



www.blackstonevalley.org

Valley



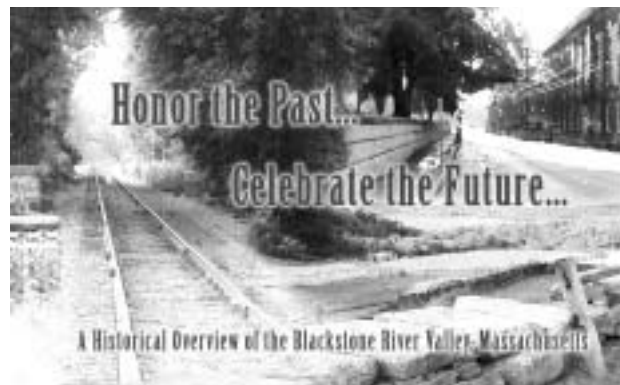
"Your Business Community Newsletter"

Developed by The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and Valley T&G Advertising

Honor the Past, Celebrate the Future Book

Valley Communications and The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the release of "Honor the Past, Celebrate the Future", a historical overview of the Blackstone Valley in Massachusetts. The book tells the story of how each Blackstone Valley town evolved, from the incorporation of "Old Mother Mendon" in 1667 to the town of Millville's celebration of its emancipation from Blackstone on May 1, 1916. Interwoven throughout the narrative are interesting historical addresses by some of our leading citizens from years past, including Asa H. Waters of Millbury, Rep. Frank Goulding of Grafton and many others. The Industrial Revolution is covered by recounting the enormous contribution of the Valley's leading manufacturers. Other topics include stories on the infamous Uxbridge Inn, Lake Nipmuc Park, immigration and the fascinating history of the Blackstone Valley Baseball league. The book concludes by reviewing the environmental damage wrought by the mill owners' century-old habit of dumping industrial waste into the river and the concerted efforts undertaken by community leaders to restore the river and transform the area into a viable tourist destination.

Included throughout the book is truly elegant, full color photography from local photographers as well as historic



images from days gone by. A separate section tells the story of well-known businesses and families from yesterday and today.

"The book will prove to be a fascinating read for newcomers and a keepsake for long-term residents", says Jeff Ritter, BVCC Executive Director. The book is now available for purchase at the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and various businesses throughout the Valley. You may purchase your book through the Chamber for \$29.95 plus shipping and handling by calling 508-234-9090 or online at www.blackstonevalley.org.

Community Leaders Go Back To School

On Dec. 2 it was back to the future when 25 or so community and business leaders stepped into the world of today's high school students on the BVCC Education Foundation's third annual Back-to-School Day. Back-to-School Day offers policymakers and businesspeople a first-hand look at how education has changed since they were in school and how area high schools are preparing the future workforce.

Visitors sat in on classes and even ate school lunches at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, Douglas High School, Grafton High School, Hopedale High School, Millbury High School, Nipmuc Regional High School, Northbridge High School, and Uxbridge High School. Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School will hold its Back-to-School Day on January 20.

Town officials in Northbridge and Uxbridge became better acquainted with their single largest municipal resource. Uxbridge School Committee members Peter Bagdasarian, Ernie



photo by Corey Gendron

Carroll "Crick" Paine, chairman, Northbridge School Committee, sits in on Mr. Reilly's English 2 class at Northbridge High School's Back-to-School Day

Esposito and Nancy Lyle experienced a day from a student's perspective. Uxbridge Selectman Julie Woods did some field research by visiting neighboring Nipmuc Regional High School, which serves several Uxbridge residents through school choice.

Northbridge Selectmen William Audette and Jack Davis and School Committee Chair Carroll Paine visited Northbridge High School. According to Corey Gendron, Northbridge High School's school-to-career coordinator, the visitors "were impressed by the academics being taught here and the types of classes our students have been taking."

