

# Blackstone Enlightener



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Volume 29, Issue 11

Blackstone's Hometown Newspaper Since 1993

APRIL 2023

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**Vote**  
**Monday**  
**APRIL 3rd**

**Special  
Town  
Meeting**  
**Tuesday,**  
**April 25th**  
**at 7:00 PM at**  
**BMR High**  
**Auditorium**

See Warrant Articles on page 4.

## Sen. Fattman Secures \$100,000 for BV Boys & Girls Club

BOSTON – State Senator Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) announced that he secured \$100,000 in an economic development bill for the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club in Blackstone. The funding is part of a larger spending package that is intended to spur economic growth throughout the Commonwealth. Within it, Senator Fattman secured this funding to aide in the expansion of the offerings provided by the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club. Senator Fattman secured \$100,000 for design, architecture, clean up, and the reinforcement of steel beams on their building that is currently used for storage. This building is affectionately labeled the "Stone House." This was the first step of a multi-step process to enable the BVBG to offer indoor services on days where the weather is unfavorable for outdoor events.

"Every time I go to the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club, I am reminded of the impact that

Fattman continued on page 8

## Annual Fishing Tournament

PACC 39th Annual Fishing Tournament will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at Attilio Valati Nature Park on Summer Street. See ad on page 6.

## Parks & Rec Eggstravaganza, & Earth Day

by Celeste Langlois

Happy Spring and here we go with hopes for good weather and great events!

April 1 will be no joke as we hold our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We have over 120 children signed up so we are hoping we have good weather. The Annual Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt. This is a town wide event that runs from April 7 to April 24. People have obtained wooden eggs from us and decorated them to place in their yards for others to find (Egg Hunters).

Parks & Rec. continued on page 7



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23 Main Street, Blackstone,  
Blackstone Historical Museum

## Historical Notes

by Helen Murray

With a few days delay caused by inclement weather, the birth date of William Blackstone was celebrated with cake and coffee at the museum on Thursday, March 9. Members and visitors enjoyed a treat in his honor, as facts and stories of Blackstone's life were displayed around the museum.

Jack Lodge has been appointed by the Board of Selectmen as an alternate member of the Historical Commission. His interest in Blackstone's past was clearly demonstrated since he attended several commission meetings even before seeking appointment. His interest is appreciated and he will make a great addition to the board. Welcome Jack!

A reminder that the Blackstone Historical Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7PM, at the museum on Main Street. Meetings are always open to the public.

With the arrival of April and the hope of the spring season, a new exhibit will be displayed at the museum. Elegant and lovely ladies' hats, many made by Blackstone's own milliner, Mrs. Claire Perrault, will be on display around the museum.

The Blackstone Historical Museum is open every Thursday from noon until 3PM. Saturday openings will be on April 1 and 15th from noon until 3PM. Come early and allow enough time to see all three floors, filled with exhibits from Blackstone's past.



## From Chief Gilmore's Desk

Reminder: Hands Free is the Law!

The hands-free law in Massachusetts prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using any electronic device, including mobile telephones, unless the device is used in hands-free mode. Penalty for violating the hands-free law:

- 1st offense – \$100 fine.
- 2nd offense – \$250 fine, plus mandatory completion of a distracted driving educational program.
- 3rd and subsequent offenses – \$500 fine, plus insurance surcharge and mandatory completion of distracted driving educational program.

Drivers who are 18 and over can only use electronic devices and mobile phones in hands-free mode and are only permitted to touch devices to activate hands-free mode. Drivers are not permitted to hold or support any electronic device/phone, they cannot touch their phone except to activate the hands-free mode and can only enable when the device is installed or properly mounted to the windshield, dashboard, or center console in a manner that does not impede the operation of the motor vehicle. Drivers are not allowed to touch the device for texting, emailing, apps, video, or internet use. Activation of GPS navigation is permitted when the device is installed or properly mounted.

Handheld use is allowed only if the vehicle is both stationary and not located in a public travel lane or a bicycle lane, but is not allowed at red lights or stop signs. Voice to text and communication to electronic devices is legal only when device is properly mounted; use of headphone (one ear only) is permitted.

Drivers who are under 18 are not allowed to use any electronic devices. All phone use while driving is illegal, including use in hands-free mode.

Operators may use a cell phone to call 911 to report an emergency. Stop.

## Town Moderator Candidates



Daniel T. Doyle

Daniel T. Doyle is a practicing Attorney in Massachusetts for the past 31 years. Prior to being called to the Bar, he spent 15 years in Municipal Government Services in the Province of Alberta, Canada, and in Blackstone as the Town Administrator from 1983 to 1990. He was Chairman of the Town of Blackstone's Board of Registrars from 2013 to present.

In 1993, he co-founded the Blackstone Valley Boys & Girls Club and was Chairman of the Board from 1993 to 2020 and remains an active member of the Board of Directors, and as Treasurer from 2020 to present. He was awarded the 2007 Community Service Award from the Massachusetts Bar/Worcester Bar Associations.

Dan is co-author of the book and screenplay "The Jesus Trial", which is currently under contract to be made into a feature film. He has also written "Keeping Teens on Track", "Canal" and "One Bad Shot".



Michael Buckley

In the upcoming Blackstone Town election on April 3, 2023, Michael Buckley is a candidate for the position of Town Moderator. Buckley previously served as Town Moderator of Millville and is an active member of the Massachusetts Moderator's Association.

Buckley has lived in Blackstone for nearly 20 years and attended Blackstone-Millville Schools. He has contributed to his community in many ways, such as being a former firefighter/EMT in the Town of Millville and serving as a former member and chairman of the Blackstone Millville Regional District School Committee.

Buckley's goal for the Blackstone Town Meeting is to make it easier and more welcoming for everyone to participate. Attendance at meetings is often difficult for residents due to a variety of factors, such as limited information from the town, lack of time to understand topics, and resident's unfamiliarity with the process.

To address these challenges, Buckley proposes several initiatives to build on the successful implementation of electronic voting. These include conducting "pre-town meetings" and information sessions to educate voters on the issues prior to the meeting. The moderator must be available to stakeholders beforehand to answer questions,

explain potential solutions, and ensure that the meeting adheres to the By-Laws and Charter of Blackstone and Massachusetts General Laws.

The Town Meeting has existed in Massachusetts since 1680. Buckley says the voters of Blackstone have an opportunity to move this institution forward into the 21st century, while respecting the history and traditions of this purest form of democracy. He asks for your vote on April 3, 2023.



Blackstone Enlightener APRIL 2023 email: enlightener@blackstonema.com

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Tues - Sat 4 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Sun 5 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



## Candidates for Board of Selectmen



**Ryan Barry**

We moved to Blackstone in July 2020. I have worked as a mechanic and tire changer for Nascar racing teams; until recently I worked as a fleet manager for G Greene Construction in Boston. Presently I'm the Fleet Shop Manager for Prime Aviation at Logan Airport.

I understand what it takes to be part of a team. I understand how to operate under pressure, and I know what it takes to make decisions that will affect not only myself but everyone around me.

My workday consists of making decisions about our multimillion-dollar fleet that include maximizing efficiency, minimizing downtime, while considering cost, availability, and time; all while keeping the company's best interests in mind.

We need to inject some youth and new perspectives in the decision-making for our town. I will work diligently for the residents of Blackstone to address those same issues.



**Mary Bulso**

Expanding the tax base is Selectwoman Mary Bulso's plan for tax relief. Mary has been hard at work collaborating with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to create a masterplan for economic development that will bring more business to Blackstone and help to reduce the tax burden. Such a plan would include the creation of a river walk from Monument Square to St. Paul Street and improvements to the fronts of businesses and backs of those that face the river to help attract pedestrians into the business district.

In keeping with her campaign slogan of "Integrity and Results", Mary heads up her own construction project management business, putting that experience to work when she wrote the grant that caused the Canal Street revitalization project to be fully funded.



**Joseph Emidy**

My name is Joe Emidy and I ask for your vote for Selectman.

Respect for the taxpayer and a more affordable Blackstone is my mission.

I've recently retired from the United States Merchant Marine and I'm a current member of the Planning Board and have brought a common-sense approach to the Committee.

For Blackstone to be a vibrant community we need our seniors, families and businesses to thrive here. Together, we must continue to curb the spending, ensure financial processes are in place and keep a watchful eye towards prioritizing our projects.

We can move towards our collective goal of making Blackstone a more affordable and thriving community. To offset the current tax base from the residents, we must also find ways to attract commercial and industrial businesses to Town and support our many local businesses.

I look forward to working on the Town's challenges and meeting them head-on.



**Daniel Keefe**

I am seeking to be elected to the Board of Selectman on April 3, 2023. I have previously served on the Water/Sewer commission, Regional Wastewater Commission, Capital Outlay Committee, BMR Regional Agreement Committee, and the Board of Selectman from 2015 to 2021. I have worked cooperatively with the Memorial Day Committee and The Parks N Rec's commission to successfully create the Veteran's Day Celebration held at Roosevelt Park. I am currently a member of the BMRSD School Committee, and the chairman of the Board of Directors of The Blackstone Valley Boys & Girls Club.

