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Volume 32, Issue 5

Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993

October 2025

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Firefighter James Ahearn Graduates from Massachusetts Fire Academy



James (center) alongside Deputy Fire Chief Brian Gartland at left and Fire Chief Kevin Roy, celebrating this well-earned accomplishment.

Firefighter Ahearn see page 5

Women's Success Network Plants Hope Garden Along Bike Path In Blackstone

In Support Of Mental Health
Awareness

BLACKSTONE, MA – The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's (BVCC) and Women's Success Network (WSN) is proud to announce it's participation in creating a Hope Garden along the bike path in the Town of Blackstone, on Saturday, October 4th at 9:30am. This Hope Garden planting will take place at 16 St. Paul Street, Blackstone, MA behind the Town Hall, by the bike path, in support of

Hope Garden continued on page 2



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Historical Notes

by Helen Murray

Progress continues on a new wheelchair ramp for the museum. Work on the front porch of the building is now completed. Museum staff is endeavoring to keep regular museum hours during construction. If the open flag is out, the museum is available to the public.

The museum is usually open every Thursday from noon until 3PM. Saturday openings in October are tentatively scheduled for the 4th and the 18th, also from noon until 3PM.

The Historical Commission would like to thank the following people for adding to the museum's collections this month: Bennie Box-old French donated a prom vase along with a yellow BMR gym shirt and a band shirt from her time at BMR. Robin Gautreau donated a photo of Bob Rondeau's band which features her mother playing the piano, circa 1950, along with an interesting 1800's appointment book.

D.L. Wicher sent along a large photo of the arcade (stone store) which helpfully listed the names of all those in the photo.



Blackstone Lions

by Denise Catalano

The Blackstone Lions Scholarship Fund has been active for well over 50 years. Over the last 2 years we added an additional scholarship for Blackstone and Millville students attending BVT. This year alone graduates from BMR & BVT will receive \$750 to use for school, the presentation will take place at the January 2026 meeting. We always count on the support of the residents to help make this possible.

This year the money raised from the "duck race" will be part of our fundraising.

Also, join us for a "Night at Good-stuffs". Thanks to Dave and Kevin and their unlimited assistance to many town organizations, they set Thursday nights for this and give back 15% of sales between 4pm and 9pm to the organization to raise money off the sales for that night. These guys have always been there for us, the Boy Scouts, the Library, the BMR Marching Band, and many more not just from town.

As chairperson, I have selected Thursday, October 9, 2025 as a night to eat in or take out to help the scholarship fund. The Lions of Blackstone has been involved from 1959 to present, and we are continue helping any time we can.

We are going to "sweeten the pot" by offering a free, yes free raffle ticket to win a \$100 gift card to the restaurant of your choice. Just come down and eat in or take out!

Of course, you may purchase extra tickets at \$5 each but remember you will receive one ticket free. All monies raised that night will be used for the Scholarship Fund.

Our Pig Roast or Porketta Dinner will be held in 2026 for the scholarship fund. Details TBA later.

Regular Lions meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Senior Center in Town Hall at 6:30pm starting in September. New members are always welcome! Join us.

Hope Garden

continued on page 2

Mental Health Awareness.

BMR students will be planting the tulip bulbs. Come join the WSN for their fourth year of getting down and dirty, to help show that there is hope for those living with mental illness. The goal is to help "Smash the Stigma" associated mental illness by planting 500 yellow tulip bulbs that will bloom in late April/early May. When spring comes, they will be a beautiful reminder that we are not alone, and that there is comfort and support out there for those who may be suffering in silence!

This effort is inspired by the Yellow Tulip Project, a youth-driven movement that is determined to be the change we want to see in the world. They tirelessly host events, visit schools and engage with communities to talk about mental illness and create that safe space for all. It is important that people do not feel alone - what they are experiencing is normal, they will be okay, and there will always be help and support available to them.

For more information, please visit our website at www.blackstonevalley.org to learn more about the Women's Success Network and to register as a volunteer for this event. You can also learn more about the Yellow Tulip Project at www.theyellowtulipproject.org.

The mission of BVCC Women's Success Network is to unite women to achieve their vision of success by creating a community of support and inspiration in their personal and professional lives.



From Chief Gilmore's Desk

Halloween 2025

The Blackstone Police would like to remind everyone that October means Halloween, and that means SAFETY.

Child Safety: Kids should stay with their parent or guardian, carry flashlights or glow sticks, use caution when crossing streets, stay on well-lit roads and be reminded not to talk to strangers or get in any stranger's car.

Parent Safety: make sure your kids are properly supervised, make sure you know where your kids are going, costumes or masks should not inhibit vision of kids, set strict curfews, and make sure you check all your child's treats before they indulge.

Driver Safety: motorists need to be reminded about the dangers of Halloween as well. With the added pedestrian traffic drivers need to use extreme caution on Halloween. The Blackstone Police Department will be adding additional cruisers and mountain bike patrols to the roadways to help make the street safer for all. We encourage input from residents that notice unsafe drivers or areas so we can focus our manpower to these areas.



St. Vincent de Paul
Fall Mum Sale
Saturday, October 4th
10-5
Sunday October 5th
7:30-Noon
at Divine Mercy Parish
at St. Paul's Church
48 St. Paul Street
Blackstone • MA

Divine Mercy Beer & Root Beer Dynamite Blast Fundraiser

Hosted by the Coffee and Fellowship Ministry
Saturday, October 4th
5pm in the Parish Center Lower Hall

Tickets can be purchased
at the door.

There will be lots of Raffles and a 50/50 Pot.

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with coupon only! See Betty's for details.

CHECK OUT WEEKLY SPECIALS ON FACEBOOK!
Tues - Sat 4 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., Sun 5 a.m.-noon

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Class Reunions



Class of 1971

The BMR Class of 1971 is celebrating its 55th-year reunion in 2026. Please visit our class Facebook site for more updates. To submit or update your information, please email Liz McGeough at noisomeness4@gmail.com. Anyone in touch with 1971 classmates, please telephone or email them and help spread the word!

Class of 1975

The BMR Class of 1975 is planning a 50th reunion on Saturday October 4, 2025 at the Hopedale Golf Course, 90 Mill St. Hopedale beginning at 5:30 PM with a cash bar and refreshments. Followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 PM. Price of the tickets are \$50pp. Please contact the class for tickets & details, at bmr75@bmr75.org or visit the website at bmr75.org where you can take a minute and fill out our survey. <https://www.facebook.com/bmr75> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bmr75>.

Class of 2000

The BMR Class of 2000 will be celebrating 25 years on November 29 at 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 380 Social Street, Woonsocket. Please email: BMRchargers2000@gmail.com.

Trick or
Treat at
Town Hall



by Lauren Taylor

Join us on October 28th from 4:30 - 7:00PM where you can enjoy spooky treats, crafts, games and fun at the Blackstone Town Hall. Trick or Treat bags will be provided by the Blackstone Fire Department. Please note the first 30 minutes will be Sensory Friendly to accomodate families with sensory or other special needs. Entry is free, and the event is hosted by the Town of Blackstone.



Recognizing First Responders

by Elizabeth McGeough

National First Responders Day is October 28th. This day is dedicated to all first responders: firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMTs/paramedics), emergency managers, public safety telecommunicators/dispatchers, and federal, state, and local government emergency responders (the specific roles that qualify can vary by organization and are generally those who are first on the scene of an emergency to provide aid and assistance) and any volunteer personnel who responds to crises and protects communities. The United States Congress designated October 28 as National First Responders Day in 2017, though the resolution passed the Senate in 2019 after a six-year effort that began following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. The creation of

the day was spearheaded by a bipartisan group of senators and supported by the family of Officer Sean Collier, who was killed during that event. Officer Sean Collier was a first responder for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Police Department who was killed in the line of duty in April 2013 by the accused Boston Marathon bombers while on patrol at MIT. Before his death, Collier also served as a volunteer for the Somerville Auxiliary Police and worked as a Special Police Officer in Lincoln, MA. To celebrate National First Responders Day, you can show your appreciation by writing a thank you note, donating to a first responder charity, treating a first responder to a meal, or expressing gratitude on social media using hashtags like #NationalFirstRespondersDay or tag local emergency services.

