

**Boston Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic
At The Historic Grafton Common
Grafton, Massachusetts
Saturday, April 8, 2006**

**2006 Electronic
Bike Race, Local Restaurant & Spectator Guide**

**Sixth Annual Boston Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic Returns to
Grafton, Westboro and Sutton On Saturday, April 8th**

GRAFTON: The Boston Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic, the largest collegiate cycling event in the country each of the last two years, returns to the historic Grafton Common on Saturday, April 8th.

This year will again feature a morning team time trial event over the new 7.69 mile time trial course starting at the Grafton Common. The course then winds its way down Pleasant Street into South Grafton and Sutton, crossing sections of the Blackstone River and the Blackstone Canal, cycling through the mid-1800 historic mill villages of Saundersville and Wilkinsonville, and crossing over two areas where the new Blackstone River Bikeway will be built. It then heads north up Depot Street in Sutton and Follette Street and Fitzpatrick Road in Grafton before proceeding onto Millbury Street and climbing back to the finish line at the Grafton Common. The team time trial features teams of four from each participating college in a race against the clock. The event, with teams starting at one minute intervals from 7:00 AM to approximately 9:00 AM at the Common, is hosted by the Boston University Cycling Club.

Also on Saturday the Beanpot Championship Road Race will be held in the towns of Grafton and Westborough. This 13.0 mile course is the same race course used for the 1996 Eastern Collegiate Cycling Championships, modified so that the course begins and finishes at the historic Grafton Common, considered by many to be the most distinctive and picturesque town common in Massachusetts. The race course passes such notable landmarks as the Nipmuc Nation Hassanamesit Indian Reservation on Brigham Hill Road, the Brigham Hill Community Farm and its Community Harvest project, the 1874 vintage Grafton and Upton Railroad on Snow Road and North Street, and Cummings / Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. The course features a dramatic hairpin turn at the corner of Route 30 and West Main Street in Westboro. The championship race course includes sections used by the Tour de Trump and Tour Dupont bike races when they traveled through Grafton and Westboro.

The Championship Road Race will include up to four mid morning race divisions starting between 9:30 AM and 9:50 AM, and up to four early afternoon race divisions starting between 1:00 PM and 1:15 PM. The race is hosted by the Harvard University Cycling Association.

The Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Weekend is organized by students from seven Boston area colleges - Harvard, Boston University, Boston College, Tufts University, Wentworth, Northeastern University and MIT. 2006 marks the fourth year that the road race will be held in Grafton and Westborough, and the second year for the team time trial event in Grafton and Sutton.

The third race of Beanpot Weekend, held on Sunday, April 9th, is the Beanpot Criterium event on the traditional downtown street course of Medford and Somerville.

The races are sanctioned by the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC) and USA Cycling. The Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC) includes colleges in New England, New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania. As they compete from early March through April, ECCC teams vie for the top of the season-long team points standings, Collegiate Nationals qualification team spots, and the Ivy League trophy. The races feature team-oriented bicycle racing for all abilities with team pride, glory, and honor as the only prize list.

Additional information about the Boston Beanpot Event and the 2006 Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference schedule can be found at the ECCC's web site: **www.eccc-info.com**.

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**Journeys Magazine Official On-Site Program Guide of The
2006 Beanpot Bike Races**

Journeys Magazine and Blackstone daily.com provides the official on-site program guide for the 2006 Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic. Produced by publisher Ellen Onorato of Grafton, *Journeys* will be available for our guests and spectators joining us on the Grafton Common on Saturday, April 8th. Look on Page 7 for a race course map and stories about this year's event and recreational bicycling in the Blackstone Valley.

Journeys and Blackstone Daily on the web:

Blackstonedaily.com

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**Beanpot Lunch At the Grafton Common Bandstand
with the Grafton Lions Club**

During the 2006 Beanpot Collegiate Races, the Grafton Lions Club will host a community chili and pasta luncheon at the Grafton Common bandstand starting at 11:00 AM and continuing to 2:00 PM. Cost is \$6.00 per person and includes a choice of pasta and sauce, or chili and sauce, bread, drinks, and deserts. The meal will be all vegetarian.

This marks the second year of involvement by the Grafton Lion's Club. They also hosted the Saturday evening Pasta Dinner at the 2005 Beanpot Event.

Grafton Lions Club on the web:

http://www.geocities.com/grafonlions_ma/

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**John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
and the 2006 Greenway Challenge Hosts Blackstone Valley Region
Tourism Information Booth At Beanpot Cycling Classic**

We will again have a Blackstone Valley Tourism Information booth at the Saturday, April 8th Beanpot Bike races at the Grafton Common. Barbara Dixon of the JHC Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor has again graciously offered to staff the table along with other members of the 2006 Greenway Challenge Committee.

Visit the Tourism Information Booth for the latest about the 2006 Greenway Challenge on September 30th, walking tour guides of the historic Grafton Common, and the latest on tourism information from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

On the web:

<http://www.greenwaychallenge.org/>

<http://www.nps.gov/blac/home.htm>

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Event Information

Race Schedule

Championship Collegiate Bicycle Racing runs from approximately 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday, April 8, 2006

Beanpot Team Time Trial (Grafton & Sutton)

Approximately 230 Collegiate Racers.