Over the past two years I have watched the town and the taxpayers' expenses increase with almost no new sources of revenue being generated. During my time as a selectman, working closely with other boards and commissions in a cooperative effort, we were able to bring on line five solar fields and two cannabis dispensaries.



**Bob Kluchevitz**

I am running for a second term as a Selectman. I am well-versed in the Town's workings, having served on and chaired Capital Outlay, Water & Sewer, and Parks & Recreation boards. My expertise and decades of experience in banking and financing enable me to view our Town's finances with a professional eye. I'm proud to be the voice for the Taxpayer and hold Town departments accountable for their budgets.

This current Board has taken many steps to move the Town forward and ensure that taxpayers' hard-earned funds are being used wisely. We instituted policies and procedures to end the previous "open checkbook" approach that some departments practiced, and stop unnecessary spending.

Taxes impact our lives daily. Seniors, who've spent their lives here, deserve special consideration. It has been a privilege to serve the residents and taxpayers these past 3 years.

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# Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

April 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM at BMR High Auditorium.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain the land and buildings thereon known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146) for general municipal purposes on such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interests of the Town; and to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of \$1,370,000 for the purpose of such acquisitions.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)  
Two-Thirds Vote Required  
Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Town to acquire the property at 630 Rathbun Street that currently houses St. Theresa's for general municipal purposes, with specific potential uses to be determined after a feasibility study.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote, contingent upon the passage of Article 1 to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146), to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$10,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of paying the costs of operating expenses through June 30, 2023 for such property once acquired by the Town, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)  
Majority Vote Required  
Article Summary:

If the Town votes to acquire the property at 630 Rathbun Street, passage of this Article would provide for operating expenses for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2023 once the property is under the ownership and control of the Town.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote, contingent upon the passage of Article 1 to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church, situated at 630 Rathbun Street (Assessors' Parcel 1-146), to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to fund a feasibility study with regard to the utilization of that property, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform such study, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)  
Majority Vote Required

Article Summary:

If the Town votes to acquire the property known as St. Theresa's Catholic Church for general municipal purposes, passage of this Article would allow the Board of Selectmen to commission a feasibility study to determine the possible municipal uses for the property.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for expenses related to design services for renovations to Town Hall, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the purposes of this Article, including engaging a designer to perform said services, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)  
Majority Vote Required  
Article Summary:

This Article would allow the Board of Selectmen to hire a designer and pay related expenses to create plans for the redesign of Town Hall.

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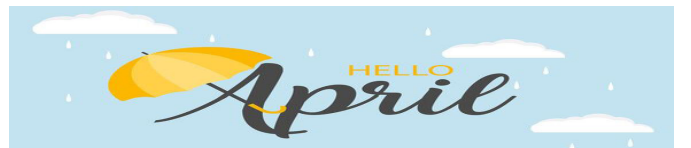
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## 18th Annual Art in Bloom

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) will host the 18th annual Arts in Bloom gallery exhibition. This is a competitive juried art show that is a favorite for artists all over New England and beyond.

The exhibition will be available to view April 24-June 1st, Lotvin Family Gallery, Hopkinton Center for the Arts. Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm, Saturday, 10am-2pm. There will be a free public reception to meet the artists on Friday May 12th at



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# Blackstone and the Titanic Railroad

by Elizabeth McGeough

In 1910, more than 200,000 miles of steel railways covered the United States and most of the stocks traded in New York were in railroads. One of the most prolific was the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) system that operated in Montreal, Quebec, with corporate headquarters in London. It further operated in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. One of the Grand Trunk's new subsidiaries was the Southern New England Railway (SNE), an ambitious effort to link Providence seaport to the northern railway lines of the Grand Trunk Railway in Palmer and Worcester. The president of the Grand Trunk, Charles M. Hays, an American, was to head up the new venture.

Hays, with support from Rhode Island leaders, wished to build an "air line" (a railroad that was relatively straight, following a shorter and thus, presumably quicker route instead of a longer, winding route) with trestles, high fills and other infrastructure that would travel above existing rails, running from Providence, through Woonsocket, into Massachusetts to the Grand Trunk's eastern-most depot in Worcester. With the line, Providence would realize its dream of becoming a serious competitor to Boston, and even New York.

The SNE was to go across mountains instead of along them. For the SNE to go 50 miles between Palmer and Providence, 75 miles of railroad would be required to overcome multiple ridges and rivers. In two locations, a triple-level crossing would have been required with three rail lines intersecting at or near the same spot. Of the two, one is still evident in Millville and both have only a single railroad operating through them. More than three-quarters of the proposed route would have another railroad paralleling it; so close in places that engineers of separate trains could have tossed a baseball to each other.

Furthermore, Hays' challenges had to deal with laws and men. Some of the laws had to do with crossings where the railroad intersected with streets and highways. The SNE was ordered to avoid all

such encounters and to build over or under every path it may block. The effort required to go through densely populated areas like Dudley, Southbridge, Webster, Woonsocket, Blackstone and Providence.

In April 1912 Hays was in London, where the Grand Trunk had its headquarters, soliciting financial support for the GT and SNE Railways. Returning from that meeting in London, Hays booked a cabin on the maiden voyage of the Titanic (which is why the Grand Trunk Railway is known as "The railroad that went down with the Titanic." It's alleged that there was gold on board to help build the SNE). This affected investors in England whose fortunes were squandered on Hays' dream. English investors lost \$7 million in 1912 dollars.

However on April 25, 1912, one day before Hays' body was discovered, contracts were signed and construction began. Seemingly overnight, more than a dozen work camps sprang up from Palmer to Providence. The construction frenzy lasted eight months and then went on sporadically through 1914. Automobile improvements, politics and World War I intervened and investors had much more to worry about. Lawsuits over the unfinished contracts would last decades; most work was completed but the SNE never became a railroad.

Evidence of that ambitious plan can be seen in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Berms, embankments and various weird concrete monoliths are scattered throughout Woonsocket, Blackstone, Providence and elsewhere.

Above right: Three railroads meet at the Blackstone River in Millville. The track at ground level is still used by the Providence Worcester Railroad. Above it is ironwork for the abandoned NY and NE Railroad. At center is a support that would have elevated the never-completed SNE branch of the Grand Trunk Railway.

Bottom right: Castle Hill Way, Blackstone.



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## A Special Thank you!

To Kate Donovan, Lynn Robinson, Lori Poirier, Anita Robertson and Jeannie Hebert. These ladies coordinated the 2023 Candidates Forum that was held on March 22nd at BMR High Auditorium.

You can view the Forum on the town website [www.townofblackstone.org](http://www.townofblackstone.org). <https://blackstone.vodcastus.tv/vod/?video=a5c4c36c-985c-45cc-a449-e9f029616fd5>

Great job ladies!  
Paulette Boyko  
Blackstone Enlightener

## BMRSD SEPAC

by Sara Peters

The Blackstone-Millville Regional School District (BMRSD) Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a state-mandated, parent-run group that partners with the Director of Special Education, School Committee, and other local SEPACs on policies, activities, and other initiatives. Our purpose is to work for the understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with special needs in our community. We help to empower and educate parents through various presentations by both BMRSD staff such as district OTs, PTs, and team chairs as well as outside presenters such as the Federation for Children with Special Needs. Be sure to follow us on our facebook page and check out our website to stay up to date with upcoming events and presentations!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BMRSDSEPAC>

Website: <https://sites.google.com/bmrtd.net/bmrtd-sepac/home>

### Upcoming Workshops

#### Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Virtual Informational Session

Wednesday April 12, 2023 6:00-7:30pm

DDS 101 is a FREE, virtual workshop for families to learn about the different services and supports that the Department of Developmental Services can provide for both children and adults along with the application process. The link to join the meeting and more information for the event can be found on both our website and facebook page (listed above) or you can email [bmrsepac@bmrtd.net](mailto:bmrsepac@bmrtd.net). This event is sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Consortium of Special Education Directors and Blackstone Valley SEPACs.

#### BMRSD Special Education Updates and Discussion with Jill Pilla-Gallerani, Director of Learner Support Services

Wednesday April 26, 2023 6:00-7:00pm  
Frederick Hartnett Middle School Library

The Director of Learner Support Services for Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, Jill Pilla-Gallerani and the SEPAC will be hosting an IN-PERSON meeting to have a discussion about special education programming, budgeting, and planning for the upcoming school year. Jill will also be doing a review of some areas of focus regarding Procedural Safeguards. All families are invited to attend and participate.

### Upcoming Sensory Friendly Community Events

The BMRSD SEPAC has teamed up with different organizations to make our community events more inclusive and sensory friendly for people of all abilities. The events below will be accessible and sensory friendly so be sure to check them out!

