

Alumni Connection

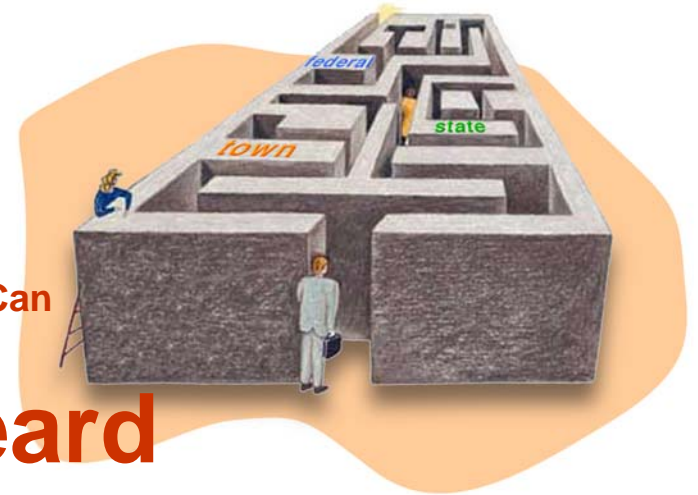
Linking the leaders of the Valley with knowledge and education

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Alumni Event

**Yes...
You Really Can
Be
Heard**



On September 19th, the LBV Alumni Association is hosting a Political Advocacy Workshop at North Gate in Lincoln, RI.

The Blackstone River Valley is governed by a mix of state, local, and federal agencies. At times, being heard within the legislative and regulatory process can feel like a daunting task.

But it can be done.

In fact, it has to be done.

As Valley leaders, it is our responsibility to influence issues that affect the future of the region.

On the 19th, John Gregory, Charlie Hawkins, Mike Creasey and Bob Billington will help us understand how we can politically advocate for the things we believe in - and be heard!

The session will run from 9:00 am to noon, including breakfast. Alumni Association members can participate at no charge. The cost for non-members is \$10.00.

For more information and to register, call Beckley Alley at 508-234-9090. ☐

Graduates

Leadership Blackstone Valley has graduated three classes to date. Alumni represent a mix of commercial, nonprofit, and government organizations.

The names of LBV graduates are listed below along with the organization they represent and their town of residence.

Janet Amerault

Milford Marriott
Uxbridge, MA

Mary Anderson

Heritage Design Group
Uxbridge, MA

Rick Anderson

Gaudette Insurance
Grafton, MA

Jim Bates

Lampin Corporation
Upton, MA

Sue Barker

Corridor Coalition
Jamestown, RI

Susan Bloomberg

Uxbridge Planning Board
Uxbridge, MA

Betsey Brewer

Southwick's Zoo
Mendon, MA

Carole Briggs Donovan

Image Boosters
Grafton, MA

Laura Bronwell

UniBank for Savings
Sutton, MA

Paula Brouillette

Douglas Board of Selectmen
Douglas, MA

Suzanne Buchanan

John H. Chafee Blackstone River
Valley National Heritage Corridor
Woonsocket, RI

Ruth Colburn

Fleet Bank
Sutton, MA

Michele Bennett Decoteau

White Oaks Communications
Millbury, MA

Tony Deller

Pirolli, Deller & Conaty CPA Firm
North Smithfield, RI

Barbara Dixon

John H. Chafee Blackstone River
Valley National Heritage Corridor
Woonsocket, RI

Jim Dyer

Worcester Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Worcester, MA

Catherine Elliott

Asa Waters Mansion
Southborough, MA

Mike Ferry

Blackstone Valley Rivers Project
Lincoln, RI

Kathie Finnegan

Uxbridge Industrial Development
Commission
Uxbridge, MA

John Flaherty

Grow Smart Rhode Island
Slatersville, RI

Bill Fredericks

Allcare Home Medical Supply
Sutton, MA

Adam Gaudette

Heritage Design Group
Sturbridge, MA

Michele Gousie

Dexter Credit Union
Woonsocket, RI

Bill Graves

St. Camillus Health Center
Ludlow, MA

Sue Gustafson

Sign-A-Rama
Ashburnham, MA

Juliet Hansel Walker

John H. Chafee Blackstone River
Valley National Heritage Corridor
Linwood, MA

Tom Kravitz

Town of Burrillville Planning
Department
Burrillville, RI

Cynthia Lavallee

Greater Worcester Community
Foundation
Sutton, MA

Gregory Maas

Maas Marketing
Whitinsville, MA

Diane Mackintosh

Alternatives, Inc.
Whitinsville, MA

Blain Marchand

UniBank for Savings
North Oxford, MA

Frank Matta

Blackstone River Watershed Council
Cumberland, RI

Maureen McNulty

Woonsocket Housing Authority
Pawtucket, RI

Maryann Newton

Gaudette Insurance
Whitinsville, MA

Christine Nowak

Northern Rhode Island
Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln, RI

