

Alumni Connection

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

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Save The Date

September 19, 2003 8:00 to 12:00
"How do we become political advocates for the Valley?"

Working together



Since attending LBV, I have a great interest in seeing the two Chambers that dominate the Valley work much more closely together.

I have attended a number of Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) events including one that cost me around \$600 between the attendance fee, the wine I bought, and the overnight to Long Island that Carole Briggs convinced me was a good deal!!!

Now I have participated in some joint planning meetings. The most interesting included

Taking A Big Step - Across State Lines

By Tony Deller

Marty Green & Lee Gaudette representing BVCC, John Gregory and I representing the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce (NRICC), Mike Creasey and Juliet Walker from the National Heritage Corridor, John Mullin from UMass, and Kip Bergstrom from the RI Economic Policy Council. These joint sessions are still in a formative stage but have a huge potential, and you will be called upon to be involved when the time is right. (More opportunities for refreshments!!!) □

Tony Deller
LBV Winter Class, 2002
North Smithfield, RI

one alum...



Takes a Stand!

By *Diane MacIntosh*

I have been more involved in my town politics these past three months than I ever thought I would be. All I can say is - "THANK GOODNESS FOR LEADERSHIP BLACKSTONE VALLEY"!!

Now the story: A few short months ago an individual from another town came to our town and tried to get approval for a Medical Waste treatment/processing permit. I was not at first concerned, but then I realized this processing plant would be the first commercial plant in Massachusetts and would have the potential to service all of NEW ENGLAND.

While I understand the need for a facility like this one, I personally felt as though the site was a major concern (i.e., Mumford River 50 feet from the property, wetlands running through the back of the property, a residential

neighborhood abutting the property, 1/2 mile from our town center and schools, not to mention this waste would be processed then sent through our town sewer system).

I did my own research and found out some staggering information

my own research and I found out some staggering information. Major concerns that would affect our entire town and neighboring towns.

I want to make it very clear that I understand there is a major concern with what to do with all the medical wastes, but

personally I feel this should be a state and federal issue. Small towns should not have to handle this with private entrepreneurs who may not be thinking of what's good for an individual town but about their own bottom line.

Private handlers of medical waste are not always trained to handle the materials; there have been major law suits regarding this one issue alone. Now, unfortunately those untrained individuals have contracted Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis and other life threatening, non-curable diseases.

This is only one concern of many on my mind.

I'm in the process of writing down what I have found out and submitting it to the Board of Health (BOH) and our town selectmen. I can make copies available to those who are interested. For your own general information you may want to look at your town's Bylaws and see what you're inviting to your town.

If anyone has any recommendations please feel free to contact me at dmackintosh@charter.net. □

Diane MacIntosh
LBV Winter Class, 2002
Northbridge, MA

Membership



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

Congratulations! - you are the selected few - an alumnus of Leadership Blackstone Valley.

As an alumnus you will remain on the email distribution list that goes to all alumni, you will be listed in the membership directory and you will be invited to attend Alumni events.

As a member of the alumni association you will receive a number of additional benefits:

1. Quarterly meetings that include skill building, networking and strategizing on the issues.
2. Annual legislative visits with state/federal decision-makers.
3. Alumni team sponsorship in selected Valley events (ex. Greenway Challenge).

4. Alumni sponsorship of an LBV scholarship.

5. An LBV Alumni Directory with annual updates.

6. A quarterly newsletter and participation on the alumni list serve.

7. Voting privileges.

And of course, the knowledge that you are supporting the development of a leadership network in the Blackstone Valley.

Annual membership dues: \$100.00.
Contact Carole Briggs-Donovan at (508) 839-1839 for more information ☐

Beckley's Tree



l to r:
**Val Stegemoen
Beckley and Luke Alley
Greg Maas
Janet Amerault
Richard Gaudette**

A small group gathered at River Bend Farm on June 5th to plant a "Sutton Beauty" apple tree in back of the Visitor's Center.

The "Sutton Beauty" was a gift to Beckley Alley, program director of Leadership Blackstone Valley, from the Winter, 2003 class of Leadership Blackstone Valley.

