

# 34th Annual Awards Celebration



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# Blackstone Valley Tourism Council



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# Welcome

As chairman of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to our 34th Annual Meeting, which was preceded by an impactful workshop led by Ethan Kent, senior fellow with Project for Public Spaces. His presentation follows a well-attended sustainable tourism laboratory conducted in May at our office by Roger Brooks, an internationally renowned expert on downtown development. Both events demonstrate the commitment the Tourism Council and its partners have to making the Blackstone Valley a tourist destination and a region cherished by its residents.

In addition to operating successful programs and events such as the Annual Rhode Island Chinese Dragon Boat Races Taiwan Day Festival, Polar Express, Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful and The Explorer Education Vessel, the Tourism Council is continuing to grow the Blackstone Valley Heritage Trust Fund to fuel the revitalization of our natural resources.

To help meet its objectives, the Tourism Council made some personnel changes; adding the position of director of fund development and taking away the responsibility of raising money and securing sponsorships from the program director. While soliciting contributions and coordinating events, they are renewing partnerships and establishing new relationships that hopefully will result in long-term commitments to our organization.

I am very grateful for the dedicated and talented staff at the Tourism Council, my fellow board members, a spirited corps of volunteers and a host of sponsors and donor. The ongoing efforts and support from all of those people and companies is the main reason why we are celebrating 34 years of service today.

I extend my sincerest appreciation to the sponsors of the 2019 Annual Meeting – BankNewport and East Commerce Solutions – and to the owners and staff of Twin River for hosting us.

Last but not least, congratulations to Bruce Tillinghast and Russell J. Gusetti for being inducted into the prestigious William Blackstone Society and to the committee responsible for the Arnold Mills Fourth of July Parade, which received this year's Footprint in History Award.

With Deep Appreciation,  
David W. Balfour, Chairman



David W. Balfour

**Our mission is  
to inspire  
and increase  
sustainable  
tourism in the  
Blackstone  
River Valley.**

**Blackstone Valley  
Tourism Council**

**Blackstone Valley  
Visitor Center**

**175 Main St  
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## Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Board of Directors 2018-2019

David Balfour, *Chairman*  
Barry Mechanic, *Vice Chairman*  
Dave Richards, *Secretary*  
Judy Fishbach, *Treasurer*

Mark Brodeur, *Ex Officio*  
Louis Yip  
Deb Berardis  
Thomas Kravitz

Michael Gwynn  
Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane  
Michael Zang

# Awards

## William Blackstone Society Inductions

In his roles as a musician, theater administrator and graphic designer, Russell J. Gusetti has focused on building community and fostering a sense of identity and pride in his hometown of Pawtucket and its place in the Blackstone Valley.

Gusetti was a co-founding member of the Celtic ensemble Pendragon. He played guitar and concertina with the group for 34 years, and served as manager of the band for 20 years. Before he left Pendragon, Gusetti helped the group attain regional and local awards as it recorded nine compact discs and performed throughout New England.

A co-founder of the Blackstone River Theatre (BRT) in 1994, Gusetti spearheaded a four-year renovation of an abandoned Masonic temple on Broad Street in Cumberland, which became the theater's new home in 2000. He is executive director of the theater and previously served as its managing director and as a member of the board of directors.

"Rhode Island Monthly" named BRT a 2019 Best of Rhode Island award winner. The theater also earned a 2015 State Cultural Facilities Grant Award, a 2013 Achievement in Renewable Initiative & Sustainable Tourism Award, a 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Federal Stimulus Grant Award and a 2005 Governor's Blackstone Valley Regional Tourism Award.

BRT has been recognized as the region's premier institution for promoting the traditional arts and in 2013, Gusetti received a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Cumberland-Lincoln Rotary Club for his efforts to promote the arts in the Blackstone

### Russell Gusetti *Executive director of the Blackstone River Theatre*



Valley. Gusetti is also the producer of nine BRT Summer Solstice Festivals between 2011 and 2019 as well as two Celtic Festivals, all at Diamond Hill Park in Cumberland.

Gusetti is a founding member of the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame (RIMHOF), a nonprofit dedicated to honoring Rhode Island musicians, educators and other industry professionals. He has been public relations chair of the Hall's board of directors since 2011.

