

 RHODE ISLAND  
  
**FUN-SIZED**  
*in*  
**BLACKSTONE  
VALLEY**

  
**BLACKSTONE VALLEY**  
TOURISM COUNCIL

**33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL**  
**INDUCTIONS & AWARDS**

Twin River Event Center  
Lincoln, RI

**WEDNESDAY**  
**OCT. 3RD 2018**



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# WELCOME

As Chairman of your Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated group of talented staff and volunteers. Without their work we would not have been able to meet our objectives for making Rhode Island's Blackstone Valley a strong and vibrant region for visitors and residents.

It has been a tremendous experience to watch the Tourism Council grow over these last three decades from a small tourism organization promoting Northern Rhode Island to one that has received several major international awards and been instrumental in the development of our Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.

This year, we not only look back at our many accomplishments developing Rhode Island's Blackstone Valley into a world-class tourism destination, but also ahead into the future and the continued advancement of our tourism assets. The established Blackstone Valley Heritage Trust Fund will continue the revitalization of our natural resources, and advance the environmental education taking place on our newly-renovated Blackstone Valley Explorer with interesting high-tech learning tools and efficiencies.

As we keep meeting our challenges we thank all of our friends in the Blackstone Valley community for their ongoing support for the past 33 years. We greatly appreciate the assistance of our national and state leaders in helping to sustain the programs of the Blackstone Valley. We are in a very exciting time as the Blackstone Valley grows through the creation our new National Park.

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  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401-724-2200**

## Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Board of Directors 2017-2018

### Board Members

David Balfour, *Chairman*  
Barry Mechanic, *Vice-Chairman*  
Dave Richards, *Secretary*  
Judy Fischbach, *Treasurer*  
Mark Brodeur, *ex officio*  
Louis Yip

Deb Berardis  
Thomas Kravitz  
Michael Gwynn  
Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane  
Paul Palange  
Michael Zhang

## RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS



Excellence in Tourism Business

R1 Karting

*Lincoln, RI*

William Blackstone Society Inductions

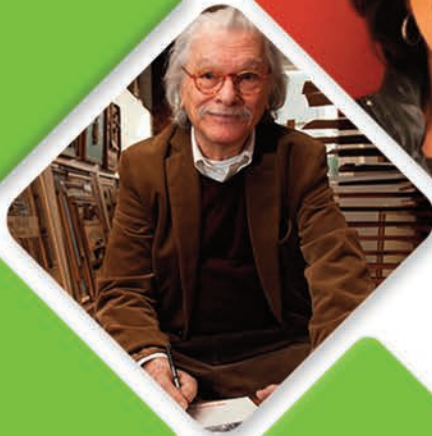
Denise Panichas

*Executive Director,*

*The Samaritans of Rhode Island*

Morris Nathanson

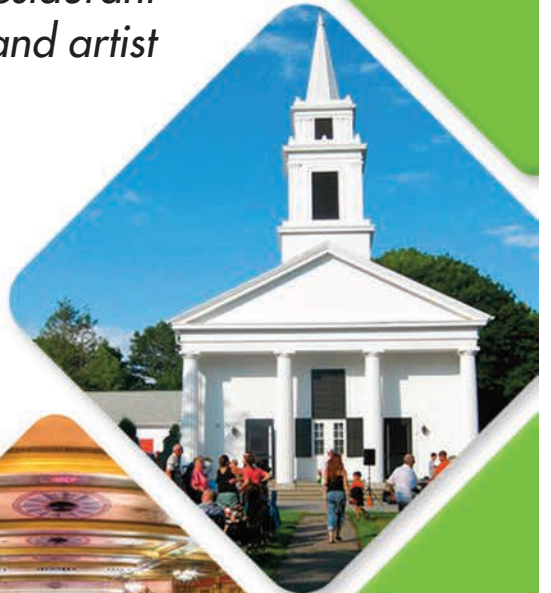
*Noted restaurant  
designer and artist*



