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 Friday, December 19, 2025

# Blackstone Heritage Corridor celebrates Champions of the Blackstone awardees



WHITINSVILLE — Blackstone Heritage Corridor (BHC) celebrated its Champions of the Blackstone Awards Reception on Dec. 3, highlighting award recipients and Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) volunteers for their

commitment and dedication to the Blackstone River Valley. The event, held at the Singh Performance Center at Alternatives’ Whitin Mill, recognized John H. Chafee Leadership Award recipients, as well as the Student

of the Year, Partner of the Year, and Suzanne Buchanan Volunteer of the Year. Bank Hometown and UniBank sponsored the reception. “I’m continually inspired by the dedication and collaboration that define our region,” Dennis H. Rice, volunteer Board Chair, shared. “The progress we’ve made this year—across projects, partnerships, and commu-

nities—is a direct result of the hard work and commitment of people throughout the Blackstone Valley. This event honors and thanks individuals and organizations that have made a real contribution in achieving our mission- to preserve, promote, and celebrate the ‘Valleys’ historic, natural, and recreational resources.” Volunteer Achievements

BHC Executive Director Anya Wilczynski congratulated the Corridor’s National Park Service VIP volunteers for contributing \$859,521 in service in fiscal year 2025. A total of 234 volunteers logged 24,706 hours—valued at \$34.79 per hour. Volunteers who serve 250 or more hours are awarded a complimentary America the Beautiful Pass, granting access to more than

2,000 federal recreation sites. Twelve volunteers achieved more than 250 hours of service this year, including Alan Salemi, Albert Menard, Betty and Carlo Mencucci, Brian Garrett, Bruce DeVault, Edward and Kim Walker, John Marsland, Paul Schaefer, Rich Keene, and Sue Ciaramicoli. Turn To CHAMPIONS page A8

## Pickleball instructional program open for Uxbridge seniors

UXBRIDGE — Pickleball is a fun and social sport that’s appropriate for players of all ages and skill levels. It’s been around since the 1960s, but interest has really picked up in recent years. Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. Players use paddles that are larger than ping-pong paddles and hit plastic balls with holes in them. The court is about one-quarter the size of a tennis court and can be played indoors or outdoors. The net is similar to a tennis net, but a little shorter and narrower. Players hit the ball across the net to try and win points. The game can be played in singles or doubles, with most people playing doubles. Benefits of playing pickleball include improving your balance, hand-eye coordination and flexibility. It also includes improving your heart health, preventing osteoporosis, boosting mood and mental health and increasing your social connections.

Turn To PICKLEBALL page A8

## Newly marked trails invite exploration at Leon Moczymski Conservation Property

DOUGLAS — Douglas residents and visitors have a fresh reason to lace up their hiking boots: the trails at the Leon Moczymski Conservation Property are now fully marked and ready to explore. Thanks to the efforts of the Douglas Open Space Committee, this scenic landscape at 77 Mumford St. offers a clearer, more welcoming path into nature, with colorful trail markers guiding the

way through river views, woodland loops, and quiet resting spots. Location & Access: Parking is available beside 95 Mumford St., with a short walk of approximately one-tenth of a mile down the road to reach the trailhead. Main Loop – Yellow Trail; The central loop is marked with distinctive yellow disks featuring a

Turn To TRAILS page A8



## Raydio celebrates successful first Holiday Toy Drive with truckloads of community generosity



MILFORD — Raydio is thrilled to announce the overwhelming success of its first-ever Holiday Toy Drive, held the weekend of Nov. 28 through Nov. 30. What began as a brand-new community initiative turned into a heartwarming display of generosity, as listeners and neighbors across the Greater Milford area came together to support local families during the holiday season. Thanks to the incredible response, every partner organization left the event with a truck full of toys, ensuring that hundreds of children in our region will experience a brighter, more magical holiday. Toys were distributed to four local organizations whose work directly impacts families in need: The Milford Youth Center

Santa’s Porch The Santa Foundation Toys for Kids and Teens Raydio collected donations throughout the weekend at the DoubleTree in Milford, where residents dropped off toys, gift cards, and contributions. The atmosphere was festive and full of community pride—an encouraging sign for the start of what Raydio hopes will become an annual tradition. “We couldn’t have asked for a better first year,” said Ray Auger, founder and operator of Raydio. “Launching something new is always a leap of faith, but our community showed up in a huge way. Seeing each organization drive off with a truck loaded with toys was a powerful reminder of what this area is all about—heart, kindness, and looking out for one another.” Raydio extends sincere

thanks to every listener, family, volunteer, and partner who contributed to making this inaugural drive a success. Your generosity directly fuels the work of these organizations and ensures a happier holiday for children who need it most. For more information about Raydio’s community initiatives, events, and partnerships, visit [www.localraydio.com](http://www.localraydio.com) or contact [localraydio@gmail.com](mailto:localraydio@gmail.com) About Raydio Raydio is a 24/7 local internet radio station serving the Greater Milford region with upbeat music, community-focused programming, and grassroots partnerships. Founded by longtime broadcaster Ray Auger, Raydio is dedicated to celebrating local people, stories, and events.



# News from Beginning Bridges, CFCE

BeginningBridgesCFCE.weebly.com  
Facebook: Beginning Bridges CFCE  
Emurray@smoc.org  
508-278-5110

Beginning Bridges CFCE 's vision is that children, youth and families reach their full potential now and in the future. Our mission is to work with families and community partners to create the conditions for children, youth and families to thrive socially, academically and economically. Funding for the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant (CFCE) is provided by the Massachusetts

Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) and sponsored by South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC-Childcare/Head Start). Beginning Bridges CFCE has funding for the towns of Mendon, Northbridge, Upton & Uxbridge. Currently, our FREE comprehensive services include weekly indoor and outdoor parent/child playgroups. We also offer parent education programs, the Ages & Stages Developmental Questionnaire and can connect families to community resources.  
Upcoming Events- Registration is required for all upcoming events. Links can be accessed on our website or con-

tact Emily Murray at 508-278-5110 or Emurray@smoc.org.  
Please check our website and Facebook page for our latest Newsletter and information about our Playgroups.

Monday 1/5/26 – Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins - 9:30 – 10:00 - Upton Town Library, 9 Milford Street, Upton. Register on the Upton Town Library website.

Wednesday 1/14/26 – Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins - 10:30 – 11:00 - Whitinsville Social Library, 17 Church Street, Whitinsville. Register online at the Whitinsville Social Library Website.

Wednesday 1/21/26 – Child's Play: Can't We All Just Get Along? With Jill Vetstein – 7:00 – 8:30pm – via Zoom – Join renowned parenting educator Jill Vetstein as we discuss how parents and caregivers can teach children how to take turns and share, how to address grabbing, pushing, hoarding and forfeiting toys through changing a child's mindset and how to nurture children through these situations. Register online through the Beginning Bridges CFCE website under "Upcoming Events".

Wednesday 1/28/26 – Coffee and Conversations – 9:45 – 10:45am – Join us at the Taft

Library in Mendon for Ms. Deb's Music & Movement program from 9:15-9:45am, followed by Coffee & Conversation. Coffee & Conversations is an informal play time where families will be able to build social connections, learn about early childhood development and family friendly resources. Please bring your own coffee. Muffins will be provided by the Muffin House Cafe. Please register online at the Beginning Bridges CFCE website.

Please check our website [www.BeginningBridgesCFCE.weebly.com](http://www.BeginningBridgesCFCE.weebly.com) for more information and details.



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# Westfield State's Berthiaume named MASCAC Player of the Week



Morgan Berthiaume

WESTFIELD — Westfield State senior guard Morgan Berthiaume (Webster/Douglas High School) has been named as the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference women's basketball player of the week, for the Week ending Dec. 14.

Berthiaume averaged 13 points, 5.5 steals, and 4.5 rebounds per game in a 1-1 week for the Owls.

She scored a career-high tying 14 points in the Owls 74-70 win over Sage (N.Y.) on Tuesday, with six

rebounds and five steals, including three consecutive steals in the closing minute to help preserve the win.

On Saturday, Berthiaume came up with 13 points and six steals in the Owls 77-62 loss at Nichols College.

A sports medicine major at Westfield, Berthiaume is second on the Owls in scoring and rebounding, averaging 9.6 points and 3.8 rebounds per game this sea-

son. She is handing out 3.1 assists per game, and leads the conference with 4.3 steals per game. She was in a tie for 12th nationally in steals per game in NCAA Division III.