Race Course: 7.69 miles in Grafton, South Grafton and Sutton (Wilkinsonville)

Event distance: One lap of the 7.69 mile Team Time Trial Race Course

Start Line at Grafton Common (at head of South Street)

Finish Line at Grafton Common (at World War One Monument)

Event Hosted by Boston University Cycling Club: <http://www.bu.edu/bike/>

Beanpot Grafton Road Race (Grafton & Westborough)

Approximately 350-400 Collegiate Racers.

Race Course: 13.0 miles in Grafton and Westborough, Final Lap of 14.09 miles

Event distance: 26-80 miles based on skill level

Start at Grafton Common (Top of Church Street)

Finish Line at Grafton Common (on Church Street at Congregational Church)

Event Hosted by Harvard University Cycling Association:

<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/huca/>

Sunday, April 9, 2006

criterium (Somerville and Medford)

Approximately 420 Collegiate and 110 USCF Professional Racers.

Race Course: 0.6 mile street course

Event distance: 18-45 mile course laps based on skill level

Event Hosted by Tufts University: <http://www.tuftscycling.org/index.html>

2006 Boston Beanpot Organizing Committee

Keith Hemmert, Harvard University Cycling: hemmert@fas.harvard.edu

Jessica Smith, Harvard University Cycling: jxsmith@huarp.harvard.edu

Emily Smith, Boston University Cycling: emi809@bu.edu

Russell Ericksen, Boston University Cycling: russee@bu.edu

Christopher Kalafarski, Boston College Cycling: christopher.kalafarski.1@bc.edu

Mark Pachucki, Harvard University Cycling: pachucki@fas.harvard.edu

Event Information

Parking

This year the Beanpot event will not be using the high school parking lot facilities on Providence Road. Instead, four parking lots within a half mile radius of the Grafton Common will be used as staging areas by the collegiate teams. These include the parking lot at St. Philip's Church, (Church Street) the parking lot at Minor Field / Mini-Fenway at Norcross Park (North Street) the parking lot at the Grafton Middle School on North Street, and the town owned property at 25 Worcester Street. Access to these four lots will be controlled by the event organizers and race marshals and will be restricted after the start of the morning road race event at 9:30 AM.

St. Philip's parking lot will be open and available for the scheduled 5:00 PM church services.

There is no parking around the Grafton Common or the race course finish lines on Millbury Street (until after 9:30 AM) and on Church Street. No parking on South Street which forms the initial leg for both race courses.

Parking at the Congregational Church parking lot will be restricted to race organizers, race officials, media, and public safety officials.

Parking in front of the two commercial blocks at the Grafton Common will be carefully monitored by race officials and is for use of the business patrons only.

Please respect that the parking lots for the Grafton Inn and the Grafton Public Library are in use during the race day and may be restricted for use by their patrons only.

Public Bathrooms

Bathrooms available to the public in the Grafton Common area will include those at the Congregational Church, the Baptist Church and at St. Philip's Church on Church Street.

Suggested Beanpot Spectator Viewing Areas

Grafton Common

Spectator parking for those viewing the races at the Grafton Common will be on a first come first served basis. This year there is no parking around the Common itself. Limited parking may be available at 25 Worcester Street, and in the public lot behind the Grafton Public Library. There is plenty of available parking for those who may be able to carpool from the municipal center / high school parking lot on Providence Road

Team Time Trial Course

Silvertone Cafe & Trek Bike Shop - Main Street / Route 122A in South Grafton

Wenc Square - Main Street / Route 122A / Elmwood Street in South Grafton

Grafton Elementary School parking lot and baseball field on Millbury Street

Road Race Course

Intersection of Pine Street / Westborough Street / Route 30
(available free parking at MBTA railroad station parking lot)

Tufts Cummings Vet School Campus

Hairpin Turn at Route 30 and West Main Street in Westboro
(limited parking at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church)

Town Owned Hennessey Property - Old Westboro Road near Estabrook Road
(limited parking on town owned property near Mass Turnpike overpass)

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Team Time Trial Event

Conducted by The Boston University Cycling Club

Course: 7.69 Miles in Length

Start Line at Grafton Common (at head of South Street)

Finish Line at Grafton Common (at World War One Monument)

Teams of Four Racers Start at One Minute Intervals and Race Against the Clock

<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Category</u>
7:00 AM	Men C Division
7:20 AM	Men D Division
7:40 AM	Women B Division
8:00 AM	Men A Division
8:20 AM	Men B Division
8:40 AM	Women A Division

Narrative Description of 2006 Beanpot Team Time Trial Course

0.0 - Beanpot Time Trial Race Course Start Line - Grafton Common, ON South Street, RIGHT onto Bruce Street, RIGHT onto Pullard Road, Cross Route 122 - Providence Road, LEFT onto Pleasant Street, Cross Elmwood Street, RIGHT onto Main Street - Route 122A, AT Grafton / Sutton Town Line, RIGHT onto Depot Street, RIGHT onto Follette Street, LEFT onto Fitzpatrick Road, RIGHT onto Millbury Street, Cross Route 122 - Providence Road, On Millbury Street, Arrive Grafton Common - 7.6 - Beanpot Time Trial Race Course Finish Line