In addition, Gusetti is a co-founder and co-chair of the Tune In & Tune Up Rhode Island Musicians Health Awareness Initiative to ensure that industry professionals have information needed to make decisions about health care options while increasing overall wellness awareness.

Gusetti earned a bachelor's degree from Rhode Island College. After college, he worked at a Pawtucket advertising agency and did freelance graphic design and public relations jobs for 10 years. He has worked at Valley Breeze Publications as a part-time copy editor and layout artist for 18 years.

We are pleased to induct Russell into the William Blackstone Society for all his efforts to promote arts and culture in the Blackstone Valley and offer its residents first-class entertainment.



### Bruce Tillinghast *Founding member of the Preservation Society of Pawtucket*

While searching for a house in 1979, Bruce Tillinghast and his late wife, Patricia, met two of Pawtucket's devoted preservationists – the late Betty Johnson and Mary Siniak, Betty and Mary told the Tillinghasts about a Greek Revival house on High Street that had been put on the National Register of Historic Places to protect it from demolition during the construction of Interstate 95.

There was a catch, however, the house had to be moved.

With the backing and support of the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency, the house was moved 500 feet south on High Street to a suitable hillside location.

Buying one of the remaining Greek Revival homes in Pawtucket raised the Tillinghasts' concern about the eradication of the city's rich architectural heritage, which prompted them to help the Johnsons and Siniaks establish the Preservation Society of Pawtucket. Bruce served as the society's first president, and held that position for six years. Under his leadership, the organization initiated measures to save what remained of the city's significant housing and commercial buildings and convinced the City Council and Zoning Board to adopt regulations allowing the conversion of vacant mills to live-work spaces.

In addition, the Society successfully championed efforts to designate historic districts such as Quality Hill, initiate a historic marker program to identify significant architectural

*-continued on page 5*



## Footprints in History



## Arnold Mill's July 4th Parade

One event that has figuratively left thousands of footprints along Nate Whipple Highway in Cumberland is the Arnold Mills Fourth of July Parade.

The parade started in 1927, under the direction of the Rev. Horatio H. Crawford of the Arnold Mills Methodist Church. After a few years, a parade committee was finally formed during a meeting at the Nathan Whipple Granary. By 1931, the North Cumberland Fire Department had assumed leadership of the parade, using proceeds from the event to finance the department. In fact, the bucket brigade that precedes modern-day parade is attributed to those fundraising efforts.

H. Seymour Wiley took over the reins of the parade in 1964, and served as grand marshal until 1997. He separated the parade from the fire department by creating the Arnold Mills Parade Association, a group of volunteers that dedicates many hours each year to bringing the best celebration of our nation's birth to the citizens of Cumberland and its surrounding communities.

For many years, Joyce A. Hindle Koutsogiane has chaired the more than 20 volunteers who work on the four-division parade and raise the approximate \$30,000 necessary to pay for the event that attracts hundreds of spectators. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. on Nate Whipple Highway (Route 120), and the parade route extends 1.3 miles, ending at the intersection with Abbott Run Valley Road.

Since 1969, the Arnold Mills Road Race has preceded the



parade. The inaugural race drew 27 participants, but it now has hundreds of entrants of all ages and abilities and there is prize money for the top finishers.

For continuing to promote the heritage of the Blackstone Valley and celebrate the birth of the United States, we honor the Arnold Mills Fourth of July Parade with the Footprints in History Award.

### Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Staff

Robert D. Billington, Ed. D., *President*

Natalie Carter, *Director of Operations*

Amanda Wood, *Office Manager/Translator*

Donna Houle, *Manager of Special Projects*

James Toomey, *Director of Marketing*

Patti McAlpine, *Marketing Assistant*

Michael P. Martin, *Program Director*

Paul V. Palange, *Director of Fund Development*

Joan Loos, *Tour Development*

Wendy Jencks, *Visitor Center Manager*

Ryan Bassett, *Program Associate*

Silvio DiPippo, *The Blackstone Shop*

Donna Kaehler, *Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful Coordinator*

Marina Flannery, *Director of Environmental Education*

Olon Reeder, *Public and Intergovernmental Relations*

*Tillinghast continued from page 4-*

homes and buildings and form a Pawtucket Historic District Commission to oversee historic districts and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Known for owning and operating New Rivers restaurant in Providence, which he opened with his wife in 1990, Bruce retired in 2012. He continues to reside in that historic and beautiful High Street house and is active in community activities as a member of the Pawtucket Historic District Commission, Farm Fresh Rhode Island's board of directors, board of trustees of the Old Slater Mill Association and Providence Art Club.