Ana Maria Nunez de Villavicencio-Rourke

Touchstone Community School
Watertown, MA

Gerry Noel

Northern Rhode Island
Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln, RI

Karen Pascucci

Uxbridge School Committee
Uxbridge, MA

Michael Peterson

Mass. Electric
Mendon, MA

Kevin Rudden

Redhills Communications Group
Mendon, MA

Cecile Ryan

Family Resources Community Action
of Woonsocket
Blackstone, MA

Matt Salmon

Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled
Nursing Facility
Westborough, MA

Ed Soares

City of Pawtucket
Seekonk, MA

Val Stegemoen

River Bend Visitors Center
Millville, MA

Charlie Thompson

Whitin Community Center
Sutton, MA

Herbert Weiss

City of Pawtucket
Pawtucket, RI

Julie Woods

Uxbridge Board of Selectmen
Uxbridge, MA

Viktorija Yergatian

Blackstone Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Bridgton, ME

Celtic Festival



Pendragon

from the Blackstone River Theatre
performing at the Celtic Festival

On Saturday, July 12th, 2003 over 6,500 people attended the first time ever Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival.

The Festival was held on King Farm in Sutton, MA. Everything worked in the organizers' favor - the beautiful location, the sunny summer day and the popularity of the featured artists.

LBV Alumna Martha Wetzel, Tourism Director of the BVCC was one of the lead organizers and several other alumni volunteered at the beer tent, the information tent and other locations. □

Innovative Planning Tool Used in Burrillville

By Tom Kravitz



As the planner in the town of Burrillville I have been working with the Planning Board and Town Council to implement a "Village Planned Development (VPD) Ordinance".

The VPD is likely to be come part of the Town's Zoning Map as an Overlay Zone. The Overlay Zone will be located in areas contiguous to existing Village neighborhoods, that were traditionally platted at higher densities than what is allowed by the current underlying zoning districts.

The VPD is a land development project developed by a single owner or a group of owners that is fully planned and developed as a comprehensive site. Village Planned Developments allow the developer greater flexibility in terms of the arrangement of buildings on the

land while providing the Town with a method of directing higher density growth towards existing village areas and providing a continuation of pedestrian circulation within these areas.

Objectives

The objectives of Village Planned Development are:

1. **To allow** for compatible mixed uses on a site, that are ordinarily not permitted together through conventional zoning.
2. **To coordinate** architectural styles, building forms, and structural/visual relationships in an innovative, aesthetic, and functionally efficient manner.
3. **To provide** flexibility of zoning in exchange for creative design and added amenities.

4. **To promote** development and redevelopment (such as mixed-use developments) within Town Village Centers that preserves their natural and/or historical features.

5. **To encourage** the redevelopment and rehabilitation of deteriorated and/or underutilized historic or nonconforming structures and areas.

6. **To promote** pedestrian friendly environments that provide both a safe walking atmosphere and a logical connection of destinations within and adjacent to existing village centers.

7. **To enhance** the quality of life for the inhabitants, users, and/or workers who will be utilizing provided amenities.

8. **To create**, through density bonuses, an environment that feasibly supports the development of housing that is affordable to those residents who earn 50 to 80 percent of area median income as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

One result of the VPD will be the continuation of coordinated architectural styles between new construction and existing buildings.

For example, Dunkin Donuts is proposing a mixed use building on Pascoag Main Street, which offers design charac-

teristics similar to those of existing structures within the main street area. The idea is to reinforce the industrial themes and heritage through architecture in order to improve the economic climate of the Villages and make them competitive with regionalized retail centers. □



left: current structure

below: design for mixed use building



Tom Kravitz
LBV Fall Class, 2002
Burrillville, RI



Join the Alumni Team, or Volunteer on the Route

The date is **Saturday, September 27th**. This is an event you don't want to miss.

Two LBV Alumni - Sue Barker and Barbara Dixon, organize the event with other alum sitting on support committees. The event promotes the valley, goes a long way to connect people and is very fun!

Join the Alumni Team along with Tony Deller, Greg Maas, Jim Bates, John Flaherty and Michael Peterson. The team needs at least two bike riders and one more runner. Sign up with Jim Bates at jimbates@lampin.com.