Blackstone's Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 1, 2023 1:00pm JFK Fields


BMEPTO'S '80s & '90s Family Dance Thursday April 6, 2023 6:00-8:30pm Millville Elementary Gym

Blackstone's Earth Day Event Saturday April 22, 2023 12:00-4:00pm JFK/AFM Complex

Connect with Your Community Night Thursday April 27, 2023 6:00-8:00pm Blackstone Library

## Are You a US Veteran? Did you serve during the Viet Nam Era Nov. 1955 to May 1975?

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## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Tournament

Saturday, April 29, 2023  
at **Attilio Valati  
Nature Park**

Summer Street, Blackstone

Local youngsters ages 4-14.  
You may pre-register at  
Dyan's Barber Shop,  
43 Farm Street or  
Blackstone Town Clerks Office,  
Town Hall.

Registration at 7:00 AM, Tourney begins at 7:30 AM  
and ends at 10:30 AM

### PARENTAL SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CHILDREN!

Each contestant who catches a tagged trout will receive a prize for his/her catch. Other gifts will be presented to various categories. This event is sponsored by the State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Blackstone Polish American Citizens Club, Blackstone Parks & Recreation Commission and local merchants.

# P.A.C.C.



**Polish American Citizen Club**  
**6 Mill Street, Blackstone, MA**



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# Parks & Recreation Spring Events

Continued from page 1

The Egg Hunters then try to find all of the "hidden" eggs around town. If you have an egg from last year, we ask that you use that one, but if you need one, send an email to BlackstonePandR@yahoo.com and we will meet you to make sure you get one to decorate! Once you have your egg decorated and placed in your yard or business, send us an email with your name, address, and a picture of your egg. Once we receive that, we will put your egg on the map for people to find. Prizes will be given to the best egg displays and the people that find the most eggs! More about that later.

We are excited to partner with the Friends of Blackstone Parks and Recreation in planning a very exciting Earth Day Event this year on April 22. 8:30 to 11:30 there will be a clean up around town. If you would like to help us clean up sections of Town, come down to Goulet Park between 8:30 and 9:30am to grab some gloves and bags. If you help with the cleanup, you will receive raffle tickets for the afternoon event and a special surprise. You can choose your location to clean or we can give you some options. The afternoon events will include two inflatable obstacle courses, food trucks, vendor booths, music from Lady Anemoia and Norris the Terrible, games, raffles, demonstrations, and lots more! The afternoon events are scheduled from 12:00 to 4:00pm. Once again there will be organizations collecting items you no longer want. Parks and Recreation will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Blackstone-Millville Food Pantry. The Friends of Blackstone Parks and Recreation will be collecting clothes as well as plastics for our benches. The Library will be collecting books for their book sale on May 6. There may be more so check our Facebook page to see if anything gets added. For more information about this event, scan this QR Code.



We have received quite a bit of interest in our T-Ball leagues and we will be starting that on April 23rd for children ages 4 to 8. If you are interested in participating or helping to get these leagues started again, please register at <http://www.blackstoneparksrec.com/events/2023-t-ball-registration-3> or send us an email at BlackstonePandR@yahoo.com.

The final event in April is the Tags N Trout that is sponsored by Parks and the Polish American Citizens Club. This is a beloved event that happens on the last Saturday of April every year. There will be tons of prizes for our little fishermen and lots of fun for all that attend. It will be held at Valati Park on April 29. You can register on the morning of the event, if there are any other locations, we will put an update on Facebook.

The Blackstone Parks and Recreation Commission will hold April meetings in the Municipal Center at 6pm on April 10th and 24th. Please feel free to join us.



# Business Spotlight

## Team Diaz Northpoint Mortgage

We are Team Diaz with Northpoint Mortgage, a husband-and-wife team serving NH & MA for approximately two decades. We have been with Northpoint Mortgage for 16 of those years. Rafael is a licensed Mortgage Loan Originator (NMLS #44182), while Lisa assists to ensure a smooth transaction. We love helping people achieve the American Dream of Homeownership!

Since 2005, Northpoint Mortgage has been helping home buyers and homeowners to get the financing they need to buy a new home, refinance an existing mortgage, or consolidate high-interest debt. Northpoint Mortgage is a full-service mortgage lender serving CA, CT, FL, GA, MA, ME, NC, NJ, PA, RI, VA, GA, and the USVI. We specialize in conventional loans, jumbo loans, portfolio loans, and government-backed loans such as VA, FHA, USDA, along with State Housing Programs, and many more.

Whether you are buying your first home, second home, investment property, or are in the market to refinance, we hope you make Team Diaz your team! Contact us today at [www.teamdiaz.net](http://www.teamdiaz.net)!

### Where to Vote April 3

**Precinct 1**  
Senior Center  
(Lower Level)  
Municipal Center  
15 St. Paul Street  
7am-8pm

**Precinct 2**  
Fire Station #2  
666 Rathbun Street  
7am-8pm

**Precinct 3**  
Main Conf. Room  
(Upper Level)  
Municipal Center  
15 St. Paul Street  
7am-8pm

**Team Diaz**  
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Northpoint Mortgage, Inc. is an Equal Housing Lender. NMLS 1515. \*\*TERMS & CONDITIONS: Loan program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. All loans are subject to underwriting approval. Certain restrictions may apply.

**www.TeamDiaz.net**  
204 Turnpike Rd, Westborough, MA 01581



**BLACKSTONE VOTERS**

**Vote**

**MICHAEL BUCKLEY**  
**TOWN MODERATOR**

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION:  
MONDAY APRIL 3, 2023**



### Blackstone & Millville Garden Club Meeting

April 13, 2023  
6:30 PM

at St. John's  
Episcopal Church  
Millville, MA 01529



**I will make the tough decisions needed for accountability to keep Blackstone moving Forward!**

**MARY BULSO**  
**FOR SELECTWOMAN**  
**"INTEGRITY & RESULTS"**



## The Silver Club

The Silver Club Spring trips are coming up. Everyone is welcome to join them! All trips leave from the Dollar General on Rt. 122 in Whitinsville and the Millbury Park and Ride at 146/Rt.20/Mass Pike in Millbury.

The first is Saturday April 22 to The Titanic Exhibition in NYC – \$120. Travel to the "big city" for a fun day! After spending some time at the Titanic Exhibition, there will be an included lunch and some free time on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx. Arthur Ave is similar to Federal Hill in Providence – lots of great bakeries and small shops.

Then, May 15-17 (Mon-Wed) is a 3 day trip to Maine! \$399 per person/double occupancy. Includes Portland, Kennebunkport, and Freeport. Lobster dinner one night! (Landlubber choices are available). Two nights lodging and 4 meals included.

Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information.

## Millville Senior Center

by Tina Cook, Senior Center Director

The Millville Senior Center is here to assist you if you need anything, call 508-883-3523. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-3, all are welcome.

The Senior Bus is available on Monday through Friday, please call to set up an appointment at 774-573-6084. Medical trips are given priority.

If you signed up for Rep. Mike Soter's free ham dinner, pick up is on April 8th at the JFK School in Blackstone at 11:30am.

### Schedule of Events:

- BINGO is first Thursday at 1 p.m. of every month. Come for the fun and snacks. Ham Lunch is available for \$3.00. You will need to call by April 3 to RSVP.
- Line Dancing with Mary Ryan on Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. ALL are welcome, come join us.
- Pitch is played on Tuesday at 11 a.m. All are welcome, come join us.
- Chair exercise with Lori Coco at 1:30 p.m every Tuesday afternoon, \$3.00 a class.
- Crafts with Kathy April 24th at 10 a.m, Bee Hive theme.

The Council on Aging (COA) meeting will be held on April 20th 1 p.m.

Darrell Crow will be painting with us on April 13th 10 a.m. Please call Diane Lamoureux at 508-883-7426 to reserve your spot. Lunch is available for \$3.00; Hot Dog and Baked Beans.

The center has a drop off box for unwanted prescription and non-prescription drugs. Feel free to stop in. The Center is collecting used eye glasses for the Lions Club, feel free to come in to drop those off.

We had a class on March 18th at 10 a.m. at the Millville Senior Center on Pysanky Egg Decorating with Celeste Langlois. This class was sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Millville Cultural Council.

Senior Club Luncheon will be held on April 10, meeting to start at 11:30. Lunch will be a chicken dinner cost is \$15.00.

## Fattman

Continued from page 1

it has on children throughout our region," said Senator Fattman. "In an age where we are so consumed by technology, the BVBGC brings kids back into nature, without their technology, to play with one another, be creative, and experience the world around them. This funding will aid in the development of their indoor offerings on days where there is inclement weather. I am proud to support the BVBGC in their endeavors and will continue to be a strong advocate of everything they are doing for our region." Senator Fattman looks forward to continued opportunities to provide support and funding for the BVBGC to assist in the completion of their mission.

## Wojcik Farm 2023 Events

Mark your calendar for Wojcik Farm upcoming events. Come spend a day in the countryside. Country Jam at Wojcik's Farm 21+, Go topless Day with Ocean State Jeepsters, Cruise Night, Raggae Jam 21+, Enchanted Market, Blues & Brews 21+ and so much more. Visit [wojcikfarms.com/](http://wojcikfarms.com/) events.