He also serves as president of the Tillinghast Society, which he co-founded to repair the historic Tillinghast Burial Ground, the last of the small family burial grounds on Benefit Street in Providence.

We are pleased to welcome Bruce into the William Blackstone Society for all his community service and distinguished career as a restaurateur.





## GREETINGS HEATHER EVANS

Heather Evans started in May as chief marketing officer at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, charged with leading statewide efforts to attract tourists and businesses to the Ocean State.

Heather was selected from more than 100 applicants, and Secretary of Commerce Stephan Pryor said her expertise in the marketing field and her experience operating a small independent hotel would help build the state's economic momentum.

Upon being hired, Heather told GoLocalProv: "There are many reasons that

make Rhode Island a great place to visit, live, and do business from the beauty of Narragansett Bay to the charm of its historic architecture; from the active music and culinary scenes to the vibrant design and entrepreneurial communities. I can't wait to begin working with the team at Commerce, the tourism regions and the small businesses that make up our tourism industry so

that we can continue telling Rhode Island's story."

Heather holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a master's in business administration from the Harvard Business School. She was chief marketing officer at the Investment Technology Group (IGT) and J.P. Morgan and has taught at Harvard, New York University and the Pratt Institute in New York City. She is a trustee of the Providence Preservation Society and the Rhode Island Historical Society and is in the 2019 class of Leadership Rhode Island.

## General Marketing

In 2019, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council launched a dynamic marketing and promotional program designed to directly assist organizers of local activities, attractions and events. The Council selected 27 events and/or attractions (three from each of the nine Blackstone Valley communities in Rhode Island) for the program. They ranged across various interests such as theater and music, craft beer and historic and cultural attractions to best showcase the diversity available in our region. Through increased site-specific marketing, we've increased brand-awareness, and we've assisted with advertisements, promotional videos, photography and rack card creation and distribution.



*Pawtucket Bike Path - designed by BETA Group, Inc.*

## BETA Group, Inc. is a proud supporter of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council!

BETA offers a broad range of planning, engineering, and landscape architectural services to improve the communities where we live and work.







During his more than 20 years at Project for Public Spaces (PPS), Ethan Kent has traveled to more than 900 cities and 60 countries to advance the concept of place making and public spaces and initiate systemic change toward place-led urbanization. He has been integral to the development of place making as a transformative approach to economic development, environmentalism, transportation planning, governance, resilience, equity and design.

