 01504

Celebrate the Season at
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Join us for our
25th Annual Holiday Open House
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Shopping • Fun!
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Sat., Nov. 28, 10-5
Sun., Nov 29, 11-4
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Candles & Lanterns
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AND MORE!
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Blackstone, MA
508-876-8900
HOURS: Wed.-Fri. 10-5
Sat. 10-4
Sun.12-4
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for Updates!

Blackstone Enlightener NOVEMBER 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

November Children's Programs

By Tressy N. Collier

A special excerpt of **The Nutcracker ballet** will be performed on Wednesday, November 18 at 6 p.m. Costumed dancers from Heritage Ballet of Lincoln, RI will perform the Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy from their holiday production of The Nutcracker. The dancers will instruct children in some simple ballet steps following the program. Dancers will be available for photos after the performance. Appropriate for ages four and up. To register, please call the library at 508-883-1931 or email tcollier@cwmars.org.

A drop-in **Thanksgiving craft** will be held on Tuesday, November 24. Drop in between 5:30-7 p.m. to make an adorable turkey craft. Appropriate for ages four and up. No registration is required.

Have you met Bear, Lady, Willoughby and Pearl, the newest member of our **"Wag and Read, Reading with a Therapy Dog"** program? "Wag and Read" is a popular program in which children ages five and up can read to a specially trained and certified therapy dog. Reading aloud to an animal helps build confidence and is great for those struggling with dyslexia, speech problems, fear of dogs and much more. Each child may reserve one 15-minute time slot per month. Reading sessions take place once a month on Monday evenings beginning on November 4 from either 5 – 6 p.m. or 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and registration is required. For more information or to register please call the library at 508-883-1931 or email Tressy at tcollier@cwmars.org.

Children's Winter Story Times

The Blackstone Public Library will soon begin its 2026 winter session of story times.

For preschoolers and kindergartners ages 3 – 5, two Story Time & Craft classes will be held on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Each class consists of two stories and a simple craft and can accept up to 15 children. The Monday class will last six weeks and will begin on Monday, November 16. The Thursday class will also last six weeks and will begin on Thursday, November 19.

For babies and toddlers ages 6 months – 3 years, we offer Toddler Story Time on Friday at 10:15 a.m. In this six-week program, we'll read board books, sing songs and fingerplays, play games, and also play with books and toys. This story time lasts 45 minutes and will begin on Friday, November 20.

Registration for the above programs begins on Monday, November 2 for Blackstone residents and Monday, November 9 for all library patrons. Space is limited and registration is accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

As always, patrons are welcome to attend drop in story time every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, please call 508-883-1931 or email Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmars.org. When emailing, please be sure to include your child's full name, age, and the caregiver's email and phone number.

The Friends Fall Book Sale
Saturday, November 7, 2026
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Treat yourself to decadent, small-batch gourmet fudge from The Fudge Lady! Every ½ lb. box purchased directly funds programs, passes and events at the Blackstone Public Library. Price: $12 online ($11 if paying by cash or check at the library by October 27).
- Pickup Date: Saturday, November 7 (9:00 AM-12:00 PM) during the Fall Book Sale. Location: Blackstone Public Library. All sales are final and directly support the library.

The next Friends of the Blackstone Public Library meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm. New members are welcome! Hope to see you there!

Young Adult Programs

YA Reptile Show with J&J Reptiles!
Tuesday, November 24 st 6 PM. Registration is required. Open to 5th-12th grade students.

YA Chess Club (and board games!)
All skill levels are welcome. This is not an instructional class. Drop in to practice your skills with other players! Meetings are held every Monday at 5 PM. Registration is not required. Open to 5th-12th grade students.

YA Un-Book Club
Read whatever you want! Join us to discuss your recent reads and find your next one! Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. Registration is not required. Open to 5th-12th grade students.

YA Cursive Club
Learn/practice cursive writing! New participants always welcome! Meetings are held every Thursday at 5 PM. Registration is not required. Open to 5th-12th grade students.

For more information or to register for these programs, call (508)883-1931 or email Mandi at mwhipple@cwmars.org.