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Blackstone COA

Tiziana Milano COA Director 508-876-5135

RSVP in person at the Blackstone COA, online @ MyActiveCenter.Com, by phone (508) 883-1500 ex 151, or via email KCoffey@TownOfBlackstone.Org
Weekly Programs & Activities: Please RSVP for meals one week in advance, see newsletter for menu. Meal donation \$4.

- Monday: 10AM Game Day. 10AM Pound. 1PM: Qi-Gong
Tuesday: 9AM Walking Club. 9:15AM Strength & Stretch. 10:10AM Chair Yoga. 12 Noon Lunch. 1:15PM Strength Circuit
Wednesday: 9:30AM Coffee Club. 9:30AM Tap Dance. 10:30AM Line Dance. 11:30AM Meditation. 12 Noon Lunch. 1PM Bingo. 2:15PM Zumba Gold.
Thursday: 9AM TaiChi Beginner. 9:30AM Cribbage. 10AM TaiChi Intermediate. 11AM Journey thru Grief, 12 Noon Lunch. 12:30PM Yarnworks. 1:15PM Aging Gracefully
Friday: 9AM Walking Club. 10AM Mahjong. 10AM Pound. 1PM Painting @ Artful Dodger: next session starts Sept 5th \$24 for 6 weeks.
- What's Happening:**
Drop-Spinning Tutorial: Learn to spin Wool into yarn! Make a spindle, learn to spin, and learn about plying methods. Limit 6, \$5 materials fee.
Thursdays, 1pm: 2nd, 9th, and 16th.
1: Travel Breakfast, Betty's, Blackstone MA.
6: Soup to Nuts! Transportation Coordinator Dennis Pimenta joins us for Broccoli Cheddar soup. RSVP by 10/7, \$2 donation.
7: Lunch & A Movie: Cheese Pizza & Tim Burton's Corpse Bride. \$4, RSVP by 10/6
8: Local Foliedge Drive. Board the bus for a look at the New England autumn display.
13: Closed for the Holiday.
14: Botanic Garden At Tower Hill, Golf Cart Tour. Pack a lunch and tour the gardens, rain or shine. Limit 10. RSVP Required, non-refundable
15: Flu Clinic: Blackstone Residents, 18+, are welcome. 10 - 11:30 AM
20: Past-Our-Prime Time Players present their Autumn Radio Hour. 1PM, open to the public.
21: Mystery Lunch. RSVP Required.
22: Blood Pressure & Medication Clinic, presented by the Public Health Nurse. 11 - Noon.
23: Potluck Lunch! Sign Up in person.
27: Birthday Lunch! Food, Fun, and a Costume Contest for Bragging Rights. 12 Noon RSVP Required, \$5 donation.
27: COA & Cultural Council Present: Halloween Harvest. Celebrate the season with Award Winning folksinger & storyteller Davis Bates. The program includes harvest stories and songs from past and present, songs of the supernatural, Native American stories, sing alongs, a lesson in playing the spoons, and Bingo the dancing wooden dog! 1 PM, Open to the public, RSVP Recommended.
28: Town Hall Trick or Treat, 4:30- 7 PM. The Senior Center closes at 3 to set up for the event.
29: Lunch & Learn: Fire Department covers Cooking Safety. Happy Fall!

Millville COA

Tina Cook, COA Director

The hours for the Center are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-3. 508-883-3523.
The Senior Bus is available on Monday thru Friday, please call to set up an appointment between the hours of 8am to 3pm 774-573-6084. Medical trips are given priority.
TRIP: BVT – Three Seasons Restaurant – Friday, October 10, bus leaves at 11:30. Call to RSVP limit of 18 people.
Trunk or Treat Saturday October 18th 4pm-6pm, Stop By.
MONDAY:
October 6th: Flu Clinic 10AM call to RSVP.
October 13th: CLOSED Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day
October 20th: Zumba 9:30am, Senior Club Meeting & Lunch \$10, 11:30 am, Entertainment to follow: John Duggan
The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.
October 27th: Craft Class 10am.
TUESDAY:
October 7th: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30pm
October 14th: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30pm
October 21st: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30 pm.
October 28th: Line Dance 9:30am, Pitch 10:45, Chair Yoga 1:30pm. All Are Welcome
WEDNESDAY:
Hand, Foot & Knee Card Game is every week at 12:00. Come and enjoy the fun. All Are Welcome
THURSDAY:
October 2nd: BINGO is the first Thursday of the month at 1 pm. Come for the fun and snacks. Lunch is at noon \$3.00.
October 9th: Painting starts at 10 am. Call to register \$5.00 508-883-3523. Lunch \$3.00 at noon.
The class is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.
You don't have to be a painter to come for lunch.
October 16th: Lunch \$3.00. COA Meeting at 1pm.
October 23rd: Halloween Party, Noon, come in costume. Lunch will be pizza and salad.
October 30th: Movie 11 am "The Adams Family" Lunch \$3.00 Noon
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:am –11:00 am at the Divine Mercy Parish Hall. Paul Street, Blackstone, MA.
Senior/Veterans Tax Work Off Program: you can save up to \$1,000 off your property tax bill by volunteering to help out the town. Please call for more information.

Senior's Fall Fling!

November 4, 2025
3:00 - 4:30 PM
BMR High School

The Friends of the Blackstone Council on Aging invite you to join us for an afternoon of intergenerational fun, food, and entertainment. Registration is required. Contact Kim Coffey at 508-883-1500 x151. We look forward to seeing you there!

New England Country Music Club



UXBRIDGE – The New England Country Music Club will host dances, with country bands on the following Sundays, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

- Oct 5 The Farm Hands (line dance lesson)
Oct 19 R. I. Rednecks Silent Auction
Nov 2 Borrowed Time (line lesson)
Nov 16 Rustic Country
Dec 7 South County Line (line dance)
Dec 21 Crossfire
All dances are held at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., North Uxbridge, MA. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. Music is 1-5 p.m. Coffee, water & snacks may be brought in. Alcohol & soft drinks must be purchased at the bar. Admission: \$9 pp for members & Veterans. \$11 pp for Non-members. For more information, visit Facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

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Blackstone Millville Garden Club

by Kate Donovan

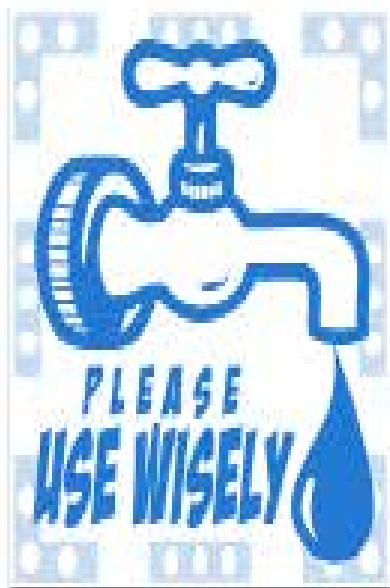
Planting Garlic

Here are the steps to planting garlic:

- 1) Replenish your bed with composted soil.
- 2) Break up the head of garlic into cloves.
- 3) Stick each clove into the earth 3 inches deep with the pointed side facing upward and the fuzzy side pointing downward.
- 4) Plant each clove 6 inches apart in rows 1 foot apart.
- 5) Water well.
- 6) Cover your beds with 3 inches of straw mulch.