## Garden Club April in the Garden

Kate Donovan President  
Blackstone and Millville  
Garden Club

It's time to apply a 3" layer of compost to all your beds (if needed). And, on top of the compost, add a 3" layer of mulch. April is a great time to feed all your hungry perennial plants if you have not done so yet.

Prune evergreen shrubs, such as juniper and yew, before new growth begins. It's important to know which plants are safe to prune in April. If you prune during the wrong time of year, you may lose a year's worth of flowering or fruiting. Research your specific plant before pruning.

Tomatoes, eggplant and peppers should be started from seed indoors under grow-lights. You will transplant them outdoors in mid-May, after the fear of frost. You can plant your carrot and beet seeds directly outdoors. Continue to plant beet and carrot seeds every few weeks for a constant supply. Continue planting lettuce, radish and spinach seeds. Your brassica plants should be transplanted outdoors. Brassica plants include cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, kale, kohlrabi and cabbage.

Gardening makes people smile and brings people together, consider joining us. Happy Spring Planting!

## Memorial Day Celebration

Just a reminder the Town of Blackstone's Memorial Day Committee's annual Memorial Day Celebration will take place on Sunday, May 28th, 2023.

The event will kick off with our Memorial Day Parade, that steps off from the Town Common at 1:00pm. The Parade proceeds down Main Street on to St. Paul Street and concludes with a ceremony in front of Blackstone's Municipal Center.

Following the ceremony, our celebration will shift to Roosevelt Park, located behind the Municipal Center. Within the park, you can find an array of amusement rides, arts & craft vendors, food vendors, and a stage with musical entertainment from 2:00pm to 9:30pm. Our celebration will conclude at 9:30pm with a beautiful firework display – the largest display in the Blackstone Valley for Memorial Day.

Our committee is looking for volunteers to assist the Committee on the day of our event. Please email the Committee at [BlackstoneMemorialDay@gmail.com](mailto:BlackstoneMemorialDay@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering. We will have a volunteer meeting in May for all of those interested.

If you are interested in our parade or as a vendor in Roosevelt Park, please email the Committee at [BlackstoneMemorialDay@gmail.com](mailto:BlackstoneMemorialDay@gmail.com) and we will send an application. Applications can also be found at the Municipal Center and on the Town of Blackstone's website. For up-to-date information follow the Committee on Facebook; Blackstone Memorial Day Celebration.



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## Moving Blackstone Forward

A vote for Dan Keefe will ensure your voice is heard

- Work cooperatively with the Interim TA and the BOS in search of a new full time TA
- Generate revenue to stabilize the town's financial position now and in the future
- Bring trust, fairness, and appreciation back to our residents, volunteers, and employees
- Continue to be a strong advocate for our veterans & seniors
- Maintain open lines of communication between all boards, commissions, and residents



Please consider voting for Dan Keefe on April 3rd



# Blackstone COA Senior Center Activities

by Karen Testa Director

The following programs will be offered at the BCOA Senior Center during April:

April 3rd	Election Day
April 5th	Easter Luncheon Celebration
April 6th	Council on Aging monthly meeting
April 7th	Good Friday
April 9th	Easter Sunday
April 8th	Rep. Soter's RISE-UP Initiative
April 16th-22nd	Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 17th	Patriots Day (Center closed)
April 25th	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (to approve the purchase of St. Teresa's property)

**PLEASE ATTEND THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH** at 7:00 PM at the High School to approve the purchase of St. Theresa's Catholic Church property. If this purchase is approved, our Senior Center will be afforded the opportunity to expand its programs and activities currently provided as well as in the future. We will no longer be forced to limit our special luncheons to 50 participants and share space for classes. However, none of this will happen unless YOU and your family members and friends attend the special Town meeting on April 25th and vote to approve the purchase of the St. Theresa's Catholic Church property. **TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED.** If you require transportation, please phone Dennis to make a reservation. We sincerely thank you for your support!

**National Volunteer Week will be celebrated April 16-22.** This year marks the 49th anniversary of National Volunteer Week and it is a way of recognizing volunteers for their endless contributions.

As a token of our appreciation and respect, we will celebrate our volunteers with a host of luncheon celebrations during National Volunteer Week, including our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. If you have completed 50 hours or more of volunteer service hours at the Senior Center, you will receive an invitation to the Annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon. If you have volunteered and documented 50 hours of volunteer service and do not receive an invitation, please contact me as soon as possible.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! Our "1st Senior

**Cabaret"** will be held on Sunday, June 4th at 2:00 PM at the Milville Elementary School. Under the professional direction of our talented dance instructor, Donna Carter, our line dancing participants, Cabaret stars and Mancini Zumberallas will entertain us with a variety of show stopping performances. Perhaps a "surprise" performance by familiar faces will take place as well. This is a showstopper that you do not want to miss. Tickets are \$10.00 and are on sale at the Senior Center daily. Please contact Brenda to purchase tickets.

## PICKLE & PET THERAPY

Wednesday, April 26th 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

We invite you to come meet Pickle!

Pickle is a Mini Labradoodle who was born in May 2013. Pickle and his Guardian, Susan Olson, are trained through the DJ Professional Pet Assisted Therapy University Certificate Program. Pickle and Susan have been providing pet assisted literacy programs since 2015. Pickle loves to listen when children read to him in the library and school programs. He also visits classrooms where he helps young students learn about dogs and builds their writing and communication skills. He is very happy to visit our Senior Center so our participants can pat a furry, friendly dog for a little while. He makes people laugh by his very presence. He has hair so people who have allergies to dog fur can be close to him.

## SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Wednesdays (beginning April 19th) 11:00 AM

Join Joan Robin as she teaches American Sign Language. American Sign Language (ASL) is the natural, native visual gestural language primarily used by members of the Deaf culture in the United States. It is the fourth most commonly used language in the U.S.

## TRAVEL COMMITTEE

We are interested in expanding the trips that are offered through the Senior Center. In order to accomplish this goal, we will need the assistance of our participants. We are in the process of coordinating a Travel Committee. The Travel Committee will research, plan and when needed, lead and escort travel experiences. The Senior Center staff will work collaboratively with the committee to provide guidance and administrative support.

If you are interested in serving on this newly formed committee, please contact Karen Testa to express your interest.

## POUND EXERCISE CLASSES

Tuesdays (10 week session – starting 3/28) 5:00 – 5:45 PM \$4.00 per class

Join Christine Lamothe as she returns to lead this invigorating and low impact cardio workout tailored for seniors. This class uses drumsticks to upbeat music that can be done standing up or sitting in a chair.

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING CLINIC

Tuesday, April 11th 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

FREE Blood Pressure screenings will be held on Tuesday, April 11th in the dining room.

## ACTIVITIES, SPECIAL EVENTS & MORE

### EASTER LUNCHEON & MONTHLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 5th 12:00 PM \$4.00. Join us for a traditional Easter dinner and entertainment. The menu will include: Ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable and dessert. We will celebrate April birthdays as well! Please make your reservation with Brenda.

## FRANCINE'S FASHIONS

Wednesday, April 5th 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Francine will be here with her newest collection of spring shirts and hats. Take advantage of this opportunity for yourself or purchase a gift. The Friends of BCOA will receive a small portion of sales.

## BLACKSTONE BOUNTIFUL BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 18th 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

This month's novel is: "Night Road" by Kristen Hannah. A disadvantaged teen finds friendship, acceptance and love with a prosperous Seattle-area family, until a tragic accident changes everything. Copies of this novel are available at the Senior Center.

## "COFFEE TALK" Breakfast Club

Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Our Coffee Talk Breakfast Club continues to gather together to enjoy a cup of coffee and refreshments on Wednesdays in the dining room. Once a month the Breakfast Club members meet at a local restaurant. This month the Club will visit Coffee & Cream Restaurant, 900 Victory Highway, North Smithfield on April 19th at 9:00 AM. Please inform Brenda if you plan to attend the breakfast at Coffee & Cream Restaurant.

## BLACKSTONE AFTERNOON CINEMA – MOVIE & LUNCH

Tuesday, April 18th at 12:00 PM

"A Man Named Otto" starring Tom Hanks.

If you are planning to join us at this month's feature movie, "A Man Named Otto" why not join us for a special bagged lunch at noon? The lunch will be: chicken salad sandwich, bag of chips and a cookie for \$5.00. If you do not want to have lunch, you may join us for the movie at 12:30 PM.

Please phone Brenda to register for lunch and/or the movie.

## POP-UP FOOD PANTRY

Monday, April 24th 10:00 AM

If you are a Blackstone resident and 60 years of age or older you are eligible for the Pop-Up Food Pantry. You just drive through the Senior Center's parking lot to pick up a bag of groceries.

You will receive a bag pre-filled with nonperishable grocery items including canned tuna, soup, cereal, low/no salt vegetables and more. It is first-come, first-served and it is free.

If you have any questions about this program, please phone Karen at (508) 876-5134.

## ONE-ON-ONE TECH TRAINING

Tuesday, April 25th 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Tech coaches from Blackstone Valley Tech will return on Tuesday, April 25th to provide one-on-one training to our participants on how to use your personal device(s). Please register for a FREE 30-minute session with Brenda in the dining room.

