

# BAY STATE VILLAGE NEWS

October 2021

## Donations Needed for Afghan Refugees Arriving to Pioneer Valley

In partnership with the Cities of Northampton, Amherst, and Easthampton, Catholic Charities is receiving and resettling Afghan refugees into our communities. BSVA President Stephen Taranto and his family are sponsoring a collection point here in the neighborhood to help our new neighbors adjust to a very different world in Western Mass. The following new or lightly used items are urgently needed:

- Adult and child winter coats, boots, socks, hats and mittens
- Adult and child bicycles, helmets and locks
- Gift cards to grocery and department stores
- TVs, coffee and side tables
- Brooms, dustpans, mops, bathmats, shower curtains and rings
- Kitchen items
- School and art supplies

Items can be left until November 15 on the front porch of 261 Riverside Drive. If you prefer to arrange a drop off, you can email, call or text Stephen at [andestar28@gmail.com](mailto:andestar28@gmail.com) / 413-270-1988

Catholic Charities is also organizing six member Circles of Care. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Keegan Pyle at [k.pyle@diospringfield.org](mailto:k.pyle@diospringfield.org) and visit <http://welcomehomenorthampton.org/>

## Valley Bikes are in the 'Hood!



Thanks to collaboration and cooperation between the City of Northampton, the Valley Bikes Share initiative and Christian Hawkins of Atelier LCC, who granted the city an easement to install a station at the corner of Riverside Drive and Ladd Avenue. Once it is all up and running, Valley Bikes e-bikes connect you to the entire Pioneer Valley with stations in the greater Amherst, Northampton, South Hadley, Holyoke and Springfield metro regions. Getting some exercise, reducing your greenhouse gas emissions and exploring the Valley is even easier now, so check out the possibilities at [www.valleybike.org](http://www.valleybike.org) or call 877-460-2435 to learn how it all works!

## BSVA Halloween

One thing the BSVA learned from last year is that, pandemic or no pandemic, Halloween will go on. Last year, Trick or Treaters wore their masks and socially distanced, neighbors found creative ways to safely hand out treats, and it was great that we could honor and maintain this beloved tradition. Last year we also offered flyers that neighbors could hang in their window to indicate that they were participating. This year we're going let those who want to hand out treats indicate it the old fashioned way: lights on or off Happy Halloween!

## Comings and Goings: BSVA Welcomes New President

*By Josh Bedell*

Fostering a sense of community and building friendships with the people who live around us is a key function of neighborhood associations. It's why I got involved with BSVA as soon as we moved to the neighborhood in 2011, and why I agreed to step into the president's role in 2018. Since that time, I've had the privilege to work with a dedicated group of volunteers, all driven by a common goal: To strengthen our sense of community and address issues of concern to residents in the neighborhood. While the last year-and-a-half have posed some serious challenges to our ability to bring neighbors together, I'm proud of the continuity we've maintained as an organization, and the value we've provided to the neighborhood during this time. From coordinated support for seniors last spring, to covid-safe trick-or-treating, to Zoom BSVA trivia, we've done our best to maintain the thread of community during a time of forced separation.

While I will still be active on the board, I am happy to welcome the new, incoming president of the association, Stephen Taranto. A relative newcomer to Bay State Village and even Massachusetts, Stephen joined the association almost as soon as he and his family moved into the neighborhood in 2017. A lifelong community organizer, Stephen greatly values a sense of place and helping others to appreciate where they live and find ways to interact and make connections. You'll probably see him out and about with his furry four-legged friend Canela or working in the yard, so don't hesitate to say hello and get involved with making Bay State Village a welcoming, safe and inclusive neighborhood.

## Congratulations BSVA Scholarship Winners!

For over 20 years the BSVA has recognized outstanding high school seniors from our neighborhood with Tobin Family Scholarships. Named for Peg, Jack, and Dot Tobin, who did so much to build and maintain our organization, the awards are supported by donations from our members. This year, the winners of the 2021 scholarships are two young women our community can be very proud of: Sage Cooper-Clermont & Abby Friedman-Krantz.



Sage has always loved animals and has desired a career working with animals, particularly dogs. She has appreciated growing up in Bay State and having Smith Vocational High School as a local resource where she could pursue her career goals in their Animal Science program.

During her years at Smith Voke, Sage participated in a wide variety of activities with the FFA and 4-H organizations. She was one of a small group that showed cattle at the Big E during the Regional Youth and Jackpot Cattle Show. She's been to the FFA State Conventions, winning an official FFA blue corduroy jacket in a statewide essay contest. Sage collaborated

on a successful Career Development Event about Veterinary Technology and at Farm Open House events. Through a teacher/mentor, Sage was introduced to running a dog day care business and dog training.