Garlic will grow for several months and will be harvested in July. Each planted garlic clove will develop into a whole head of garlic.

Blackstone and Millville Garden Club will meet on October 9th at the Blackstone Library from 6:30 to 8. All are welcome to attend.



**B&M
Garden
Club
Meeting
Thursday,
October 9th
2025,
6:30-8:00PM
Blackstone
Library**

New "Junk Fee" Rules

BLACKSTONE — If you have ever tried to make a purchase online thinking you found a good deal, only to find the checkout price is much higher than the price that drew you in, you may have paid a junk fee. "Junk fees" are hidden, surprise or unnecessary costs that increase the final price of a product beyond advertising.

On Tuesday, September 2, businesses that serve customers in the commonwealth now must clearly disclose the total price for a product including any mandatory charges or fees, before requesting consumer billing information. These regulations apply across industries from hotels and event ticket sales to housing and restaurants.

The regulations also require subscription services and trial offers to make it clear how much consumers will be charged, when they will be charged and how to cancel. This aspect of the regulations, referred to as negative options, also applies to landlords with auto-renew leases.

Key Aspects of Junk Fee Laws

- **Upfront Price Disclosure:** Businesses must display the total price of a product or service, including all mandatory fees, in advertisements and at the point of purchase.
- **Prohibition of "Drip Pricing":** These laws ban "drip pricing" or "bait-and-switch pricing," a tactic where a deceptively low price is advertised, and then mandatory fees are added later in the checkout process.
- **Transparency and Clarity:** All fees, even those not included in the advertised "total price," must be clearly and conspicuously disclosed to consumers before they commit to the purchase.
- **Industry Focus:** While the FTC's rule specifically targets live-event tickets and short-term lodging, state laws may apply to a broader range of goods and services, notes hotelbusiness.com.
- **Consumer Savings:** The aim is to save consumers time and money by preventing them from unknowingly paying higher prices due to hidden fees.

Consumers who believe they have been subject to anything in relation to "junk fees," are encouraged to file a consumer complaint or call the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 617-727-8400.

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**Did you serve
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Viet Nam Era
from November
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**Please call Dennis
at 508-876-5133
or email:
dpimenta@
townofblackstone
.org**

Ahearn Graduates from Fire Academy

by Chief Roy

We are proud to announce that one of our full-time staff members, James Ahearn, has officially graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy, Class 332. This marks a significant milestone in his journey as a dedicated public safety professional.

James is a Blackstone resident and graduate of Blackstone Millville Regional High School. James has been part of our department since March 2024. Since joining, he has shown exceptional commitment to serving the community, first completing his paramedic training through ProEMS and earning his certification as a Massachusetts Paramedic.

James brings a strong work ethic, compassion, and professionalism to every call, and we are excited to see him continue to grow in his career. His graduation from the Fire Academy is a reflection of his hard work and dedication, and we are honored to have him as a member of our team.

Please join us in congratulating Firefighter/Paramedic James Ahearn on this outstanding achievement!

Special Education Screenings

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District will conduct evaluations for children between the ages 3-22 with a suspected disability.

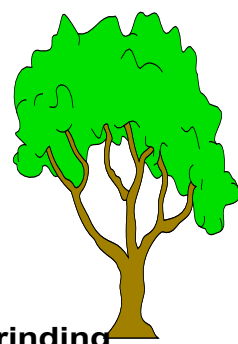
If you question whether or not your child living in Blackstone or Millville may have a disability and you are interested in having your child evaluated, call Ryan Place interim Director of Learner Support services at 508-876-0142 for more information or email Jenn Hernandez, Administrative assistant at jhernandez@bmrds.net.

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Parks & Rec summer team: Adam Robidoux, Johny Costa, Devin Boisse, Brock Chapman, Cooper Bellan, Gerald Wetmore, and Isabel Ryan submitted photo

Parks & Rec Team had a busy summer

by Celeste Langlois

Our Summer Parks & Rec team has been super busy. We will miss most of them as they head back to College or High School. Big thanks to Bob Gilbert for buying them a great lunch from the Smokehouse. They tackled most projects on our fields despite the heat. They completed putting the new backboards up at Roosevelt Park and painting the court poles. Big thanks to the Blackstone-Millville Youth Basketball League for their donation that allowed us to have new backboards on one of the courts!

In October, we get to take a little breather but will be joining all Town Departments for the Annual Trick or Treat at Town Hall on October 28th from 4:30-7:00. Look for us as we

fun at our location behind the Senior Center! We are looking forward to spooking you!

Our November Veteran’s Day plans are coming together.

We are also planning the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Hometown Christmas Celebration and The Santa Parade for December. Watch the upcoming Blackstone Enlightener for more information.

Our meetings for the month of October will be held on the 6th and 20th at 6:00pm in the John Eldridge Meeting Room at the Municipal Center at 15 St. Paul Street, Blackstone. Our meetings are open to all!





BLACKSTONE VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Yellow Tulip Project

Blackstone Hope Garden

October 4, 2025 | 9:30am
16 St. Paul Street, Blackstone
(behind the Town Hall, by the bike path)

The WSN is proud to announce it's participation in creating a Hope Garden along the bike path in the Town of Blackstone, in support of Mental Health Awareness. Please join us in planting 500 yellow tulip bulbs inspired by the Yellow Tulip Project to help smash the stigma associated with mental illness.

Yellow tulips symbolize hope and happiness, and will be a great reminder for our community that hope does happen!

To learn more about the Yellow Tulip Project, please visit www.theyellowtulipproject.org

Scan here to Volunteer!

Thank you to our sponsors and partners...





To volunteer, please visit our website or scan the QR code
www.blackstonevalley.org/events



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Main Street Business of the Month



Shear Bella Hair Design

By Paulette Boyko

Shear Bella Hair Design is located at 3 Main Street #D, (in Betty's Plaza). Lauren Martinez is the owner and proud graduate from the first cosmetology class at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT).

Shear Bella's mission is to create a relaxed yet professional environment to have hair and nails done, and for people of all ages. They create a luxury experience at a fair price. "We believe everyone deserves to be pam-

pered and to feel relaxed, welcome and completely satisfied with their experience. At Shear Bella, we pride ourselves with being expert listeners and delivering five-star results to all our clients. We are in our third year in Blackstone and we love the community. Not only has my business been here in Blackstone for this time, but I, with my husband and two daughters, have resided in Blackstone for 11 years", said Ms. Martinez. "My family loves Blackstone, enjoys all the town programs for the children, and our daughters absolutely love it."

Lauren has over 15 years of expertise in hair styling. The staff consists of, Lauren, five other stylists and one nail technician. At Shear Bella Hair Design, they offer hair, nail, and facial waxing services. Shear Bella's specialties include Beaded Weft Extensions (Invisible Bead Extensions Method), Custom Coloring, and Deluxe Nail Services.

People can easily book online from the comfort of their homes, or call the salon to book an appointment. Call (774) 287-8368, or shearbellahairdesign2021@yahoo.com. Hours are:

Monday Closed Tuesday 10:00 am-8:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am-8:00 pm Thursday 10:00 am-8:00 pm
Friday 10:00 am-8:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Sunday Closed.

Call Shear Bella Hair Design to book your next appointment today!

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get rewarded!





by Marissa Pedorella

BMR has also been the new home for eighth-grade students in the district since last year. With the help of junior and senior volunteers and Ms. Nicole Sacco, a new mentor program is up and running. With this program, upperclassmen are paired

For events in September, the annual Homecoming Dance was on the 25th. This year's theme was tropical. Students were each given their own lei at the beginning of the dance, and the courtyard was decorated with inspiration of an island.