Adult Programs

SHINE Help with Jenna Gouin
Monday, November 9 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Thursday, November 12 from 12:00 am to 2;00 pm
Jenna will answer some common Medicare questions. Registration is required and limited to a one-hour session. Call the Blackstone Public Library for more information or to register.

Help with Sheila Elliott
Thursday, Tuesday November 10 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Sheila will be providing help with application assistance (including MassHealth, SNAP, WIC, Fuel Assistance and others.) Registration is required and limited to a 30-minute session.
Call the Blackstone Public Library for more information or to register.

Watercolor Painting Class with Brooke Lamber
Saturday, November 14 at 11:00 am.Registration is required and limited to 15 participants. Call the Blackstone Public Library for more information or to register. This program is funded by a generous donation from the Library's Gift account as authorized by the Board of Library Trustees.

Michael Lepage as John Adams
Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30 pm.Registration is required. Register by visiting the Blackstone Public Library's event page or call the library for more information.
This program is funded by the IMLS 250 Library Convening Stipend.

Photography Club
Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30 pm. Join other photographers to share ideas, tips, tricks. This club is funded by Unibank. Blackstone Library Photography Club Exhibit & Reception.Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm. Meet the talented members of the Blackstone Library Photography Club for an exhibit celebrating autumn. Refreshments will be served.

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

Horror Book Club
Thursday, November 5 6:30 pm. Contact Tressy Collier at tcollier@cwmars.org.

Evening Book Group
Tuesday, November 10 6:30 pm.Contact Renee Milliken at rmilliken@cwmars.org

Visit our website for additional programs.

By Lee Holfelder

Welcome November! Fall is here and the perfect time to curl up with a good book!

Save the Date!
The Friends Fall Book Sale will be held Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Hope to see you all there!

Treat yourself to a decadent, small batch of gourmet fudge from The Fudge Lady! Every ½ lb. box purchased directly funds programs, passes and events at the Blackstone Public Library. Price:$12 online ($11 if paying by cash or check at the library by October 27). Pickup Date: Saturday, November 7, (9:00 am-12:00 pm) during the Fall Book Sale. Location: Blackstone Public Library. All sales are final and directly support the library.

The next Friends of the Blackstone Public Library meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm. New members are welcome! Hope to see you there!

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MILLVILLE POLISH HALL
BLACKSTONE SENIOR CENTER

THANK YOU & HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF THROUGH JANUARY 15,2027



Submitted photo

The Heart Behind the Books

How Volunteers & Community Support Keep the Blackstone Public Library Vibrant

By Chie Ferrelli

If you've ever sat in on a book club discussion, watched your child's face light up at a summer event, or attended a drop-in craft event at the Blackstone Public Library, you've experienced the heart of our community in action.

Our library is fortunate to have a wonderful network of volunteers—from the friendly faces helping at book sales to our fundraising team behind the scenes. (Please note that volunteers do not work at the circulation desk or assist with library operations). What many residents don't realize is that municipal tax dollars cover only a small percentage of programming and programming supplies. There is $0–$500 allocated in the library's operating budget for programming supplies.

Through the wonderful work of the Friends of the Blackstone Library, their fundraising helps the library hold more programs for library patrons. The Friends of the Blackstone Library is a volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit that has been serving our community since 1985.

Our story is really about community resilience. Years ago, we were on the brink of closing down because we didn't have enough volunteers. President Denise Daignault put out an urgent call, folks stepped up, and we rebuilt our team from the ground up.

When COVID hit, we pivoted online with book sales to keep things going. Since then, we've added online donations, raffle ticket sales, and e-commerce. You've probably seen our booth at town events, or spotted our honor-system book corner beside the circulation desk. Raising funds takes a lot of heart—from Goodstuff Smokehouse dinner nights and clothing drives to our Krispy Kreme run this year where volunteers drove all the way to Connecticut for fresh donuts.