Reserving Booths For Home & Business Expo

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce will present the 8th Annual Blackstone Valley Home & Business Expo on Saturday, March 4th, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Northbridge High School in Whitinsville, MA. The chamber has been taking booth reservations since early November and the show is currently more than half sold out. The Expo is the perfect opportunity to showcase businesses, products or services to approximately 3,000-5,000 attendees from the Blackstone Valley and beyond! If you feel your company can benefit from this marketing exposure, don't delay; contact the chamber office today to make your reservation.

The Expo features over 100 area businesses in the categories of

home improvement, health and fitness, travel, home furnishings, landscapers, assisted living, personal finance, pets and animals, computer and technology, community organizations plus many more. Be sure to be present for the tasting of the Best Chowder in the Valley Contest! Other highlights of the show include exhibitor's raffles, face painting, balloon art and food samplings. All ages enjoy the entertainment schedule which includes dance demos, a petting zoo, and you won't want to miss the awesome "Birds of Prey" show. Join us for another great expo and reserve your booth today by calling 508-234-9090 or just save the date to join thousands of visitors for a great time indoors.

Upcoming Events

Chamber and Economic Outlook for 2006

Tuesday, January 10, 2006, 7:30AM - 9:30AM

Pleasant Valley Country Club, Sutton, MA

\$25 Members pre-registration/\$30 at the door for members/\$35 Non-Members

Start the new year off right! Join us and other business partners in the region to discuss the outlook for local businesses in 2006. For most businesses, interest expense is one of the largest costs in their budgets. Where are the interest rates headed? How will they affect your budgets? What is the outlook for our local economy? To learn this and much more, please join us for a full breakfast. Our first guest speaker will be Mitchell Held. Mr. Mitchell Held is a Managing Director with the Economic and Market Analysis Department of Smith Barney and Citigroup in New York. Jeff Ritter, the new Executive Director of the Chamber, will also discuss his thoughts on the outlook for the Chamber in 2006 under his leadership.

Ultimate Trade Show Profitability

Tuesday, January 17, 2006, 8:30 am

Millbury Town Library, Millbury, MA

FREE

A complete strategy for before, during and after your next trade show. Maximize your return on investment - including your valuable time - while you enjoy the process!

Those that know would not miss the opportunity to learn from these two high energy industry gurus and networking veterans: Jason Kallio is the owner of Say It With MAGIC. Jason is a former corporate sales manager and technical salesman with a Mechanical Engineering degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). He now creates magic with a message as an Edutainer. Carole Donovan is the owner of Image Boosters, a marketing and promotional products company. Since 1991, Carole has been helping companies to grow and get recognized by creating the marketing plan and then providing the products that support the plan.

Surviving Iraq: An Officer's View From Inside the Turmoil

by Colonel Robert Catalanotti

Wednesday, February 8, 2006, 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Cocke n' Kettle, Uxbridge, MA

\$25 Members pre-registration/\$30 at the door for members/\$35 Non-Members

Colonel Catalanotti recently returned from Iraq where he commanded the largest Iraqi Military Base in all of Iraq. He was directly responsible for 15,000 Iraqi soldiers and over 500 Coalition soldiers from the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Italy, Poland, and Estonia. COL Catalanotti's overall military mission was to train the Iraqi Army to conduct security operations for the entire Taji region, 25 miles northwest of Baghdad in the very active insurgent Sunni Triangle. Because of the active insurgency and the un-prepared new Iraqi Army, he was forced to assume a combatant leadership role engaging his Coalition forces daily in the fight against active terrorism. He is currently the Northeast Regions' Brigade Commander, headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island and Fort Devens for all active and reserve Drill Sergeants in the eight state Region.



Over 350 people attended the Chamber's FREE Holiday Business After Hours event hosted by W.B. Smith Companies on December 8th in Grafton, MA. Guests were treated to tours of the newly renovated old Victorian home, which is now the new location of W.B. Smith Companies, and wonderful food and drink. The theme was The Great Gatsby era and some donned period dress in the true spirit of the event! Several people brought unwrapped toys which enabled us to donate 50-100 toys to the Massachusetts Department of Social Services in Whitinsville. Thank you to all who participated and our wonderful hosts!