Footprints in History

Slatersville Village Green

*North Smithfield, Rhode Island*



Excellence in the Arts

Stadium Theatre

*Woonsocket, RI*



Rising Star Millennial in Tourism

James Diosa

*Mayor of Central Falls, Rhode Island*





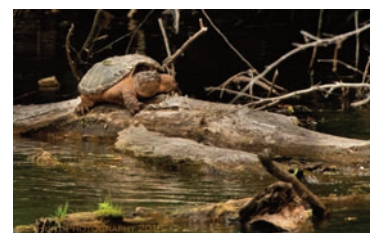
Last year was a bitter-sweet year for the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. While we enhanced many of our programs and services making a positive impact on our region, Rhode Island's Blackstone Valley lost 2 key attractions: The Pawtucket Red Sox (one of the state's largest attractions) and the Gamm Theatre. When the Tourism Council began, we had to face many challenges, and overcome many doubts in developing the Blackstone Valley into a significant visitor destination. Going forward, we are confident that we, working with others, can overcome these new challenges thrust upon us by the loss of these attractions to build an even stronger region for those living, working and visiting here.

## The Explorer

### Blackstone Valley Explorer Staff 2018

*Port Captain* Matthew B. Prendergast  
*Captain* Robert Dombrowski  
*Captain* Howard Labitt  
*Captain* Sheila Paquette  
*Patricia McAlpine, ticket sales*  
*Ryan Bassett, ticket sales*  
*Timothy Flannery, crew*  
*Chenwei Lu, crew*

- Operated out of 4 communities: Pawtucket, Central Falls, Woonsocket and East Providence
- Increased ridership over previous years
- Refurbished boats with new technology
- Expanded River Classroom program
- Developed and enriched community partnerships with Mystic Aquarium, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Preservation Society of Pawtucket, The Archaeology Laboratory Inc., Cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket and Woonsocket, Pawtucket YMCA Summer Arts Camp
- Worked with Al's Waterfront Restaurant for boat trips out of East Providence
- Joined with the Culinaria program to offer an increased number of boat/food combination tours, all of which sold out and required additional dates
- DEM donated a dock for Woonsocket to use in rebuilding the landing
- Celebrated Explorer's Silver Anniversary at Festival Pier on August 19, 2018



# MEMBERSHIP gets you closer

Be the first to experience new exhibits,  
enjoy great member benefits and join in  
special events all year. There is no better  
way to discover and protect your ocean  
than as a member of Mystic Aquarium.



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*Proud to support the Blackstone  
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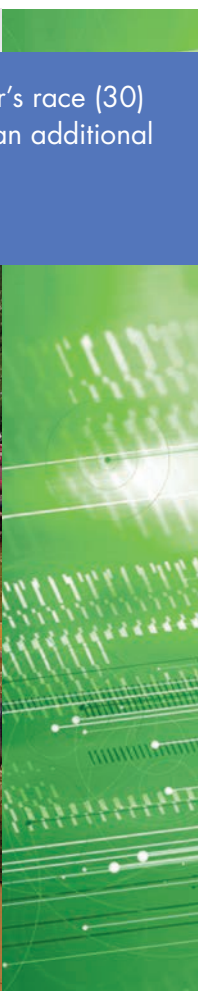




## RI Chinese Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day Festival

- One of the highest number of boats entered this year's race (30)
- Will be receiving 6 new smaller BKU boats to offer an additional race option and expand the festival next year
- Added a new jump rope contest

Mr. Louis Yip and Mr. Sunny Ng with the performers from the Chinese Folk Art Workshop of Boston at the RI Chinese Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day Festival





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



## Mayor James A. Diossa



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## William Blackstone Society Inductions

Leonard Panaggio\*  
Patrick M. Malone, Ph. D.  
Luther H. 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\*  
Tom Ward  
John Worsley  
Joseph O'Donnell, Jr.\*

Peter Conway  
Robert Conway  
Helen L. Moroney\*  
Donna 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,  
Ed.D.  
Michael Tamburro

*\* deceased*

**Thank You**  
To our 33rd  
Annual Induction &  
Awards Supporters

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- SHEAHAN PRINTING
- SOUTHWICK ZOO
- STADIUM THEATRE
- THE DORRANCE
- VOSE HARDWARE

## Blackstone Valley Visitor Center

Wendy Jencks, *Visitor Center Manager*  
 Jerry Assis, *Visitor Center Staff*  
 Ryan Bassett, *Visitor Center Staff*  
 Patti McAlpine, *Visitor Center Staff*  
 Glen Oblinger, *Visitor Center Staff*

**Keep  
Blackstone  
Valley  
Beautiful**



YMCA Don't Litter message

KBVB is a program that assists all nine BV communities to promote ending litter, reducing waste, and beautifying their community through a variety of national KAB supported programs, as well as local events and educational outreach implemented by KBVB.