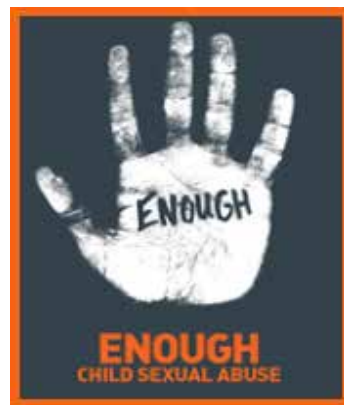


From left, Julia St. Gelais, Ella Barbato and Ella McDonald participate in the lip-sync event.



BMR students flood the gym floor while doing a line dance during the lip-sync assembly when the school opened this year. Photos by Mark Juba.

**THE
MOVEMENT TO
END CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE
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The Musculoskeletal Syndrome of Menopause

by Carol Archambeau

When women think of menopause, the first symptoms that usually come to mind are hot flashes, night sweats, mood swings or brain fog. But there is more to menopause than just these symptoms that doesn't get nearly enough attention... it can affect how you move, feel, and function every single day. It's called the Musculoskeletal Syndrome of Menopause and the changes can actually occur before your final period, during perimenopause.

What is the Musculoskeletal Syndrome of Menopause?

The musculoskeletal system – your bones, muscles and joints, they keep you strong, mobile, stable. When estrogen starts to decline in your early to mid 40's, women start to notice subtle changes: morning stiffness, aching joints, having a harder time building muscle, or feeling less steady on your feet. These are NOT signs of "just getting older", they are signs of hormonal shifts affecting the musculoskeletal system.

So Why Does This Happen?

Estrogen does more than regulate your period, estrogen helps:
*Reduces inflammation in the body
*Keep bones strong
*Protects cartilage in the joints
*Support muscle strength and repair

When estrogen drops, gradually in perimenopause and more dramatically in menopause, it results in increased risk of bone loss, injury, more aches, and slower recovery.

Early Symptoms to Watch For

Whether you are 40 or 55, or somewhere in between, pay attention to these common signs:
*Unexplained muscle or bone pain(especially in the shoulders).
*Aching joints in the hands, hips or knees.
*Stiffness when you wake up or have been sitting for hours.
*Needing more recovery time after exercise.

*Feeling weaker or less steady than you used to.

What You Can Do – Starting Now

The earlier you take action, the more you can protect your bones and muscles for decades to come.

Here are some essential steps to take, starting in your 40's

1. Strength Train – Build muscle now to protect your joints and metabolism later.
- 2.Weight Bearing Exercise – Walking, impact exercises like jumping, hiking all stimulate bone building.
- 3.Flexibility and Balance – Yoga, standing on one foot while you brush your teeth, simple balance exercises will improve your mobility and lower your fall risk.
- 4.Nutrition – Prioritize protein, Omega 3's (flaxseed chia seeds, walnuts and fatty fish), antioxidant rich foods, olive oil and nuts, these foods reduce inflammation.
- 5.Lifestyle Habits – Prioritize good quality sleep, reduce your stress, limit alcohol/smoking.
6. Medical Support – Ask about getting a bone density scan, vitamin D, calcium and have a discussion about hormone replacement therapy.

Perimenopause and menopause are when our bodies transition and they need more support now, more than ever. This is the time to reset, move intentionally, fuel your muscles and bones, start advocating for your health, so you can stay strong, mobile and independent into your later years. The musculoskeletal syndrome is real and deserves attention, before you break a bone.

Carol Archambault is a Certified Menopause Coaching Specialist and a Midlife wellness advocate who helps women navigate menopause with holistic tools, strength training and compassion. She believes knowledge is power and midlife is a time to be celebrated. You can reach her at 774-573-8030, email carolarch23@gmail.com or follow her on instagram @Balance_

Fun Filled Fall Festivals and more!

by Elizabeth McGeough

What's your favorite way to get in the autumnal spirit? We all have those fall traditions that make the season so special, from leaf-peeping to hiking on scenic trails, leaves crunching beneath our feet, or just relaxing and sipping hot apple cider as we make s'mores over a bonfire.

Other popular ways to get in the spirit is to plan a visit to one of the best fall festivals or events in the area. Here are some fall fun places in nearby areas of MA and RI:

Massachusetts

- Southwick's Zoo, October 3, 5pm The Great Jack O'Lantern Journey—an extraordinary Halloween festival.
- Daniels Farmstead Cider Festival, October 5 from 11-3.
- Wojcik's Farm, fall fun weekends! Enjoy apple picking, corn maze, food trucks, beer & wine, cider donuts, yard games & more! Parking is free. https://wojcikfarm.com/events.
- King Richard's Faire -Weekends August 30th - October 19th, 2025, including Monday holiday October 13th.
- Wachusett Mountain's Apple-Fest, two weekends: Oct. 18-19 and Oct. 25-26.

- Sturbridge Harvest Fest takes place every October, the weekend after Columbus Day. Local vendors, food, games, farms and community interaction.
- Topsfield Fair, Topsfield, MA October 3-13, 2025.

Rhode Island

- One of the best fall events in Rhode Island has to be the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at Roger Williams Park Zoo, as well as nighttime rides on the Soaring Eagle Zip Ride, trivia, and a new VR experience. Sept. 26-Nov. 2, 2025, from 6 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. nightly.
- "Northern Rhode Island's Largest Festival" Autumnfest in Woonsocket, the annual Columbus Day weekend fall festival, Oct. 10-13, 2025. Find more information on the official website of Autumnfest.
- The Diamond Hill Vineyards. Especially stunning in the fall. Call before you go to make sure there's a tasting/tour available on the day you'd like to visit.
- In the heart of historic Federal Hill, Providence, Columbus Weekend Festival, October 10th – 13th.
- Scituate Arts Festival, Village Green, 554 W Greenville Road in North Scituate, RI. Enjoy this Fall Season!



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Blackstone Library Food Drive

by Tressy N. Collier

We're "hungry" for food donations! Beginning in October, the Blackstone Board of Library Trustees will be sponsoring a food drive for the Blackstone-Millville Food Pantry.

From October 1–November 1, patrons are invited to drop off unopened, unexpired and nonperishable food items at the Blackstone Library during normal business hours.

A list of the most-requested food items includes the following: cereal bars, instant potatoes, canned pasta, soup, Pop-Tarts, snacks, pork & beans, jelly, fluff, ketchup, mustard, pudding cups, hot cocoa/coffee, brownie mix, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, and laundry/dish detergent.

It would be appreciated if patrons would bring food items along with them when attending children's, YA and adult library programs.

Patrons are also welcome to drop off a check made out to the Blackstone-Millville Food Pantry at Divine Mercy Parish on Tuesdays from 7–8 p.m. or Saturdays from 10–11 a.m.

For more information, please contact Tressy Collier at 508-883-1931 or email tcollier@cwmar.org.

Read with a Therapy Dog

by Tressy N. Collier

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@cwmar.org.

October Events for Children

Werewolves are howling, witching are flying, the dead are rising . . . it must be Halloween time! Read on to find out about some bewitching programs the library will be offering to help those of all ages get into the Halloween spirit.

A drop-in craft will be held on Tuesday, October 14 from 5–7 p.m. Little ghosts and goblins are invited to make a Q-tip skeleton! No registration is required. Appropriate for ages three and up.

On Wednesday, October 22 at 6 p.m. you can visit the library while it's closed to embark upon a Halloween scavenger hunt! Wander the spooky stacks while looking for tombstones, skeletons, scarecrows, witches and more. Be on the lookout for library staff giving out special treats! Appropriate for ages 3–10. All participants are welcome to attend in costume. Registration is required and must be done in person or via phone by calling 508-883-1931. Registration for Blackstone residents begin on Monday, October 6. Registration for all library patrons begin on Tuesday, October 14. Patrons with food allergies must notify Miss Tressy upon registering.

