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Valley



"Your Business Community Newsletter"

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

Connoisseur's Evening to Open Blackstone Valley Art & Wine Festival

The Blackstone Valley Art & Wine Festival will begin with a **Connoisseur's Evening** starting at **6:30 pm Friday, September 9** at the beautifully preserved Asa Waters Mansion at 123 Elm Street in Millbury.

Guest vintner **Robert Wetzel**, owner/winemaker at **Alexander Valley Vineyards** of Sonoma, California, will join guests at the historic mansion. He will guide discriminating wine connoisseurs through the evening's **six gourmet courses** (preview the menu at www.blackstonevalley.org) prepared by **Loaves & Fishes Catering** of Grafton for a truly delightful evening in the valley.

The Connoisseur's Evening will feature a prelude by the **Clafin Hill Woodwind Quintet**, led by Clafin Hill Director Paul Surapine on Clarinet, and joined by members of the Clafin Hill Symphony wind section. An hour of tasteful and entertaining music from pop to light classics will be the perfect atmosphere to pre-view of the art on display and for sale in the Blackstone Fine Art Gallery. Tickets for the evening are \$100 per person and seating is limited, so please call 508-234-9090 for reservations.

On Saturday and Sunday come to the Asa Waters Mansion at 123 Elm Street in Millbury to peruse the creative work of over 50 artists and artisans especially selected for this festival. Sample some very special wines (visit for a description of the over **50 wines** and select beers offered) while music by **Clafin Hill** plays in the background.

On Saturday from 1pm to 3pm enjoy **The Clafin Hill Jazz Quartet**, featuring two great legends of jazz, Jerry Seeco on



Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury

trumpet, flute and vocal and John Baboian on guitar, joined by Clafin Hill Symphony Principal musicians Dan Hann on drums and Peter Lewis on Bass. On Sunday, also from 1pm to 3pm, we will feature **The Clafin Hill Symphony String Quartet**, led by CHSO Concertmaster Nicola Takov, joined by members of the CHSO string sections – elegant chamber music for the conclusion of a most elegant weekend!!

The Festival will open on the historic mansion's lovely grounds at **10 am on Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th** and will continue through both days until 4 pm. Fine food will be provided by **Creedon and Company** of Worcester, MA and special festival commemorative items will be given to attendees as long as supplies last!

Admission to the grounds is \$10 and admission to the grounds with wine tastings is \$50. For further information visit www.blackstonevalley.org or contact Martha Wetzel at the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce at 508-234-9090.

Leadership Blackstone Valley Develops Leadership for the BVCC

From its inception, Leadership Blackstone Valley (LBV), a program of the BVCC Education Foundation, has had a successful partnership with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce. Other partners of the program include the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission (JHCBRVNHCC), and the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce (NRICC). The Chamber recognized the leadership development opportunities of the program and LBV benefited from the recruitment efforts of chamber members and chamber staff.



Carole Donovan, Owner, Image Boosters Board Member, BVCC Graduate, Leadership Blackstone Valley

Several leaders of the Chamber are LBV graduates. Laura Bronwell, Chairman of the BVCC Board of Directors; Michael Peterson, past Chairman of the Board; Janet Amerault, Board Member and Tourism Committee Chairperson; Christian Desrosiers, Board Member; Carole Donovan, Board Member and Membership Committee Chairperson, and members of the Program Committee: Chris Foley and Adam Waitkevich.

Here is an example of how the relationship has been mutually beneficial. Carole Donovan, Board Member and Membership Committee Chairperson, is the owner of Image Boosters, a comprehensive marketing services and promotional products company. In 2001 she moved her business to Grafton. That year she joined the Chamber and immediately began to seek out ways that the Chamber could help her build her business and she could help build the Chamber. The first step she took was to sign up for the first class of **Leadership Blackstone Valley**.