The tree is a hybrid developed by Keown Orchards, Sutton, Massachusetts, in celebration of Sutton's 300th Anniversary. ☐

State of the Valley



Congressmen Neal and Kennedy

Speak to

Valley Leaders



The LBV Alumni Association provided the impetus and Blackstone Valley leaders turned out for an event on May 29th billed as the "State of the Valley". The Northern RI and Blackstone Valley chambers along with the National Heritage Corridor sponsored the event.

Local officials and state legislators were invited to hear Congressman Richard Neal from Massachusetts and Patrick Kennedy from Rhode Island speak about federal initiatives that will have an impact on the Blackstone River Valley. Eighty people, including sixteen LBV Alumni, attended the event at the Cocker'n' Kettle in Uxbridge.

Tough fight ahead

Congressman Neal spoke about the tough fight Congress faces to keep up the funding for the National Heritage Corridor. Neal said, the success of the Corridor is because of the personal commitment of members of Congress along with the initiative of local citizens.

Congressman Kennedy focused his comments on the impact of the recent federal tax cut. In his role on the Appropriations Committee he sees the impact to social services, education and welfare programs. He is also concerned about the impact the cuts will have on the federally funded National Heritage Corridor. In his words, the Corridor in Massachusetts and Rhode Island "makes our region special and we cannot afford to waste the opportunity (to preserve it)." He called the Corridor a model for the nation.

Deller earns LBV award

At the end of the event, Tony Deller was awarded the first annual Leadership Blackstone Valley Alumni Association award for "taking the first big step across state lines". Mr. Deller has been instrumental in building the relationships between the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce. Tony's vision is about making

connections. "In the past, the Blackstone River served to connect business along it's entire course, from Worcester to Providence. Today we have a new opportunity to do the same with the help of the Route 146 transportation Corridor and the National Heritage Corridor Commission." □

Scholarship Fund



Cynthia Lavalley (Winter Class, 2002) sells a chance for the putting contest at the BVCC Clambake to Michael Peterson (Winter Class, 2002).

Alumni raised \$195.00 for the scholarship fund which was matched by Bill Fredericks of Allcare Home Medical Supply. □

Class of 2003/2004



Influence the Future of the Valley - recruit for the Next LBV Class



The schedule for the next LBV class has been significantly changed. We will be holding one class a year, one full day a month, October to May. This will allow us to build a much richer program and will do more in each session.

Deadline for applications: Friday, September 19, 2003. Early Bird Special: Friday, August 15th, 2003

Fee is \$800.00 (Early Bird Special: \$750.00)

Schedule for Class of 2003/2004

Sessions will be held from 8:30am to 5:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Thursday, October 9th - Opening Retreat

Participants are brought into the class through a series of exercises and discussions that focus on networking, team building, identifying leadership styles and learning about the Blackstone River Valley.

This first session has been acclaimed as a great way to build relationships and develop a road map for what participants can learn throughout the leadership institute.



Thursday, November 13th - Creation of the National Heritage Corridor

Discover the story behind the creation of the National Heritage Corridor.

The story begins at the Visitor's Center in Pawtucket. Participants will view the film, "Hidden in the Blackstone Valley", and take a tour of the Slater Mill. We will then take a tour of sites in Rhode Island that help tell the story of the work of the National Heritage Corridor and get inspired by the leaders who have made it all possible.

Thursday, December 11th - Leadership Skills in a Changing Society

Is our goal to build consensus?

If not, what are the models we can use to move our communities forward? Whatever the model, stronger communication skills will be the key to our success. With this in mind, participants will strengthen specific communication skills: meeting facilitation, negotiation, and mediation.

Thursday, January 8th - The Citizen Planner and Economic Growth

Citizen boards and committees make big decisions every day, often with very little training and background.

During this session participants will tour sites in the Valley that tell a story about strong civic leadership. The story is often about balancing the demands of economic growth with the interest to preserve the character of our communities.

Thursday, February 12th - Taking Action: Getting Facts and Getting Organized

This will be your road map to building an effective issues campaign. The first step is to get the information you need to respond effectively.

During the first half of this session participants will learn about how municipal government works and how money gets distributed. The second half of this session will involve local leaders who have run a successful issue campaign.