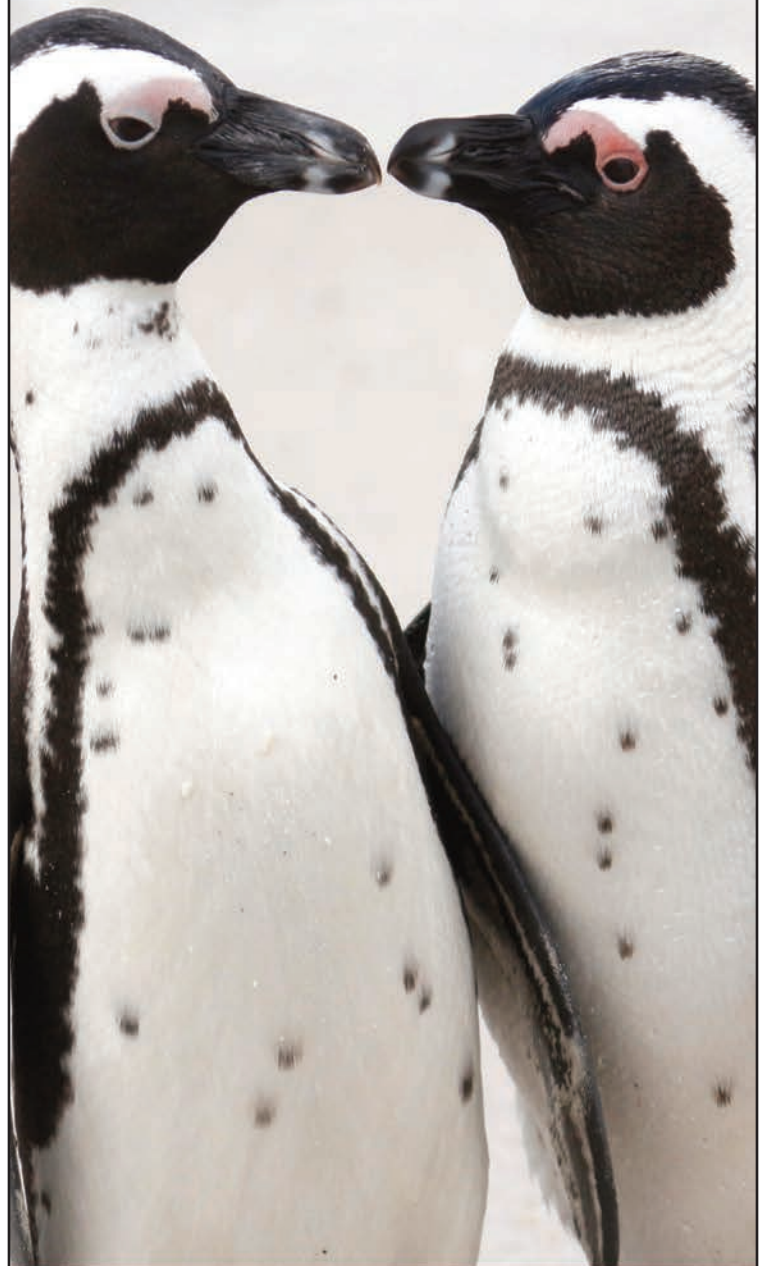
Ethan has worked on more than 200 PPS projects and uses that experience when conducting place making training courses around the world. He has led partnerships and campaigns with public, private and nonprofit leaders to develop campaigns for place making, and he co-founded the New York City Renaissance Campaign. That effort led to a shift in the city's transportation policy and a program that is creating new dynamic public spaces.

Other major projects that Ethan has spearheaded include Kennedy Plaza in Prov-

idence; Times Square and Astor Place in New York; Congress Square in Portland, Maine; Pompey Square in Nassau, Bahamas; Garden Place in Hamilton, New Zealand; and Sub Centro Las Condes in Santiago, Chile. He has also worked with some of the highest profile developments in the world to maximize public spaces in Hong Kong, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Auckland and Sao Paulo.

Ethan studied sociology, environmental studies and economics at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and he explored local development issues in the context of globalization during a year of travel around the world as a participant in the International Honors Program. Ethan did his graduate work in environment and community at the Antioch University Seattle Center for Creative Change. He is a senior fellow with the Institute for Place Management, and he attributes his place making education to the communities he has worked with and to his father, Fred, who founded PPS.

# Everything pairs with fun.



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# KEEP BLACKSTONE VALLEY BEAUTIFUL

A Blackstone in Bloom municipal beautification competition and Tree Hugger Tuesday are two initiatives that were started in 2018 by Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful (KBVB) Coordinator Donna Kaehler.

KBVB is the only Keep America Beautiful affiliate in Rhode Island. The program assists the nine Blackstone Valley communities to end litter, reduce waste and beautify public spaces. Five locations were spruced up during the inaugural Black-



stone in Bloom, which brought together community groups, volunteers and municipal leaders to complete the projects; and the people that participated in the after work Tree Hugger cleanups collected 1,900 pounds of litter.

Other KBVB highlights included:

- Conducting four corporate Earth Day litter cleanups that engaged 75 volunteers and removed 2,800 pounds of litter.
- Supporting Great American Cleanups that removed more than 20 tons of litter from the Blackstone Valley.
- Enhancing the Blackstone River Bikeway experience so visitors now have a listing of bike friendly stops that offer



local history, nature viewings and a variety of specialty foods.

- Adding the Circle Blackstone route, which branches off the Blackstone River Bikeway to give cyclists a way to explore the nine municipalities in the Valley.
- Developing a statewide Bike Mobility Plan aimed at bringing together planners in the 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island to expand and improve the state's biking infrastructure.
- Recognizing more than 45 local businesses for participating in a litter cleanup, hosting a Tree Hugger event, installing a cigarette collection container or taking part in a beautification project.

## Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful Board Members

Melissa Chaput  
Michael Debrosse  
Andrea Hall  
Dr. Arthur Plitt

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's Explorer Education/Vessel program sailed to new heights this past year, serving six new school communities, which increased classroom participation by 10 percent.

## THE Explorer

The Council's education department received a Pawtucket Community Development Grant that funded Watershed Detectives, a new in-class environmental program that includes photographs donated by James Hunt Photography.

Generous donations were received from the Dupuis Oil of Pawtucket, M. Barboza & Sons Roofing & Sheet Metal Co. of Central Falls, Pawtucket Credit Union, Narragansett Bay Commission, Pawtucket Teachers' Union (pictured below) and the Woonsocket Teachers' Guild to purchase equipment students use on Explorer education river tours and to offset the cost of trips so more children can participate.

The Explorer continued its partnership with Mystic Aquarium, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Preservation Society of Pawtucket, Public Archaeology Laboratory, Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket and the cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket and Woonsocket.

## Blackstone Valley Explorer Staff

Port Captain Matthew B. Prendergast	Patricia McAlpine, guide/ educator/ticket sales
Captain Robert Dombrowski	Aime Brissette, guide
Captain Peter Dwyer	Brenda Pelletier, guide
Captain Sheila Paquette	Kathryn Flannery, educator
Rebecca Cusick, crew	Alyssa Richard, Mystic Aquarium, education partner
Timothy Flannery, crew	Marina Flannery, Director of Environmental Education
Malarie Pittsley, crew	
Ryan Bassett, ticket sales	







**MAYOR  
DONALD R. GREBIEN**



Would like to thank the Blackstone Valley  
Tourism Council for all they do to support  
Pawtucket and the Blackstone Valley.

Congratulations to the 2019 award  
recipients.

Thank you for your contribution to our  
communities.

*Bruce Tillinghast*

*Russell J. Gusetti*

*Arnold Mills*



## DRAGON BOATS

The 20th anniversary of the Rhode Island Chinese Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day Festival was celebrated on September 7, 2019, with the addition of six new boats brought to the City of Pawtucket from Taiwan thanks to the generosity of several sponsors, including the Central Falls-based Luke Charitable Foundation, Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Boston.

The new dragon boats, which are 33 feet long and weigh 750 pounds, were officially christened at Festival Pier on Tim Healey Way on September 7 with an awakening of the dragons ceremony, during which the eyes of the dragon heads on the colorful boats were "dotted" with special paint and brushes.

The festival attracted more than 30 racing teams and about 6,000 spectators, who also enjoyed activities that included a dumpling eating contest, arts and crafts and Taiwanese dancing and drumming; and offerings from many food vendors.

The Montreal-based 22Dragons dragon boat club continued to manage the races that were streamed live by WOON on its website, WoonsocketRadio.com, and Facebook page.

Many thanks to our presenting sponsor, Bank of America, and tiger sponsor, R1 Indoor Karting, and our longtime partners – the City of Pawtucket, Louis Yip and Sonny Ng of the Luke Foundation and TECO.

The 2020 races and festival are scheduled to be held on September 12, so get your teams ready to paddle!



**Linda Dewing & Stephen Clark**





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# BLACKSTONE CULINARIA

For the third consecutive year, Blackstone Culinaria received a Providence Journal Critic's Choice Award in the Culinary Innovators category. Food tours occurred in several communities with more than 300 patrons enjoying exclusive dining experiences at 10 Blackstone Valley restaurants. For the first time, there was a tour of a distillery and a cooking lesson, and we continued our combined Explorer riverboat-food tours. All the events were well-attended, and many were sold out.