Berthiaume was an all-conference selection as a midfielder for the Owls MASCAC champion women's soccer team in the fall.

Westfield, 7-3 overall, will break for final exams and the holidays, before returning to play at Dean College on Jan. 3.

## TRIBUNE ALMANAC

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### BLACKSTONE

\$670,000, 9 Spruce St, Ridlon, Wesley E, and Ridlon, Kristina M, to Ross, Nicholas, and Poche, Melissa.

\$515,000, 5 Monica Ln, Gomes, Joshua, and Gomes, Melissa A, to Croke, Jennifer.

### DOUGLAS

\$475,000, 47 Compass Point Dr #47, Maddocks Ft, and Maddocks, Charles P, to Ashmallah, Ramy, and Matta, Perihan.

\$430,000, 68 Birch Hill Rd, Kspire LLC, to Canning, Katelyn, and Canning, Scott.

\$170,000, Maple St #3, Morrisette, Jason, and Millbury National Bank, to Heney, Thomas J, and Heney, Marie A.

### NORTHBRIDGE

\$285,000, 31-33 Brook St, Desjourdy, Howard M, and Desjourdy, Joan E, to Moon, Kyle R.

\$859,900, 102 Kennedy Cir, Fleming, Pamela B, and Leatherbee, Bradford, to Michael John Egan RET, and Egan, Michael J.

\$450,000, 101 Oriole Dr, Brouwer, Nancy N, to Brouwer, Christopher, and Senosk, Ashley.

### UXBRIDGE

\$565,000, 304 W River Rd, S & S Rt, and Siipola, Arthur N, to Gallant, Ryan C, and Gallant, Sarah L.

\$510,000, 45 Nature View Dr #45, Pease Ft, and Rosborough, Sandra, to Hukanovic, Zefinia, and Hukanovic, Sejad.

\$500,000, 38 William Ward St, Awem Realty LLC, to Shchepina, Stepan, and Shchepina, Diana.

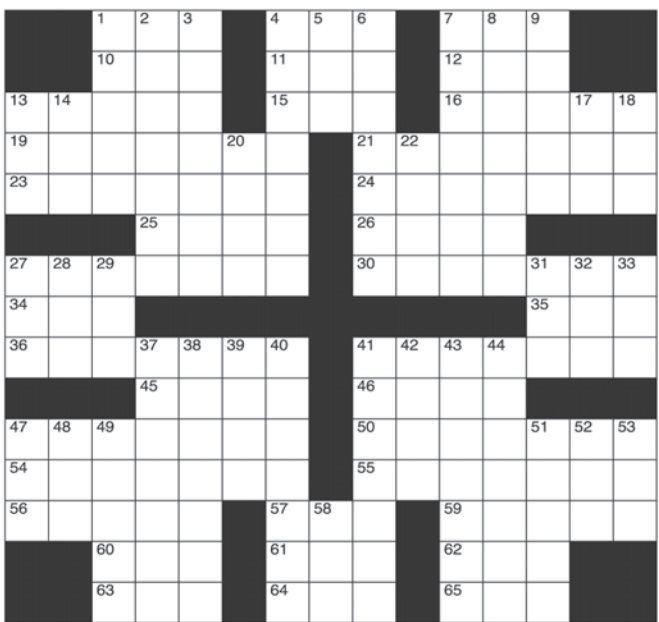
\$804,328, 106 Mantell Rd, 47 Dodge Deco LLC, to Hanka, Samson H, and Reta, Zewditu M.

\$757,262, 111 Mantell Rd, 47 Dodge Deco LLC, to Messina, Joseph M, and Messina, Erin M.

\$572,500, 69 Pouts Ln #69, West River Homes LLC, to Hurley, Kevin, and Hurley, Natalia.

\$505,000, 701 Aldrich St, Romasco, Christopher J, to Tsacoyianis, Jonathan, and Tsacoyianis, Sabrina.

\$240,000, 129 Quaker Hwy #11, Therrien, Cynthia A, to Eugene E Cazeault Jr RET, and Cazeault Jr, Eugene E.

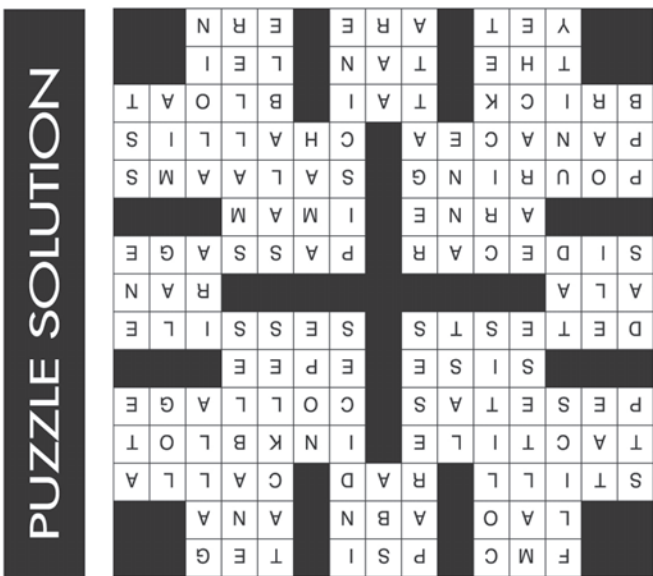


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. American automotive titan
- 4. Tire term
- 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
- 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving
- 15. Cool!
- 16. Plants of the arum family
- 19. Connected with touch
- 21. Pen stain
- 23. Monetary units
- 24. School kids' art project
- 25. Early Bell Canada executive
- 26. Sword
- 27. Hates
- 30. Fixed in one place
- 34. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 35. Moved swiftly on foot
- 36. Carrier on vehicle
- 41. A path to get through
- 45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 46. Spiritual leader
- 47. Flowing
- 50. Respectful compliments
- 54. Cure
- 55. Soft, lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material
- 57. Japanese delicacy
- 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. You might get one in summer
- 62. Wreath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They \_\_\_
- 65. Employee reference number

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Policemen (French)
- 2. Toy dog
- 3. Intestinal condition
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Alphabetical lists
- 7. Takes down
- 8. Facilitates
- 9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. Explorers group
- 17. Written account
- 18. Consumed
- 20. Opposite of first
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. Government lawyers
- 28. NY Giants great
- 29. Small amount
- 31. A way to save for your future
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Wildly popular sport
- 39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Nursemaid
- 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Not as large
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical
- 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane
- 58. Main tributary of the Rhine



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# UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

36 South Main St.  
508-278-8622

Lisa Bernard – Director  
Gail Boutiette – Outreach Coordinator  
Donna Oncay – Transportation Coordinator  
Omer Boucher – Van Driver  
Sally Selvidge – Activities Coordinator  
Pat Ordway – Chef

DIRECTOR NEWS FOR JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026!

Staying warm this winter. If you are struggling to pay for your heating bills and need fuel assistance, please call the senior center to book your appointment! Annual income limit for a 1-person household is \$51,777. The senior center is here to help you file an application with SMOC and receive your benefits. Good news-We heard from SMOC and funding was delayed due to the federal shutdown, but is now back to normal!

Tax Time is Near. Need help filing your tax returns? Sign up for the AARP Tax Assistance Program! This free program starts on Monday, February 2nd and takes place at the senior center every Monday morning until early April. Trained tax aide volunteers are here to help you file your taxes. This program is for seniors who have low to moderate incomes. Please call the Center soon to book your appointment as this program fills up fast!

Did You Know. Certain seniors who own or rent residential property in Massachusetts, as their principal residence, are eligible for a refundable tax credit with the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. As a senior citizen (65 years old or older by December 31 of the tax year), you may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on your Massachusetts personal income tax return. The Circuit Breaker tax credit is based on the actual real estate taxes or rent paid on the Massachusetts residential property you own or rent and occupy as your principal residence. Find out if you qualify and how to apply, go to Mass.gov for more information or ask your tax accountant.

Just a reminder to all, if the Uxbridge Schools are closed or have a snow delay due to inclement weather, the senior center lunch program and the transportation program for medical runs and trips will be cancelled. Be safe during the winter months and please call the senior center if you have any questions or need assistance.