You can also volunteer at a transition site. Contact Janet Amerault for more details. Email Janet at janet.amerault@marriott.com. □

LBV Alumni Connection

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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.

LBV sponsors:



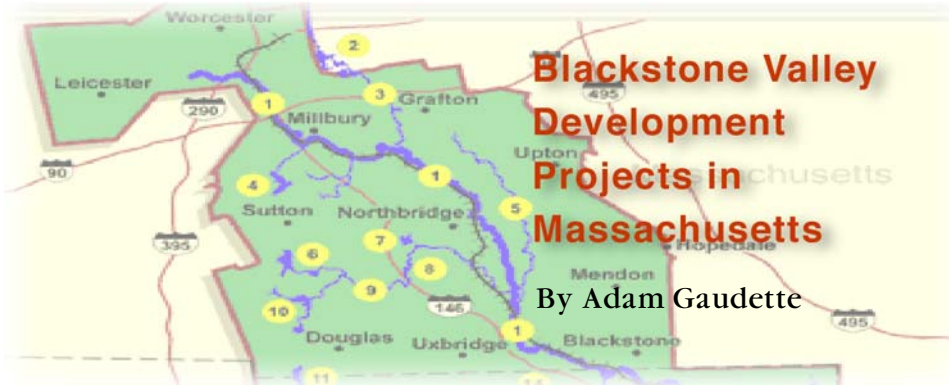
John H. Chafee

BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor Commission



Development



For those who do not know me, [my name is Adam Gaudette](#). I am a Fall 2003 graduate of the Leadership Blackstone Valley program. I am currently the Senior Land Planner at the firm Heritage Design Group in Uxbridge, MA and before that I was the Town Planner in Northbridge, MA. In my current position, I represent development applicants at municipal meetings that include mostly planning boards, conservation commissions, and zoning appeals boards.

Typically, any Monday through Thursday night I can be found at one or more of the Towns here in the Blackstone Valley, mostly on the Massachusetts side, attending a municipal meeting. Due to my regular attendance at these meetings, and being in the "trenches", Beckley and some of the LBV alumni thought it

might be worthwhile for newsletter readers, to know what's happening in terms of development in the Valley.

As many of you know, the building boom has not slowed down due to a downturn in the economy over the last couple of years. Low interest rates and the lack of available housing, whether affordable or market rate, have fueled the building industry. This trend has put town boards in the position where they are more reactive than proactive. Due to reduced budgets and limited staff, towns are juggling multiple development projects, whether applications or those under construction, and are finding that they lack the time to revamp old bylaws, rezone outdated districts, or prepare comprehensive plans and strategies.

Development is happening all over the Valley, in the form of residential subdivisions and frontage lots, industrial parks, golf courses, and downtown revitalization. Towns are trying to balance the residential growth with economic development projects that provide positive tax revenues.

One exciting trend for many municipalities is the adoption of senior housing or active adult living community bylaws in a response to the demographic surge of those reaching retirement age. This type of development provides many positive (benefits) for a community. Senior living communities generate a positive revenue stream due to the lack of school-aged children and do not strain a town's educational system. They tend to have private homeowners associations that relieve towns of any maintenance responsibilities. These communities don't greatly impact traffic flow to surrounding networks on a daily and peak hour basis and have significantly less water and sewer demands than single family residential developments. Also, senior living communities tend to cluster housing units preserving large tracts of open space.

Here's what else is going on in some of the Towns in the Valley that I have been to recently.

Northbridge

The Planning Board had passed a Planned Business Development Bylaw last year that allowed for mixed used development in industrial and business zoning districts. This allowed for a recently approved application for approximately 200,000 square feet of commercial space to be located just off the Main Street exit from Route 146. This project also was permitted under the Route 146 Overlay District adopted in 2001. The Town also has several applications for residential subdivisions including Rolling Hills, Marino Estates, and Quaker Ridge Estates. The Town is in the process of reviewing two small industrial/business parks: one in Linwood and one of Douglas Road. Residential projects that are continuing construction include Presidential Farms, the Hills at Whitinsville, Reservoir Heights, and the Shining Rock Golf Community, which is a mix of single-family homes, condominiums and an 18-hole public golf course.

One of the ongoing issues for the Town is its deteriorating sewer infrastructure. The Town, under an Administrative Order from Dept. of Environmental Pro-



tection (DEP), is mandated to remove quantities of infiltration and in-flow into its system. One of the requirements of any new project is assisting the Town in this effort.

