



July, 2004

# Connection

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

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I am the Blackstone Valley  
In the past few months  
I have learned about development,  
About preservation, and  
About how to make me healthier.

With these ingredients  
I can grow and be vital.  
Yes, together you and I  
Can grow and become better.

*Joseph DiGiallonardo*  
Class of 2003-2004

in memoriam



...we are  
sad to see  
you go

Joe D

We dedicate this newsletter to Joe DiGiallonardo (Joe D.), a participant in the 2003-2004 class of Leadership Blackstone Valley.

Joe passed away on Tuesday, May 4, 2004.

Above is a personification poem that Joe wrote. A personification poem is

the aspect of figurative language that attributes human qualities to inanimate objects, natural forces, or other living creatures.

Joe wrote this personification poem at the Natural Resources session at River Bend Farm on April 8, 2004.

### Class of 2003/2004 raises funds for a scholarship in Joe D.'s name

The recent graduates of Leadership Blackstone Valley lost one of their classmates, Joe DiGiallonardo, shortly before graduation on May 13, 2004. Joe was an inspiration to the class through his volunteer work and association with Alternatives Unlimited. To honor Joe, the class has established a scholarship that will be granted to a participant in LBV from Alternatives. This scholarship will continue the mission of the Leader-

ship Blackstone Valley program to reach out and cultivate leaders from local businesses and communities that serve a diverse population in the Valley.

The members of the class of 2003/2004 are grateful for the time they spent with Joe. He taught us all that leadership comes in many forms. Joe's compassion and commitment to his community made him a true leader in the Blackstone Valley.

## Congratulations!

### LBV class of 2003-2004



#### Lance Anderson

Heritage Design Group, Uxbridge, MA  
resident of Uxbridge, MA

#### Mary Lou Anderson

Planning Board, Millville, MA  
resident of Millville, MA

#### Irene Blais

Museum of Work and Culture, Woonsocket, RI  
Volunteers in the Park (VIP)  
resident of Woonsocket, RI

#### Carolann Bombard

Grafton Job Corps, Grafton, MA  
resident of Worcester, MA

#### Anne Conway

Museum of Work & Culture, Woonsocket, RI  
resident of Cumberland, RI

#### Christian Desrosiers

W.J. Larrivee, Grafton, MA  
resident of South Grafton, MA

#### Joe DiGiallonardo

Alternatives Unlimited, Whitinsville, MA  
resident of Millbury, MA

#### Chris Foley

UniBank, Whitinsville, MA  
resident of Grafton, MA

#### David Fontaine

Prescott Chatellier Fontaine & Wilkinson, LLP,  
Providence, RI  
resident of Harrisville, RI

#### Joe Garlick, Jr.

Woonsocket Neighborhood Development Corp.,  
Woonsocket, RI  
resident of Providence, RI

#### Mark Jewell

National Heritage Corridor, Woonsocket, RI  
resident of Providence, RI

#### Michele McGovern

Beaumont Nursing Homes, Inc., Northbridge, MA  
resident of Millbury, MA

#### Phyllis Nathanson

Blackstone Studios, Pawtucket, RI  
resident of Providence, RI

#### Colin Novick

The Greater Worcester Land Trust, Worcester, MA  
resident of Worcester, MA

#### Claire O'Hara

North Smithfield School Dept., North Smithfield, RI  
resident of North Smithfield, RI

#### James Pardee (Tony)

Grafton Job Corps, Grafton, MA  
resident of Webster, MA

#### Jeanne Pennell

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Education  
Foundation, Whitinsville, MA  
Uxbridge School Committee, Uxbridge, MA  
resident of Uxbridge, MA

#### Louise Redding

National Heritage Corridor, Woonsocket, RI  
resident of Uxbridge, MA

#### Redford Salmon

Grafton Job Corps, Grafton, MA  
resident of Leominster, MA

#### Michael Seibold

Alternatives Unlimited, Whitinsville, MA  
resident of Whitinsville, MA

#### Alison Specter

Whitin Community Center, Whitinsville, MA  
resident of Sutton, MA

#### Lourdes Torres

CVS, Lincoln, RI  
resident of North Smithfield, RI

#### Jeanne Zavada

Old Slater Mill, Pawtucket, RI  
resident of Providence, RI

#### 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.

## Alumni Association Takes a Huge Step Forward



This spring the alumni association leadership team, formally called the “Advisory Board”, has completed a comprehensive business plan under the guidance of alumnus Sue Gustafson. Other participants include: Carole Donovan, Greg Maas, Tony Deller, Sue Barker, Paula Brouillette, Gerry Noel, Barbara Dixon and Beckley Alley.