The Sand Bucket Program with the UFD is in full swing. If you need a bucket of sand for your walkways or driveway, please call the senior center. We can arrange for the UFD to deliver the sand to your home. We appreciate the UFD for helping us with this program and keeping our seniors safe during the winter months.

Sincerely,  
Lisa

Thursday, January 1st & Friday January 2, 2026 – The senior center is closed in observance of New Year’s Day. We will re-open on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 8:00 am.

Monday, January 5, 2026 – 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Computer Tutoring with

students from Blackstone Valley Tech. Please call ahead to book an appointment. This will be held on the first Monday of each month.

Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 10:30 am – Veterans’ Services with Carl Bradshaw by appointment only. Call 508-278-8622 to sign up.

Thursday, January 8, 2026 – 1:30 pm – Snowman Craft with Sally! Cost is \$7.00 per person and due upon signup. Class size is limited.

Friday, January 9, 2026 – 12:00 pm – Lunch & Learn with Chief Montminy. His guest speaker will be Ranger Ron, U.S. Army Corps. Of Engineers, West Hill Dam. His topic will be exploring the outdoors during Winter and cold weather safety. There is typically a wait list for these events. Be sure to RSVP.

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – 1:00 pm – Uxbridge Library Book Club. They will be discussing “The Choice: Embrace the Possible” by Edith Eva Eger. You are welcome to join us for lunch on this day, just be sure to call ahead to “book” yours! Next book club meeting is on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, and they will be discussing “The Library of Borrowed Hearts” by Lucy Gilmore.

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 - 1:00 pm – Benefit Enrollment Specialist – Tri-Valley, Inc. Call the senior center to book an appointment. Next date will be Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 1:30 pm – Cardinal/ Birch tree painting with Sally! Cost is \$7.00 per person due upon signup.

Monday, January 19, 2026 – The senior center will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, January 20th at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 10:30 am – 12:30 pm – National Grid Customer Care Event – A representative from National Grid will be available to answer and assist you with discount rates, payment plans, arrears forgiveness, special protections, energy saving, and more. If you plan on joining us for LUNCH on this day, please call ahead to RSVP as space is limited. This event will be held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm – “PopUp Library”. Books will be on display to check out, library card sign-ups, book hold pick-ups, etc. This program is being offered by the Uxbridge Free Public Library.

Thursday, January 22, 2026– 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm – Big BINGO at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Join us for a fun afternoon of BINGO & cash prizes! Packets of 10 games for \$10. Transportation will be provided. Let us know if you’d like to join us for lunch on this date by calling or stopping by to RSVP. You must sign up by 12 noon the day before game day.

Monday, January 26, 2026 – 1:30 pm – “Ask the Attorney” with Attorney Ralph Tepper by appointment only. Please call 508-278-8622 to schedule your appointment.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 - 11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Ask the Nurse Free Blood Pressure Clinic with the Salmon Health VNA. RSVP if you’d like to join us for lunch.

Are you ready to play

pickleball? Tuesday’s Walk & Talk Walking Club Program will resume in the Spring.

Knitting Club every Tuesday @ 1:30 pm – Even if you don’t know how to knit or crochet, come and visit us! The group members are always willing to teach you!

Every Wednesday – 9 am – 3 pm – The Uxbridge Senior Center Transportation Program Community Shuttle. This shuttle is for seniors and individuals with disabilities to destinations such as post office, pet care appointments, hair salon or barber, bank, pharmacy & shopping anywhere in the Uxbridge/ Northbridge area. Note: this replaces the weekly bank/ pharmacy and Shaw’s Ocean State rides. Call 508-278-8622 for more information and to book your FREE ride. Requests require a 48-hour notice.

Thursday, January 29, 2026 – 1:30 pm - Afternoon Movie at the Senior Center! We will be watching Abbott & Costello Comin’ Round the Mountain. Popcorn and refreshments to be served and transportation is available.

Friday, January 30, 2026 - 12 noon – January Birthday Cake Celebration. We will celebrate all the January birthdays!

Card Game played during lunch on Mondays. No card game on January 19th.

Hannaford grocery shopping every Tuesday. Pick up begins at 8:30 AM. Please sign up in advance by calling 508-278-8622 to reserve your seat on the van.

Come by for an afternoon playing Scrabble. Boards are supplied by the senior center. Let us know if you’d like to join us for lunch!

Medical Transportation is accepting appointments. Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your rides.

The senior center is in need of the following donations: Lysol wipes, newly packaged napkins, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, tea (regular and caffeine free), ground regular & decaf coffee. We thank you for your support!

Feel free to contact us at 508-278-8622 or visit us on our web page at Uxbridge-ma.gov/coa or like us on our FB page or by googling Uxbridge Senior Center and our new YouTube Channel or even dropping by.

www.facebook.com/UxbridgeMASeniorCenter

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNh\_Rlq99rucmFH-UO7VFBw

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# PET of the WEEK



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French Fries may be a little nervous at first, but give him a moment and he melts into the sweetest, most gentle little pup. He takes the world in slowly, and once he trusts you, he becomes a total cuddle bug who just wants to be close to his people. Because he’s still building confidence, French Fries would do best in a quieter home with teens and up, where he can adjust at his own pace without being overwhelmed. He’s a sensitive soul who needs patience, reassurance, and a family that understands that slow and steady wins his heart. He can be unsure of loud noises and other dogs at first, but with time and support, he warms up beautifully. Like all puppies, he’s still working on his house-training, but he’s making great progress. He’s also looking for adopters ready to continue his puppy kindergarten training and help him blossom into the confident dog he’s meant to be. If you’re searching for a soft, soulful pup who will adore you wholeheartedly, French Fries is ready to be your favorite comfort snack. Training sign up is required at time of adoption

\*\*\*The Potato Puppies are in foster homes so are not available for meets during our walk-in adoption hours

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## MILFORD FEDERAL

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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Holding the Valley together in the longest season

Winter always tests the Blackstone Valley.

It tests our patience when roads narrow and commutes stretch longer than planned. It tests household budgets as heating bills arrive with unsettling regularity. It tests our endurance when daylight feels fleeting and the calendar promises weeks more of cold before relief comes. None of this is new. What changes from year to year is how we respond.

This has never been a place that waits for help to arrive neatly packaged. This region was built by people who worked through hardship, adapted to change, and leaned on one another when circumstances demanded it. That same spirit still shows itself each winter, often in quiet, unheralded ways.

It shows up when neighbors check on older residents after a storm, making sure driveways are passable and furnaces are running. It shows up when volunteers staff food pantries that see a noticeable increase in need during the cold months. It shows up when towns coordinate snow removal, warming centers, and emergency services with limited resources and long hours.

Winter also sharpens the importance of local decision-making. Municipal budgets, public safety staffing, road maintenance, and energy assistance programs stop being abstract discussions and become very real necessities. These are the weeks when preparation matters, when planning done months earlier either holds up or shows its weaknesses.

This is not a criticism so much as a reminder. The most effective responses to winter challenges are rarely dramatic. They are practical. They are steady. They are rooted in understanding the realities faced by residents who live on fixed incomes, work outdoors, or rely on local services to get through the season safely.

For families, winter can feel like a balancing act. Parents juggle school schedules, childcare disruptions, and the rising costs that accompany colder weather. Students adapt to shortened days and packed calendars. Local businesses, particularly small ones, face slower foot traffic while still paying the same bills. Each group experiences winter differently, but all are affected by it.

This is where community matters most. Strong communities are not defined by how they celebrate during good weather but by how they support one another when conditions are harder. That support does not always come in the form of grand gestures. Often it is a plowed sidewalk, a shared ride, a meal delivered, or a simple check-in.

It is also worth remembering that winter does end. The Valley has endured far worse than a season of cold. Mills rose and fell here. Industries shifted. Floods, fires, and economic downturns left marks that are still visible in some places. Through it all, towns adjusted and carried forward.

That perspective does not make winter easier, but it does make it manageable.

As the season settles in, patience will be required. So will cooperation. Town officials, volunteers, first responders, educators, and residents all play a role in keeping the valley moving. No single group carries the burden alone, nor should it.

Winter reminds us that resilience is not loud. It is routine. It is showing up, day after day, and doing what needs to be done until conditions improve. In the Blackstone Valley, that has long been our strength.

The season will pass. What remains is how well we took care of one another while it did.