For more information, please call Tressy at 508-883-1931 or visit www.blackstone-publiclibrary.org. Also "like" us on Facebook.

Young Adult Programs

Choose Your Own Adventure Book Club. Join your fellow adventurers as we read a Choose Your Own Adventure book and decide together which path our group should take! Meetings are held every Tuesday at 4 PM. Registration is required. Open to 5th-8th grade students.

Teen Advisory Board

Share your opinions on books, materials, and programs at the library! Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5 PM. Registration is not required. Open to 5th-12th grade students.

YA Cursive Club

Learn/practice cursive writing! Meetings are held every Thursday at 5 PM. Registration is not required. Open to 5th-12th grade students. For more information or to register for these programs, call (508)883-1931 or email Mandi at mwhipple@cwmar.org.

Adult Programs

Searching Shadows with Dustin Pari. Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00 pm. Dustin Pari returns with his new program, Searching Shadows. Registration is required. Call the Blackstone Public Library or visit the library's event page to register. This program is sponsored by Dean Bank

Help with Jenna Gouin

Monday, October 20 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Jenna Gouin will provide assistance with MassHealth, fuel assistance, Medicare and referrals to community organizations.

Registration is required. Call the Blackstone Public Library to register for a 30 minute time slot.

Finding Bigfoot with Ronny LeBlanc

Monday, October 20 at 6:30 pm
You've probably heard of Bigfoot, but have you ever considered that it might be closer than you thought? Ronny LeBlanc will be here to tell you all about it. Registration is required. Call the Blackstone Public Library or visit the library's event page to register. This program is sponsored by the Blackstone Cultural Council

Photography Club

Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 pm. Join other photographers to discuss various topics including equipment and techniques. This club is sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Visit the library or the library website for additional program s and schedule information.



by Lee Holfelder

Welcome October! The autumn leaves are starting to show their colors!

Save the Date – October 18th 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Clothing/textiles for the clothing sale fundraiser may be dropped off at the library's back driveway.

Our Saver's fundraiser will conclude on October 25th. Free raffle tickets will be given to those who donate clothing. Folks who need clothing donations picked up should contact the Friends' website: www.friendsoftheblackstonelibrary.com.

Museum passes are available for:

- Franklin Park Zoo/Stone Zoo
- New England Botanical Gardens in Boylston
- Patriot's Hall of Fame
- Providence Children's Museum
- RISD Museum in Providence
- Sturbridge Village

Thank you to the Lion's Club for sponsoring these museum passes:

- Ecotarium in Worcester
- Battleship Cove

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 on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:30 pm. New members are welcome! Hope to see you there!



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Scouting 2025-2026 Season Underway

by Matt Catalano

The new scouting year is underway, and Pack 3144 has hit the ground running! From STEM to Civics to Hiking and Camping, boys and girls grades K-5 have the opportunity to experience new adventures and make new friends! Cub Scouts is also referred to as “Family Scouting” because the whole family get to take part in all the fun. To learn more about Cub Scouts follow us @pack3144blackstonema or visit a meeting! The Pack meets every other Tuesday at Divine Mercy Parish in Blackstone from 6:30-8pm.

Troop 1 Blackstone Boy Scouts had a busy summer as well. Over 20 Scouts attended Camp Yawgoog in Rhode Island in July. There, the boys worked on over 40 merit badges, ziplined, sailed, shot rifles and bows, swam, and hiked!

Not one, but TWO Scouts have recently completed their Eagle Scout Projects. James Walsh improved the Parker Woodland Refuge in Coventry Rhode Island by adding information posts along the five-mile loop trail. Meanwhile, Kevin Burgess recently completed the rehab project on the deck and picnic tables outside of the Frederick Hartnett Middle School Lunchroom. Both scouts were tasked with budgeting, project managing and executing their projects along stringent guidelines. Congrats to both scouts on their achievements!

Troop 1 meets every Wednesday from 7p-8:30p at Divine Mercy Parish Center. Follow us on FaceBook @troop1blackstone!





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As the state continues to experience dry conditions, and with little rainfall expected in the immediate forecast, it is important that we all implement water conservation practices to reduce stress on our water supply system.

In accordance with the Blackstone Water Department’s Water Management Act Permit, we have UPDATED the mandatory non-essential outdoor water use restriction starting August 15, 2025.

BAN ON ALL NON-ESSENTIAL WATER USE.
The use of lawn sprinklers and irrigation systems
is not allowed at any time.

Non-essential outdoor water uses that are subject to the mandatory restrictions are:

- Irrigation of lawns and landscaping via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
- Washing of vehicles, exterior building surfaces, driveways, decks

Residents are allowed to water gardens and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose.

The Blackstone Water Department continuously monitors consumption and water tank levels. We will only institute use restrictions and modify them as necessary to maintain customer household pressure, firefighting capabilities, and when directed to do so by the State to address regional concerns such as drought.

These restrictions are mandatory and enforceable by fines. Questions regarding water use restrictions should be directed to the Water Department 508-883-9331.



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Why Every Neighbor Needs a Will

By Christopher J. Ryan, Esq.,
Your Hometown Attorney at 181 Main Street, Blackstone

If you love someone, own something, or simply care about how you'll be remembered, you need a will. A will is not just for the wealthy—it's a basic act of kindness to the people you leave behind. In Massachusetts, a properly drafted will brings order to a difficult moment, turns your wishes into legally enforceable directions, and becomes the cornerstone of a simple, effective estate plan.

What a Will Does (in Plain English)

A valid Massachusetts will lets you:

- **Name who receives your property**—from your home to your heirlooms and bank accounts. Massachusetts law sets the formalities: you must be 18 or older and of sound mind, your will must be in writing, signed by you (or at your direction in your presence), and witnessed by two people.
- **Choose a Personal Representative (executor)** to gather assets, pay final bills, and distribute your estate. This person steers the probate process and carries out your instructions.
- **Nominate a guardian for minor children** and set limits or guidance for their care. Massachusetts law allows a parent to appoint a guardian "by will or other writing" signed and witnessed by two people.
- **Decide who manages money for your kids** by creating a **trust in your will** (a "testamentary trust") and naming a trustee who is a person you trust to manage funds until the age(s) you choose. These trusts are administered under the Massachusetts Uniform Trust Code.
- **Record your end of life and memorial wishes**—for example, requesting a funeral Mass or memorial service, saying whether you want a wake, and noting preferences for burial or cremation. Massachusetts law lets a named

executor follow your **written instructions about your body**, funeral, and burial arrangements.

Practical tip: While you can include funeral/memorial preferences in your will, the will is often read after services are underway. I recommend a short, signed and dated **letter of instructions** (and sharing copies now) so family and your Personal Representative can act immediately. Massachusetts guidance also recognizes an order of next of kin for who controls arrangements; having your wishes in writing helps reduce conflict and gives clear direction to the right person.

"What if I Don't Have a Will?"

If you die without a will in Massachusetts, state intestacy law—not you—decides who gets your property. These default rules can be fair in the abstract but rarely mirror individual wishes. A will lets you tailor gifts (and conditions) to your family, friendships, and charitable priorities—and helps avoid an avoidable disagreement.

Parents of Minors: Two Key Decisions in Your Will

- 1) **Who raises the kids** (Guardian). In your will, you can nominate the person (and an alternate) you trust to make day to day decisions for your children if you're gone. The statute expressly allows this "by will or other writing" with two witnesses. Courts look to your nomination and will confirm it unless there's a serious reason not to.
- 2) **Who manages the money** (Trustee). Your will can create a testamentary trust so inherited funds aren't handed to an 18 year old all at once. You can direct the trustee to use funds for

education, health, and opportunities—and to distribute what's left at the ages you choose (for example, a portion at 25, 30, and 35). Massachusetts trust law provides the framework that makes these instructions stick.