The group met for approximately 10 hours over the course of 3 months with additional time spent on developing the different sections of the plan. These individuals formed the team simply through their willingness to show up and do the work.

The business plan will guide the Association for the next two years. It establishes a governance structure and a set of goals and activities (see below).

The current officers have been put in place to carry the alumni association into a more formal election process in the fall. These officers are Carole Donovan, President (carole@imageboosters.com); Sue Barker, Vice President (SueB4@cox.net); Barbara Dixon, Secretary (barbara\_dixon@nps.gov); Tony Deller, Treasurer (tdeller@cpaadvice.com) and Greg Maas is our communications guru (gmaas@maasmarketing.com). Please contact them with your ideas.

**1. Create a regional structure** to provide on-going leadership resources needed to ensure long-term support for Blackstone Valley communities.

- a. Develop Alumni Operational Guidelines that include: organizational structure, membership fees and benefits, partnership obligations, business status, meetings, etc..
- b. Drive LBV recruitment in partnership with LBV partners.
- c. Develop a financial plan to support Alumni activities. This includes: corporate sponsors, fundraising, grants, dues, events, and advertising.
- d. Drive membership growth.

**2. Provide resources to Alumni** to address particular needs and opportunities facing Blackstone Valley.

- a. Establish and maintain communication vehicles: website, newsletter, alumni directory, resource database.
- b. Coordinate regular workshops, seminars, or informational courses to educate the LBV community about regional issues and opportunities.
- c. Identify and inform Alumni of volunteer and leadership opportunities available in the Blackstone Valley region.

**3. Establish and maintain relationships** among alumni, communities, government and non-profit organizations.

- a. Coordinate volunteer resources for community events.
- b. Enlist Alumni to participate on partner and community board meetings and commissions.
- c. Invite members of partnering organizations to special events.
- d. Promote relationship building among Alumni.

## Herb Weiss Gets His Due

On Thursday, June 10, 2004 the LBV Alumni Association honored Herb Weiss for his leadership in the Pawtucket community. In April, the Pawtucket Foundation made Herb “Man of the Year”. And this June 40 people gathered at the TK Club in Pawtucket to roast and toast Herb and to support the LBV Alumni Association.

Tony Deller played MC and others joined in on the fun. Those participating in having a laugh with Herb included: Mayor James Doyle, John Gregory, Bob Billington, Tony Deller, Jim Bates Jr., Beckley Alley, Ed Soares, Rocco Desimone, Wrenn Goodwin, and Paul Audette.

Special thanks to the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the event.

## Making The Case For Reauthorization

by Sue Barker

For 18 years the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission has targeted public and private dollars on highly visible projects that encourage economic growth, reinforce a sense of the Valley's National Heritage and build local pride and enthusiasm. As a result of these efforts our communities enjoy an improved quality of life.

Since 1986 The Heritage Corridor Commission has made over \$23.5 million in grant funds available to partner groups in Blackstone Valley communities to spur economic development projects and programs. Over \$300 million in private investment has followed public funding throughout the Blackstone River Watershed. As a result of the Heritage Corridor Commission's partnerships with community businesses and citizen groups, the Blackstone Watershed has become a target for investing and communities in the Valley are enjoying an improved quality of life. From 1997 - 2002 alone, \$10.6 million in federal funds released into the Valley by the Heritage Corridor Commission has been matched by \$194 million from Partnerships in the community.

United by designation of the Blackstone River Valley watershed as a National Heritage Corridor, the Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities in the watershed are united in regional planning efforts to address

complex issues of natural resource management, transportation systems, and land use patterns. This regional cooperation is occurring at both the local and state level and involves partners from civic, government, and business organizations.

Common issues pertaining to community revitalization include:

- adapting historic buildings to new uses;*
- attracting businesses to locate downtown;*
- adding housing to the mix of uses;*
- remediating brownfield sites for redevelopment;*
- ensuring that new structures are compatible with existing architectural fabric;*
- coordinating streetscape and other improvements to enhance the public realm*

In two years Congress will vote on the future of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission. Friends of the Commission in Blackstone River Valley communities have a challenge to ensure that the Heritage Corridor Commission is reauthorized for another 10 years.