Courtesy

## WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN MAKES DONATION AT TREE OF LIFE

Whitinsville Christian School was honored to be a part of the Milford Regional Medical Center Tree of Life Ceremony. Each October, the WCS volleyball and soccer teams host Pink Nights to raise money during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year, the teams partnered with HOSA (WCS’s organization for future health professionals). Kelly Penning (volleyball coach), Hailey Kindl. (soccer captain), Olivia Fleming (volleyball coach), and Faith Najem. (volleyball captain) presented the Pink Night donations for the Oliva Fund for Cancer Care to Edward Kelly, UMass Memorial Health - Milford Regional Medical Center President at the ceremony on Dec. 8.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Christmas memories

To the Editor:

Do you recall your best Christmas memories?

One of my earliest memories is watching my Dad leave for work early in the morning in a snowstorm. I recall watching his circa 1940’s Ford sedan, with those tiny tail lights that looked almost blue, drive away. I could not have been more than two years old because we were living with my grandparents in Blackstone in the early 1950’s. All my parents had was their bedroom. My Dad was working at Whitin Machine Works in Whitinsville as an apprentice on a minimal salary.

Later, when I was five or six years old, I remember staying over at my grandparents’ house. The central room had a great big kerosene stove heater. My Mom told me that I burned my hand on it, but I have no memory of that. What I do recall is sleeping in bed with my Grandma. She and my Grandpa slept in separate beds, probably to stop having so many children.

As George Bailey says, with great anger, in the film, “It’s a Wonderful Life”: “You call this a happy family? Why do we have to have all these kids?!” As Charlie Kirk said: “Get married! Have too many kids!”

Sleeping with Grandma in her big, soft bed, she in her cozy cotton nightgown, early in the morning, I found the world to be a safe and very quiet place. And it was very quiet in 1950’s Blackstone. With the windows open, early on a summer morning, I could hear the milk man coming from a street away because I could hear the tinkle of his milk bottles as they rocked gently against each other. Even in winter, I could hear him a street away.

Then, there was the Christmas when I was eight, and was not really sure Santa Claus was real. My uncle hunted and saved a few deer hooves so he and my Dad went out late on Christmas Eve to the driveway. There had been a light snowfall. I do not to this day know how they did it, but they imprinted tiny deer hoof prints up and down the driveway. My Dad made certain to lead me to the window early Christmas morning. As expected, it was all Shock and Awe for the little doubter.

But what is Christmas really about? Santa?

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

Presents? Family? Jesus Christ?

When the Puritans arrived in 1620, they were strict about religious observance. On Christmas, there was altogether too much drinking, feasting, carousing, and mummering (parading in funny clothes). By 1659, they had issued a proclamation:

“Publick Notice: the observance of Christmas having been declared a sacrilege, the exchanging of gifts and greetings, dressing in fine clothing, feasting, and similar Satanic practices are hereby forbidden with the offender liable to a fine.” Satanic.

In the 1730’s and 1740’s, the colonies experienced The First Great Awakening - a religious revival. During the Revolutionary War, Christmas was a day of religious observation, depending upon your religion. Dissenters from the Church of England (Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and Quakers) did not celebrate Christmas. The Church of England, Lutherans, Dutch Reform and Catholics did. The Jewish citizens of Newport and Charleston did not.

On Dec. 25, 1776, in Trenton, New Jersey, Hessian mercenaries celebrated Christmas by feasting and drinking. General George Washington knew it. He crossed the Delaware River in a howling Nor’easter with 5,000 Continental soldiers to stun Britain and her mercenaries, on Christmas night.

In 1822, Clement Moore (an Episcopal minister) wrote “’Twas the Night Before Christmas.” By the 1840’s, the Christian ethos was strong. Many of our favorite Christmas carols were written at that time: “Joy to the World,” “It came Upon the Midnight Clear,” “O Come All Ye Faithful,” “Good King Wenceslas,” “We Three Kings of Orient Are,” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.”

At our family Christmas feasts in the 1950’s, we listened to the old Polish Christmas songs. The children sang the “new” songs. The uncles drank too much and cleared the dining table for a game of poker. The ladies talked and ate sweet Polish cheesecake. Children ran harum scarum.

My Grandmas, who were born in the 1890’s, worked in factories when they arrived in America to put groceries on the table. They did not go on welfare. They did not scam the system. There was no Medicare or Social Security. When they saved money, they built a tiny house. Eventually, Grandpa bought one car. No telephone.

How did they ever survive? One Grandma lived to be 92. The other, 76. Without the intervention of the state or modern medicine.

As L.B Cowman wrote in her excellent book, Springs in the Valley, 365 daily devotionals, “It is not your weakness that can defeat God’s promise, nor your strength that can fulfil the promise. He that spoke the Word will Himself make it good. It is neither your business nor mine to keep God’s promises; that is His grace.”

Merry Christmas!

BEV GUDANOWSKI  
UXBRIDGE

## AI in personal finance: The promise and the limits



**FINANCIAL FOCUS**  
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Your smartphone buzzes with an alert: Your budgeting app has spotted an unusual spending pattern and suggests transferring \$50 from your savings account to your checking account. Later that day, a robo-advisor automatically rebalances your investment portfolio. Welcome to the age of artificial intelligence (AI) in personal finance, where technology is reshaping how we manage money.

What AI can do for your wallet. From tracking every latte to forecasting next month’s bills, AI-powered tools are making financial management more accessible than ever. Some apps categorize transactions automatically, while other platforms offer conversational financial advice through text messages. These tools can monitor your credit score, suggest budget adjustments and even negotiate lower bills on services like cable and internet.

The investing landscape has transformed as well. Robo-advisors use algorithms to build diversified portfolios, automatically rebalance holdings and apply strategies to minimize tax bills. Educational tools powered by AI can explain complex concepts through interactive games and simple question-and-answer formats, making financial literacy more accessible.

Where AI falls short. Here’s what the algorithms can’t do: understand what truly matters to you.

AI doesn’t know whether you value sustainable investing over maximum returns. It can’t weigh the emotional complexity of saving for a child’s education versus retiring early. When sudden illness strikes or a job change upends your plans, AI lacks the context and empathy to guide you through those human moments.

Technology can crunch numbers brilliantly, but it can’t offer wisdom. It can’t replace human judgment, experience or ethical reasoning. Robo-advisors’ predetermined algorithms may not suit investors with complex financial needs like estate planning or comprehensive tax planning.

The human touch still matters. This is where human financial advisors remain indispensable. They provide what technology can’t:

Long-term perspective: Help you maintain focus when markets get volatile and emotions run high

Goal coordination: Balance competing priorities, help partners merge their financial visions and remind you of goals you’ve tucked away and didn’t know still mattered

Accountability: Keep you on track with your financial strategy through life’s inevitable changes

Emotional support: Offer reassurance and wisdom during major financial decisions

Research validates it: Those who regularly work with a financial advisor and have a financial strategy are more likely to feel optimistic about their financial future than those who manage finances on their own, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult.

Find the right balance. The future likely lies in a hybrid approach: combining data-driven AI insights with the human wisdom of a financial advisor who understands your values, priorities and life’s inevitable curveballs. Think of AI as a powerful calculator and your financial advisor as the mathematician who knows which equations to use.

As these technologies evolve, the key is treating AI as a tool, not a guide.

Stay curious about what technology can do for your finances. Stay critical of its limitations. And remember: What matters most in your financial life is something only you can define.



# Lanterns Along Main Street

Winter has a way of turning simple errands into minor expeditions. You leave the house thinking you will be gone for fifteen minutes. Milk. Bread. Maybe one other thing you forgot to write down. An hour later, you are still out, wearing a coat that feels too bulky indoors and not quite warm enough outside, wondering how you managed to pick the slowest line in the store.

I have come to accept that winter errands operate under a different set of rules.

In warmer months, we move quickly. We duck in and out of places with purpose. But winter slows us down whether we intend it to or not. Boots squeak on tile floors. Coats get

## LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHIPPY

draped over shopping carts. Gloves vanish into pockets and reappear in unexpected places. Everyone looks slightly uncomfortable, including the people who work there and have been standing under fluorescent lights for hours.

The grocery store in winter becomes its own little community.

You see neighbors you have not run into since autumn. There is a nod of recognition, sometimes a brief conversation about the weather that both parties know is unnecessary but feels polite anyway. There is a shared understanding that no one is at

their best right now.

