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Friday, September 19, 2025

Smithsonian Institute's Museum on Main Street now open in Douglas

DOUGLAS — On Saturday, Sept. 13, the Douglas Historical Society celebrated the grand opening of Voices and Votes: Democracy in America, a Smithsonian traveling exhibition known as Museum on Main Street. Local dignitaries, Society board members and the general public gathered at the Douglas Municipal Center to kickoff the exhibition that will run until Oct. 25.

Voices and Votes chronicles the evolution of the democratic process in the United States. Using a collection of authentic artifacts and material, as well as interactive screens and games, the exhibition crafts a detailed story that spans from the American Revolution to the present day. Located at 29 Depot Street in Douglas, the exhibit's hours are as follows: Tuesdays from 10am-6 pm, Wednesdays from 10am-4pm, Thursdays from 10am-4pm, Saturdays from 10am-3pm. Exhibit entry is free for all visitors and there is ample free parking.

"We are so thrilled to have kicked off this amazing exhibit detailing the development of our democracy," said Douglas Historical Society Project Director Lisa Mosczynski. "This is an exhibit geared not only towards the past but also the present and the future. We hope that



Courtesy

Members of the Douglas Board of Selectmen, State Senator Ryan Fattman, Mass Humanities Executive Director Brian Boyles and Program Officer Marie Pellissier along with Jeanne Hebert, President of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, join Douglas Historical Society Project Director Lisa Mosczynski at the exhibit's ribbon cutting.

visitors will be inspired to examine their own attitudes on voting and democracy, as well as consider how they can best perform their civic duties."

Voices and Votes will also feature several events designed to prompt community discourse and discussion. On Sept. 22, local historians will gather at the E.N. Jenckes Store

Museum for a "show and tell" presentation using primary source election

campaign ephemera to tell the history of elections locally. On Sept. 25, a pre-

sentation on an authentic banner from William Henry Harrison's 1840

presidential campaign will be given by Douglas Library Archivist Rebecca Lavallee.

On Oct. 8, Allison Horrocks, Park Ranger at the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park will present on the Valley's own history related to the "how" and "who" of voting. On Oct. 15, a reenactment will center on the life of Deborah Sampson, a woman who served in the Revolutionary War and whose story still resonates today. On Oct. 16, visitors are invited to join a community conversation centered on how the democratic process can best thrive at the local level. All of these events will take place at 7 p.m.

Additional activities include a scavenger hunt as well as a mock election for children, where kids can cast their ballots to elect the mayor of Douglas. For more information and schedules regarding Voices and Votes, please visit mysfpl.org/moms or contact Lisa Mosczynski at LisaM367@gmail.com and at 508-341-4876.

Douglas Common fall donation drive, Thank You Drawing announced

BY LYNN PARESKY
DOUGLAS COMMON PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.

DOUGLAS — Organized to help fund the popular Douglas Common Holiday Lighting Celebration, the Fall Donation Drive and Thank You Drawing is now underway. The Thank You Drawing is for 150 "\$1,000,000 Bonus Plus" Scratch Tickets with a retail value of \$750, and the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. is showing its gratitude to donors by making 15 drawing entries in the donors' names for EACH \$25 donated between now and Oct. 22. The drawing will take place on Oct. 22, and the winner will be notified.

To take part in the Fall Donation Drive and Thank You Drawing, make your donation by Oct. 22 by check payable to the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. mailed to 76 NW Main St., Douglas, MA 01516. Donations may also be made by Venmo @ Kathleen-Sugrue-Richards - and please include your



email and mailing address. Since donations are tax-deductible, a donation receipt

will be sent to you for tax purposes. More information is

available on the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. Facebook page, and winner will be announced there as well.

The scratch tickets being given away in the Thank You Drawing were very generously donated to the Society by local friend and supporter, David Maenzo. He wanted to help the Society with its Fall Fund Drive by providing a great prize that anyone would love to win.

Relying totally on donations from the community, both individuals and businesses, the Society offers an annual Holiday Lighting Celebration that attracts families to see the lights and other decorations, meet Santa, listen to caroling by The Very Merry Dickens Carolers, take photos with the "herd" of deer, by the tree in the gazebo, or with Santa, and share the season over beverages with friends and neighbors. They invite you to lend your support by participating in the Fall Donation Drive.