See our website for additional info.

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## VOTE On Monday, April 3, 2023

- Control Spending
- Hire a Grant Writer
- Keep Seniors in their homes
- Keep Employees Accountable
- Keep Our Children Safe!

# BoB Kluhevitz

for SELECTMAN

Paid for by Bob Kluhevitz

Blackstone Enlightener APRIL 2023 email: enlightener@blackstonema.com





**Celebrate National Library Week with Mini-Golf, Community Fun and More**

by Tressy N. Collier

On Saturday, April 22, you can play mini-golf in the library while it's closed! From 4 – 7 p.m., a ten-hole mini-golf course will be set up throughout the entire library. The whole family is invited to putt their way through library-themed golf holes of various skill levels. Prizes will be awarded to everyone who participates, while those who get a hole-in-one will have their names posted on the bragging board! No registration required. Appropriate for all ages. Due to the popularity of this event, wait times may vary.

On Thursday, April 27, the festivities continue with "Connect with Your Community", a special event featuring crafts for all ages, live animals (exotic and pettable), a twelve-foot rag doll, a library staff scavenger hunt, free giveaways and prizes, a community member meet and greet and more. From 6 – 8 p.m., you'll be able to mingle with elected officials and members of various local clubs and organizations, while playing around with Jasper, King of the Rag Dolls, a.k.a. Mr. Vinny, and visiting with "Lee the Lion Tamer" and her fascinating animals. This one-of-a-kind program is for all ages with no registration required.

**School Vacation Week Events**

On Tuesday, April 18 at 6 p.m., you're invited to a shadow puppet show! Mother Goose has

taken the day off and Father Goose must take over all the chores, including the storytelling – but try as he might, he just can't get the stories right. Father Goose's Tales, presented by Nappy's Puppets, is a modern retelling of nursery rhymes, stories and children's songs that will leave the whole family laughing. Registration is required. Registration for Blackstone residents begins on Monday, April 3. Registration for all library patrons begins on Monday, April 10. Appropriate for all ages. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Blackstone Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Spring Food Drive**

The Blackstone Board of Library Trustees will be sponsoring a food drive for the Blackstone-Millville Food Pantry.

Throughout the month of April, 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: macaroni and cheese, canned chicken, granola bars, jelly, juice boxes, pork and beans, cereal, pudding cups, brownie mixes, mayonnaise, marshmallow fluff, canned pasta and shampoo.

For more information, please contact Tressy Collier at 508-883-1931 or email [tcollier@cwmars.org](mailto:tcollier@cwmars.org).

**Friends of the Blackstone Library**

Hungry for a good cause? Satisfy that hunger by going to Chelo's Restaurant, 490 Clinton Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Present the coupon below to your server, and Chelo's will donate 20% of your bill to the Friends of the Blackstone Library. A coupon must be present for the Friends to benefit. All proceeds support the programs and events at the Library.

**Friends of the Blackstone Library**

**Hungry for a good cause**

**A DELICIOUS WAY TO RAISE SOME CLAMS**



**Benefit: Friends of the Blackstone Library**

**Date: 04/13/2023**

**Valid only at: Chelo's of Woonsocket**

Please present this certificate at the time of your payment to have up to 20% of your checks value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization listed above. This ticket is NOT to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within its perimeter. Valid only for the date and location listed above.

**Support Your Organization by...**

- \*Taking your Family out for dinner
- \*Ordering Take-Out to enjoy at home

**Quaker Meeting House Ecumenical Service**

The first Ecumenical Service of the 2023 season will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at the historic East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House located at 197 Elm Street in Blackstone, Mass. The service will begin at 2 p.m. with a guest pastor. Music will be under the direction of organist, John Staples.

The Annual Business Meeting of the East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House & Cemetery Historical Association, which will include the election of officers and directors, will take place

immediately following the April 30th service. (Checks for annual membership dues (\$20) should be made out to the East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House Association, and can be brought to the meeting or mailed to Treasurer, Beverley Ryan, at 15 Sturbridge Drive, Osterville, MA 02655.)

The Meeting House structure is 211 years old and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Association has been active for nearly 70 years, sponsoring services in the Meeting House over that time. Over

the years, local pastors and those from Newport, East Greenwich and North Kingstown, RI and Turners Falls, Bolton, and Hopkinton, Massachusetts, have graced the pulpit of the Meeting House. Anyone interested in further information regarding the service, or in learning more about membership in the Association, should visit our updated website at: <http://www.blackstonequakermeetinghouse.org/>. Membership is open to all persons interested in the preservation of the historic meeting house and cemetery, and the Association welcomes any level of participation.

Blackstone Enlightener APRIL 2023 email: [enlightener@blackstonema.com](mailto:enlightener@blackstonema.com)

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**APRIL QUIZ**

1. Austin and Cam go to the local playground to play. Austin and Cam accidentally bump into another child, who falls down the slide and is injured. Would the home insurance for Austin and Cam's families help pay for the injuries even though it occurred away from their property?
2. Miles and Harlow started dating a few months ago. Miles regularly drives Harlow's vehicle (which is owned by her parents) whenever they go anywhere. Miles has an accident with the vehicle and is not a listed driver on Harlow's parents' insurance policy. Can the insurance company deny the claim?
3. Ron is bringing Easter decorations to the local youth group scavenger hunt. While Ron is driving, a bunny runs out onto the road and Ron slams on his brakes to stop. The decorations go flying and are destroyed in the car. Would Ron's auto or home insurance pay for the damaged decorations?

Answers: 1. Yes 2. Yes 3. No

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# Blackstone Valley Tech Annual Golf Tourney

Register Now & Support a Special Cause

UPTON – Even a "rough" day on the golf course is a good day! Don't miss this opportunity to hit the links and show off your trick shot (even those that land in the rough) at BVT's 24th Annual Golf Tournament. A fun-filled day of golfing on Monday, June 12th, at Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton will benefit the Valley Tech Education Foundation and Athletic Department activities and programs.

Your registration (individual golfer \$150/ golf foursome \$125 per person) includes 18 holes on the championship course, a golf cart, and a buffet dinner. Take part in the silent auction and raffles, all to help support a special cause. Not a golfer? Consider sponsoring a tee, putting green, or a cart to display your company name in the program proudly and during the event.

The day promises to be full of fun and friendly competition. For all tournament details, to view sponsorship opportunities, donate a raffle item, or access the online golfer registration and payment portal, visit [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/golftournament](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/golftournament). Register today to secure your spot.

*About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT): Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.*

## Fire Dept Guidelines for Open Burning

by Deputy Chief Kevin Roy

We would like to remind residents that the Burning season runs from January 15, 2023 to May 1, 2023. Burning will consist of brush only. No grass, stumps, leaves, hay, rubbish, construction materials, or any other materials.

Brush being burned must be at least 75 feet away from any dwelling or structure. The fire must be attended at all times. A garden hose or equivalent must be at the burning site during all burning. Burning will not be permitted until after 10:00 a.m. each day.

All burning will be extinguished by 4:00 p.m. each day. Any burning after hours that the Fire Department has to respond to will be billed for the cost

of the call. Residents are warned that illegal burning is a violation of state law and is punishable under the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and State Fire Marshall's Office.

Residents who wish to burn must report to the police and fire dispatch center located at 15 St. Paul Street to pick up the Guidelines for Open Burning and acquire a permit number. This permit will be good for the duration of the burning season. Each day you wish to burn you must call in and check if burning is allowed by DEP due to air quality. If burning is allowed per DEP, please give your permit number and address to the fire department by calling 508-876-5149. No burning will be allowed on "red flag" days announced on local weather reports.



### BMR Class of 1973

by Martha Krajewski Leblanc

The BMR Class of 1973 reunion will be November 4, 2023 at The Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis, MA.

All members and friends of the Chargers are welcome. We have a facebook page - DM or ask to join BMR Class of '73. Contact [Jroy2930@gmail.com](mailto:Jroy2930@gmail.com) or 508.958.0046.

Join us for our next reunion meeting on Thursday April 6 at 5:30 at Savini's Pomodoro and remember all are welcome.



- ★ Common sense solutions
- ★ Respect the taxpayer
- ★ Focus to revive tax base
- ★ Prioritize our capital projects
- ★ Represent all neighborhoods



## Taxpayers, Politicians and Common Sense

### Popularity Contest? NO!!

by Connie Perreault

In reading the most recent "Bios" of the Board of Selectmen candidates in the Enlightener, I found it to be very informative with the little that was said. For example, in one instance, we have a relative newcomer. While he may bring a fresh approach to some of the problems we are currently facing, does he have sufficient knowledge of Massachusetts municipal affairs to carry his plans to fruition?

By contrast, another candidate was born and raised in Blackstone and comes from a family who was active in Town government for many years, but does he have the "fresh approach" that is currently needed on the Board?

Then, there are the two incumbents. One has the proven ability to bring funds into the town, while the other has the knowledge and experience of overseeing the expenditure of those funds. But what about their knowledge of all the other aspects of Town government?