As Carole puts it; "I was new to the area and wanted to know more about the Blackstone Valley. I was pleasantly surprised when I ended up in relationships with the "doers" in the Valley and my business has grown a lot due to the connections I made in the LBV class."

Carole has maintained her connection to Leadership Blackstone Valley. She understands the link between the growth of her business and the general well-being of the community. In addition to her leadership role at the Chamber, she leads the 87 alumni to create an active alumni association.

If your business would benefit from this kind of network, sign up for LBV today. The class begins October 20th. Call (508) 234-9090 for an application or go to the website: www.blackstonevalley.org.

Upcoming Events

Blackstone Valley Art & Wine Festival
Connoisseur's Evening: September 9, 2005 6:30pm
Festival: September 10 & 11, 2005 Rain or Shine!

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is hosting a premier Blackstone Valley event, the first annual Art & Wine Festival. This weekend begins with a Connoisseur's Evening on Friday, September 9 at the Asa Waters Mansion. View a juried art exhibit, dine on exquisite fine cuisine, and taste selected imported and local wines. Mingle with fine artists, guest vintners and renowned chefs on this exceptional evening. Robert Wetzel, owner/winemaker for the will be our distinguished guest speaker for our Connoisseur's evening.

Saturday and Sunday the lush grounds of the Asa Waters mansion come alive for the festival. This two-day event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and will attract patrons who enjoy art, wine, food and music! Wine distributors will offer tasting samples of their finest wines, some of the areas most talented artists and artisans will display and sell their works of art and all will enjoy the music of Clafin Hill and a wonderful selection of culinary specialties.

Please visit www.blackstonevalley.org for more information about this wonderful event for the Blackstone Valley!

Business After Hours and Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Willard House and Clock Museum Grafton, MA
Thursday, September 22, 2005, 5:30PM – 7:30PM

Please join us for a fabulous networking event with our members, volunteers, and partners! We would like to thank anyone that has volunteered to support the Chamber over the past year through giving of their time at events or in preparation for events, participation on committees or the Board of Directors, or in any other way. We want you to join us at this event for FREE as our way of saying THANK YOU! Even if you were unable to volunteer this year, we still want you to join us for this exciting night. We will have food donated and prepared by the Grafton Job Corps on a grill donated by Ray's True Value in Millbury and under canopies donated by The Party Rental Center in Northbridge. The Willard House and Clock Museum staff and volunteers will provide free tours, and there will be lawn games to keep us entertained. The cost will be \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Volunteers are invited to join us for FREE! You may register online at www.blackstonevalley.org or by calling Nagibe at 508-234-9090.

Business After Hours at ERA Key Realty
Thursday, October 20, 2005, 5:30PM – 7:30PM Whitinsville, MA
\$10 Members/\$15 Non-Members

Business After Hours at The Stadium Theatre of Performing Arts
Thursday, November 17, 2005, 5:30PM – 7:30PM Woonsocket, RI
\$10 Members/\$15 Non-Members

Holiday Business After Hours at W.B. Smith Companies
Thursday, December 8, 2005, 5:30PM – 7:30PM Grafton, MA
\$10 Members/\$15 Non-Members



BVCC and BVCC Education Foundation Offices Temporarily Relocating

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation (BVCCEF) are preparing to relocate our offices temporarily. Our landlord is conducting extensive renovation and building repairs, and in order to continue our full schedule of programs, events and member services, we are moving. Thanks to the generous offer of one of our members, we will be setting up operations beginning September 19, 2005 in the Millbury Federal Credit Union's O'Mara House at 37-39 Main St. in Millbury. We have made arrangements to forward phone calls and mail from our current 508-234-9090 number and our 110 Church St. address, so you don't have to learn any new ways to reach us. Of course, our website, www.blackstonevalley.org will also remain unchanged.

New Members

DOUGLAS
Attorney Debra A. Dunleavy
Attorney
508-476-4466

UXBRIDGE
Fountainhead Capital
Page Oberg
508-278-3840

Ken Guillette Carpet Service
Ken Guillette
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