What fascinates me most is how patient people become, at least on the surface. Someone blocks an aisle with a cart and does not notice. Someone else reaches for the same loaf of bread. A register freezes, and the line grinds to a halt. In summer, these moments might cause irritation. In winter, they are met with sighs and shrugs.

We have all been on the other side of it.

There is also a rhythm to winter errands that I did not notice when I was younger. The list is shorter, but the trip feels longer. The conversations are fewer, but they linger. The goal is not speed. The goal is completion without aggravation.

At this stage of life, I find myself more aware

of how small interactions set the tone for the day. A cashier who takes an extra moment to ask how you are holding up. A stranger who helps reach an item on a high shelf. Someone holding the door while cold air rushes in behind them.

None of this is remarkable, and that is precisely the point.

We spend a lot of time talking about community as if it only exists at meetings or events or organized gatherings. But most of it happens quietly, in places like grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware aisles, where people are just trying to get through the day.

Winter makes those moments unavoidable.

You cannot rush past them as easily. You are

bundled up, slowed down, forced to share space. You notice things you might otherwise miss, like how many people shop alone, or how often someone pauses to reread a label because they are no longer certain what they came in for.

I see a bit of myself in that.

There was a time when errands were something to get through as quickly as possible so I could get back to the next obligation. Now, they feel more like markers in the day. A reason to step outside. A reminder that life still moves forward, even when the days are short and the weather discourages enthusiasm.

By the time I load the bags into the car and wrestle the cart back into place, I am usually ready to go

home. Ready for warmth, for quiet, for the comfort of familiar routines. But I am also aware that I have just participated in something small and shared.

We all did.

Winter will keep testing our patience. The lines will stay slow. The aisles will stay crowded. The errands will keep taking longer than planned. But there is something grounding in knowing that everyone around you is navigating the same small inconveniences.

It is not grand. It is not poetic. It is simply life in winter, Massachusetts style, carried out one errand at a time.

And somehow, that feels like enough.

# Last minute antique and collectibles holiday gifts

If you typically are shopping at the mall on Christmas Eve or ordering one day delivery for gifts on Amazon on Dec. 23, you still may have time to buy that special gift for the collector in your life.

We run our auctions on LiveAuctioneers, so I'll start by discussing their platform. There are over 5,000 auction houses running auctions on liveauctioneers.com. No matter what you are looking for, you can probably find it there. As an example, I searched "oil lamp" and found 233 auction listings currently running. You can narrow your search to a 20-mile radius from your location or expand it to search around the world. Many auction houses allow local pick up so you can get the item right away. You can also search for auctions that are ending soon. You will want to check the auction house's shipping policy. Some auctioneers may ship in-house quickly after an auction, and others

may contract outside shippers, and it can take longer.

Other online auction options include HiBid. Their website also touts having thousands of auctioneers on their hibid.com platform. Invaluable is United Kingdom based with their website claiming "over 5,000 premier auction houses and dealers globally." If you search invaluable.com you will find many United States auction houses based there.

With time running out before the holidays you may want to attend a live local auction. You can find both live and online auctions on auctionzip.com. You can search for auctions in your area by entering your zip code in the search bar. The default is 30 miles but can be expanded further. You can

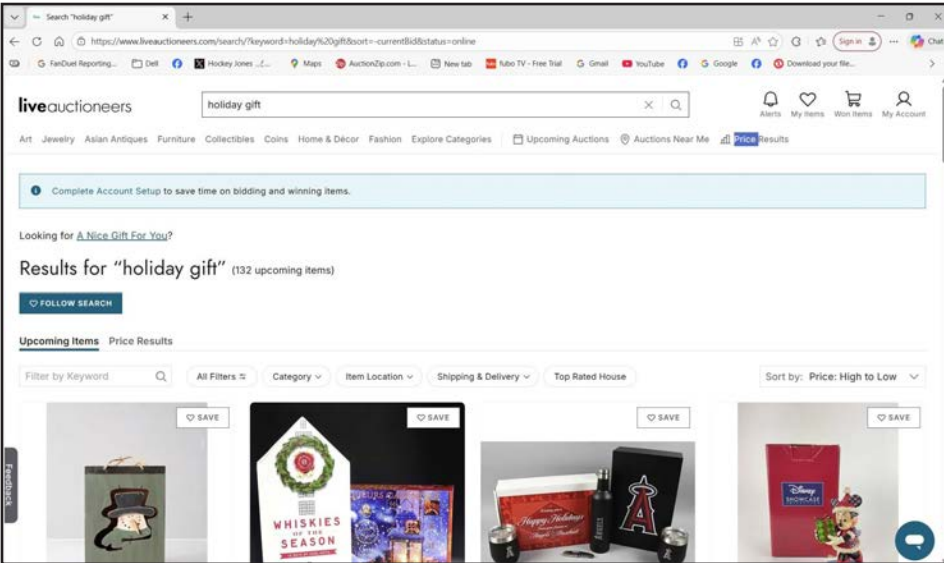


ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES • • • • • WAYNE TUISKULA

also search by date and narrow your results down to auctions in New England and even to individual New England states.

If you want to purchase something online right away TIAS (The Internet Antique Shop) tias.com has been in business since 1995. I used to sell on there when they first went online. Ruby Lane (ruby-lane.com) offers antiques from around 1,500 dealers, according to their website. They were formed in 1998. Also, check individual sellers shipping policies with these sites.

You may also find that gift you've been looking for online locally on Facebook Marketplace. I did the same "oil lamp" search and found hundreds of listings throughout New England. There are also



Facebook groups for people selling antiques locally and you can also search on Craigslist.

An estate sale is another option. Estate sales may be listed in newspapers along with the websites estatesales.net and estatesales.org. Serious buyers get there early, sometimes the day before the sale to sign lists to be one of the first admitted into the sale.

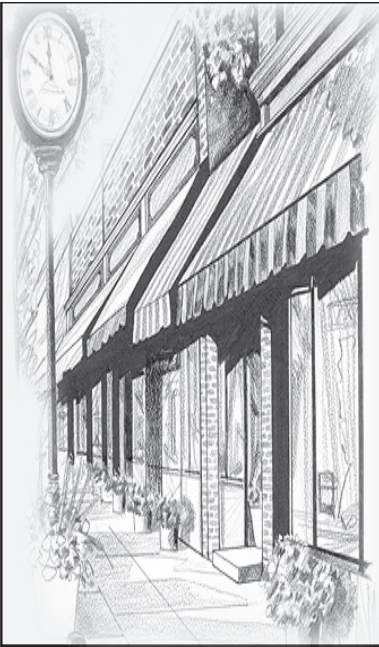
Of course, there are plen-

ty of local antique shops where you can search for gifts. You can walk in and buy a gift and make sure you still have plenty of time to wrap it for the holidays. Happy Holidays!

The single-collector Civil War auction is starting soon. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. There is still time to consign items for that sale. Please visit our

website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) or (508-612-6111).



# Community Connection

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# Sutton Historical Society announces upcoming events

SUTTON — At midnight on Dec. 31, usher out 2025 with the Sutton Historical Society’s Annual Last Night Cannon Firing of Old Ben, the town’s Civil War cannon, at the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue Sutton. This event has become a tradition for Sutton, and is worth braving the elements to witness. This free event is appropriate for all ages.

On Jan. 28, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., the Sutton Historical Society and Sutton Senior Center will host the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor park rangers at the Senior Center, 19 Hough Road, Sutton, for an interactive presentation about how individuals can assist with the transcription of Revolutionary War Pension Records as part of the America 250 effort to make these records searchable. Attendees are encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet, but it is not required. Transcribing



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these records can be done from the comfort of your own home. Attendees do not have to reside in Sutton to attend this informative event.

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m., at the Sutton Senior Center, 19 Hough Rd., Sutton, the Historical Society will be hosting a Coffee Hour remembering past parades. With planning in full swing for Sutton’s June 27, 2026 Living Timeline Parade celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the organizers are interested in recreating some of the fun activities from past events. The June 27 celebration is an all-day event including a parade, performers, craft vendors, food trucks, fireworks, and more. For more information about the parade, visit [TheSuttonFourth.org](#). Join us for coffee, snacks and memories and have your

voice and memories part of this historic upcoming celebration. Sutton Historical Society events and membership information can be found at [Sutton1704.org](#).

## Blackstone Valley UMC hosting community Christmas dinner

WHITINSVILLE — Parishioners and volunteers from the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church would like to cordially invite everyone to our Free Community Christmas Dinner, including the usual holiday meal favorites, roast turkey, potatoes, vegetables, squash, stuffing, cranberry sauce and dessert.