**Proud to support the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council  
and its Annual Awards Celebration.**



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## William Blackstone Society Inductions

Leonard Panaggio\*  
Patrick M. Malone  
Luther Blount\*  
David Gulvin\*  
Albert T. Klyberg\*  
David Macaulay  
Robert D. Billington  
Louis Lind\*  
Clinton Johnson\*  
Thomas J. Shanahan  
Robert E. Metivier  
Carol A. Metivier  
Bernard G. Mondor\*  
John Chan  
Michael D. Cassidy  
David W. Balfour  
Dana M. Newbrook  
Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson\*  
Wilfrid L. Gates Jr.  
Rose Lavoie\*  
Thomas V. Ward  
John Worsley\*  
Joseph O'Donnell Jr.\*

Peter Conway  
Robert Conway  
Helen L. Moroney\*  
Donna B. Houle  
Gary Furtado  
Rick Greenwood\*  
John Gregory  
Gene Peloquin  
Kathy Hartley  
Louis Yip  
Sunny Ng  
Daryl Sherman  
Michael Hebert  
Marcia Green  
Raymond Bacon  
William Belisle Jr.  
David Belisle  
John Monaghan  
Donald Leighton  
Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane  
Michael Tamburro  
Denise Panichas  
Morris Nathanson

*\* deceased*

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**Congrats!**  
to our friend  
and colleague,  
**Russ Gusetti**



on his induction  
into the  
**William Blackstone  
Society.**

From all of us at

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Voice: 401.334.9555 Web: [www.valleybreeze.com](http://www.valleybreeze.com)





Another successful Annual Blackstone Valley Heritage Golf Tournament was held at Crystal Lake Golf Club in Burrillville in conjunction with presenting sponsor Navigant Credit Union. Circle June 15 on your 2020 calendar to participate in the 15th annual tournament.

East Providence native Margaret Rogers was crowned the 2019 Cherry Blossom princess by Gov. Gina Raimondo on March 29 at the Statehouse. She represented Rhode Island at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in April in Washington, D.C.

**Paw Sox**  
FOUNDATION

As of December 2019, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council will have welcomed more than 164,000 passengers on the Polar Express train trip from the depot in Woonsocket to the "North Pole" in Uxbridge. This year will be the 20th anniversary of the Polar Express in the Blackstone Valley. In 2018, there were 20,229 passengers. When the attraction was established in 2000, there were less than 500 passengers on the two inaugural trips.

The phenomenal growth of the popularity of the Polar Express has been a true gift to the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. With the attraction, we have spread the magic of the holidays to thousands of families, making children as well as adults smile broadly as they enjoy a classic tale and the festive 90-minute train ride.

Besides the reading of *The Polar Express*, the trip consists of sing-a-longs, hot chocolate served in a souvenir mugs, delicious cookies, a viewing of the "North Pole," games and a special visit from Santa, who, true to the book authored by Chris Van Allsburg, delivers the first gift of Christmas to every child.

If passengers arrive early, they can pose for photos in front of custom-made Polar Express backdrops with the characters in the show. There is an area for children where they can



color and write letters to Santa, and people can shop in the official Polar Express gift shop while listening to Christmas music that fills the beautifully-decorated depot. After the train returns, people can stay for a photo with Santa on his sleigh.

There are 57 trips scheduled between November 15 and December 22 this year, and reservations can be made online at [blackstonevalleypolarexpress.com](http://blackstonevalleypolarexpress.com).



# THE TAI-O GROUP

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Thank you  
Blackstone Valley  
Tourism Council for  
your  
partnership and  
advocacy in our  
community.



Mayor James A. Diosa



## Blackstone River State Park I-295 Visitor Center

Patricia McAlpine took over as volunteer coordinator of the 295 Visitor Center in September 2018. Since October, the volunteer staff has worked more than 650 hours, which is a value of \$16,530. The center receives visitors heading to Northern Rhode Island as well as cyclists using the Blackstone Bike Path. The season is busiest from June to August. The state Department of Environmental Management added three vending machines at the center, two beverage machines and one snack machine, to accommodate visitors. The department also repaved sidewalks near the entrances.

### Visitor Center Volunteers & Years of Service

Jerry Aissis .....	13
Steve Menatian .....	10
Claudette Moore .....	13
Andrew Whalen .....	7
Jim Wilbour .....	13
Paul Bateson .....	4
Ray Deslauriers .....	5
Ray Pelletier .....	New



*The Board of Directors  
congratulates fellow  
board member*

**RUSSELL GUSETTI**

*on his induction into the*

**William Blackstone Society**





- The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council partnered with the Putnam Business Association and Genesee and Wyoming Railroad on the Fall Train Excursion thru the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Quinebaug and Shetauket Heritage Corridor in October, 2018. Over 380 passengers from the region visited the Great Pumpkin Festival in Putnam and enjoyed antique shopping, a farmers market, an arts and crafts festival, and fine dining.