We have much more to accomplish to revitalize Valley communities and businesses in the Valley. Your support is vital to ensure that the Corridor Commission is reauthorized in 2006.



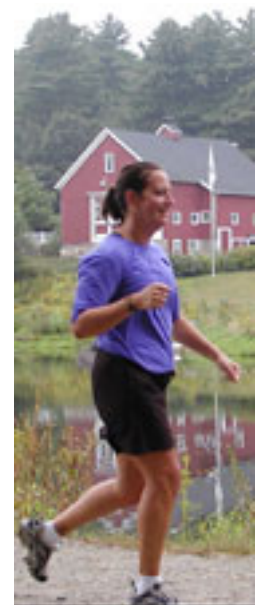
The LBV Alumni Greenway Challenge team is forming. Once again, Jim Bates has volunteered to be our team captain. Thank you, Jim.



A number of team members from last year's team are returning, but we need runners and bikers. If you would like to be part of this fun event, contact Jim Bates by e-mail at [jimbates@lampin.com](mailto:jimbates@lampin.com).

This year's Greenway Challenge offers a brand new format. Rather than starting in Worcester and ending in Pawtucket as in years past, the 2004 Challenge starts and ends at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge. The loop format gives spectators more opportunities to see the participants and teams have more opportunities to cheer for their team mates.

LBV alumni Sue Barker and Barbara Dixon co-chair this wonderful adventure relay.



## Alumni On The Move

### Jim Bates

Jim was elected in June to the South Eastern District Delegate to the Executive Committee of The Central Mass Regional Planning Commission. The South Eastern District represents ten Massachusetts towns in The Blackstone Valley. These ten towns are part of the 40 communities that make up the CMRPC district.

Jim is looking forward to participating on the Executive Committee and being involved in the decisions and recommendation that the Executive Committee will make to the Commission. Having been the Town of Upton delegate and alternate delegate to the commission for the past nine years, he's been exposed to a tremendous amount of regional issues. Now he is looking forward to taking his participation on the commission one step further by representing the Blackstone Valley on the Executive Committee.

### Mary Anderson

Lance and Mary Anderson are expecting the birth of their third child in early September.

### Kevin Rudden

Kevin reports that after two years of effort, the Mendon Planning Board successfully saw its Affordable Housing Overlay District zoning passed at this year's Annual Town Meeting. The zoning allows affordable housing subdivisions to be built along Route 140 in

Mendon as an alternative to Chapter 40B developments.

Next Task: the Mendon Board of Selectmen has asked Kevin to help in developing a use plan for nearly 100 acres of farm land/open space near Mendon's Village Center that the town is negotiating to buy.

### Jim Dyer

Jim was appointed director of annual giving at Assumption College in April. His primary responsibilities include the management of a three-person fundraising team, increasing membership in the President's Council, which is their leadership donor society, and growing alumni participation in the annual fund.

These projects are part of a \$30 million comprehensive campaign entitled "The Centennial Campaign" as Assumption is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its 1904 founding.

Jim has just completed his third year on the board of directors of the Holy Cross Club of Greater Worcester, and was chosen to be the Club's president for 2004-05.

The Club plans and hosts events for the Holy Cross family in the Worcester area and administers a scholarship program awarding more than \$10,000 per year to local Holy Cross students.

Jim is serving in his second three-year term as a member of the board of directors of the Holy Cross General Alumni Association, which assists in the planning of the College's alumni relations for the entire institution,

including the annual homecomings, continuing education days, and student/alumni networking reception and also offers GAA scholarships to Holy Cross students.

In April, jim was also elected to a four-year term on the Republican Committee for Ward 1 in Worcester and subsequently elected the Ward's treasurer. As a result of his election to the Ward Committee, he was eligible for election as an officer for the entire City Committee and was elected executive secretary, with his main responsibility being the management of all internal and external communications for the Committee.

### Beckley Alley

Richard Gaudette and Beckley are getting married next summer. This summer they are merging their two households and moving to Upton.

Her watershed address will be on the West River. CONGRATULATIONS!