The Beanpot Team Time Trial Race Course

<u>Mile Marker</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Sites of Interest</u>
0.0 - Start Line	Grafton Common - South Street	1731 Congregational Church 1885 Fisher Mansion Jerome Wheelock Statue The Grafton Inn -1805
0.1	On South Street	Captain Slocumb House - Bed & Breakfast
0.4	RIGHT onto Bruce Street	
0.8	RIGHT onto Pullard Road	Historic Thomas Hooker Trail
0.8	Cross Route 122 - Providence Road	
1.0	LEFT onto Pleasant Street	The Baptist Bridge - Quinsigamond River
2.2	Pleasant Street Bridge	Blackstone River
2.4	Across Blackstone Canal	LeLand's Landing Historic Site
2.5	Across Providence & Worcester Railroad Tracks	Site of Blackstone River Bikeway
2.5	Cross Elmwood Street	
2.7	RIGHT onto Main Street - Route 122A	Historic Saundersville Mill Village Trek Bicycle Shop Silvertone Cafe
2.8	Wenc Square	Village Dairy Isaac Saunders House - 176 Main Street
3.4	Grafton / Sutton Town Line	Historic 1823 Wilkinsonville Mill Village
3.5	RIGHT onto Depot Street	Blackstone River
3.7	Sutton / Grafton Town Line RIGHT onto Follette Street	1880's New Haven Railroad Station
3.7	Across Providence & Worcester Railroad Tracks	Site of Blackstone River Bikeway
4.4	On Follette Street	Dauphinais Memorial Park
4.7	LEFT onto Fitzpatrick Road	

The Beanpot Team Time Trial Race Course

<u>Mile Marker</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Sites of Interest</u>
6.0	RIGHT onto Millbury Street	
6.3	On Millbury Street	Grafton Elementary School
6.9	On Millbury Street	St. Philip's Cemetery
7.0	Cross Hudson Avenue	
7.0	On Millbury Street	Riverside Cemetery
7.2	On Millbury Street	Cross Quinsigamond River
7.3	Cross Route 122 - Providence Road	
7.6 - Finish Line	On Millbury Street	Arrive Grafton Common

Area Restaurants & Convenience Stores -
South Grafton & Wilkinsonville, Massachusetts

Silvertone Cafe

156 Main Street
South Grafton
508-839-1770

Monday -Friday - 5:30 AM to 11:00AM
Saturday -Sunday - 7: 00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Village Dairy

167 Main Street
South Grafton
508-839-5571

K.P's Breakfast & Launch

10 Providence Road
Sutton
508-865-1328

Nick's Country Market

3 Boston Road
Sutton
508-865-2233

Heritage House of Pizza

3 Boston Road
Sutton
508-865-0517
Friday & Saturday - 11AM to 10 PM

Peking Garden

3 Boston Road
Sutton
508-865-0507
508-865-0508
Friday & Saturday 11AM to 10PM

Kettle & Kone Cafe

3 Boston Road
Sutton
508-865-7158
Friday 11AM to 7PM
Saturday 11AM to 3PM

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Grafton Road Race Event

Conducted by Harvard University Cycling Association
 Course: 14.07 Miles; Finish Race Loop is 15.59 Miles
 Start / Finish Line At Top of Church Street Adjacent to Grafton Common
 Teams Race in a Pack Formation with a Lead Pace Car and a Following Support Vehicle

<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Finish Time</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Laps</u>	<u>Miles</u>
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	Men's C Division	3 Laps	44 Miles
9:35 AM	11:30 AM	Men's D1 Division	2 Laps	30 Miles
9:45 AM	11:45 AM	Men's D2 Division	2 Laps	30 Miles
9:50 AM	12:15 PM	Women B Division	2 Laps	30 Miles
1:00 PM	4:30 PM	Men's A Division	5 Laps	72 Miles
1:05 PM	4:00 PM	Men's B Division	4 Laps	58 Miles
1:10 PM	3:45 PM	Men's C1 Division	3 Laps	44 Miles
1:15 PM	4:45 PM	Women A Division	4 Laps	58 Miles

Narrative Description of 2006 Beanpot Road Race Course

0.0 - Start Line Grafton Common, RIGHT onto South Street, RIGHT onto Bruce Street, RIGHT onto Pullard Road, Across Route 122 -Providence Road, LEFT onto Pleasant Street, RIGHT onto Hudson Avenue, Across Millbury Street, LEFT onto Brigham Hill Road, RIGHT onto North Brigham Hill Road, RIGHT onto Wheeler Road, RIGHT onto Worcester Street, LEFT onto Snow Road, RIGHT onto East Street, LEFT onto Institute Road, RIGHT onto Westboro Road - ON State Route 30 to Grafton/Westboro Town Line, INTO Westboro, RIGHT onto West Main Street (Westboro) - Hairpin Turn to the West, AT Westboro / Grafton Town Line - West Main Street Becomes Old Westboro Road, Then Becomes North Street TO 14.02 START / FINISH LINE - GRAFTON COMMON

THE FINAL LAP: At Grafton Common - RIGHT onto South Street, RIGHT onto Bruce Street, RIGHT onto Pullard Road, RIGHT onto Route 122 - Providence Road, RIGHT onto Church Street, 15.59 FINISH LINE - Church Street - GRAFTON COMMON