We've also had amazing local support, including local groups sponsoring museum passes, and New England Chimney & Roofing, LLC, working alongside DDM Cannabis to build our new storage shed last year—a major contribution that provided both the materials and labor needed for the project that would have cost the Friends thousands.

A Quick Note from Us: Because every dollar we raise comes from community generosity, we love hearing what programs and passes mean the most to you so we can direct our support where it helps most. Feel free to take our quick 1-minute poll online at www.friendsoftheblackstonelibrary.com/impact.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month and would love to have you join us! Thank you for keeping our library thriving.

Child Find

Special Education Screenings

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District will conduct evaluations for children between the ages 3-22 with a suspected disability. If you question whether or not your child living in Blackstone or Millville may have a disability and you are interested in having your child evaluated, call Jill Pilla-Gallerani, Assistant Superintendent/Director of Learner Support services at 508-876-0142 for more information or email Jenn Hernandez, Admin assistant at jhernandez@bmrsd.net.

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Blackstone Enlightener NOVEMBER 2026 email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Understanding Flood Zones: What Every Homeowner Should Know

If you've owned a home for any length of time, you've probably heard someone say, "Don't worry, that property isn't in a flood zone." Unfortunately, flood risk is often more complicated than that. Many homeowners are surprised to learn that flooding can occur even outside of designated flood hazard areas, and that being "just a few feet away" from a flood zone line can make a significant difference in insurance costs and building regulations.

What Is a Flood Zone?
A flood zone is an area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that reflects the property's risk of flooding. FEMA publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps that communities, lenders, insurers, and local officials rely upon. Different flood zones indicate different levels of flood risk. Some areas have a relatively low risk of flooding, while others have a much higher probability of flooding during severe storms, hurricanes, or periods of heavy rainfall.

Are There Any Flood Zones in Blackstone?
Yes. There are flood zones along portions of the Blackstone River, Mill River, near Crane's Pond off of Mendon Street, near portions of Harris Pond, and other sections of Blackstone.

The "100-Year Flood" Misunderstanding
One of the most common misconceptions involves the term "100-year flood." Many people assume this means a flood occurs only once every 100 years. In reality, it means there is a 1% chance of flooding in any given year. A property located in a 100-year floodplain could experience multiple floods within a relatively short period of time, or none at all. The designation is simply a statistical measurement of risk.

Why Flood Zones Matter
Flood zones affect several important aspects of property ownership:
Flood Insurance
If a mortgage is backed by a federally regulated lender and the property is located in a high-risk flood zone, flood insurance may be required. Even when flood insurance is not mandatory, homeowners should carefully evaluate whether coverage makes sense. A significant number of flood insurance claims are paid on properties located outside high-risk flood zones.

Property Values
Flood zones can affect property values. Buyers often consider the cost of flood insurance, potential future flooding concerns, and restrictions on future improvements.
A house located just outside a flood zone may be more attractive to some buyers than a similar property located inside one.

Construction and Renovations
Building in a flood zone can involve additional requirements. Depending on the location and nature of the project, a homeowner may need to elevate structures, use flood-resistant construction techniques, or comply with specific local and state regulations.
What appears to be a simple addition or renovation may become significantly more expensive once flood-zone requirements are factored into the project.

Flood Maps Are Not Perfect
Many people assume FEMA flood maps precisely predict where flooding will occur. They do not.
Flood maps are based on available data and modeling. They are useful tools, but they are not guarantees. Properties outside designated flood zones can and do flood.
Likewise, there are situations where a property owner believes a flood zone designation is inaccurate.
In some cases, professional surveys and engineering studies may support a request for a map amendment or correction.

Coastal Property Owners Face Additional Concerns
For coastal property owners, flood risk often involves more than just standing water.
Storm surge, wave action, erosion, and changing shoreline conditions can all affect property. Along the coast, two homes located near one another may be subject to very different flood zone classifications based upon elevation and proximity to open water.
These distinctions can have significant effects on insurance premiums and construction rules.

