



THE LANDMARK

PUBLICATION OF THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

bvhsri.org ♦ 1873 Old Louisquissett Pike (Rte 246) ♦ PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

Central Falls ♦ Cumberland ♦ Lincoln ♦ North Smithfield ♦ Pawtucket ♦ Woonsocket

Found in the Archives ... *Limerock Grange #22*



On February 20 and 21, from 2-4 P.M., North Gate will be home of a display on the history of Limerock Grange #22. Using data found in the archives, Lori Melucci, Susan Clarke, Francine Jackson and Pat Armitage have organized a comprehensive exhibit. Lime Rock Grange #22 sold their building to the The Blackstone Valley Historical

Society in 1971, and relinquished their charter in 1974. Lincoln, which was once dotted with farms, particularly dairy farms, had been gradually transitioning to a suburb, and by the 1970's, the working farms were almost extinct. Lime Rock Grange #22 was organized on December 28, 1889 and nationally chartered in 1890. It purchased the former Toll House (North Gate) in 1904. It had been an important part of the life of the community for more than eighty years. Come help identify pictures, watch an engaging PowerPoint and see memorabilia from our beloved past.

BVHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Dionne

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Vice President: John Houghton

Secretary: Francine Jackson

Treasurer: Lori Melucci

Members-at-Large

Gail Harris, Glenn Laxton, Bob Ferri



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2015 - 2016 Capital Campaign



In Memoriam

BOND, MARY(KULIK) 93, of Cumberland, died peacefully on December 12, 2015. She is predeceased by her husband George who died in 2005. Mary had been a member since 1988 and was generous supporter of BVHS.



STANDARDS

Songs from the Great American Songbook & Jazz



David M. Marshall
Vocals & keyboard & sax



Michael DiMucci
Vocals & keyboard



Brandon Carrira
drums

A program of great music from Cole Porter, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin and more ... made famous by Sinatra, Bennett and Bublé!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Blackstone Historical Society

(concert hall, second floor)

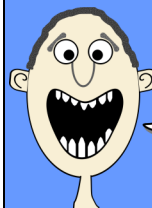
1873 Old Louisquissett Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865

3:00PM

Tickets: \$20.00 (available at the door)



Patrick Burke's fascinating article on William Blackstone will conclude in our March Newsletter.



Rent
North Gate!

Questions?

Call

(401) 651-6463

A perfect way to make your party pop is to have it in a hip historic setting ... Great for all occasions!

As you know, the society has applied for and received a grant to repair and paint North Gate. In the process other issues arose including foundation stabilization, new walkway and parking lot barriers. The Capital Campaign will fund this needed work and allow for continued upkeep of The Lonsdale Arnold Bakery, The Fire and the exterior and interior spaces at North Gate.

Help us meet our goal!

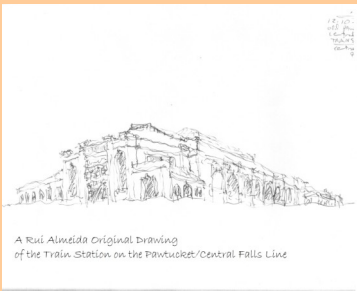
Central Falls - Bright Future...Captivating Past



For one square mile, Central Falls is rich in historical fun facts and amazing “firsts.” For one, did you know that it was the site of one of the first water-powered chocolate mills? Inspired by this fact, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council constructed the **Chocolate Mill Overlook** in 2012 at the corner of

Roosevelt and Charles (This is adjacent to the site of the William Wheat Chocolate Mill. Built in 1783 it predates Slater Mill!). There are engaging informational placards concerning the history of the city and chocolate manufacturing within the area. Venture down to the Blackstone River before it runs under the Roosevelt Avenue Bridge (which is beautiful at night with the recently installed archway lights) to launch canoes and fish. Within the park is a cherry tree nursery, a rain garden and Rhode Island’s champion cottonwood tree. (Guys, that means it is the largest in the state! How cool is that!). This is the perfect place to start a journey on the Blackstone Bikeway or simply enjoy a picnic lunch.

CF councilman and BVHS member **Robert Ferri** is receiving special recognition for his involvement in getting girls basketball and softball the attention it deserved before it became a High School recognized sport. He was president for the CYO basketball league for 10 years. Ferri (a CF High School graduate) will be inducted into the Central Falls High School Sports Hall of Fame. Said Ferri, “I am ever so thankful for this honor, and to the members of the nominating committee. I thank each and every athlete that was part of the journey leading to this recognition award, without them such award would not be possible.”



He’s from Portugal. His family moved to East Providence when he was 11 and though he’s gone back to the Azores, he ended up making his home in North Providence. In September he took on the difficult job of City Planner for Central Falls, bringing with him an extensive background in **architecture, art** and a passion for **history**. He’s hoping to revitalize the city with the help of coworkers Peter Friedrichs, Blake Collins and Evan Lehrer.

Meet **RUI ALMEDIA.**

So ... What’s your plan with Central Falls?

We are going to revise what we had and come up with a master plan. We are going to listen to everyone. In the New Year we’re going to organize and plan meetings for the public to attend and tell us what they want in their city. Almost every morning I walk the city with Peter. You can’t get ideas from sitting in a building at a desk, you get ideas from being in the city. I bring my sketch pad and draw buildings as I see them, not as how they are, but how they feel. With grant money, we are working to create and improve our public spaces. We are bringing new furniture and lights to Jenks park. We are working on Hunts park next.

Which buildings in Central Falls are you drawn to?

The building at the Central Falls Landing has a contract. We are breaking ground in a year and plan to hopefully have the project completed in 2 years. We are blending innovation and tradition.

The train station has so much potential. It should be restored and made into a museum. It is an important part of our history. **When we reach into our history we learn our DNA.**

City Hall is a beautiful building, it was once a school, did you know? The old police station/courthouse is magnificent.

It seems like mill buildings being converted to lofts is a popular way of repurposing them. What do you think about the process?

Mill buildings were built for business. We need business space as much as we need residential. We should be infusing them with what they were made to be. That square footage is what big firms and businesses need.

What do you think of the importance of preserving the Blackstone River?

Humans can’t live without water. We’re somehow 70% water. Water powered our businesses. The Blackstone River is our backbone.

How are you liking Rhode Island?

I love it. Rhode Island is a great mix. It has history, it is coastal, it has everything. Embrace your size. Believe more in yourself. Latch onto your history and your past. **When you sway from history, you sway from the future.**