The Beanpot Road Race Course

<u>Mile Marker</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Sites of Interest</u>
0.0 - Start Line	Church Street	Grafton Common -1728 1731 Congregational Church 1885 Fisher Mansion Jerome Wheelock Statue The Grafton Inn -1805
0.1	RIGHT onto South Street	Captain Slocumb House - Bed & Breakfast Historic Homes
0.4	RIGHT onto Bruce Street	
0.8	RIGHT of Pullard Road	Historic Thomas Hooker Trail
0.8	Cross Route 122 - Providence Road	
1.0	LEFT onto Pleasant Street	The Baptist Bridge - Quinsigamond River
1.1	RIGHT onto Hudson Avenue	
1.6	Cross Millbury Street	Riverside Cemetery St. Philip' s Cemetery
1.9	LEFT onto Brigham Hill Road	
2.0	On Brigham Hill Road	Grafton Lion's Club Park
2.2	On Brigham Hill Road	Nipmuc Nation Hassanamesit Indian Reservation
2.6	RIGHT onto North Brigham Hill Road	
2.9	RIGHT onto Wheeler Road	Brigham Hill Community Farm Community Harvest Project
3.4	RIGHT onto Worcester Street	Grafton Land Trust's Gummere Woods Trail Ekblaw Landing - new Public Access Boat Launch Site
3.6	LEFT onto Snow Road	
4.2	On Snow Road	Under Massachusetts Turnpike
4.3	On Snow Road	Cross 1874 Grafton & Upton Railroad Tracks

The Beanpot Road Race Course

<u>Mile Marker</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Sites of Interest</u>
4.6	RIGHT onto East Street	
5.1	LEFT onto Institute Road	Old Grafton State Hospital Grounds
5.5	On Institute Road	Salamander Crossing - Certified Vernal Pool Site
5.7	RIGHT onto Westboro Road State Route 30	Sunshine Signs
5.9	On Route 30	Willie's Pasta Grill
6.3	On Route 30 - Pine Street	Grafton MBTA Commuter Railroad Station
6.5	On Route 30	Tufts Vet School Campus
6.8	Grafton/Westboro Town Line	Locust Barn - Tufts Collegiate Cross Country Course
7.7	On Route 30 Across Glen Street	Glenrock Farm
8.1	On Route 30	Across Jasper Street - Nourse Farm
8.3	On Route 30	Westboro Mill Pond Elementary School
9.2	RIGHT onto West Main Street	Hairpin Turn to the West
9.4	On West Main Street	Eli Whitney Street
10.5	Westboro/Grafton Town Line	Becomes Old Westboro Road
11.6	On Old Westboro Road	Houlden Farm @ Wesson Road To Willard House Clock Museum
12.4	On Old Westboro Road	Across Massachusetts Turnpike
12.8	On Old Westboro Road	Estabrook Farm - Knowlton Farm
13.3	Becomes North Street	
13.5	On North Street	Grafton Middle School

The Beanpot Road Race Course

<u>Mile Marker</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Sites of Interest</u>
13.8	On North Street	Minor Field / Norcross Park - Mini Fenway Park
14.0	On North Street	Grafton & Upton Railroad Tracks - from 1887
14.1 START / FINISH LINE		GRAFTON COMMON

The Beanpot Road Race Course

THE FINAL LAP

<u>Mile Marker</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Sites of Interest</u>
14.2	RIGHT onto South Street	
14.5	RIGHT onto Bruce Street	
14.9	RIGHT onto Pullard Road	
14.9	RIGHT onto Route 122 - Providence Road	
15.1	RIGHT onto Church Street	
15.59 FINISH LINE	Church Street	GRAFTON COMMON

**Restaurants -
The Grafton Common**

The Grafton Inn

25 Central Square
Grafton
508-839-5931
Fax-508-839-1592
John & Laurie Pardee
Thegrafftoninn@aol.com
Friday & Saturday 11:30 AM to 10:00 PM

Branded Bear Deli

Worcester Street @ The Common
Grafton, MA 01519
508-839-9546
Fax: 508- 839-1363
Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Saturday 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Cafe on the Common
Lunch, Tea & Provisions**

1 Grafton Common
Grafton, MA 01519
508-839-7447
Monday to Saturday 11AM to 2:30 PM

**Latte A' More
Grafton Country Store**

2 Central Square
Grafton
Liz Humphries
store@grafftoncountrystore.com
508-839-4898
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Wong's Restaurant