And then, there is yet another candidate running who is already serving on another elective board, the School Committee. At this point, the question must be asked . . . Where will his allegiance be placed? With the School Committee or the Board of Selectmen? Having personally served on the School Committee for 10 years and then on the Board of Selectmen for 15 years, I feel that it will be a difficult task to undertake, in particular, at this time. It is said in the Good Book, "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one but despise the other." Will this be the case?

And my purpose in presenting these views to you, the voter? In all my many years of public service to the Town, I find that all too often and with growing frequency, people are put into office because of their personalities, rather than the intentions behind their

desire to serve. Certainly, you don't want anyone with a dictator's attitude sitting in that office, but on the other hand, a Caspar Milquetoast, with no backbone, won't be of any value in fighting for the good of the people.

But, more in particular, is that which is outlined in the "Handbook for Massachusetts Selectmen." In the fourth edition of this guidebook, is a statement which says, "An effective selectman has the ability to take the patchwork of laws and bylaws that comprise the board's authority and turn it into an action agenda that can be summed up in a single word: leadership. Leadership is the most important—yet least understood—role of a selectman. It involves both personal leadership and, perhaps more important, leadership by the board as a team."

And so, what is my point in writing this? All I ask is that the reader stop and think about that "nice person" you will be voting for. Under different circumstances, would you allow them to take control of your wallet to pay your taxes? What about the Town services? Would you allow them to be a final decider on the water you drink, or the road you live on, or even the playground that your children play in? And yet, there are those of you who do just that without giving even a minimal check of the qualifications of the candidates you are voting for, or even worse still, by not voting at all.

April 3, is a critical time for voting in Blackstone. Please vote with an intelligent vote.

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Blackstone Automotive . . . . . 5 & 16

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Tellstone Garage Inc . . . . . 4

**AUTO BODY REPAIR**

Jim's Auto Body & Repair . . . . . 10

**BANKS**

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**BARBER**

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**DENTAL**

Blackstone Valley Dental . . . . . 6

**DISPOSAL SERVICE**

Marchand Environmental Disposal . . 16

Valley Enterprises Disposal . . . . 12

**ELECTRICAL**

Dionne Electric. . . . . 16

**GROOMERS**

Animal Arts . . . . . 16

**HAIR SALON**

Salon Fox . . . . . 4

**HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**

DSJ Heating & Air Conditioning . . 16

Fawcett Energy . . . . . 15

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

Vallee's Home Imp. . . . . 10

**INSERTS**

Bob Kluchevitz  
Toni's State Line Power Products

**INSURANCE**

Benjamin Insurance . . . . . 11

Ostrander Insurance . . . . . 9

**MARKET**

City Side Market . . . . . 1

**MORTGAGE LOANS**

Dean Bank . . . . . 3

Team Diaz Northpoint Mortg. . . . . 9

**MOVERS**

Men with Muscles . . . . . 10

**ORGANIZATIONS/EVENTS**

PACC Fishing Tourney. . . . . 6

**PAVING**

R.Brien Paving . . . . . 3

LJ & Son Asphalt Paving. . . . . 8

**POLITICAL**

Michael Buckley . . . . . 7

Mary Bulso . . . . . 7

Joe Emidy . . . . . 11

Danny Keefe . . . . . 8

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**REALTORS**

Maggie Ray Coldwell Banker Realty . 11

Paula Sullivan Michael&Sullivan. . . 9

**ROOFING**

Copeland Roofing . . . . . 16

NE Chimney & Roofing . . . . . 2

**SEPTIC**

ADC Septic . . . . . 1

Marchand Environmental. . . . . 16

**TAX SERVICE**

Oscar J. Ryan . . . . . 4

**TIRES**

A+Plus Tire . . . . . 7

Harpin's Tire Shop. . . . . 1

**TRASH REMOVAL/CONTAINERS**

Marchand Environmental. . . . . 16

Valley Enterprise Disposal . . . . 12

**TREE SERVICE**

Al's Tree Removal . . . . . 4



**Town Events and Meetings**

- Saturday, April 1, 2023-9:00am to 11:00am St. Theresa's Walkthrough
- Saturday, April 1, 2023 Parks & Rec Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Monday, April 3, 2023 Annual Town Election 7:00am to 8:00pm
- Monday, April 3, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Knitting Group
- Monday, April 3, 2023 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Read With Pride Teen Book Club
- Tuesday, April 4, 2023 BVT School Committee Meeting 6:00pm
- Tuesday, April 4, 2023 Board of Selectman Meeting 6:30pm
- Tuesday, April 4, 2023 Memorial Day Committee Meeting 7:00pm
- Tuesday, April 4, 2023 Conservation Commission Meeting 7:00pm
- Wednesday, April 5, 2023 Historical Commission 7:00pm
- Thursday, April 6, 2023 Planning Board Annual Meeting 7:00pm
- Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Grim Reader's Society: Horror Book Club
- Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:30 PM-8:00 PM Friends of Blackstone Parks & Rec.
- Monday, April 10, 2023 Parks and Recreation Meeting 6:00pm
- Monday, April 10, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Board of Library Trustees
- Monday, April 10, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Knitting Group
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 Library Friends meeting at 6:30pm
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Friends Of Blackstone Parks & Rec
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:30 PM-7:30 PM YA Craft
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:30 PM-8:00 PM Evening Book Group
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:30 PM-8:00 PM Friends of the Blackstone Public Library Meeting
- Wednesday, April 12, 2023 Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project 11:00am to 1:08pm
- Thursday, April 13, 2023 BVT School Committee Monthly Meeting 6:00pm
- Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Crafting with Jean
- Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Friends of Blackstone Parks & Rec.
- Friday, April 14, 2023 Voter Registration Deadline (Special Town Meeting) 5:00pm
- Saturday, April 15, 2023- 10-2 PM Lions Food Drive at Senior Cntr.
- Monday, April 17, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023 Board of Selectman Meeting 6:30pm
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023 Memorial Day Committee Meeting 7:00pm
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:00 PM-7:00 PM Nappy's Puppets
- Wednesday, April 19, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting 7:00pm
- Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:30 PM-7:30 PM YA Craft
- Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 11:15 COA Friends meeting
- Saturday, April 22, 2023 Parks and Recreation Earth Day Event
- Sunday, April 23, 2023 Parks and Recreation T-Ball League
- Monday, April 24, 2023 Parks and Recreation Meeting 6:00pm
- Monday, April 24, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm
- Monday, April 24, 2023 Conservation Commission Meeting 7:00pm
- Monday, April 24, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Knitting Group
- Monday, April 24, 2023 6:30 PM-8:00 PM Adult Banned Book Club
- Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Special Town Meeting 7:00pm
- Tuesday, April 25, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM Afternoon Book Club
- Saturday, April 29, 2023 PACC TAGS & TROUT Fishing Tourney



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# “Your Views are the MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS”

## LETTERS

To the Town of Blackstone Residents:

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for allowing me to manage your town for 19 months. I am honored to have been chosen and am honored to have been part of your community during that time. In the last 19 months, a lot was accomplished, here are some of the things that I, along with the Board of Selectmen have completed:

1. Interviewed and hired town counsel, new videographer, a new company to manage the state mandated MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) all while following Chapter 30B, State Procurement Law.
2. Met with departments on the 2023 budget process cut \$424,484 from departmental requests.
3. Applied for and received two Community Compact Grants, total grant award \$67,870. One was for a Five-year Capital Plan and the other a Roadway Maintenance Plan.
4. Applied for and received an IT (Information Technology) community compact grant for \$98,000 for OpenGov, a new online permitting and licensing software program.
5. Along with the Fire Dept and the District School system, applied and received a Green Communities Grant \$199,421.
6. Received Cyber Security grants for both FY 23 and FY24 for employee and board/commission training. Each grant was for one full year.
7. Brought in \$800K from Kimball sand for nonpayment of earth removal.
8. Established an Exit Interview Policy, New Employee Reimbursement policy and Employee Purchasing Policy.
9. Worked with Uxbridge, Douglas, Hopedale, Mendon, Millville and Blackstone on the Regionalization of the Animal Control Officer.
10. Participated in the hiring of the Parks Laborer, Outreach Coordinator, Asst. Town Accountant, Sr. Center Director, Facilities Supervisor, Senior Center Outreach Coordinator, Building Commissioner and several more using new scoring sheet method.
11. Worked with clerical union to remove the Asst. Town Accountant from the union. Settled Fire Dept. contract, resolved several grievances and entered into Memorandum of Agreements as necessary.
12. Hired consultant and participated in a Fire Chief Assessment Center.
13. Managed multiple sick leave abuse notifications to employees who were abusing sick leave.
14. Hired Toshiba for copiers on state contract, terminated the invalid agreement with Xerox for a savings of approximately \$20K a year.
15. Went out to bid for the Sally port and the front steps of the police dept. Project was delayed due to backordered supplies but was near completion in March of 2023.
16. Obtained quotes for Liability, Casualty, Workers Comp and Injured on Duty Insurance saving the town over \$20K in the first year.
17. Enrolled Blackstone in the Opioid Abuse lawsuit that will result in a settlement with all cities and towns in MA. Received over \$5,000 so far that has been deposited into the general fund.
18. Worked with the Uxbridge Salary survey to develop one that could be used to address nonunion staffing salaries.
19. Directed and ensured the Recycling center was cleaned up and in decent shape for when Department of Environmental Protection visited after years of debris building up in the water way, on the grounds and in nearby properties.
20. Worked diligently with Berry and Dunn on all details of the process audit. The audit was delivered to the Board of Selectmen last year.
21. Worked diligently with VHB (Vanesse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.) to establish the roadway maintenance database and plan. That plan is complete and located online.
22. Worked diligently with the Collins Center to establish a five-year capital plan. The plan is complete and located online.
23. Scheduled a structural assessment for the Historical Museum that revealed areas that needed improvements. Worked with Weston and Sampson on additional assessments on the inside of the Historical Museum and have a warrant article drafted for this next Annual Town Meeting.
24. Negotiated and resolved a lawsuit that if unsettled would have cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.
25. Appointed the Fire Chief and negotiated a “shared” Fire Chief agreement with the Town of Mendon and received grant for \$60,000 for the first year.
26. Added Town of Blackstone to a class action PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) lawsuit.
27. Removed the Deputy Chief position from the Fire Dept. union and promoted current Blackstone resident to Deputy Chief of the Fire Department.