Before You Buy
If you are considering purchasing property, especially near a river, stream, pond, lake, marsh, or the ocean, take the time to investigate:
• The property's flood zone designation.
• Current flood insurance costs.
• Whether flood insurance has been required in the past.
• The property's elevation.
• Any history of flooding.
• Whether planned renovations may be affected by flood-zone regulations.
A little investigation today can prevent unwelcome surprises tomorrow.

Final Thoughts
Flood zones are not just a concern for waterfront mansions or homes sitting directly on the beach.
They can affect ordinary homeowners right here in Blackstone. Whether you're buying a home, planning a renovation, or simply reviewing your insurance coverage, understanding your property's flood risk and the yearly cost to insure it, is an important part of protecting one of your largest investments.

This article is intended for general educational purposes and does not constitute legal advice. Readers should consult with appropriate professionals regarding their specific circumstances.
The writer, Christopher J. Ryan, Esq., is an attorney with Ryan Law Office, 181 Main Street, Blackstone, MA. www.ryanlawoffice.com.



Blackstone Millville Food Pantry



Divine Mercy Parish Hall, St. Paul Street, Blackstone

NOVEMBER 2026 Food Pantry Needs

Stuffing	**Cookies**
Turkey gravy	**Pudding Cups**
Cranberry Sauce	**Brownie Mix**
Canned tomatoes	**Coffee**
Kids cereal	**Shampoo & conditioner**
Canned beef stew	**Laundry detergent**
Coffee (regular & instant)	**Dish detergent**
Instant potatoes	**Body wash**
Hamburger Helper	**Toilet paper**
Ketchup & Mustard	

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

Letters/Opinions

Before You Approve Another Project, Think About the People Who Pay the Price

As residents and taxpayers, we have every right to question decisions that could affect our property, our safety, our neighborhoods, and our financial future. Several proposed community changes deserve serious consideration before town officials move forward. First, I have serious concerns about the proposed bike path on private property at Castle Hill Condominiums (yes, where I reside). Private property rights must be respected. Property owners should not have to sacrifice their privacy, security, and peaceful enjoyment of their property for a public recreational project. Before approving such a proposal, officials must address who has authority over the land, who will maintain the path, who will be responsible for accidents, and what protections will be provided to affected property owners.

There are also growing concerns about e-bike safety. Electric bicycles can travel at considerable speeds, creating potential dangers for pedestrians, vehicles, children, and traditional cyclists. Allowing high-speed e-bikes on shared paths or streets raises important questions about speed limits, age restrictions, helmet requirements, and enforcement. Our public spaces should be safe for everyone, not places where pedestrians have to worry about being struck by speeding bikes. (See www.valleybreeze.com/news/burrillville-fights-back-on-reckless-e-bike-youth-riders-prohibits-use-on-town-roads.)

Then there is the proposed new school and the financial burden it could place on taxpayers. Building a new school involves far more than the initial construction costs. Borrowing, maintenance, staffing, utilities, and operating expenses can create a long-term financial commitment. Those costs may eventually translate into higher property taxes. Many homeowners, seniors, retirees, and working families are already struggling with the cost of living. How much more are residents expected to pay?

Before approving expensive projects, officials should provide complete cost estimates, explain the long-term tax impact, and seriously consider alternatives. Renovating or exploring less costly solutions should not be dismissed without careful evaluation. These decisions may affect the quality of life, financial security, and property rights of the people who live and pay taxes in this community.

Residents deserve to be heard before decisions are made, not after the money has been spent and the consequences become permanent. Our tax dollars are not unlimited, our private property rights matter, and public safety should never be compromised.

I urge town officials to listen to residents, provide honest answers, and carefully reconsider these proposals before moving forward. After all, this is our community, our property, and our money. The people who pay the bills deserve a voice in how their community is changed.

Thank you,
Elizabeth McGeough

IF THEY CAN TRACK EVERY DOLLAR YOU MAKE, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRACK EVERY DOLLAR THEY SPEND

WHERE'S THE AUDIT?

WHO BUILDS A HOUSE BEFORE THE FINANCES ARE SECURED?