62 Upton Road (Rt. 140)
Grafton, MA 01519
508-839-3020

Cumberland Farms Convenience Store

16 Upton Street - Route 140
Grafton, MA.
5AM to 12:00 PM Midnight
508 - 887-9521

**Restaurants - Worcester Street
Area - Down The Hill From The
Grafton Common**

Dunkin Donuts

72 Worcester Street
North Grafton
508-839-8907
Open 24 hours

Swirls & Scoops

68 Worcester Street (Rt. 122)
North Grafton
508-839-9036
Open Until 9PM

The Beanery Cafe

79 Worcester Road
North Grafton
508-839-0600
Friday 7AM to 2PM
Saturday 7AM to 12:00 Noon

Pepperoni Express Pizza

68 Worcester Road (Rt. 140 & 122)
North Grafton
508-839-6040
1-800-501-5026
11AM to 11PM

RazzBerries Breakfast and Bakery

78 Worcester Street (Rt. 122)
North Grafton
508-839-7040

Tas'T Pizza

89 Worcester Street
North Grafton
508-839-5300
Monday to Saturday 10Am to 11 PM

**Restaurants - Worcester Street
Area - Down The Hill From The
Grafton Common**

Burger King

92 Worcester Street
Grafton
508-839-4426
6AM to (PM, Drive Thru until 11PM)

Subway Sandwiches

100 Worcester Street
Stop & Shop Plaza
North Grafton
508-839-9595
8AM to 11PM

XTRA Mart Convenience Store

Route 122
North Grafton
508-839-4937
24 Hours

**Restaurants - Near Tufts
University School of Veterinary
Medicine**

Willie's Pasta Grill

135 Westboro Road (Rt. 30)
N. Grafton, MA 01519
508-839-5888

Loaves and Fishes

Tufts Vet School Campus
Grafton, MA 01519
508-839-1911

**Restaurants In North Grafton
and on Route 122 Near
Massachusetts Turnpike- Exit 11
(Millbury/Grafton)**

Campanale's Backroom Tavern

215 Worcester Street
North Grafton
508-839-2812

Danielle's Pub

215 Worcester Street
North Grafton
508-836-1585

Donut Star

204 Worcester Street (Rt. 122)
Grafton,
508-839-9870
Open at %AM

Peking Garden

204 Worcester Street (Rt. 122)
North Grafton, MA
508-839-9521

Grafton Pizza

204 Worcester Street (Rt. 122)
North Grafton
508-839-5821

Sebastian's Restaurant

10 Bridge Street
N. Grafton
508-839-2882

The Olde Post Office Pub Restaurant

Route 140 & Ray Street
North Grafton
508-839-6106

China Pearl

198 Worcester Street
N. Grafton
508-839-3899

The Historic Grafton Common Grafton, Massachusetts

Courtesy of Blackstonedaily.com

Perhaps the most quintessential New England Common in the Blackstone Valley, Grafton Common is surrounded by sixteen historic buildings, including the traditional Congregational Church. The well maintained four acre parcel hosts a bandstand (gazebo) built in 1935 to film Eugene O'Neil's "Ah, Wilderness". Photo sessions for prom nights or weddings, summer concerts, the annual Antique Fair or the Christams Season Chain of Lights merely underscore the continued significance of the Grafton Common in Grafton's daily life. Grafton volunteers worked to designate the area an Historic District to maintain the appearance with strict standards preserving the connection to the past.

Charming shops, such as the Grafton Country Store, Peggy's Place, Tuscan Rose, or Antiques on the Common grace the area along with three churches, the typical Congregational Church as well as the First Baptist Church and the Unitarian Universalist. Several eateries line the Common, including Cafe on the Common, Latte A' More and the historic centuries old Grafton Inn, home to a lovely double fireplace restaurant still offering overnight rooms to stay. Modest and grand residences, the library and two prominent Grafton builder offices also border this 120 x 135' Common with historic architecture seen also along Church, Oak, South and Millbury streets all converging, along with Rte 140, at the historic Common.

Rte 140 was the old roadway for stagecoaches often stopping at the historic Grafton Inn. However, according to very old maps in 1831 and another in 1832, Rte 140 and Worcester Street did not yet exist, so the bulk of the earlier stagecoach traffic probably came up South Street or along North Street before Rte 140 was built. Church Street also did not exist until later. Rte 122 lies about half a mile away minimizing the growing traffic through the Common, but these two old routes join further north where Grafton's small, but growing commercial district is located. A new car wash, larger regional family run building supplies store and a variety of small restaurants, gas stations and shops line the heavily trafficked road with easy access to the Mass Turnpike, Rte 495, Rte 20, Rte 30, Rte 146 are within minutes or the nearby Grafton station for the MBTA traveling to Boston.

Though two grocery markets, Hodes and Glass King's, used to be located in Grafton, more than a decade passed before Stop & Shop filled the grocery store void left after their demise. But that has all changed in recent years as Grafton faces the benefits and the challenges of high growth, with over 1000 new residential permits adding to 5800 homes spread throughout the three different zip codes for South, North and central Grafton. Grafton has been working to provide affordable housing for its residents with several ongoing projects in varying stages. These three main sections, each retaining its very own neighborhood library, are comprised of many former old mill villages, cottage industries or rural farmlands with names such as Farnumsville, Saundersville, Kittsville, or Fisherville where the large, old mill burnt to the ground only a few years ago, but along the River where the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and Army Corps of Engineers heralds as a special waterfowl habitat.

Scenic roads, wetlands and the farmlands are currently challenged with the heavy growth, but both Grafton townspeople and the non-profit Land Trust have collectively preserved some key parcels for future generations to enjoy. Grafton volunteers and Town Meeting voters have worked diligently to balance the fiscal needs of the community with preservation, open space and recently, the permits under the State 40B law to begin building denser affordable housing as only affluent homes had been built recently throughout Town. Controversies have abounded over the density that overrides local bylaws necessitated by skyrocketing land costs to produce modest homes, but the commitment for diverse housing has always been integral to Grafton as seen its its inclusive zoning.

