



November, 2004

Connection

*Linking the leaders of the Valley
with knowledge and education*



Meet the CorridorKeepers

by Paula Brouillette

In This Issue

Meet The CorridorKeepers	page 1
Creating a neighborhood of organizations	
Woonsocket Neighborhood Development	page 2
Looking for adults to work with kids	
Team LBV Strong In Greenway Challenge	page 3
28th place finish a high-water mark	
Redford Salmon Activated	page 4
LBV grad bound for Iraq	
Holiday Gathering - 2004	page 4
Can the holidays be hear already?	
Alumni On The Move	page 4

The newly formed Blackstone River Valley CorridorKeepers is a group of individuals dedicated to ensuring the future of the Corridor Commission and the National Park Service's involvement with the Valley. We know there is much work to be done. And we are ready to go.

We have established three major priorities for the CorridorKeepers.

First, a bit of history. In 1997, several individuals organized a coalition to serve as an umbrella organization for the Heritage Corridor. In 2000 the Corridor Coalition was formalized, gained non-profit status and was involved with its first major undertaking, the "Expedition 2000". In 2002 the Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge was coordinated through the Coalition. The Coalition has been

the driving force behind that event ever since. In June of this year, the CorridorKeepers' Board of Directors developed a mission statement, a list of priorities and officially changed its name to the Blackstone River Valley CorridorKeepers.

We are a board of eight members - 5 from Rhode Island, and 3 from Massachusetts. Our goal is to have our board membership mirror the diversity of the Valley. We will represent and include as many constituencies as possible including but not exclusive to - local, state and federal government, businesses both for-profit and nonprofit, education, environment, recreation, tourism, to name just a few.

We have established three major priorities for the CorridorKeepers. They include first and foremost, the reauthorization of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley

National Heritage Corridor Commission; second, to continue to strengthen the network of people within the Blackstone Valley; and third, to act as an umbrella organization to all groups working in the Blackstone Valley.

First, is reauthorization. The major focus of our efforts is to educate and inform valley residents through awareness campaigns. We will sponsor and organize a letter writing campaign in support of reauthorization and those letters will be delivered to members of Congress.

Additionally, we will sponsor editorials in every newspaper servicing the Blackstone Valley, develop an electronic letter writing campaign, and gather city and town support. And last, but by no means least, the CorridorKeepers will host coffee hours to help organize and educate people about reauthorization. We feel that person-to-person contact will have a tremendous impact in spreading both the accomplishments of the Heritage Corridor in the last 18 years and the urgency to continue its mission into the future.

Second, is networking. The CorridorKeepers will continue to strengthen and sponsor the opportunities for groups, organizations and individuals to meet and share ideas. The stronger we can make the connections between the many and diverse elements of the Valley, the stronger we make the Valley. Key to this goal is compiling a database of

organizations that can be shared throughout the Valley.

Third, is an umbrella organization. The CorridorKeepers will act as an umbrella organization to all groups working in the Blackstone Valley. The database of organizations will create a neighborhood of organizations. Under that umbrella, services provided will be web-based and may include conference reservations, polling, fundraising, clearing house for events, to name just a few.

We have proposed a very aggressive agenda for the CorridorKeepers for the next two years. But the stakes could not be higher for the Blackstone Valley. We support the Heritage Corridor Commission not simply because of what it has accomplished in the past and because it has the greatest potential to continue preserving, reinventing and creating the Valley of the future. •

The database will create a neighborhood of organizations.

LBV Alumni Connection

Publisher: Beckley Alley
Editor: Michele Decoteau
Design: Gregory Maas

110 Church Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588
508-234-9090

LBV Alumni Connection is a publication of the Leadership Blackstone Valley Alumni Association - keeping alive and vibrant the relationships among community leaders in the Blackstone Valley.

Woonsocket Neighborhood Development Looking For Adults To Work With Kids

by Joe Garlick and
Margaux Morisseau

Four positions are open and the WNDC says to contact them if you have an idea outside of the list below. The hourly rate is competitive. For more information contact Georgeann Famuyiro at (401) 762-5220.

After School Instructor - Help boost reading, writing and math achievement for 6-14 year olds. Creative people needed who can instill a love of learning and have fun! 8-10 hours/week.

Tutors - Work with underachieving students, ages 6-14 to boost achievement and school success and make learning fun. Various subjects are needed: primarily reading, math and writing. 8-10 hours/week.

Web Design Instructor - Teach web design to 8-14 year olds. Experienced and creative person is needed to spearhead new program. 8-10 hours/week.

Origami and Crafts Instructor - Work with 5-14 year olds to create interesting craft projects, potentially for sale. 8-10 hours/week.

Team LBV Strong In Greenway Challenge



by Jim Bates

Once again LBV grads and friends competed in this year's Greenway Challenge. Everybody had fun, some team members got wet and the team continued to improve on its placement. This year the team finished 28th out of 52 teams!