“After high school I plan on becoming a Veterinary Technician. My main goal is to work in an animal hospital. I have always had a passion and soft spot for dogs. Part of this passion is to learn how to work with and train service dogs... to provide people in need of a service animal with a well-trained service dog.” Sage will study veterinary technology at Holyoke Community College in the fall.



Abby Friedman-Krantz, Bay State Village native, graduated with honors from Northampton High School and still made time for a variety of extra-curricular activities including the Environmental Club, the Key Club, and the National Honor Society.

Outside of school Abby has studied dance locally for seven years, becoming both a performer and an assistant teacher. She has volunteered with the Survival Center, Safe Passage, and Will Bike for Food. She has also worked a range of jobs from child care to summer camp counselor at the Montessori School of Northampton to Party Coordinator at the Northampton Athletic Club. Abby said that these experiences “taught me about different types of responsibilities, including how to manage the money that I earned and how to live in the world in different ways. I believe this will help me as I move out into the wider world.”

Abby will study architecture at UMass Amherst in the fall. “My intention is to eventually design, plan and build sustainable and eco-friendly buildings and homes. As someone who was born and raised in Northampton, I’d love to be able to give back by having my creations be part of the local community. This would allow me to be part of making one small corner of the world a healthier place,” she shared.

## Mill River Water Quality Testing Summer 2021

The not-for-profit Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC)’s mission is to protect the health and integrity of the 400 mile Connecticut River, from its source in northern New Hampshire to its mouth near Essex, CT. They sponsor our annual “Source to the Sea Clean-up.” CRC tests selected sites of the river’s tributaries for bacterial contamination. See <https://www.ctriver.org>.

In prior years, CRC has sampled our Mill River only at the base of Ward Ave. This past year, they lost some funding and asked BSVA to support their weekly local sampling. The result was to add testing at our popular Hinckley St. swim hole. The \$528 total cost was donated by 17 of our neighbors.

The weekly test results appear on the enclosed insert. It provides the Websites for the CRC reports. If you would like BSVA to support this program again next summer, please email one of the Board Members below and consider donating to this project.

Norman Spencer - [normspen@juno.com](mailto:normspen@juno.com)

Stephen Taranto - [andestar28@gmail.com](mailto:andestar28@gmail.com)

## Bay State Village Trivia Night Will Return!

If you joined us last spring, live on your computer, you know where horses once got a drink on Riverside Drive and how much it once cost to take the trolley to Holyoke. You also met neighbors, shared stories, and had a laugh. We’re planning to host another Trivia Night, with new questions and all the other same benefits.

Stay tuned for more info on this Winter Trivia Night. It is slated to take place in February, but exact date and time to be determined. Watch the Bay State Village google group for details!

If you have trivia questions to add or would like to join the organizing team, please contact Peter McLean at [peterwfmclean@gmail.com](mailto:peterwfmclean@gmail.com).

## Other BSVA Upcoming Events...

While the pandemic has put a hold on many of our beloved BSVA events, there are still ways to stay connected to your neighbors, BSVA community and your city:

10/31/21 - Halloween

11/02/21 - Mayoral and City Council Elections

11/15/21 Collections Drive for Afghan Refugees

## A Few More BSVA Items...

### Don't Forget Your BSVA Dues!

Your dues amount to a lot for the BSVA. In normal times, they support our spring BASH, the Tag Sale, our late summer picnic in Maines Park, and the beautiful garden in front of Greg’s Auto. Dues are just \$10 per year/household, optional for households with a family member over 65.

**How do you pay them?** Paypal: @baystatevillage OR a Check payable to “BSVA, Inc.” and mailed to:

BSVA, Inc.; c/o Norman Spencer, Treasurer  
26 Nutting Ave, Florence MA 01062

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter.

### BSVA Website Help Needed - Stipened Available!

Are any of our BSVA residents tech savvy and wish the neighborhood had an up-to-date website? Need a little extra cash? If this is you, please reach out to board president Stephen Taranto to let him know. Check out the current website: [www.baystatevillage.org](http://www.baystatevillage.org).

### About the BSVA

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month (not every month) from 7-8:30 pm virtually, although previously at the Nonotuck Community School. Check the google group for meeting announcements.

### Stay Connected - Join the BSVA Google Group!

Find out about our meetings, events and other neighborly goings-on by joining the BSVA Google Group. Go to: <https://groups.google.com/g/baystatevillage>.

### 2021-2023 BSVA Board Members

Please join us in welcoming our 21-23 board members. Some are entirely new to the board, others are in new roles, and some have been serving our village for years:

- Stephen Taranto, President, [andestar28@gmail.com](mailto:andestar28@gmail.com), 413-270-1988
- Norman Spencer, Treasurer, [normspen@juno.com](mailto:normspen@juno.com)
- Josh Bedell, Board member
- Sue Norton, Board member
- Alden Bourne, Board member
- Peter MacLean, Board member
- Jackie Balance, Board member
- Alex Ghiselin, Board member