Economic development has been triggered by several committed residents working to develop the Centech Industrial Park and the Tufts Biomedical Park for startups while reversing the State's intention decades back to transform the former Grafton State Hospital to a prison. Instead, the former Hospital is home to the lovely Tufts Veterinary School campus along Rte 30 with scenic vistas and nearby historic Willard Clock House and Museum. Tax Incentive Financing is no longer necessary to induce location in Centech Park, but the Town will continue to benefit from the Cherry Street connector road soon coming to fruition along with the increased industrial tax base for the community.

The Grafton Common Area - Historic Treasures Abound

Courtesy of Blackstonedaily.Com

Grafton is filled with historical homes and buildings, some of which are described below:

The Common

The **Wheeler Block** was originally constructed in 1806 by Jonathan Wheeler. It was used as a general store and still is the home of Liz Humphries' wonderful Grafton Country Store with the recent addition of Latte & More. Its roof style is the French Mansard roof which was added in 1865 although it has lost its slate. The Country Store is a must-see for its quaintness, appealing diversity of products and penny candy!

Across Worcester Street and also facing the Grafton Common is the **Warren Building** built in the early 1850s by Jonathan Wheeler. Destroyed by fire in 1862, it was immediately rebuilt by Mr. Wheeler and became home to a tailor, jeweler and other businesses prior to its use as the old Town Hall. Presently, it is home to several unique and charming shops: women's clothing Peggy's Place, a European gift store, a Tea House and the Historical Society.

The **Evangelical Congregational Church** was completed in 1833 and its steeple and gallery clock are works of the famous Willard Family. The Greek Revival church architecture is a notable example of an early New England village. The roots of the Congregational church in Grafton go back to Solomon Prentice in 1731.

The Grafton Inn, 25 Central Square is the oldest building on Grafton common. It is pre-Industrial and still intact as the well-respected Grafton Inn restaurant and offers 8 rooms for lodging. It's at the corner of Rte 140 and many a stagecoach stopped at the Inn.

The **Unitarian Church** at 3 Central Square was built at the site of the second public meeting house before the Warren Building was constructed. This former meeting house, however, was burnt in the great fire of 1862. In the interim of the fire and the Warren Building, town meetings were held in the basement of the Church.

The Jerome Wheelock Statue was built in the late 1800s to honor a noted mechanical engineer, Jerome Wheelock, who had been born in Grafton in 1834. Wheelock bestowed a large gift of money to the town.

The monuments memorialize the **Civil War and World War I** soldiers lost in these two wars that were from Grafton. These monuments are graced with flowering trees in the Spring adding to the picturesque beauty.

The Baptist Church at 1 South Street was built in 1830 when membership grew after meeting throughout Grafton homes for many years.

The Bandstand gazebo was built for the filming of a 1935 movie, "Ah Wilderness" featuring a quaint NE village. However, a gazebo stood at the Common in the 1800s for public affairs and gatherings during town celebrations.

OAK STREET

The Old Burial Ground, off of Oak Street, is the town's oldest burial ground which was laid out in 1737 when the town was acreage was being divided. It started as an acre but has since grown to four acres and contains the graves of seven of Grafton's first 40 proprietors. It also is the burial ground of the Reverend Solomon Prentice.

12 Oak Street is a Greek Revival styled home almost identical to a home across the street. This house was built in the early 1830s by Phillip Wing whose son, Henry inherited it upon Phillip's death. It was used as a stopover for the mail coach during these years.

18 Oak Street was the farmhouse of the Redding family which held onto it for over 50 years. This property once held a large portion of land in this Oak Street area, but was reduced to a smaller lot in 1898 and sold to Joseph Adams. It might have been used as a rental unit.

20 Oak Street is known as the Solomon Prentice House and is one of the remaining 2 1/2 story five bay central chimney farmhouses to remain from the eighteenth century. It was home to Rev Solomon Prentice, who was relieved of his position in 1747 for his radical views, following the English minister and radical, Whitefield.

Millbury Street

16 Millbury Street is a 1 1/2 story 5 bay Cape Cod cottage, of which there are not many in Grafton. Still intact as the oldest standing house built in 1822, Captain Samuel Hall had worked as a blacksmith and an undertaker. The shop to build and store caskets was attached to his home.

26 Millbury Street is a prime example of the Queen Anne's architecture. The original owner, Edward Beauregard, built the home in 1890 and by 1900, Mrs. Louise Beauregard established it as a boarding house.

South Street

6 South Street, another example of Greek revival architecture, offers important features such as a central pavilion and double leaf arched door. The influential owner was Samuel Wood who fought in the Civil War.

17 South Street is one of only two three-story Federal style houses in Grafton. It was owned by two deacons of the Baptist Church at different times. The first was Jeremiah Bond in the 1830s and then surgeon and deacon George Hastings ran a shop in the home. Hastings worked as a surgeon in the Grand Army of the Republic after the Civil War although it seems he held no medical degree.

Worcester Street

6 Worcester Street, now home of the LakeView Deli, was built in the 1850s and became the home of Grafton's high school and grammar school in 1867. Grammar school classes were held on the first floor and high school classes were held on the second floor.