Guardian vs. Trustee: The guardian cares for the child's person; the trustee manages the child's money. You can choose the same person—or split the roles for balance and accountability.

Your Wishes for Funeral, Wake, Cremation, and Services

Many of us have specific preferences—especially for religious services like a **funeral Mass**—or strong feelings about a wake or cremation. Put these preferences **in writing** and **share them now** with your family and your Personal Representative. Under Massachusetts law, a Personal Representative named in your will may carry out your written instructions about your remains and arrangements even before formal court appointment. In practice, funeral directors follow the legally recognized next of kin hierarchy, so clarity helps your family act with confidence.

Make Your Will the Cornerstone—Then Add the Essentials

A will is the foundation, but a complete, simple estate plan in Massachusetts usually includes:

- **Health Care Proxy** — names an agent to make medical decisions if you can't. (This governs medical decisions **during life**, not funeral arrangements.)
- **Durable Power of Attorney** — authorizes someone you trust to handle finances if you're incapacitated. (See Massachusetts references to durable powers in the probate code and law library resources.)

- **HIPAA release and Personal Directive (living will style letter)** — shares your treatment values and allows your agent to access medical information. Massachusetts recognizes health care proxies by statute and provides helpful public guidance and forms.

Getting these pieces in place now spares your family guesswork and red tape later.

How to Get Started This Month

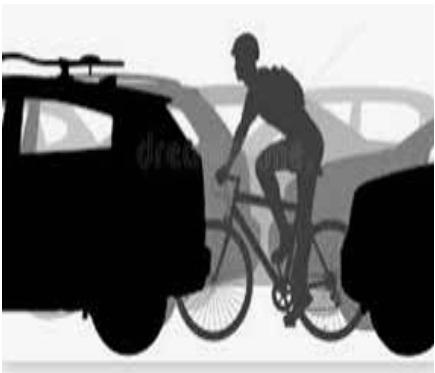
- 1) **List your people:** a Personal Representative, guardian(s) for minors, and a trustee. Name backups.
- 2) **Outline your gifts:** who should receive what—and whether any gifts should be held in trust to a later age.
- 3) **Write your memorial instructions:** service preferences (e.g., funeral Mass), wake or no, burial vs. cremation, any readings or music. Share copies now.
- 4) **Sign properly:** in Massachusetts, you must sign a written will before two witnesses (your lawyer will guide the ceremony and can self prove the will for smoother probate).
- 5) **Complete your "life documents":** Health Care Proxy, Durable Power of Attorney, and related medical directives.

The Final Word

A will isn't about dwelling on loss—it's about caring for the people and places you love. It's how you make sure your values—not default rules—speak for you when it matters most. If you have questions, or you'd like a calm, no pressure conversation about putting your plan in place, I'm right here on Main Street and happy to help.

Legal note: This article offers general information for Massachusetts readers and isn't legal advice for your specific situation. Please consult an attorney about your own plan.

Blackstone Enlightener OCTOBER 2025 email: enlightener@blackstonema.com



RULES OF ROAD CYCLING

Massachusetts law requires any person 16 years old or younger riding a bicycle to wear a helmet. You should ride your bike **WITH** traffic, **NOT** against it. Riding against traffic is **ALWAYS** unsafe and **ILLEGAL**.



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

The proposed new school project is something we should be keeping our eye on.

The School Building Committee has been quiet when it comes to the proposed new school. None of the meetings are being livestreamed, recorded or posted on the internet. They have, however, been keeping minutes. <https://www.bmrtd.net/page/school-building-committee>

The School Building Committee submitted a draft proposal for a new school building that will cost \$195 million dollars. Once the Commonwealth pays their share and the Town of Millville pays their 25%, Blackstone will be left with a bill that I will estimate at between 60 million and 75 million bucks. That is a lot of zeros.

I smell a prop 2 1/2 override in the air around Blackstone. If the town does not push for an override, it will more than likely push for a “debt exclusion”, which is a temporary override. You will be asked to vote on this issue. The issue requires a simple majority to pass.

Let’s all request that the School Building Committee records and livestreams these meetings so we can hear, in real or near-real time, what they are doing, what is happening and to confirm or deny that we are going to be asked to vote on a Proposition 2 ½ override.

Kate Donovan
Lincoln Street

Latest State Report Shows
Weekly Cost of Emergency
Family Shelter Rises to
\$3,389 Per Family

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance today Sept. 15, 2025, responded to the latest biweekly emergency shelter report released by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. The report shows that the weekly average cost per family in the state’s Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter program has climbed to \$3,389, up from the previous report.

“The numbers continue to speak for themselves. Over the summer months, nothing meaningful was done to drive down these costs. The state is now spending almost \$3,400 per week, per family, to maintain this program. At a time where the state’s budget outlook is extremely uncertain, this is an unsustainable burden on taxpayers. The costs continue to spiral with no end in sight,” said Paul D. Craney, Executive Director for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

In Fiscal Year 2025, Massachusetts spent more than \$819 million on shelter costs alone, with total expenditures for emergency housing and related services nearly topping \$1 billion. The FY26 budget only appropriated \$276 million for family shelters.

“Beacon Hill has known for years that the shelter program is out of control, yet the administration and legislature continue to spend like there’s no limit. You would think that over the summer months, major changes could have taken place to drive down costs but it appears nothing was done. Taxpayers are footing the bill for a program that has grown beyond its capacity, and the average family is left wondering why their tax dollars are being drained to sustain a system with no long-term plan,” Craney added.

The latest report confirms what many have feared, that the financial strain of the emergency shelter system is growing worse, not better. With an average stay in the program now stretching close to a year, and caseloads projected to serve over 6,600 families this fiscal year, Massachusetts is on track for another year of crisis level spending.

“Taxpayers deserve accountability. Instead of pouring billions into temporary fixes, the legislature must face reality. Without reform to the right to shelter law which has been expanded well beyond its intended purpose, the emergency shelter system will continue to fail both the families who depend on it and the taxpayers forced to fund it,” Craney concluded.

###

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

Why are our children not
being taught
Cursive writing?

I would like to direct this article to our School Committee members. I have been a resident of Blackstone for almost thirty years. My children are both grown and were taught cursive writing in school. It’s come to my attention that my grandchildren are not being taught to write their names in cursive. So many parents and grandparents I come in contact with feel strongly that it needs to be put back into the curriculum.

There are many good reasons to make sure all our children master cursive. The ability to read historical documents, family correspondence, even to trace an ancestor or read a family recipe. The reason that bothers me the most is the idea that future generations literally do not have a legal signature nor can they write a check correctly! We don’t write them often but sometimes they are still required.

So much is done on computers and I agree that they make life a lot easier.

On the other hand a signature identifies you, it’s unique only to you and is hard to replicate. Writing a paper in your hand can be a tool against possible plagiarism in this age of AI. Writing using cursive helps with communication between both sides of the brain and helps with comprehension. Typing and texting don’t. I have learned quite a bit researching this subject, which in my day was called Penmanship Class.

I wanted to find out how many years our children have missed being taught this important skill. It occurred in 2010. The research I found kept directing me back to a list titled "Massachusetts Standards Added to the Common Core State Standards for Reading, Writing and Language." These were added because the Common Core Standards that govern school curriculum since 2010 eliminated the use of cursive and many people pushed back. I won’t go into the particulars but let’s just say it was supposed to begin within the 2013 - 2014 school year.

If my research is incorrect I humbly apologize. If not, can our Blackstone officials look at the Mass Standards our kids should be receiving and implement them? If that’s not the case, institute a poll of the parents and students to get their opinions. There are a lot of subjects to teach in six hours. In looking, back there were a few I never used, but Penmanship has served me well.