- Grant recipient so KBVB could host a cigarette litter prevention campaign installing 50 cigarette butt collection containers in bus shelters and municipal locations.
- Supported over 1400 volunteers that assisted in our 2018 Great American Cleanup season removing over 23 tons of litter from the Blackstone Valley.
- Enhanced Blackstone River Bikeway experience so visitors now have a listing of bike friendly stops that offer local history, nature viewing and a variety of special foods to try in our area.
- Added additional biking off the Blackstone River Bikeway, to include a route to explore all nine Blackstone Valley municipalities with an on-road route called Circle Blackstone.
- Developed a state-wide Bike Mobility Plan for all RI communities to work together with one plan to expand and improve our current biking infrastructure.

## Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful Board Members

Melissa Chaput  
 Michael Debroisse  
 Andrea Hall  
 Dr. Arthur Plitt

## Cherry Blossom

- Crowned our 7th Cherry Blossom Princess



Consul General Michi and Governor Gina Raimondo Crowning Ms. Michelle Moreno-Silva the 2018 RI Cherry Blossom Princess representing Rhode Island at the Washington DC Cherry Blossom Festival. Committee Members Ewa Dzwierzynski and Geraldine Barclay King.

## Blackstone Valley Heritage Golf Tournament

- Held in Burrillville, the annual golf tournament continues to be a success and this year welcomed a professional long-drive champion, Rob Tiettmeyer



Blackstone Valley Heritage Golf Tournament teams Navigant Credit Union, Presenting Sponsor, and team Barboza Roofing.



## Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Staff

Robert D. Billington, Ed. D., *President*  
 Natalie Carter, *Director of Operations*  
 Donna Houle, *Manager of Special Projects*  
 Amanda Wood, *Office Manager/Translator*  
 James Toomey, *Director of Marketing*  
 Geraldine Barclay-King, *Director of Development & Programs*  
 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*



# THE TAI-O GROUP

## REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT



## Broad Street Regeneration Program

- Received the Rhode Island Foundation award for new coordinator
- Assisted with the Pawtucket Downtown Alliance and clean-ups
- Roger Williams partnership
- Received the APA award
- Conducted ongoing work with 18 total partners on RIDOT project