Thursday, March 11th - Building Stronger, Healthier Communities

How do we build stronger, healthier communities?

We'll start with a discussion about how we define community. We will go on to a panel presentation on the state of our social services such as housing, social services and health care.



The demographics of the Valley are changing and we'll use this session to explore this diversity. Participants' personal reflections of their own communities will be shared.

Thursday, April 8th - Preserving the Natural Resources of the Valley

Your day will start on land and end on the water.

In the morning participants will look at a case study about landscape preservation. As part of the case study we will discuss the mechanisms communities use to preserve open space. In the afternoon we will travel to River Bend Farm where we will learn about watersheds, take a short canoe ride and take a water sample.

Thursday, May 13th - Community Stewardship

So now what?

This session will offer support to take the next step. Participants will hear about their role in creating public policy. Small groups will present their visions for the Valley and there will be an open forum for further discussion.

Commencement - Evening of May 13th

This Newsletter

This is a publication of the Leadership Blackstone Valley Alumni Association.

The goal of the *Alumni Connection* is to keep alive and vibrant the relationships among community leaders in the Blackstone Valley. It is where we will share our lives, our vision, and our calls to action.

To submit something for this publication please contact Beckley Alley, email: balley@blackstonevalley.org.

Deadline for submissions for the next *Alumni Connection* is August 29th.

LBV sponsors:



John H. Chafee

BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor Commission



LBV Alumni Connection

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Alumni on the Move

John Flaberty

John has joined the staff of Growsmart, Rhode Island as the Director of Research and Public Information. For more information go to www.growsmartri.com

Kevin Rudden

Kevin is now Director of Product PR for VERITAS Software Corporation, which recently acquired his former employer (Precise Software Solutions). As part of his new role, he'll be a frequent flyer to Silicon Valley in California, which has none of the charm of the Blackstone Valley.

Kevin's new e-mail address is kevin.rudden@comcast.net, which reaches him at home or at work.

Kevin serves on the Mendon Planning Board and the Mendon-Upton Regional Library District Building Committee.

Gerry Noel

Gerry has resigned his position on the Board of Directors of Family Resources Community Action so he can spend more time volunteering for the National Heritage Corridor beginning with the Zap! celebration on June 21.

Mary Anderson: Mary has recently become a member of the Uxbridge Rotary Club which serves the towns of Uxbridge, Northbridge and Douglas.

Carole Briggs-Donovan

Carole is the chair of the Membership Committee of the BVCC. Carole got married on June 8th and traveled to Jamaica on a trip for two she won thru the membership drive with the Chamber.

Rick Anderson

Rick is spending most of his time in the new Gaudette Insurance Grafton office. Business is booming and he recently hired two new sales people.

Volunteer work continues with the Grafton Soccer Club and the Lakers Youth Hockey Program, Grafton Land Trust member, Grafton Education Alliance member.

Michele Decoteau

Michele announced that she is having a baby on or about Nov 13th.

Adam Gaudette

Adam reports "status quo" except for a baby on the way. His wife Amy is due in October.

Laura Bronwell

Laura is now a corporator for the Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF), and a grandmother.

Tony Deller

Tony reports that in North Smithfield they will break ground on the cross-country

trail/ nature trail/scout camping area early this Spring. Heritage Design has been wonderful in providing engineering and Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) contact services, and they've lined up a contractor who will donate the work. In the end, a \$50k project will cost around \$2k. A good example of the power of leverage.

Next they will look to purchase a nearly 30 acre piece of land for the ultimate construction of a hockey rink. If successful, this project will provide a hockey rink/basketball rink/community center directly across from the NS High School and will also preserve 20+ acres of undeveloped land in the headwaters of the Woonasquatucket River, very close to land already preserved by the Audubon Society.

Val Stegemoen

Val is busy organizing the Concerts at the Canal at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge. The concerts are Sundays from 3:30 - 5:00 pm, August 10th to October 5th, call 508-278-7604 for more information.

Susan Bloomberg

Susan is in year 2 of a 5- year term on the Uxbridge Planning Board. She and her family have started fixing up their home this year. This fall her children start 1st and 6th grade. Will there be a new high school in Uxbridge before they go to college?

Stay tuned. ☐