- Roger Brooks, president and founder of Destination Development Association, was the guest speaker on May 10 at the Sustainable Tourism Planning and Development Laboratory. Since 1981, Roger has assisted more than 2,000 communities with their downtown development, place-branding, tourism and marketing efforts, and he is now one of the most widely recognized experts in the field.



- We commemorated 25 years of the Blackstone Valley/Amber Valley Compact in July with a visit to Belper, England. Tourism Council President Robert Billington, Debbie Billington, Council Director of Operations Natalie Carter, Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful Coordinator Donna Kaehler, Linda Dewing, Pawtucket Mayor Donald Grebien, Central Falls Mayor James Diossa and Council board member Louis Yip traveled to England. A short preview of the movie Slatersville, by local film-maker Christian de Rezendes was featured during the visit to Belper, the birthplace of Samuel Slater.



Robert Billington, Council Director of Operations Natalie Carter, Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful Coordinator Donna Kaehler, Linda Dewing, Pawtucket Mayor Don-

-continued on page 18



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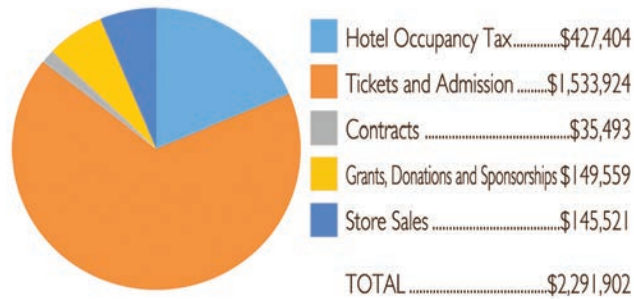
**On behalf of the Blackstone River Theatre Board,  
our amazing volunteers and  
our very loyal patrons – Congratulations to**



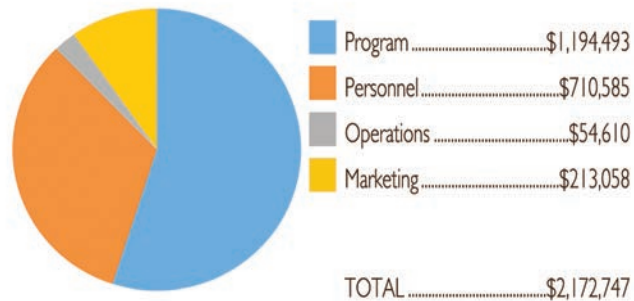
**Russ Gusetti**  
**on your induction to the**  
**William Blackstone Society**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Source of Funds 2018-2019



## Use of Funds 2018-2019



## Highlights continued from page 16-

- New hotels that opened were the Twin River Casino Hotel in Lincoln and Home2Suites Hilton in Smithfield.

- Partnered on the New England Franco Route with Anne Conway from the Museum of Work and Culture in Culture. The trail will connect Woonsocket; Lowell, Mass.; Manchester, N.H.; Biddeford and Lewiston, Maine; and showcase the cities' French-Canadian culture.



- The Tourism Council sponsored and assisted with the 10-week Levitt Amp Music Series at River Island Park in Woonsocket, an eclectic music event held every Friday night for the second year in a row, that brought in local and national bands.

- The Tourism Council partnered with Don Leighton and Arek Galle from BETA Engineering, Morris Nathanson, Louis Yip and Sue Marra of the City of Pawtucket to plan the new Rev. William Blackstone statue that will be located at the corner of Exchange Street and Roosevelt Avenue in Pawtucket. The statue is being designed by Peruvian artist Peruko Ccopacatty of West Kingston.

- Leah Hill was hired as coordinator for the Broad Street Re-generation Project – a collaborative effort between Central Falls, Cumberland, Pawtucket and the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. The goal is to ensure Broad Street is a thriving, safe, walkable and multi-city commercial corridor.



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AND ADVANCE ONGOING RIVER EDUCATION ABOARD *THE EXPLORER*.