It has been necessary for me to begin teaching one of my grandchildren cursive because her school did not! There are now 14 years worth of our High School Graduates that do not know how to write their names.

Let’s address this ASAP! If we decide to introduce cursive in the 3rd grade as was done historically, that’s one less group of children that will be left without, I feel, a vital skill.

Thank you for your time.

Donna Marino Foster
73 Bellingham Road

Letters Welcome

Letters should be written exclusively for the Blackstone Enlightener and include name, address, and daytime/cell phone number. We expect letters and comments to be respectful. All are subject to edit. The deadline for letters is the 15th of the month unless approved by editor.

Candidate endorsement letters are not accepted. The Blackstone Enlightener does not endorse any candidate.

Any questions please call 508-560-5768 or email:enlightener@blackstonema.com. Letters and opinions are that of the writers and not of this publication.

Citizens Radar/Traffic
Enforcement

If you need to report speeding or other traffic violations in your community area, the Citizen’s Radar/Traffic Enforcement Request form is available. To access the form visit Citizens Radar/Traffic Enforcement Request Form <https://www.townofblackstone.org/FormCenter/Citizens-Radar-Traffic-Enforcement>.

Blackstone Millville Food Pantry

Divine Mercy Parish Hall, St. Paul Street, Blackstone

Thanks to the generosity of our communities, we assist approximately 100 families each month.

OCTOBER 2025 Needs

- Soup
- Canned vegetables
- Canned pasta
- Cereal
- Canned potatoes
- Cereal bars
- Pop-tart

- Snacks
- Jelly/fluff
- Pork & beans
- Ketchup/mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Pudding cups
- Brownie mix

- Shampoo
- Dish detergent
- * Laundry detergent
- Toothpaste

Your \$DONATION IS NEVER TOO SMALL!

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

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

Hours: Tuesdays - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Saturdays - 10:00 am - 11:00 am

For information contact Ann at 508-883-6873

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



TRUNKS FULL OF TREATS

by Elizabeth McGeough

It's Halloween! Time to pound the pavement and bother the neighbors for candy, right? Not if you're going to Trunk-or-treat, an alternative to regular October 31st "Shenanigans".

What is it exactly? Participants drive their cars to a central location, usually a parking lot (church, library, etc.). Families decorate their cars, creating elaborate fun scenes out of the trunks. Then kids walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy the way they would during a normal trick-or-treat outing.

Here's why trunk-or-treating became popular: 1) Safety: It provides a controlled environment; 2) Community Focus: It creates a communal gathering where families can connect and participate in Halloween activities in a centralized, organized setting. 3) Parental Preference: Parents often prefer trunk-or-treating because it offers convenience, allows for less walking, and provides a more supervised, family-friendly environment for children. 5) Inclusivity: It's a practical option for families who may not live in neighborhoods that are conducive to traditional trick-or-treating, such as those with remote or dangerous roads. So honk if you love treats!

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Christ Community Church

Proclaiming Hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ

Come to Christ Community Church of Blackstone to enjoy friendly fellowship and hear Pastor Joe Overly expound on the word of God. You will be encouraged, uplifted and challenged to live a Godly life. If you are unable to attend in person, please navigate to: Christ Community Church of Blackstone YouTube and join us as we live stream the service. Telecast begins at 9:25 a.m.

Notes from Pastor Joe: Believing in evolution means accepting that life came into existence through random chance and natural processes over millions of years. This view suggests that human life has no greater purpose beyond survival and reproduction. While evolution explains the development of life scientifically, it does not address deeper questions about meaning, purpose, or what happens after death. For many, this worldview can feel cold and hopeless, offering no comfort in times of suffering or loss.

In contrast, believing in God—specifically in Jesus Christ—brings a message of purpose and eternal hope. Christians believe that God created each person intentionally and loves them deeply. Through Jesus, God offers forgiveness, peace, and the promise of eternal life. This belief brings comfort, especially in difficult times, because it teaches that life has meaning beyond what we see, and that suffering is not the end of the story.

While evolution speaks only to the physical origins of life, faith in Jesus offers a spiritual foundation for hope, love, and redemption. For those who trust in Him, life is not random but part of a divine plan. This hope transforms how people live, giving them strength, purpose, and joy even in a broken world.

God Bless,
Pastor Joe Overly
Pastor Joe is available to meet by appointment. Please phone or email:
Email: pastor.joe@cccob.org



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Pastor: Fr. John Larochelle
email:office@divinemercuryparishma.org
Website:www.divinemercuryparishma.org

Weekly Mass Schedule:
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Thursday 6:30pm followed by Adoration.
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00am and 10:30am
Confessions – Saturday 3pm or by appointment.

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Tickets can be purchased at the door.
There will be lots of Raffles and a 50/50 Pot.

Questions? Contact Sandy at 774-462-2468.

Coffee and Fellowship is also hosting a Bake Sale Saturday, October 25th after 4pm Mass and Sunday, October 26th after 9am & 10:30am Masses.

Blackstone Enlightener

The Blackstone Enlightener monthly newspaper is published the first of each month and is mailed FREE of charge to all Blackstone residents.

Our mission is to provide our readers with a portrait of the community where they live, work and play - over 14,000 readers.

The Blackstone Enlightener reserves the right to reject any advertising or articles it deems unfit for publication in a family newspaper. All article submissions must be signed and have a phone number where the writer can be reached. We also reserve the right not to print items submitted. This newspaper does not assume any responsibility for errors in an advertisement, but will reprint without charge that part of an advertisement which was incorrect. Insertions of new advertisement and advertisement changes cannot be guaranteed if copy is received later than the 15th of the month.

Opinions expressed in columns and/or letters to the editor in this newspaper are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.

Publisher: Paulette Boyko
Editor: Michael Boyko
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www.blackstonema.com
email:enlightener@blackstonema.com

Blackstone's Window On the Past

© Helen Murray 2025

Blackstone Fire Department

In 1880, fire was an ever-present danger for the local mills that were built of wood and filled with lint from cotton and wool. Mills had their own equipment and depended on workers to deal with fires. In town, local volunteers fought fires using hoses located in various parts of town or depended on mutual aid from other towns. After several disastrous fires, a town meeting on December 9, 1874 finally approved the purchase of a steam engine to pump water. Pulled by horses, this pumper cost the town \$5,000. In 1895, a firehouse was constructed at 200 Main Street on land donated by the Blackstone Manufacturing Company.

In 1909, Blackstone had three fire engineers who were in charge of the department. Those men were John J. Downey, John H. Dwyer, and Thomas Collins. The number and appointment of fire engineers varied until 1916 when John Dwyer was appointed Blackstone's fire chief.

Dwyer served as fire chief until 1940. During his tenure, Blackstone acquired its first motorized pumper in 1937, and its first hook & ladder truck in 1938. His volunteer firefighting crew thought so highly of their chief, that using their own funds and community contributions, they presented Chief Dwyer with a fire chief's car. A volunteer was designated driver since the chief couldn't drive.