This year’s meal will be served on Thursday, Dec. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Faith Hall at, 61 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Parking is available behind the church accessible from Church Street.

The dinner is open to everyone free of charge. Please come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration that will include holiday fun, food, and fellowship with many from the community.

For more information, call the church office at 508-234-2275.

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# Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild selects Home Base as fundraising beneficiary

UPTON — The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild has chosen Home Base as the special fundraiser beneficiary for their biennial quilt show to be held March 14 and 15 at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Home Base is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of war for veterans of all eras. Service members, military families and families of the fallen have access to world-class direct clinical care, wellness, education and research at no cost to them regardless of era of service, discharge status or geographical location. The program was founded by Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston Red Sox.

Home Base was created in 2009 as a result of visits made to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after the 2004 and 2007 World Series. The players were deeply moved by their visit and sought to make a deeper commitment to returning veterans and their families.

Home Base receives a significant portion of their



funding through fundraising efforts and Thimble Pleasures hopes to be able to contribute greatly to these efforts. Guild

members have been busy creating articles to be sold at a special table during the quilt show with all proceeds being donat-

ed to Home Base. These articles have been created using patriotic and Red Sox fabric themes and include table runners,

small quilts, cross-stitched Christmas ornaments, door decorations and pillows. This special fundraiser is being chaired by Pattie

Trachimowicz and Linda Gosselin.

## Sheriff swears in Millville resident as Academy-trained correctional officer



George Drane

PAXTON — On Friday, Dec. 5, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis administered the Correctional Officers Oath to the 12 graduates of the Sheriff's Office 64th Basic Recruit Training Academy (B.R.T.A.) in the Zecco Auditorium at Anna Maria College. Among the graduates was Officer George Drane of Millville.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to protecting the residents of Worcester County and building a workforce that reflects the diversity of the communities it serves. The graduates of B.R.T.A. #64 form a capable group of new correctional officers, bringing unique skills and experiences to the department. This class comes from eight Massachusetts towns, as well as towns in Rhode Island and Connecticut, and includes four individuals with current or prior service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Sheriff's Office Academy offers a paid, full-time 13-week training program designed to prepare recruits for maintaining the care, custody, and control of inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction. Training combines classroom instruction with hands-on practice.

Recruits receive instruction in key areas, including de-escalation, the duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, and first responder procedures, along with signif-

icant training on suicide prevention, mental health, and substance abuse awareness.

Training also includes daily physical fitness, weekly academic assessments, and guest instruction from various WCSO staff.

"After 13 demanding weeks, I am proud to present some of the best and brightest in corrections," said Evangelidis. "Our Training Department is among the strongest in the state, and these graduates are ready to serve as full-time correctional officers and support our mission. Congratulations to them as they begin their careers."

Applicants must complete a written exam, physical fitness test, background check, and psychological screening. The Sheriff has also implemented hiring policies to ensure fairness, including banning political recommendation letters and giving preference to those who have served in the military.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for its 65th Basic Recruit Training Academy, beginning in Spring 2026. More information is available at [www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/](http://www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/).



Courtesy

The People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge would like to thank Uxbridge Brownie Troop 65422 for collecting more than 40 pairs of pajamas to be distributed to the children served by our food pantry. "These children worked so hard to make sure our children have nice, warm pajamas for the holidays! We can't thank them enough!" stated Executive Director, Denise Mussulli.

## Upcoming recreational hikes throughout Blackstone Complex

U X B R I D G E — Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park is thrilled to offer a series of recreational hikes

All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear sturdy footwear. Dress for the weather. Bringing water is encouraged as it will not be available on-site. Bathrooms are available

unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 278-7604 or visit [bit.ly/blstupdates](http://bit.ly/blstupdates).

For information on accessibility and reasonable accommodations, call (617) 645-0358 or email [moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov](mailto:moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov).

Sunday, Dec. 21, 1 – 3 p.m.

Meet at the Adams Street parking area ([bit.ly/adams-gw](http://bit.ly/adams-gw)). This hike is roughly four miles over a paved surface with no inclines. Bathrooms are not available at this site.

Sunday, Dec. 28, 1 – 3 p.m.

Meet at the Lake Street parking area ([bit.ly/snet-lake](http://bit.ly/snet-lake)). This hike is roughly miles over a compacted gravel surface with no inclines. Bathrooms are not available at this site.

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CHAMPIONS

continued from page A1

Significant volunteer milestones were also celebrated. Five-year pins were awarded to BreBaker, Samantha Carreiro, John Lynch, and Ross Weaver; 10-year pins to Sue Ciaramicoli, Steve Emma, Roy Henry, Earl MacRae, Pat MacRae, Bill McGinnis, Patricia Nedoroscik, Roscoe Skurka, and Harry Whitin; 20-year pins to Yvette Ayotte-Kind, Erik Eckilson, and Patti McAlpine; 25-year pins to Julie Riendeau, Steve Riendeau, and Cheryl Thompson; 30-year pins to Tom Bik and Donna Williams; and a 35-year pin to John Marsland.

Suzanne Buchanan Volunteer of the Year

Lauren Oleksyk of Mendon, received the 2025 Suzanne Buchanan Volunteer of the Year Award for her exceptional service as both a Bikeway Ambassador and Trail Ambassador. This past year, she collaborated with fellow volunteer Phil Johanson to scout and pre-hike trails for the spring and fall hiking series, serving as a sweep to ensure all participants were supported and assisting hikers in distress when needed. Lauren also led guided bike rides along the Blackstone River Greenway/Bikeway and the Southern New England

Trunkline Trail (SNETT) and introduced engaging community programs such as her maple sugaring demonstration at River Bend Farm.

Johanson, who nominated her, said, “She’s always willing to step up and volunteer with a smile and a positive attitude. I would be lost without her help. She has been a big reason this year’s hiking series was such a success.”

The Suzanne Buchanan Volunteer of the Year Award, established in 2021, honors volunteers who demonstrate exceptional dedication, enthusiasm, and support of the heritage corridor’s resources through their service as a volunteer.

Student of the Year

Lila Swartz of Lincoln, R.I. received the 2025 Student of the Year Award for catalyzing youth-led stewardship and fostering lasting collaboration across the Blackstone Valley. Since reaching out to the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone, Swartz has led student volunteer cleanups at Sycamore Landing, organized an Indigenous assembly at Lincoln High

School, and initiated a regional planners meeting across multiple towns to address shared community planning concerns. Her leadership has resulted in ongoing collaboration and positive

long-term impacts throughout the Valley.

Partner of the Year

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Central Region - Blackstone Complex, received a 2025 Partner of the Year Award for its stewardship and community engagement via its sites and programs throughout the Blackstone River Valley. The Blackstone Complex team provides exemplary programming and engagement at River Bend Farm, Douglas State Forest Purgatory Chasm, and more. The team also continues to revitalize the Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester and actively engages with partner groups and nonprofits to advance environmental and cultural resource initiatives. Joe Johnson, MSIE, also received a Partner of the Year Award for his work uniting agencies, nonprofits, and communities across the region through his expertise in invasive species, sustainable landscapes, and native solutions. As a one-man powerhouse, Johnson has catalyzed meaningful collaborations to address some of the challenges and opportunities in the Blackstone Valley when dealing with invasives.

John H. Chafee Leadership Awards

This year’s Chafee Leadership

Awards were presented to Attorney Henry J. Lane of Whitinsville and Joanne Holahan of Grafton. The award honors individuals whose efforts have promoted cultural heritage, environmental conservation, economic development, and quality of life in the Blackstone River Valley.

Attorney Lane was honored for a lifetime of steadfast advocacy, legal expertise, and deep historical knowledge that has quietly preserved, protected, and enriched the Blackstone River Valley for more than four decades. He was nominated by his colleague Henry Nydam, who shared that Lane “knows more and has done more work for the preservation of the Blackstone Valley than any person I’ve ever met.”

Holahan was honored with the Chafee Award for transforming watershed education across the Blackstone River Valley. Nominated by Ted Beauvais of the Blackstone River Watershed Association (BRWA), where they both serve on the Board of Directors, Holahan has spent more than a decade strengthening environmental literacy through hands-on science, innovative curriculum, and unwavering volunteer leadership. Between 2013 and 2024, her programs reached 13 cities and towns, 23 schools and locations, and 4,724 students and community members.