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School Building Committee, that's who! Since the founding of the school district in the late 1960's every vote, whether it was the budget, a capital repair or a new school building was determined by individual town Meeting votes by the member towns. But when it comes to the most expensive project in the history of both towns, the manner of voting has changed. One must ask themselves why. When the Regional Agreement was updated several years ago an additional clause was added that slid under the radar. That clause was MGL Chapter 71 Sec.16(n). which allows the school district to bypass individual Town Meetings and go directly to the ballot with no local vetting of the funding source. To understand the ramifications of this process you must understand the process that has been previously used by the district. Until now the school district has presented capital repairs and new school projects under MGL Chapter 71 Sec. 16(d) which requires a strict timeline to notify the Towns for the purpose of creating individual town meetings to vote on the proposed project. The difference here is the town by-laws and the vetting process that is omitted under 16(n). Under 16(d) The town's Finance Committees, and Capital Committees typically have meetings with the school district to review their requests and are required to have public hearings and make recommendations to be presented at town meetings to the voters. The Recommendations made by the Finance Committees at town meeting also include funding sources that are voted on as well. In the case of 16(n) none of this is required, the town's by-laws are circumvented, and the funding source is an afterthought. This should scare every taxpaying citizen in both communities.

To date 16(n) has caused confusion within the school district and the towns. As of a few weeks ago it was brought to the people's attention that the vote is required to be on the ballot and not at a town meeting. The polling hours cannot be less than four hours, nor longer than eight hours. Mail-in ballots are not acceptable. And most concerning is, the town's ability to fund the project is not considered on the ballot. If the project passes the towns will then have to go for a debt-exclusion measure on a separate ballot individually. What is a debt exclusion? It is a separate tax to fund the project for the duration of the loan. In this case it's approximately 1.8 million for Millville and 5.3 million for Blackstone over the next 30 years above and beyond the annual budget and tax assessment.

What happens if the debt exclusion fails in either town? The project moves forward and the town(s) must figure it out using their operating budget. Currently 49% of Millville's budget is allocated to BMR, a failed debt-exclusion would increase that allocation to 72%, essentially eliminating most remaining town services. While Blackstone is better off financially, a failed debt-exclusion would increase the budget allocation to BMR from 35% to 52%. How this difference will affect services in Blackstone is unclear. If history has taught us anything, it has taught us that all of these financial questions would have been thoroughly scrutinized using the 16(d) process by our local finance and capital committees as they have been for the past 6 decades of the district and if you had any follow up questions, you had the ability to speak at your town meeting. Under 16(n) you are denied that ability.

When you go to cast your ballot on December 1st, between 11:00am and 7:00pm ask yourself, would I hire an architect, project manager, and contractor to build a house if I did not have the funding vetted and secured and then give $197,000,000.00 of purchasing authority to a non-elected building committee?
Because that's what's actually on the ballot!

Zachary Zielinski
Resident

Dear Editor,

I have been a resident in this town for many years and I have a problem I cannot solve. When school is back in session, I really enjoy going to the concerts and band functions at the high school. My problem is that I used to rely on friends that had children at the school to tell me when the shows would be. Unfortunately those kids have moved on.

I have tried calling the school as well as texting and emailing to no avail. I think that the concerts are part of the community events and if more people knew when they were held more would attend. It would be nice if the school could post a calendar of functions in Blackstone Enlightener so the residents who would like to attend could see it. I'm sure the students would not mind a bigger audience as well.

Many Thanks,
Peggy Catrambone

DIVINE MERCY PARISH



Fr. John Larochelle

NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday: 4pm *Confession from 3pm – 3:40pm
Sunday: 8am - 9:30am *family Mass - 11:30am
Weekday Mass Schedule:
Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 8am *recite the Rosary before Mass at 7:30am
Thursday: 6:30pm *followed by Adoration and Confession

It is not too late to sign your little one up to be a part of our new Jesus and Me (J.A.M.) Program that meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 10:45am until 12 noon in the Parish Center. This program is designed for Pre-K, K and 1st Grade children (ages 4 through 6 years old).