This list is not complete as I had done a lot of work on projects that are not yet complete. I did all of these things following State of MA law and worked hard to ensure Chapter 30B was followed at all times. Every decision was made by asking myself this question: “Is this decision in the best interest of the Town of Blackstone residents?”

There has been a lot of inaccurate information on social media, in hearings and in the debate that I would like to address. Some people are saying that the Town of Blackstone was a stepping stone for me. Let me be very clear, the Town of Blackstone was not a stepping stone and I had every intention of being here at the very least, 6 years. I worked for the City of Worcester for 23 years and do not have a history of job jumping, it is not my style. I did not want to leave Blackstone, but I had no choice. As we all know, there is a small group of very loud people in town that are bullies and are angry because of my decisions, they are the ones that forced me to look elsewhere. I was warned by a former town employee that she and they would ruin me, and that is exactly what they were trying to do. The lies said about

me on social media, during a personnel hearing and during a debate were outlandish, inappropriate and unprofessional. These people are the reason I left Blackstone and I am very sorry that I could not stay longer, as there is so much work to do. What is crazier is that the majority of these people, **I never met**, not once. They didn't take the time to get to know me or try to find out why I made the decisions I did, because they didn't care. The truth does not matter to them. Their own special interests are all that matters to them, not the truth or the tax payers in the Town of Blackstone.

I also heard that I applied for jobs in June of last year; again that is completely inaccurate. I did not apply to Foxborough, Rutland or any other town that I heard I applied to. To set the record straight, I applied to the Town of Auburn and Worcester State University in early December 2022 for the reasons I state above.

I would also like to set the record straight regarding my relationship with the Board of Selectmen. I had and still have a professional, very positive relationship with all of them and they never once treated me bad nor did I ever say that they did. They were supportive and provided me guidance that I needed. I would work for them again in a heartbeat.

It was said that I treated employees terribly. I did not. I held them accountable for their actions and that was my job. If they abused sick time or came in late, I help them accountable. If they did something unprofessional, I told them so and if they made decisions that were not in the best interest of the taxpayer, again, I told them so. That was my job and I did it. Town employees are paid by the residents in Blackstone. All employee decisions should be in the best interest of those taxpayers, if they were not, then a discussion was had. On the other hand, I mentored, promoted when possible, and guided several employees through human resources, operational and budget issues as they came up. I provided them support and guidance and never, ever turned my back. I provided and offered professional development opportunities and always had an open door. If some employees didn't like that I held them accountable, then perhaps that is what was meant when someone said I treated employees terribly.

I could go on and on to rebut the terrible things said about me that aren't true but honestly my reputation and background speak for itself.

The political division in the town is what will eventually bring it down, which is terribly sad because more than once during my time in Blackstone, a resident would tell me they were afraid of the consequences of saying anything against this small group of people. I cannot imagine living my life that way. The bullies involved in this small group, should be ashamed of themselves.

In closing, the majority of the residents in the Town of Blackstone are amazing, intelligent people who just want is best for their town and almost of all the employees are dedicated, and committed to doing the right thing for the town. I will miss those people and hope that they all continue to fight the fight because eventually good will outweigh the bad.

Thanks again,  
Dori A. Vecchio

To the editor:

As a resident of Blackstone I have observed, with some degree of concern, the polarizing impact relating to the firing of a long serving town employee. Many residents of Blackstone, myself included, have displayed signs on their lawns showing their support for the town employee believing her firing was arbitrary and capricious in violation of her due process rights. The sign advocates are engaging in classic First Amendment activity--freedom of speech. And yet some residents of the town find the sign displays as demeaning and insulting, demonstrating a lack of respect for alternative viewpoints. It is beyond my limited faculties to explain how one finds all these negative connotations in a sign that simply states support for a dedicated and long serving town employee. It sets up a scenario where the people with signs are viewed as enemies of the town engaged in a war of "Us versus Them." These comments would be laughable if it were not for this same tribal and intolerant attitude infecting the country at large.

As a student of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, I believe all Americans are guaranteed the right to express alternative viewpoints. It is also my belief, perhaps naively, that we can express these alternative viewpoints in a respectful and civilized manner. From my vantage point, the town selectmen failed in their duty to provide the town employee with a proper hearing to assess her response to the firing. Where the very reputation of the town employee is at stake, there is an obligation to provide clear and convincing factual evidence supporting the firing. At this point, I am not convinced that the selectmen have provided such evidence.

Respectfully,  
John Ambacher, Attorney at Law

### 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 civilized and 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.



# LIFE TRIBUTES

## EVERLASTING MEMORIES OF LOVED ONES



**Glenn E. Gerior**

Glenn E. Gerior, 62, of Bellingham, MA passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at Milford Regional Medical Center with his loving family by his side. He is the beloved husband of Jeanne K. (Ketterl) Gerior and the loving father of Arianna Gerior and her husband, Corey Stein, of Hopkinton, MA; Hannah Gerior of Bellingham, MA and Kahley Caron and her husband, Nicholas, of Somerset, MA. He leaves his cherished grandchildren Emmett Charles Stein, Willa Claire Stein and Quinton Glenn Caron. Glenn was born on January 8, 1961 in Woonsocket, RI. He was the son of Charles E. Gerior and the late Jeanne E. (Menard) Gerior of Bellingham, MA. He leaves his brothers, Robert Gerior and his wife, Melissa, and Kenneth Gerior all of Bellingham, MA. He also leaves his brothers-in-law Paul Ketterl and his wife, Joanie, of Newtown, CT and Bud Ketterl and his wife, Jennifer, of Knoxville, TN, and many other relatives.

Glenn was a lifelong resident of Bellingham. He was a graduate of

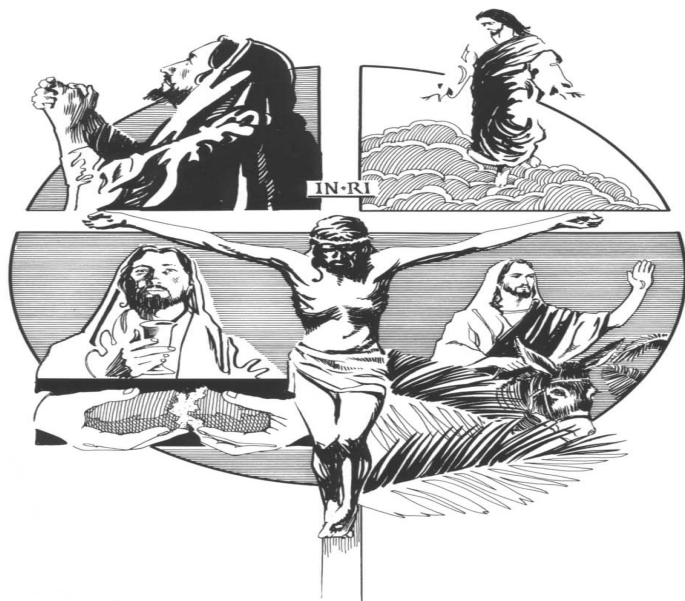
Bellingham High School Class of 1978 and continued his education at UMass Amherst where he received a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture. He owned and operated Charlie's Tire & Service Center and the former GE Gerior Landscape Design & Construction both of Bellingham, MA. Glenn worked alongside his parents from when they bought Charlie's Tire in 1977 and eventually took over the family business in 1997.

Glenn was a former Bellingham Planning Board Member. He was an active member and volunteer at St. Blaise Church and the former Assumption Church. He was always helping people in the community.

Glenn was very talented and loved carpentry, gardening, and landscaping. He spent most of his life outdoors and enjoyed going to Antique Shops, Gardening Centers, and Art Shows on the weekends with his family. He also enjoyed cooking and grilling. He had a charming personality and loved making people laugh. Glenn was deeply devoted to his family and will be greatly missed.