This year's team consisted of Greg Maas, Beckley Alley, Mike Peterson and me from LBV. Marty Green and Donna Scherer joined us from the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce. Scott Rossiter represented the Education Foundation and Cliff Marshall and Joe Stoopack were recruited through other team members. Cliff and Joe were the ringers we brought in to make sure that the team had a respectably finish, just kidding.

Due to BVCC not having a team this year, team LVB set its sights on beating the team from the Heritage Corridor, which we did. It was all in good fun but it's always nice to remind our friends how Team LBV finished.

As the morning unfolded you could see that we were going to have a beautiful day for the Challenge, and we did. I think the coordinators of the event must have a connection with Mother Nature. This was the third challenge I've participated in and all three times we've had glorious weather. I only wish we'd

had some rain in the middle of the week so that the river could have been a little higher.

I noticed again this year the large number of LBV Grads helping out at the transition sites and participating on other teams. In my opinion this shows how Leadership Blackstone Valley Grads get out and help with activities through out the Valley.



top l to r: Joe Stoopack, Mike Peterson, Beckley Alley, Scott Rossiter, Cliff Marshall. Bottom l to r: Greg Maas, Jim Bates, Donna Scherer, and Marty Green.

I couldn't possibly name all the grads that helped out but I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Barbara Dixon and Sue Barker, co-coordinators of the GWC and LBV Grads. This year another LBV Alum, Greg Maas, joined the team that coordinates the challenge. Awesome time and great event, I / we look forward to next year's Challenge.

The following statements are quotes from

team members regarding the day.

Greg Maas, "upside down is slow, right side up is definitely faster".

Donna Scherer, "when the tip of my running shoe hit that rock I thought, oh no I'm going down, thankfully I caught myself".

Marty Green, "Donna Scherer lived up to her advance billing by leading the LBV team to a better showing than last year as she stated she would".

Joe Stoopack, "Wow that was a blast, I'd do it again next weekend".

Beckley Alley, "when we hit that first rock I thought OH SH##, we're going in".

Mike Peterson and Scott Rossiter made comments about how organized the team was. I believe that's because everybody was excited about participating.

Beckley's footnote

Other LBV participants include: Charlie Thompson on a Whitin Community Center team, Matt Salmon on a Salmon Family Services team and Mark Jewell on the Corridor team. Volunteers included: Mike Ferry at the Swimmable/Fishable booth; Frank Matta helped to prepare the transition sites; Suzanne Buchanan supported a Blackstone Valley high school student team sponsored by Southwick's Zoo (thank you Betsey Brewer); Irene Blais worked at the start and finish line; the Anderson's once again coordinated a transition site; Janet Amerault also managed a site and Paula Brouillette and Sue Gustafson worked at the start and finish line. I apologize if I forgot anyone.

Redford Salmon Activated

by Tony Pardee



Redford Salmon, Social Development Director at Job Corp in Grafton (LBV 2004) took a Military Leave of Absence starting, October 26, 2004. Mr. Salmon's status as an Army Reservist has been upgraded to active duty in the United States Army.

Mr. Salmon has been with Adams and Associates, Inc. (Job Corp management company) since January 2001. Mr. Salmon started his career at the Shriver Job Corps Center as a Career Counselor and then transferred to the Grafton Career Development Center in April 2002 to take the position of Business Technical Center Manager. Mr. Salmon was promoted to Social Development Director in September 2003. He has been a valuable asset to the students, his department, staff and the Grafton Management Team.

Mr. Salmon is making a great sacrifice to defend our country by serving to protect the freedoms that we all have each and everyday of our lives. Our best wishes to him in his tour of duty in the United States Army. Thank you, Mr. Salmon for your leadership, dedication and commitment to the students of the Grafton Career Development Center. We wait for your safe return to Grafton to continue your goals and career. Our thoughts will be with you and your family.

Alumni On The Move

Gerry Noel

has been reappointed to the Board of Directors of Family Resources Community Action. Gerry was previously a director from 1983 to 1991 and then from the late 90's until 2003.

He also was a past chairman of the Board.

Mark Jewell

Mark submitted a proposal to the 17th National Trails Symposium, this conference happens every other year at a different location around the country.

This year Mark's proposal was accepted, so he will be presenting in Austin, TX at the end of October. His presentation will be about Bikeway development and the National Heritage Corridor movement.



Mary and Lance Anderson

Congratulations to Mary and Lance. Their baby girl, Maren Ruth Anderson, was born at 2:08am, September 6, 2004, weighing in at 7lbs 8ozs. Everyone is doing fine. Some of us had a chance to meet Maren at the Greenway Challenge.

What a beauty!

Holiday Gathering



Tuesday, December 1, 2004, 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury. There will be a cash bar with a buffet of lite fare.

Please bring good cheer and a gift for a Job Corp Student who does not have a family to spend the holidays with. These young people are 16 to 23 years of age.



Gift ideas will follow via email.

This year's event is being sponsored by Tony Deller's accounting firm, Pirolli, Deller & Conaty. Thanks, Tony, we appreciate your support.



RSVP - if you plan to attend this event, please respond to Beckley Alley at 508-234-9090, or balley@blackstonevalley.org.