Uxbridge

The Town Planner and Planning Board are undertaking an effort to update the Town's Zoning Bylaws and Subdivision Rules and Regulations, while at the same time reviewing development applications. Uxbridge is experiencing rapid residential growth and is reviewing multiple residential projects that include Mystic Valley, Autumn Woods and North Court Estates. The Planning Board has taken over site plan/special permit reviews due to a recent zoning change and is reviewing applications for renovations to the Uxbridge Inn (Savers Bank) and also an expansion to Unilock off River Road. The Town still wishes to revitalize its downtown and bring sewer to Route 16 in an effort to promote economic development.

The Uxbridge Zoning Board of Appeals is back in business as the overturn in members took several months to finalize. If anyone is interested, the Planning



Board is looking for a fifth member. Anyone interested should contact the Uxbridge Town Manager and check with Susan Bloomberg who is currently on the Planning Board and is an LBV alum.

Douglas

Anyone driving down Main Street in Douglas knows that the Town is upgrading its infrastructure and building a new high school. These are not only much needed for current residents, but are attractions for new residents who are looking for quality bedroom communities to settle in. Douglas is also experiencing residential growth and undertaking efforts to promote economic development by conducting an industrial zoning study and starting its downtown revitalization project.



Grafton

Of all the communities in the Valley, Grafton is one of the busiest. Its close proximity to the Turnpike and the addition of the Commuter Train Station has made



Grafton an attractive community to commuters. Residential growth is being balanced by some industrial/business projects such as the developments at Cen-Tech Park. The new golf course community at Highfields of Grafton is under construction and I recommend experiencing the first nine holes that have been opened for play. Grafton has been reviewing some Chapter 40B projects. Chapter 40B is the state's comprehensive permit law/provision, which is designed to promote affordable housing. In exchange for relief from certain local zoning and subdivision regulations, the applicant must preserve 25% of the units for sale to low/moderate income families.

Several towns in the Valley, including Grafton, may see this as a way to meet the 10% affordable housing threshold.

Millbury

The Planning Board recently approved a preliminary subdivision plan for a single-family development on the Clearview



Country Club property. The applicant had applied for a use variance to allow for a condominium community along the golf course, but the amount of units

proposed received an unfavorable reaction from abutters. The Town is currently reviewing its option to purchase the property as the property has participated in the State's Chapter 61 program. The Town's decision will determine if the applicant moves forward with a definitive application.

Chapter 61 is a State program that enables property owners to obtain relief on property taxes in exchange for restricting development of the property. Essentially, a landowner agrees to place a preservation restriction for 10-year periods and gets a lower assessed value of the property through the local assessors office. If the owner wishes to get out of the program before the 10 years are up, they have to pay the difference in taxes that they would have paid without the restriction. Also, if the owner wishes to sell the property while in the program, the Town has the first right of refusal to buy the property. □

Adam Gaudette
LBV Fall Class, 2002
Sturbridge, MA

Alumni on the Move

Adam Gaudette

6 weeks and counting 'til my wife Amy is due...

Cynthia Lavalley

We (Greater Worcester Community Foundation) have moved our office to 370 Main Street. I am still working on finding new artistic opportunities and outlets. And, I got engaged last weekend!

Jim Dyer

I was recently elected as the vice president of the Holy Cross Club of Greater Worcester for 2003-2004. This will be my third year on the Club's board of directors and second year as a member of the executive committee.

The Club serves Holy Cross alumni in Central Massachusetts. Events surround alumni relations activities in the region, we also raise money for the Holy Cross Fund, administer at least 8 scholarships of \$1,000 or more for local Holy Cross students, and we award the most valuable player awards at several sports event.

At the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce I am now serving as both assistant director of regional economic

development and assistant director of membership services for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Matt Salmon

I'm due to finish my MBA this spring. That will make for two Masters degrees in 6 years of part-time school.

We are hoping to open our new Adult Day Health Building in late November. We are constructing a 7,500 sq ft building on our campus in Northbridge. The first floor will house Day Health. The second floor will go unused for now, but we plan on using it in the future for office space.

We are planning on opening Whitney Place at Northborough in January of '04. 70,000 sq ft for 77 assisted living residences. That is in addition to the newly renovated Skilled Nursing Facility called Beaumont at Northborough. This is homecoming for the family because the Northborough facility is the nursing home that my grandparents built in 1952 and sold to the Thorton's in 1959.

Jim Bates

As you know, I've be awarded the 40 under 40 award from the Worcester Business Journal and will be the coordinator for the LBV -2003 Greenway Challenge Team. Work continues to be pretty

busy with developing new accounts.