Our Little Lambs program is back this year! This is a free playgroup for children ages 0 through 5 years old. We meet each week in the Parish Center from 10am until 11:15am. Parents & Grandparents stay during our playgroup to make friends too!

St. Jude Prayer

May the Sacred heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer for 9 days, 9 times each day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred heart and St. Jude. C.S.

Proclaim 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.

Our Celebration of Thanksgiving

"Psalm 136:1Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever. "And the last verse, 28 states, "Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever. "In between those verses is a litany of what He has done for humanity. Ther psalm is attributed to King David, a man after God's own heart and yes, a flawed individual leader. What made this flawed man unique is that when he sinned, he confessed his sin to God and ran to Him rather than away from God to hide his transgressions. We can take away two very important facts from this psalm: God's love for those who believe in Him, no matter how many times we miss the mark, His love endures forever for the followers of Christ, and when we confess our sins to Him, He still loves us warts and all.

Each year in the United States we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, designated by Congress to fall on the fourth Thursday of the month of November. Many of us will gather with family and friends around a table overflowing with wonderful food items traditionally associated with this celebration such as a roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce or berries, etc.

May the Lord bless each and every one of you,

Rev. Marc Greenwald
Associate Pastor, Christ Community Church of Blackstone





East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House Ecumenical Service

Sunday, November 22nd

The East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House Association invites you to an ecumenical service on Sunday, November 22nd, at 2:00 p.m. at the historic Meeting House, located at 197 Elm Street in Blackstone. The Reverend Emily Carle, pastor of The United Parish of Upton, MA, will serve as guest pastor.

Pastor Carle grew up in Connecticut and attended various UCC churches with her family. She discovered her calling through interfaith activities at Mount Holyoke College, graduating with a B.A. in Religion and Sociology. She earned her Master of Divinity with a Certificate in Educational Ministry from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, receiving accolades for her preaching and community involvement. Throughout her education, Pastor Carle gained experience in youth ministry, street ministry, urban mission work, and trauma chaplaincy. She views her calling as connecting people to themselves, each other, God, and community resources. As a pastor, her goal is to accompany people on their life journeys toward healing and wholeness. Her personal interests include crocheting, gravestone restoration, playing video games, and watching pro-wrestling. Her husband, the Rev. Sean Amato, serves as pastor at Slatersville Congregational Church in North Smithfield, RI.

Music for the service will be directed by John Staples of Mathewson Street United Methodist Church in Providence, RI. He will be joined by violist Matthew Vriesema of Cornerstone Church in North Uxbridge, MA, and organist Jonathan Steele of Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA, and Immanuel Chapel in Upton, MA.

This event is the first of two remaining services in 2026. Please also mark your calendars for the Association's Annual Candlelight Christmas Caroling Service on Friday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. (snow date: Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m.).



Blackstone's Window On The Past

The East Blackstone Grange

© Helen Murray 2026

Donald W. McLeod was born on April 21, 1914. He was the son of Daniel and Wilhelmina L. (Crowley) McLeod. Donald was raised in Blackstone and he attended public schools here, until his parents moved to Medford.

Donald was a good athlete, playing football and hockey for Medford High School. He earned an athletic scholarship to St. Anslems College. As for so many young men of this time, war intervened with his plans. He left St. Anslems before graduation and joined the American Eagle Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Donald would be the only man in his original group to survive the war.

His British Spitfire was shot down over Malta. McLeod parachuted from the plane and was rescued at sea by an Allied ship. He never completely recovered from the damage done to his neck in this incident.

In September 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. His record included participation in air offensives in Europe, Western Europe, Normandy, North Africa, Tunesia, Algiers and French Morocco. He shot down eight or ten Axis planes and flew over 100 combat missions.

McLeod was shot down over France and trapped behind enemy lines. For 65 days he was listed as missing in action. Finally, his father received a cable that he was safe. Lt. Col Donald McLeod was given a medical discharge. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, European Theater of Operation Medal with Five Stars, and many others.

After his discharge, Donald went first to visit his father in Norwich, Connecticut. Then he returned to Blackstone and to the friends of his youth. At a party in his honor he did not want to speak about his war record, though he did recount his friendship with Robert Montgomery, the famous actor, whom he met while in the service.