Legacy Campaign

During the event, Board Chair Rice highlighted BHC’s Legacy Campaign, a multi-year effort designed to strengthen and sustain the organization’s financial goals and mission impact for decades to come. The campaign focuses on five key initiatives — advocating for completion of the Blackstone River Greenway/Bikeway, refreshing and unifying signage across the Valley, investing in volunteer capacity, supporting partner organizations, and building a strong and resilient organization for the future.

Rice announced that BHC has already raised more than half of its \$1.34 million campaign goal, reflecting broad regional support for preserving, promoting, and celebrating the Blackstone Valley’s historic, natural, and recreational resources.

About Blackstone Heritage Corridor

Blackstone Heritage Corridor, in collaboration with community partners, provides strong leadership to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Valley’s historic, natural, and recreational resources for current and future generations.

For more information about Blackstone Heritage Corridor, visit BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org.

PICKLEBALL

continued from page A1

The Uxbridge Senior Center is proud to offer an 8-week instructional pickleball class at the McCloskey School Gym located at 62 Capron Street in Uxbridge. Classes will be starting on Thursday, Jan. 29 for eight weeks. The back-to-back classes will be held from 9-10:15 a.m. & 10:30-11:45 a.m., class sizes are limited, so sign up early. The cost of the program is \$25 per person. All equipment will be provided

to play. There is also an optional recreational play day for enrolled students to be held on Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. with RSVP required.

Our Lead Instructors are Leon Droby and Orlando Corona, both local residents. Leon is certified by USA Pickleball and is also in the Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR). He is a Level 1 Certified Associate Coach. Orlando Corona brings with him more than 25 years’ experience as a tennis coach and instructor. Both instructors

are avid, passionate pickleball players and have extensive knowledge of the game. Please consider learning to play this fun, exciting, and active sport.

The Uxbridge Senior Center is located at 36 South Main St., and is open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Please stop by the center to pick up your enrollment and release forms prior to the start of the classes. For more information, please contact Lisa Bernard, Director, at 508-278-8622 or lbernard@uxbridge-ma.gov.

TRAILS

continued from page A1

salamander and the words Douglas Conservation Land. Along this route, hikers will encounter one bridge crossing and, further along, a natural water crossing that awaits a future bridge installation.

Red Trail: Branching left from the entrance, the Red Trail follows the riverbank before reconnecting with the Yellow Trail. A bench at the trail’s beginning offers a peaceful spot to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds of the river.

Magenta Trail: A short connector off the Red Trail, the Magenta Trail provides

a quicker return to the Yellow Trail.

Green Trail: Further along the Yellow Trail, hikers will find the Green Trail loop, which circles back to rejoin the Yellow Trail.

Black Trail: For those seeking an alternate exit, the Black Trail leads out to Manchaug Street.

Trail Markings: All trail intersections are clearly marked with round disks bearing arrows in the color of the trail. Once on a trail, hikers will find painted blazes on trees in the corresponding color, ensuring easy navigation throughout the property.

A community treasure

The Leon Mosczynski Conservation Property stands as a testament to Douglas’s commitment to preserving open space and fostering connections with nature. The careful marking of these trails reflects the dedication of volunteers and the vision of the Open Space Committee, ensuring that residents and visitors alike can enjoy the beauty of the land for generations to come. Whether for a quiet walk, a family outing, or simply a moment of reflection by the river, this property offers a welcoming place to experience the natural heritage of our town.

DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.  
(508) 476-2283  
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.

Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat Yoga 2pm

Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:00 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2 pm

Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am, Darts 11:30 am, MahJong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm

Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm

Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

The Adult Social Center Food Pantry is open to any resident/ family in town. We have a large variety of food, personal care items, household cleaners, and fresh bread from Panera. We are open Monday – Thursday from 9 to 3, and Friday from 9 to 11:30. This is a confidential pantry, come in and take what you need no questions asked. We are located below the post office.

We will accept non-perishable items during our regular business hours. Monday- Thursday 9-3 & Fridays 9-12. Please DO NOT leave anything on our

ramp after hours.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to and from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.

December Lunch Menu:

Tuesday 12/9: Stuffed peppers, carrots, & Jell-O

Thursday 12/11: Soup & salad bar, fruit

Tuesday 12/16: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower casserole, & cupcakes

Thursday 12/18: Baked ham, potatoes, green beans, & pie (this is the holiday party luncheon and is \$6.00 per person)

Tuesday 12/23: Baked potato soup, chicken salad sandwich, & cookies

Tuesday 12/30: Pasta with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, & ice cream

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride.

Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.

Friday 12/5, 12/19: Walmart

Friday 12/12: Big Y

Friday 12/26: Riders choice

DECEMBER EVENTS:

Wellness Clinic Dates: Monday December 8th & Tuesday December 23rd from 10 am to 12 pm. The nurse is happy to check your blood pressure, can do a finger stick blood sugar. You can read the nurse’s page in our bi-monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop in and see the nurse.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Check our website for events that may not be listed here

https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center

www.Stonebridge Press.com



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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 75 Chapin Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Priscilla Thiebault and Bruce Thiebault to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. its successors and assigns, and now held by **Nationstar Mortgage LLC**, said mortgage dated December 29, 2005 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38162, Page 303, as affected by a Loan Modification dated April 1, 2008 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 45619, Page 205; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. its successors and

assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment dated August 17, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 47858, Page 303; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on January 6, 2026 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*The land with the buildings thereon situated in Uxbridge, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts known and being numbered 75 Chapin Street Being Lot #1 on a Plan of Land entitled, “Powers Acers A Definitive Subdivision Plan located in Uxbridge, MA, Prepared for Edward H. Powers” dated July 23, 2003, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 811, as Plan 97, containing 398,599 square feet, 9.15 acres. The premises are conveyed subject*

*to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, easements, appurtenances, reservations, restrictions, and layouts and takings of record, insofar as they are in force and applicable. For title see Deed recorded on October 26, 2004 at Book 34910, Page 274 with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds. Upon information, the deed noted above was affected by a confirmatory Deed recorded 11/23/2009 in said Registry in Book 45133, Page 332.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated October 19, 2004 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34910, Page 274.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments,

if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor

Plainville, MA 02762

Attorney for Nationstar Mortgage LLC Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701

December 5, 2025

December 12, 2025

December 19, 2025



# SIMON FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Simon Fairfield Public Library’s January 2026 Schedule. Please note that some events do require registration. If you have any questions regarding any events, please do not hesitate to contact the library at 508-476-2695 or email at us at douglas@cwmar.org.

Address: 290 Main St., Douglas  
Phone: 508-476-2695  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please note that we will be closing at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31 for New Year’s, and will reopen on Saturday, Jan. 3.

Please note that we will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Children’s Book Clubs (Registration Required)  
Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 4 p.m. - Book Wizards (Grades 5-7), “The Keeper of Lost Cities” by Shannon Messenger  
Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. - Young Readers (Grades K-2), “Moses Goes to a Concert” by Isaac Millman  
Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. - Book Bunch (Grades 2-4), “The Pug Who Wanted to be a Unicorn” by Bella Swift

Children’s Happenings  
Monday, Jan. 5, 12, and 16 at 10 a.m. - Winter Storytime (Registration Required)  
Tuesday, Jan. 6 & 20 at 11:30 a.m. - Music & Movement with Deb Hudgins  
Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 3:30 p.m. - Lego Club I (Registration Required)  
Tuesday, Jan. 6 & 20 at 4 p.m. - Dungeons & Dragons Club (FULL)  
Thursday, Jan. 8, 15, 22, and 29 - Winter Storytime (Registration Required)  
Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 3:30 p.m. - Lego Club II (Registration Required)  
Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 5:45 p.m. - Reading to Bryce (Registration Required)  
Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 3:30 p.m. - Lego Club III (Registration Required)

Adult Book Clubs  
Thursday, Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m. - Greatest Book Club Ever, “The Noel Diary” by Richard Paul Evans  
Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. - Intrepid Readers, “Migrations” by Charlotte McConaghy  
Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. - Cookbook Collective, Theme: Soups and Stews  
Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. - SciFi Book Club, “A Closed and Common Orbit” by Becky Chambers  
Monday, Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m. - Plot Twisters, “Beyond Reasonable Doubt” by Robert Dugoni

Adult Happenings  
Monday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. - Get Help with Jenna Gouin (Registration Required)  
Monday, Jan. 5, 12, and 26 at 6 p.m. - Writer’s Accountability Group  
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10 a.m. - Fiber Arts Friends  
Thursday, Jan. 8 & 22 at 5:45 p.m. - Fiber Arts Friends  
Saturday, Jan. 17 at 10:30 a.m. - SFPL Gardeners

# PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center, would like to wish all of our seniors and older adults a very happy, safe, and joyful holiday season! The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events.