Karen Pascucci

I am still on the Uxbridge School Committee, plus I am still involved with the Parent Teacher's Organization (PTO) at my daughters' schools. I am also involved with the Uxbridge Newcomers Club (I am in charge of membership and community projects). As far as new activity, I recently got appointed to a one-year term on the Council on Aging.

Ruth Colburn

I am participating in the Waters Farm Trail Ride event on Sat 8/30/03. My horse and I hope to complete the 10 mile ride in dignity.

I have recently joined the Blackstone River Watershed Association and serving as a Board Member and Treasurer.

Ana Nunez de Villavicencio-Rourke

After two years as Touchstone Community School's Development Director working on a \$600,000 Capital Campaign and Events, I've switched gears to take on the role of Admissions Director for the school. Touchstone Community School, has just celebrated its 20th year as an AISNE accredited school serving children from 4-12 years old. After important task force work by parents and teachers, the board voted on and

approved plans to add an Older Student Program, making Touchstone Community School a 4-14 year old school in 2004. I feel very fortunate to be working at Touchstone during this exciting time in Touchstone's history and at a school that will provide an important middle school option for the Blackstone Valley. Check out our website at: www.touchstoneschool.com

Kathie Finnegan

After having completed LBV and being an up and coming member of the teaching profession, more than ever I am aware of the importance of keeping yourself educated. To that degree, I am pursuing a Master's Degree in Education. You are never too old to learn something new!!! Thanks LBV for a mind opening experience!!

Mike Ferry

The Blackstone Valley Rivers Project held its 4th annual Teachers Workshop July14 -18, 2003. This year we had 30 great educators who learned how to use the river as a classroom. We have now trained 106 teachers. Our hope is that they will inspire the next generation of caretakers of the environment. I spent the summer remodeling my house. My river club has finally finished our coloring book and we hope to have it pub-

lished within the next few weeks. This year the club has chosen a puppet show to help educate kids about the river. I will let you know how it is progressing.

I am also looking forward to getting back on the river. I have 18 great kids in my river studies class who are excited about learning about the river. This year we will be working with the severely handicapped students in the school. We will get them involved in our aquaculture program and the trout release in the spring.

In a week or two we will be meeting to begin plans for the 2nd annual "Clean Water Festival". Last year we had a very successful event with about 125 kids from Worcester to Pawtucket (12 high schools). We are hoping to double this for this year. A big piece of this program is community involvement. We have community advocates for the river act as facilitators for the festival. If anyone is interested in getting involved for really a small time commitment please let me know. We are always looking for new points of view. I can be reached at ride3938@ride.ri.net

Herb Weiss

While other communities are having problems funding their arts festival, the City of Pawtucket has raised over

\$100,000 in cash donations and \$100,000 in in-kind donations to fund its 2003 Pawtucket Arts Festival. Come enjoy our three-week festival, from Sept. 5-21, 2003 - for more info go to www.pawtucketartsfestival.org.

Janet Amerault

The Milford Courtyard by Marriott is in the final stages of a total "re-invention". It looks so different, very modern and chic! I would like to host a meeting at the hotel so everyone can see it.

Christine A. Nowak

I placed second in the women's division of the Town of Lincoln's annual "Honest Abe" Golf Tournament Aug. 30 at the Fairlawn Golf Course in town. I also won the "closest to the pin" contest on Hole 5 with a shot 3-feet, 5-inches from the cup.

Suzanne Buchanan

Exciting update for the Volunteers in Parks program! Ranger Suzanne Buchanan volunteer coordinator with the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC has set the date of October 16th, 2003, for the kick off of the NEW Volunteer Training Manual. If you are interested in learning more about the many volunteer opportunities throughout the Heritage Corridor join her and the many VIP's to learn how you can get involved.

This is your chance to be the first to get the new 56-page manual. The training will be held at the Museum of Work & Culture at 6:30 PM, RSVP to Suzanne to reserve your copy at 401-762-0440.

Barbara Dixon

A new chapter has begun, I have just delivered my son to his first year of College at Lasell, in Newton, MA, where he will be majoring in Criminal Justice. This now leaves me more time to work on the Greenway Challenge and begin a new venture with the Johnson & Wales Community Service Learning Program. This program is designed to introduce the University students majoring in the Hospitality Program to work with agencies and help them outline the primary duties and responsibilities that are typical of a professional working in the field of Tourism and Event Planning. □



BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY
New England's Historic National Park Area