## Blackstone Culinaria

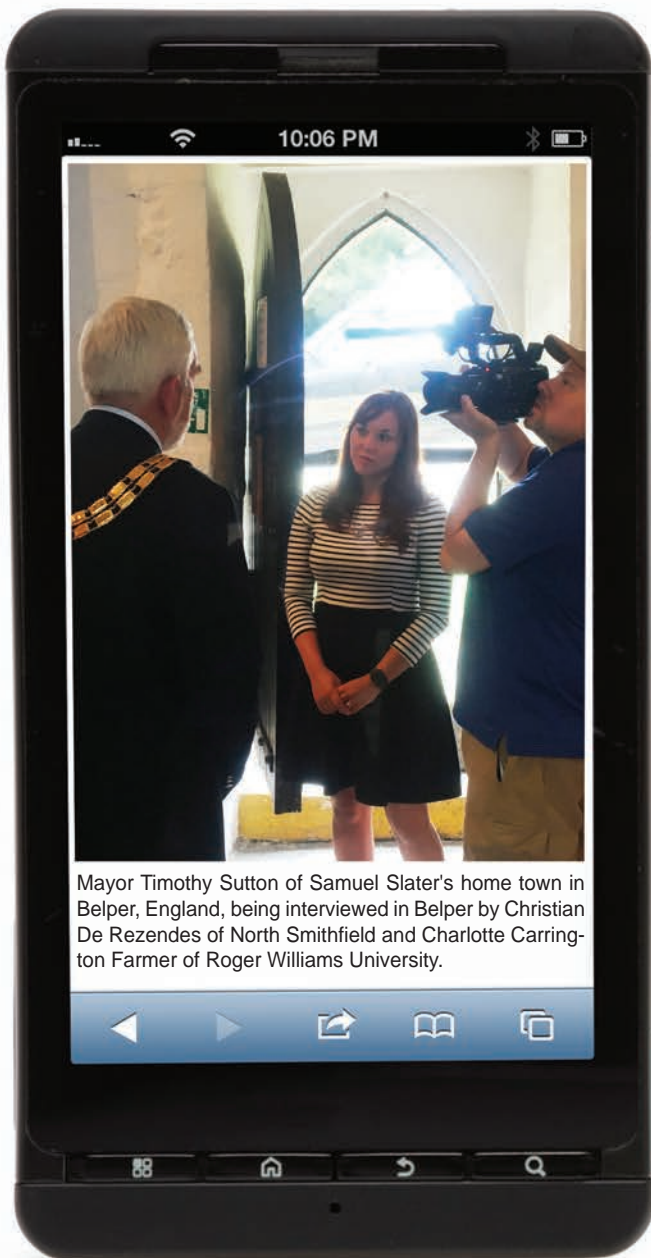
- Featured food tours in several communities
- Over 200 diners visited 8 restaurants around the Blackstone Valley to enjoy a special dining experience
- Events were either sold out or close to sell outs
- Joined with the Explorer to offer several boat/food tours, all of which were sold out requiring additional dates
- Honored once again by the Providence Journal Critic's Choice awards



## Sustainable Tourism Lab

- Worked with Robert Leaver to have Megan Epler Wood speak at a lab workshop to discuss the UN's Green Economy Tourism Report in addition to hosting her to speak before the State Tourism Division

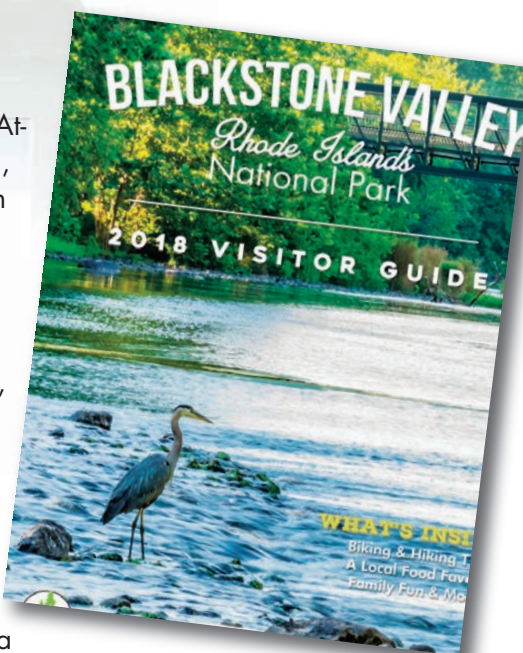




Mayor Timothy Sutton of Samuel Slater's home town in Belper, England, being interviewed in Belper by Christian De Rezendes of North Smithfield and Charlotte Carrington Farmer of Roger Williams University.

## General Marketing

- Assisted the state with the fun-sized videos pertaining to Blackstone Valley Attractions including Dragon Boat Racing, Polar Express and bouldering at Lincoln Woods
- Published new, revamped edition of Blackstone Valley Visitor Guide
- The Brochure Distribution Program was reinstated and expanded this year, to include eight new participants with distribution to over 40 sites around the state of Rhode Island
- Enhanced Blackstone Valley online event calendar became the go-to point for all Blackstone Valley events
- Increased both print and social media marketing targeting nearby markets



## Levitt Amp Music Series

- Sponsored and assisted with a 10-week eclectic music event in Woonsocket every Friday night this summer that brought in both local and national acts



## New Hotels

- Look forward to working with the 3 new hotels: Twin River Hotel and Marriott Residence Inn in Lincoln and Home2 Suites by Hilton in Smithfield