Donations can be made in memory of Glenn E. Gerior to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Greater New England Chapter, 465 Waverly Oaks Road, Ste 202, Waltham, MA 02452 or visit [www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org).

Funeral was held on Wednesday, March 8th with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Blaise Church, 1158 So. Main St., Bellingham. Burial at St. Jean Baptiste Cemetery, Bellingham.



### DIVINE MERCY PARISH

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**Lenten Season Events**

Stations of the Cross-Each Friday thru March 31st at 6pm, followed by 6:30pm Mass and Adoration.

Lenten Soup Nights-Each Friday thru March 31st from 5pm -6:30pm, various soups and bread will be served.

Confession-Tuesdays thru March 28th at 7am-7:45am

Fridays thru March 31st at 7pm-7:45pm

Saturdays at 3pm-3:40pm

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday – Sunday April 2nd at 8am and 10:30am**

**Holy Thursday Mass – Thursday April 6th at 6:30pm**

**Good Friday – Stations of the Cross at 3pm – Benediction at 6:30pm**

**Easter Vigil – Saturday April 8th at 7:30pm**

**Easter Sunday – April 9th 8am and 10:30am**

Blackstone Enlightener APRIL 2023 email: [enlightener@blackstonema.com](mailto:enlightener@blackstonema.com)

### 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.

**April 2023 Needs**

- Canned pasta
- Canned chicken
- Boxed potatoes
- Cereal/granola bars
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- Laundry detergent

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*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.



## Christ Community Church Easter Schedule

by Jackie St. Jean

Christ Community Church of Blackstone, 31 Church Street, Blackstone, MA will hold the following worship services. The Public is welcome.

Palm Sunday Service on April 2nd at 9:30 am.

A Candle light, Tenebrae or Maundy Thursday Service, April 6 at 7pm.

### 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 deadline is the 15th of each month for the following month's issue. 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.

**Publisher: Paulette Boyko**  
**Editor: Michael Boyko**  
**Sales: 508.560.5768**

**Blackstone Enlightener**  
**Blackstone, MA 01504**  
**508-560-5768**  
**email: [enlightener@blackstonema.com](mailto:enlightener@blackstonema.com)**



# Blackstone's Window On the Past

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## Waterford School

Dr. Adrian Scott, in his 1889 History of Blackstone, mentions the original one-room school house in the Waterford section of town. The school is also listed as building #5 in a list of district schools written in 1865. It must have been in poor condition since the appraisal value of each school building was listed in the report and Waterford school had no value assessed.

In April of 1867, the town meeting voted that steps be taken to build a new school in Waterford. The new Waterford school was built at 65 Main Street, where TKO Pizza now stands. The school had a raised stone foundation, and was divided into four large classrooms on the two floors above. The boys' and girls' toilets were located in the basement of the building and those of a certain age will remember raising their hand and asking permission to "go to the basement."

The rooms were large and airy, with long windows on three walls to let in the natural light. There were no screens on the windows and no one ever fell out! The desks and chairs were bolted down in position and each room could hold between 40 and 50 students. The blackboards were located at the front of the room, behind the teacher's large desk. There was a piano in each room for music lessons. One large sink provided cold water for drinking, hand

washing, and science experiments such as growing plants.

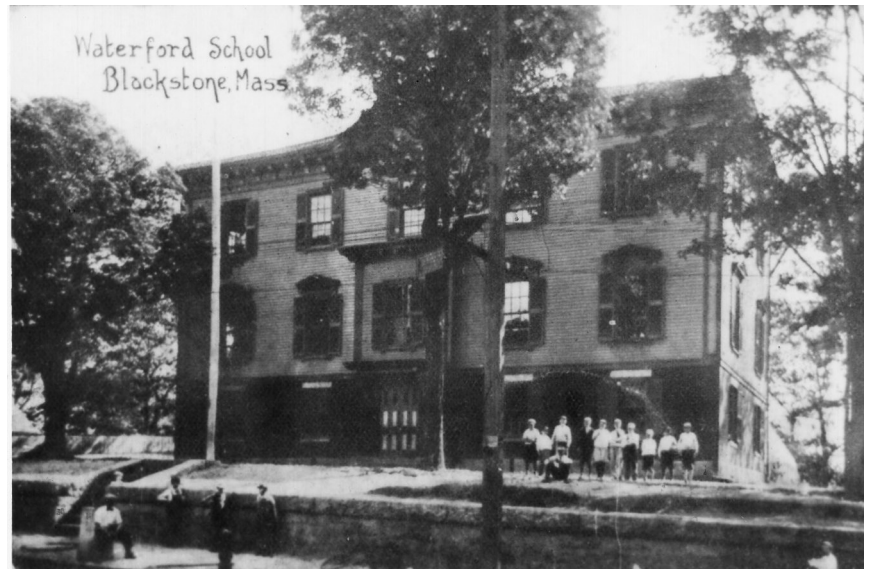
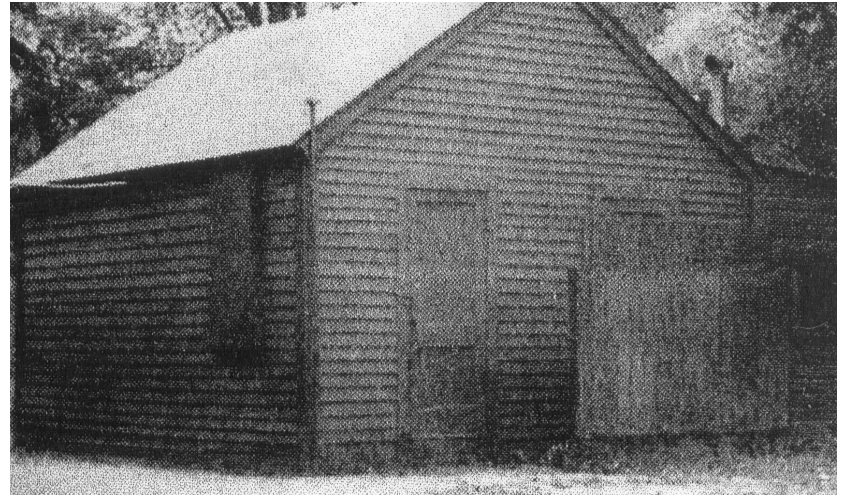
The curriculum in 1874 was listed as the following: Opening exercises, reading, writing (or printing on the blackboard), drawing, spelling, music, physical exercise, oral instructions (on morals, & manners), and recess.

Teachers at Waterford that year were: Ellen Verry, Ida Cole, Emma Cady, and Mrs. Geo Hunt. It's of interest that Mrs. Hunt was teaching at a time when only single women were usually employed.

Blackstone did not have a public kindergarten until Miss Jeanne Robbins (later Mrs. Gould), was appointed to teach a kindergarten class located in the basement of Waterford School in September of 1956.

When J.F. Kennedy School was completed in 1965, Waterford School was no longer needed as all elementary school students were moved to that building. Teachers at Waterford at that time were: Eleanor Sullivan, Margaret Lee, Helen Cassidy, Rose McCooley, along with Mrs. Gould.

The town sold the property on Main Street and the large, old school building was torn down to make way for the plaza that now is located there.



Top photo: Original Waterford School  
Bottom photo: "New" Waterford School at 65 Main Street  
Photos: courtesy of the Blackstone Historical Museum

## Time Traveller pays tribute to The Moody Blues at the Stadium

Time Traveller is North America's #1 Moody Blues Tribute on April 28th. Time Traveller highlights over three decades of material from the legendary group The Moody Blues, performing a full rock concert with lighting and video in addition to a complete Rock/Orchestra show.

Time Traveller has performed throughout America and as an opening act for numerous national shows, water Revisited (Revival) and Starship.

Time Traveller will perform their tribute to Moody Blues: Friday, April 28th at 8:00 PM. The concert will be held at The Stadium Theatre located at 28 Monument Square, Woonsocket Rhode Island.

Admission is \$26, \$31, \$36. Tickets are available at the Stadium Theatre Box Office or by calling 401-762-4545 and online at [www.stadiumtheatre.com](http://www.stadiumtheatre.com).

**Vote** April 3, 2023

## Lions Food Drive April 15

Please support our Food Drive on April 15, from 10-2 PM. We are accepting non-perishable food for the Blackstone Millville Food Pantry. This will take place at the Senior Center, 15 St. Paul Street, Blackstone.

## Salute to Spring at the Museum of Work & Culture

The Museum of Work & Culture's 24th annual Salute to Spring~Bonjour Printemps event will take place on Sunday, April 3, at 1:30pm, and will celebrate Franco-American culture.

The program will feature live music from Québécois musician Eric Boodman who will perform a unique blend of fiddle music and foot percussion with multi-instrumentalist Jesse Ball, as well as a performance from Newport Ave, a local alternative rock band. Magic by George will perform his award-winning act of magic and family-friendly humor. Join us.

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