William Haganey, who held the position of lieutenant during Chief Dwyer's time, was appointed the new chief in 1941. He would serve in that position until 1955. During this time a forest fire truck and some equipment were housed in a barn on Elm Street. Later a building on Elm Street owned by Steve Allaire was used. This allowed volunteer firefighters from the area to

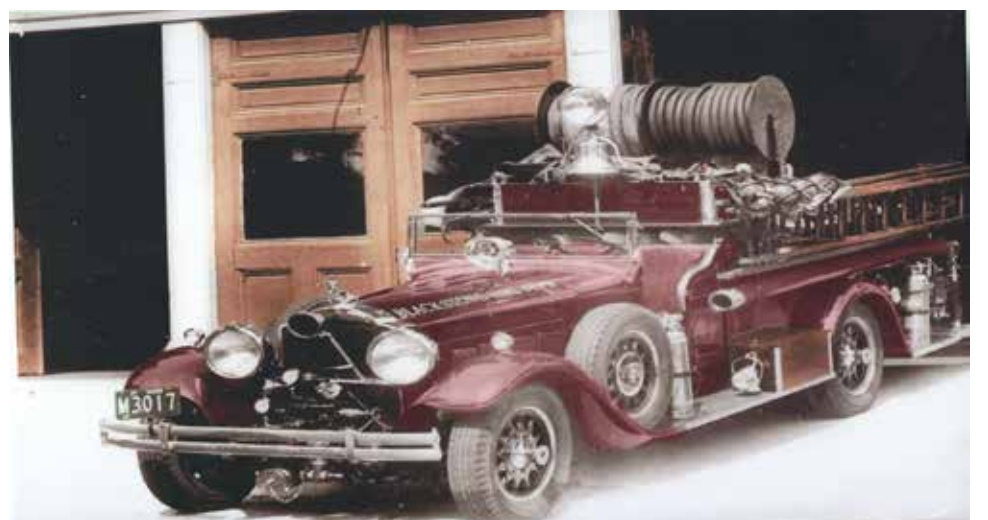
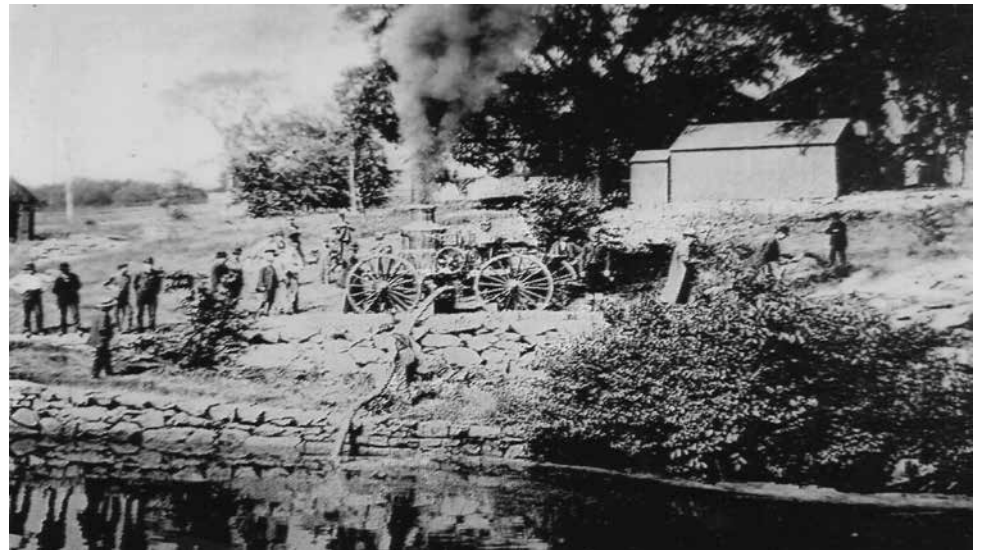
respond quickly to a fire in their location while other equipment was driven from the Main Street location.

Following Chief Haganey's retirement, Henry F. Feddern was appointed chief. Feddern, a volunteer fireman since 1916, was a remarkable man. Despite losing a leg due to a medical condition early in life, he was able to overcome this adversity and live an active life. He also served as town clerk for two years. Feddern led Blackstone's fire department until 1964 when he resigned due to failing health.

John Greene would take over as chief in 1965. In 1977, a newly, privately funded station on Elm Street was dedicated on land donated by Firmin Collins. The East Blackstone Fire Association raised the funds and built the station. Some of the funds raised were from the profits of the East Blackstone Fair. The new station was 36 by 40 feet and was large enough for two bays, an office and a restroom.

In September 1978, Blackstone's new municipal center was completed and the main fire station moved into more modern facilities in that building. In the Millerville section of town, a new fire station was built on Rathbun Street in 1988. Before the new building, fire equipment had been stored at the Ice House and later in a private garage on Valley Street.

John Greene retired in 1991 and Michael Sweeney was named his successor. When Chief Sweeney retired in 2022, he had given 30 years of service to the Blackstone Fire Department. Following Chief Sweeney, Blackstone and Mendon shared a fire chief—Chief William Kessler shared the dual role for a year and retired in December of 2023. After his departure, Deputy Chief Kevin Roy was named Blackstone's Fire Chief. Chief Roy has been a member



of the fire department since 1998. He was hired as a full time firefighter/paramedic in 2010. He was promoted to Fire Lieutenant in 2020 and to Captain in 2022. He then served as Deputy Fire Chief until becoming chief in 2023.

Top photo: 1st Firetruck 1875
Center Photo: 1938 Fire team
Bottom photo: 1939 Truck Pumper
Photos courtesy of
Blackstone Historical Museum

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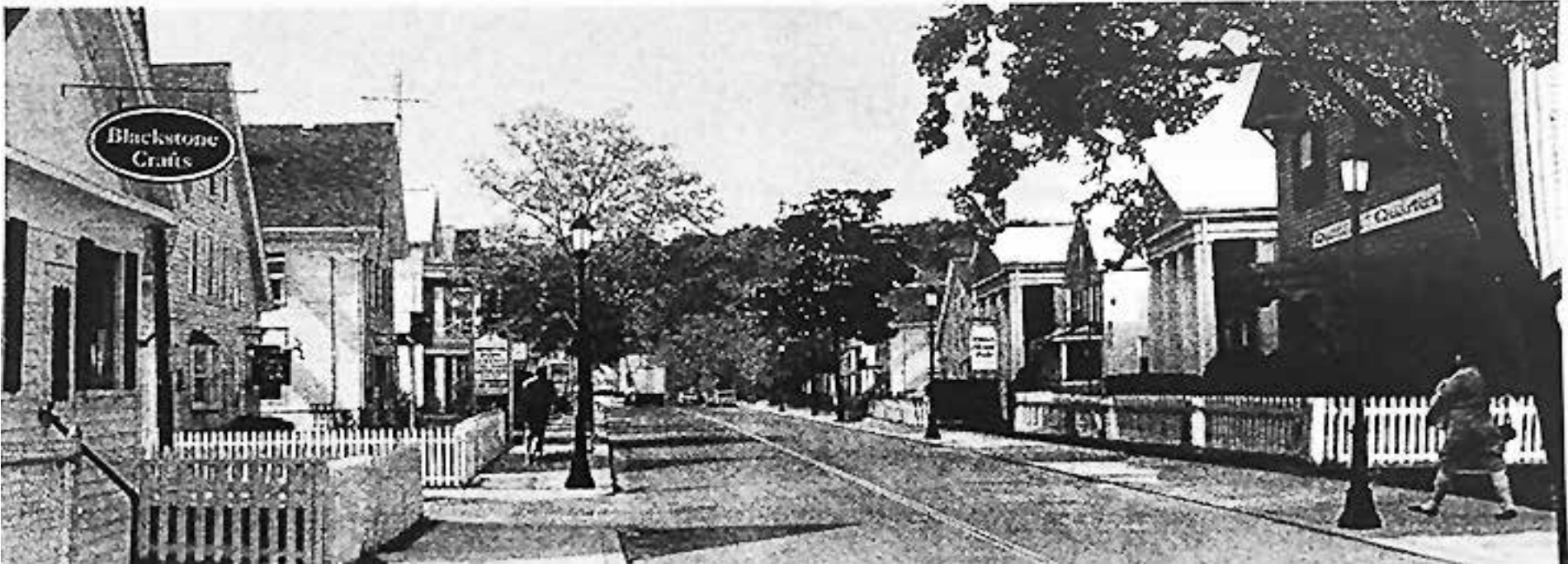
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