## Fall Train Excursion Trip

- Continued our successful Fall Train Excursion with a sellout

## Commuter Train Station

- Provided ongoing assistance with developing the new commuter train station in Pawtucket
- Explored an excursion train event to promote development of the train station with The Guild and others

## Pawsox

- Fought to keep the Pawsox in Pawtucket
- Worked with Delin Design to create the "Stay Pawsitive" campaign that included "Stay Pawsitive" bumper stickers and pins

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Blackstone Valley Tourism Council**



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***Please stay with us while visiting the Blackstone Valley and  
Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park***



## Blackstone Valley Polar Express

- Highest number of trips offered and passengers since the event was inaugurated
- Opening weekend extravaganza will be offered in 2018
- Continue to invest in our community with our "Calling All Elves" fundraising program
- A 35-foot Christmas tree is now part of the Polar Express "North Pole"

## Blackstone River Bikeway

- Continued support of Green Economy Bonds to support the Blackstone River Bikeway
- Completion of the Woonsocket and North Smithfield Bikeway segment
- Assisted with building a new bridge across the Blackstone River in Woonsocket



## Slatersville Film

- Working with Christian de Rezen-des on the in-depth historical Slatersville video

## Invenergy Plant

Worked with fellow environmental advocates to campaign against the Clear River Energy Center Invenergy power plant

## Amber Valley Compact

Planning 25th anniversary celebration next year and will be traveling to Amber Valley for anniversary celebration

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



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## Blackstone River State Park Visitor Center

Jerry Assis	Claudette Moore	Jim Tracy
Paul Bateson	Peter Nageau	Andrew Whalen
Ray Deslauriers	Howie O'Neill	Jim Wilbour
Herb Johnston	Ray Rabidoux	
Steve Menatian	Lori Shaken	

## Mystic Aquarium Staff 2018

Mary Ellen Mateleska, *Director of Education & Conservation*  
 Amy Gollenberg, *Director of School Programs*  
 Sarah Arpie, *Educator* • Alyssa Richard, *Educator*

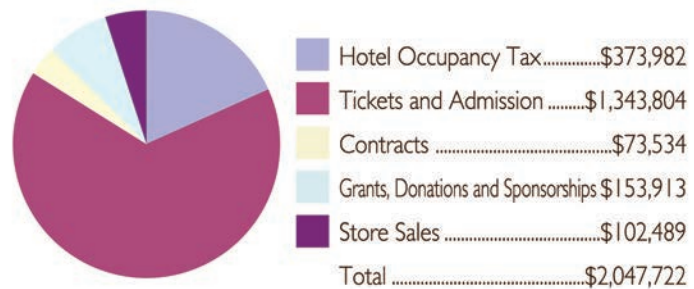


### Internship Program

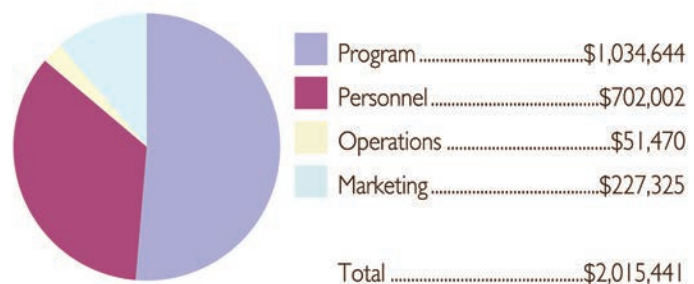
- New England Tech
- Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Program

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Source of Funds 2017-2018



### Use of Funds 2017-2018



**MAYOR DONALD R. GREBIEN**

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

Congratulations to the  
2018 award recipients.

Thank you for your contribution  
to our communities.

Denise Panichas

Morris Nathanson

Mayor James Diosa

Stadium Theatre

Slatersville Village Green

R1 Karting



# THANK YOU!

Your support benefits the  
Blackstone Valley Heritage Environmental Trust Fund

to continue the revitalization of our natural resources,  
protect and conserve our local environment and open spaces,  
make the Blackstone American Heritage River  
the centerpiece of our National Historical Park,  
and advance ongoing river education aboard *The Explorer*.