Regular Programs:  
Mindful Meditation with Kelly  
Every Thursday at 9:30am  
Dull Men’s Club  
Tuesday, December 23rd  
9:30am-10:30am  
Guest Speaker: Vin Femia and the New England Patriots  
The Brew Crew  
Wednesday, January 7th at 9:30am  
Guest Speaker: Northbridge Board of Health Administrator, Jeanne Gniadek  
Facials with Nancy  
Thursday, January 8th  
Schedule your individual appointment with Nancy and get pampered at Plummer Place. Treatments include cleansing, exfoliating, hand and arm massage with heated mitts, extractions, toner and moisturizer. \$40 plus gratuity. Please call Nancy to book your time with her: 508-868-5525.  
Writing Your Way with Lori  
Thursday, January 8th at 2:00pm  
Scrabble  
Monday, January 12th at 9:30am

Special Events and Programs:  
Looking for a New Health/Wellness Perspective for the New Year?  
Are you interested in beginning a journey to better health, happiness, and a longer life? Learn where and how centenarians are living across the world in this exciting three-week program exploring the Blue Zones with Amy Cowen, our program and volunteer coordinator. This program will include a book, a guest speaker, light refreshments, some healthy challenges, and more fun surprises! Sign up in the main office. \$20 per person payable in cash the day of the first class (dates and times to be determined, but will be held in early 2026).

S t a t e  
Representative  
David Muradian’s  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday, January 27th at 10:30am



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*Featured Listing*  
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\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan\* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Maureen Cimoch \* Bryan Pelletier

*Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island*



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*Just in Time - For The Holidays!!*  
*Featured New*  
*Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!*  
*On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"*  
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**WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD**  
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/ Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Finished Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.



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**Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!**



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**Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd**



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**774-200-7308**  
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# WHITINSVILLE SOCIAL LIBRARY

Web site: northbridge-mass.org/WSL  
Phone: 508-234-2151

**H o u r s :**  
Monday-Thursday:  
10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Holiday Hours: Closed  
Dec. 24 & 25 and Jan.  
1 & 19. Open 10 a.m.-  
2 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Self-Service Gift  
Wrap Station  
December 17-23  
during business hours  
Need to wrap holiday gifts  
away from the prying  
eyes of your family and

friends? Visit the library's  
Community Connection  
Corner to wrap your gifts  
using our wrapping sup-  
plies. While supplies last!

**Library Littles**  
Mondays at 10:30 AM  
Stories, songs, and play-  
time for children 0-2 and  
their caregivers. A great  
opportunity to introduce  
your child to the library  
and meet new friends!

**Preschool Storytime**  
Thursdays at 10:30 AM  
Join us each week for sto-  
ries, songs, movement,  
and fun! Designed just for  
preschoolers, but open to

everyone, our storytime  
helps build early literacy  
skills through play, imagi-  
nation, and social interac-  
tion. Come ready to wig-  
gle, giggle, and grow a  
love of reading! Drop-in.

**Builders & Makers**  
Wednesdays at 3:00pm  
Our LEGO club meets  
weekly. Stop-in and cre-  
ative something new.

**Music & Movement**  
with Deb Hudgins  
Wednesday at 10:30 AM  
Join Miss Deb for sing-  
ing, dancing, games, sto-  
ries, and lots of fun. Ages  
1-5. Registration required.

**Silent Book Club**  
Thursday 12/18  
& 1/29 at 6 PM  
Come gather at the library  
with fellow book lovers  
to read and relax. There  
are no assigned read-  
ings. Bring your own  
book or browse and bor-  
row one of the library's.  
Refreshments provided.

**Noon Year's Eve**  
Wednesday 12/31  
at 11:30 AM  
Ring in the new year a little  
early! Join us for our Noon  
Year's Eve Storytime &  
Party with stories, songs,  
and a countdown to 12:00  
(noon!). Perfect for little  
ones who can't stay up  
late. All Ages. Drop-in.

**Dungeons & Dragons**  
Campaigns  
For grades 8-12/1/14 at 3 PM  
For grades 6 & 7/1/21 at 3 PM  
Calling all adventurers!  
Beginners welcome. First  
level character sheets will  
be provided if you don't  
have your own. Dice and  
snacks will be provid-  
ed. Registration required  
for the correct age level.

**Get Help with Jenna**  
Monday 12/29 from  
12-2 PM & Monday 1/5  
from 10:30-12:30 PM  
Sign up for a 30 minute  
session with Community  
Health worker Jenna  
Gouin. Get assistance with  
applying for MassHealth,  
SNAP, WIC, Fuel  
Assistance, Medicare,  
Social Security, Veteran's

benefits, and more. Register  
online or by calling.

**Knits & Knots Group**  
Monday 1/12 at 6 PM  
Calling all fiber artists!  
Bring whatever project  
you're working on and join  
fellow crafters at the library  
for creating and conversa-  
tions. Refreshments pro-  
vided. Drop in. Knits &  
Knots meets the second  
Monday of every month.

**Fiction Book Club**  
Monday 1/12 at 6 PM  
January's selection is  
Winter Street by Elin  
Hilderbrand. Books are  
available for pick up at  
the library or online via  
Libby. Refreshments pro-  
vided. Please register.

**The Whodunnits**  
Tuesday 1/13 at 11 AM  
Read and discuss Before  
She Disappeared by Lisa  
Gardner. Copies of the  
book are available at the  
circulation desk or via  
Libby. Refreshments pro-  
vided. This mystery, sus-  
pense and thriller book club  
meets the second Tuesday  
of each month. Register.

**Memoir Book Club**  
Wednesday 1/14 at 6 PM  
Read The Way of the  
Hermit by Ken Smith.  
Copies are available at  
the library, via Libby, and  
Project Gutenberg. New  
and returning members  
are welcome to attend!

**Jigsaw Puzzle Showdown**  
Tuesday 1/20 at 6 PM

**Puzzlers Assemble!** Grab a  
team of 2-6 puzzle experts  
to compete in this timed  
race to complete a 500  
piece puzzle. Refreshments  
will be served and friv-  
olous prizes awarded  
to the ultimate puzzle  
champions! Register  
your team. For adults.

**Junk Journaling Meet Up**  
Monday 1/26 at 5 PM  
Stop by the library to cre-  
ate, unwind and chat while  
using our journaling and  
scrapbooking supplies.  
Bring your "junk" and your  
journals. Blank journals  
available while supplies  
last. Beginners and experts  
are welcome. For older  
teens and adults. Drop in.

**Virtual Program - Creating**  
a Modern Homestead  
Monday 1/26 at 7 PM  
Chat with modern day  
homesteader, blogger,  
and author Victoria Pruett  
about her book Creating  
a Modern Homestead:  
Traditional Skills for Real,  
Everyday Life! Victoria  
will walk viewers through  
various aspects of home-  
steading - cooking from  
scratch, food preservation,  
backyard chickens, back-  
yard gardening, natural  
pest control, etc. so you  
can get a broad overview  
of simple life changes  
that you could make to  
get closer to nature and  
less dependent on large,  
commercial organizations.  
Register to get the Zoom  
link.



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7 TO 9**

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Soon

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OPEN: Dec. 22nd, 23rd, and Dec 24th: 8:00am-8:00pm

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SAVE UP TO  
**70% Off!**

**SLEDS, SKATES, & TOBOGGANS**  
HUGE SELECTION!

**HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES**

**MATTRESS SALE!**  
**TWIN: \$199** (REGULARLY \$299)  
**FULL: \$269** (REGULARLY \$499)  
**QUEEN: \$299** (REGULARLY \$599)

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**65" HDTV Television..\$329.99**  
Regularly \$599.99

**75" HDTV.....\$499.99**  
Regularly \$699.99

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Reg. \$499.99  
**\$369.99**

**G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE**  
Reg. \$899.99  
**\$699.99**

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Pair - Reg. \$1199.99  
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