VCC Harvest Festival returns to Northbridge Common

NORTHBRIDGE — The 2025 Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Village Congregational Church in Whitinsville, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the Northbridge Town Common, across from Village Church at 5 Church St. (The rain date will be Sunday, Sept. 28 from noon until 4 p.m.). This year promises more vendors and more fabulous raffle prizes!

A fair for all ages in our 17th year brings our community a day of arts, crafts, vendors, food court, music, children's activities, obstacle course, face painting, Maggie the Clown, a huge variety of raffle prizes, Blessing of the Pets at 10:30 a.m., a tag sale at Village Congregational Church and a 50/50 Raffle! Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are sold online at <https://go.rallyup.com/vcc/Campaign/Details>.

All proceeds from the festival and the raffles benefit our wider missions:

- * Thanksgiving & Easter food baskets for families in need.
 - * NAC Food Pantry and Peace of Bread Mission
 - * School Supply Drive for local students
 - * Blackstone Valley Emergency Warming Centers
- Treat yourself to a wonderful fall day at the VCC Harvest Festival, a unique slice of life and family fun in a historical New England town. For more details, visit www.vccucc.org.

Whitinsville Retirement Society celebrates 50 years with summer cookout and family fun

WHITINSVILLE — The Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc. (WRSI) continued its yearlong 50th Anniversary "Golden Jubilee" with a Summer Cookout on Saturday, Sept. 6. Residents, families and friends of the two WRSI properties, their Whitinsville Retirement Home and their Elderly Apartments, celebrated with staff and society members!

Under sunny skies, the lawn between the two buildings was



Courtesy
(Right) WRSI President Randy DeVries, Amanda Hellyar (District Director of Sen. Fattman's office), WRSI Vice-President Scott Schneider receiving citation.

crowded with nearly 150 people enjoying the fellowship of family and friends while the aroma of hamburgers and hot dogs being grilled by board members filled the air. People played lawn games, enjoyed face painting, a photo booth, entertainment music by Polka Paul, browsing through the Lighthouse thrift store and more. Amanda Hellyar, District Director for the Office of State Senator Ryan C. Fattman (Worcester-Hampden District), presented WRSI a congratulatory "Official Citation" from the Massachusetts Senate in recognition of "The auspicious celebration of your 50th Golden Anniversary and serving the senior commu-

nity of the Blackstone Valley" and extending best wishes for continued success. WRSI is grateful for this anniversary's opportunity to honor our past, celebrate our present and focus on our future-meeting the needs of aging family and friends of the Blackstone Valley with renewed commitment and dedication.

Fifty years ago, on Feb. 21, 1975, WRSI was formed by local church patrons to provide independent, congregate living for the well-elderly in a loving and caring Christian environment. The Whitinsville Retirement Home is located in the John C. Whitin Mansion, affectionately known as the

COOKOUT

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"Mason Home." This homelike setting has 17 private rooms with baths, along

with several common social areas, which allows for carefree living and companionship of singles and married couples. Home-cooked meals, laun-




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Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com




Check out the new Fall/Winter menu



Courtesy
Alma Chase (resident) and family playing washers.



Courtesy
Phyllis Masso and Gaye McCrae (residents) enjoying the day.



Courtesy
Edwina Whitaker (resident) enjoying dessert with family.



Courtesy
Will Banning (resident) and family at WRSI photo booth.

dry, housekeeping, social events and more are provided. The Whitinsville Elderly Apartments include 24 one- and two-bedroom units and offer individuals secure, comfortable living in a pleasant environment at a very reasonable rent which even has a community room for informal gatherings and special occasions. Residents of both the home and the apartments enjoy the beautifully manicured lawns on nine wooded acres nestled away in the quiet residential neighborhood of Chestnut Street.

For more information about the home, apartments or becoming a society member, see our Web site at www.whitinsvilleretirement.com or call WRSI at 508-234-6381 anytime.

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- Contact Derek Bachand 774-757-1264 With Any Questions

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