Donald took up residence at the Duncan Inn on Butler Street. He was home again, among friends. He formed the Veteran's Security League of WWII in Blackstone to help other veterans.

McLeod was having an operation needed because of his war injuries when he died on September 22, 1946, at the age of 32. He was buried with full military honors. His body lay for viewing in the home of his lifelong friend, Henry Kelly, on Goddard Street. Services were held at the Blackstone Federated Church and burial was in the Blackstone Cemetery. Services were attended by high-ranking military officers and members of every branch of the military. Friends, relatives, veterans' groups and town officials were all present. Eighty veterans lined up for the procession from the church to the cemetery on Mendon Street. Military planes from Bedford Air Base as well as civilian planes from the area circled overhead in a final farewell.



Donald W. McLeod
Photo courtesy of the Blackstone Museum





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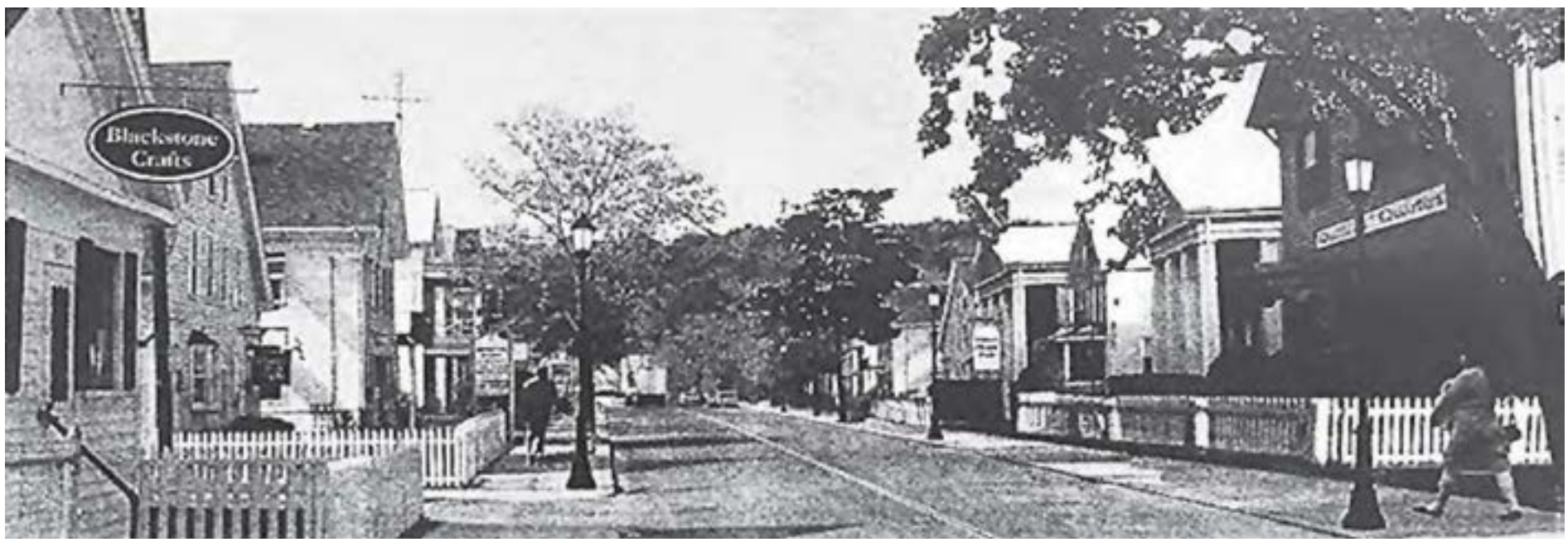
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Board, Committee and Commission Vacancies

Blackstone currently has vacancies on several boards, committees and commissions. For more information, go to the town website. Please complete the application of Intent to Serve Boards/Committees. You can complete the document digitally (if submitting an online copy) or physically (if submitting a hard copy.



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