7 Worcester Street was built in 1875 for Dr. George K. Nichols, who had been raised in Saundersville (south Grafton) when his Father died. He was educated at private schools and the University of Pennsylvania. He became president of Grafton Savings Bank and married Samuel Harrington's daughter. This Italianate style home has been updated with more modern shingles and picture windows.

20 Worcester Street a gable end Greek Revival home owned for many years by George Estabrook, president of the Grafton Farmer's Club and selectman 1860-1.

39 Worcester Street is an 18th century gambled roof cottage, the oldest home in Grafton that was built around 1720. This home was moved from its original northwest location in Central Square.

North Street

1 North Street is a 5 bay Greek Revival home originally owned by shoemaker Samuel Flagg. It was later owned by shoemaker Silas Warren who brought the shoe manufacturing business to the site. In the 1840s, the building was used as a high school.

3 North Street was used as a tanning and currying shop during the 1850s after being built by Joseph Rice in the 1830s. Lewis Dodge was a major employer in Grafton at the Dodge Shop which was made into a dwelling in the 1880s.

15 North Street is an example of a mail order home assembled by locals after it was received from a Sears Roebuck catalog order. The site had earlier been the location for the Warren Family manufacturing structure.

28 North Street is a lovely and very well-preserved Federal House and is presently a Bed & Breakfast. It was built in 1790 for A.J. Hall and was a rooming house, often for teachers in the Worcester area.

30 North Street was the home of two generations of the Wood family. Isaac Wood was a School Committee official in the early 1800s. In the 1890s, undertaker Benjamin Gibson owned the home.

44 North Street is on the National Register of Historic Homes as the only example of a high style Greek Revival with a two story colonnade at the front and side. This house was built by owner George Clapp circa 1831 and was owned in the late 1890s by Grafton's treasurer, George McClellan.

**Boston Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic
At The Historic Grafton Common
Grafton, Massachusetts
Saturday, April 8, 2006**

For Release Upon Receipt
Thursday, February 23, 2006

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**April 8th Collegiate Bike Race Spotlights Route of Historic 1828
Blackstone Canal in Grafton & Sutton**

GRAFTON: The historic Blackstone Canal, operated from 1828 to 1848, is the subject of several new investigative and interpretive studies by the Town of Grafton, The Grafton Land Trust and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The canal trench and towpath, listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972, although largely hidden is still remarkably physically intact more than 150 years after canal use was discontinued. It traverses three miles through the historic mill villages of South Grafton and an additional one mile in the Wilkinsonville section of Sutton in Massachusetts.

Again in 2006, the Boston Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic Team Time Trial race course highlights the history of the Blackstone Canal, crossing it in two distinct locations in the mill villages of South Grafton and Sutton. The team time trial event features teams of four cyclists competing from each participating college in a race against the clock. The event, with teams starting at one minute intervals from 7:00 AM to approximately 9:00 AM at the Grafton Common, is hosted by the Boston University.

The new (2005) collegiate team time trial race course starts at the Grafton Common, then winds its way down Pleasant Street into South Grafton, where it crosses over a still completely watered section of the Blackstone Canal at Leland's Landing. Located at Pleasant and Canal Streets and just north of the Providence & Worcester Railroad tracks, Leland's Landing is part of the Saundersville mill village area of Grafton. Considered in the recently completed Blackstone Canal Preservation Study as one of the best areas for further historic interpretation of the Canal, Leland's Landing was the site of what was then (1820's -1830's) important commercial and trading facilities built in conjunction with canal boat traffic between Worcester and Providence. Where the bike race course crosses the canal there are three (now residential) buildings associated with the Leland family, the site of former Canal Lock #31 and remnants of a water control dam. The canal towpath includes an area documented where a towpath bridge crossed what was the combined Blackstone Canal and Blackstone River in this area.

The bike race course then takes cyclists over the P & W Railroad tracks and across the proposed route of the Blackstone River Bikeway. The new Bikeway is a planned 48 mile recreational facility which will connect Providence, Rhode Island to Worcester, Massachusetts, New England's second and third largest cities. The race course then turns right onto Route 122A - Main Street and through the mid-1800's mill villages of Saundersville and on into Wilkinsonville in Sutton. At the intersection of Route 122A and Depot Street in Sutton the race course turns north up Depot Street, again crossing a small but still quite visible watered section of the Blackstone Canal trench that is tucked in between Follette Street and Blackstone Street at the Grafton / Sutton town line. The team time trial course then proceeds up Follette Street and Fitzpatrick Road in Grafton before turning north onto Millbury Street and climbing back to the finish line at the Grafton Common.

Also on Saturday, April 8th the Beanpot Championship Road Race will be held in the towns of Grafton and Westborough. This 13.0 mile route is the same race course used for the 1996 Eastern Collegiate Cycling Championships, modified so that the course begins and finishes at the historic Grafton Common. The Beanpot Championship Road Race will include up to four mid morning race divisions between 9:30 AM and 9:50 AM, and up to four early afternoon race divisions starting between 1:00 PM and 1:15 PM. The race is hosted by the Harvard University Cycling Association.

The Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Weekend is organized by students from seven Boston area colleges - Harvard University, Boston University, Boston College, Tufts University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 2006 marks the fourth year that the championship road race will be held in Grafton and Westborough, and the second year for the team time trial race in Grafton and Sutton. Additional information about the 2006 Boston Beanpot Event and the 2006 Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference schedule can be found at the ECCC's web site: www.eccc-info.com.

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**Boston Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic
At The Historic Grafton Common
Grafton, Massachusetts
Saturday, April 8, 2006**

For Release Upon Receipt
Monday, March 27, 2006

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Nation's Largest Collegiate Bike Races Ready To Roll Through Grafton On Saturday, April 8th

GRAFTON: After moving the start finish line to the historic Grafton Common, and hosting a record 400 collegiate bike racers last year, the 2006 edition of the Boston Beanpot Collegiate Cycling Classic is set for a return spin into Grafton, Massachusetts on Saturday, April 8th.

Organized by students from seven Boston area colleges - Harvard, Boston University, Boston College, Tufts University, Wentworth, Northeastern University and MIT, the Beanpot races are the largest collegiate cycling event in the nation. This marks the fourth year that the championship road race will be held in Grafton and Westborough, and the second year for the team time trial event in Grafton and Sutton.

The team time trial features teams of four from each participating college in a race against the clock. The event, with teams starting at one minute intervals from 7:00 AM to approximately 9:00 AM, is hosted by the Boston University Cycling Club. The event is contested over the new 7.69 mile time trial course starting at the Grafton Common. The course then winds its way down Pleasant Street into South Grafton and Sutton, then onto Follette Street and Fitzpatrick Road in Grafton before proceeding onto Millbury Street and climbing back to the finish line at the Grafton Common.

The Beanpot Championship Road Race will be held on the championship 14.02 mile course used for the 1996 Eastern Collegiate Cycling Championships, modified so that the course begins and finishes at the historic Grafton Common. The Championship Road Race will include four mid morning race divisions starting between 9:30 AM and 9:50 AM, and four early afternoon race divisions starting between 1:00 PM and 1:15 PM. The race is hosted by the Harvard University Cycling Association.

The Grafton Lions Club will host a community chili and pasta luncheon at the Grafton Common bandstand starting at 11:00 AM and continuing to 2:00 PM. Cost is \$6.00 per person and includes a choice of pasta and sauce, or chili and sauce, bread, drinks, and deserts.

The third race of Beanpot Weekend, held on Sunday, April 9th, is the Beanpot Criterium event on the traditional 6/10th's mile downtown street course of Medford and Somerville.

The races are sanctioned by the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC) and USA Cycling. The Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC) includes colleges in New England, New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania. As they compete from early March through April, ECCC teams vie for the top of the season-long team points standings, Collegiate Nationals qualification team spots, and the Ivy League trophy. The races feature team-oriented bicycle racing for all abilities with team pride, glory, and honor as the only prize list.

Additional information about the Boston Beanpot Event and the 2006 Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference schedule can be found at the Beanpot Web Site:

<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/huca/beanpot.html>

And at the ECCC's official web site:

<http://www.eccc-info.com>.

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**The Boston Beanpot Classic
Grafton & Somerville, Massachusetts
April 9-10, 2005**

Overall Results - 2005

Courtesy of PEP Results

Overall Team	Total	
1	UVM	762
2	Dartmouth	675
3	Penn State	533
4	UNH	410
5	Harvard	395
6	USMA	377
7	MIT	306
8	Yale	243
9	Cornell	232
10	Boston University	199
11	UPenn	183
12	Columbia	174
13	Skidmore	162
14	UMass	157
15	Tufts	154
16	Williams	149
17	Princeton	144
18	Bloomsburg	110
19	Holy Cross	80
19	Middlebury	80
21	Bates	74
22	UConn	64
23	Colby	54
24	Boston College	46
25	Bucknell	41
26	Vassar	28
27	Johnson State	27
28	Brown	25
29	Lehigh	23
30	WPI	17
31	CT College	9
32	Mount Holyoke	8
33	Drexel	7
34	UDelaware	5
35	UMaine	2
36	Rochester	1
36	St. Michael's	1

**The Boston Beanpot Classic
Grafton & Somerville, Massachusetts
April 9-10, 2005**

Team Time Trial Final Results

Courtesy of PEP Results

<u>TTT</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Dartmouth	267
2	MIT	235
2	UVM	235
4	Harvard	224
5	USMA	120
6	UNH	118
7	Tufts	107
8	Yale	101
9	Columbia	94
10	UPenn	88
11	Penn State	87
12	Boston University	80
13	Cornell	66
14	Princeton	50
15	Skidmore	36
16	UConn	29
17	Brown University	22
18	WPI	17

For a complete individual order of finish for the 2005 Beanpot Races
please see the ECCC Web Site at:

http://www.ecccinfo.com/2005/results/2005_04_09_beanpot.html

**The Boston Beanpot Classic
Grafton & Somerville, Massachusetts
April 9-10, 2005**

Grafton Road Race - Final Results

Courtesy of PEP Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Penn State	251
2	UVM	188
3	USMA	166
4	Dartmouth	135
5	Williams	126
6	UMass	90
7	Middlebury	80
7	Holy Cross	80
9	Cornell	72
10	Bates	70
11	Yale	66
12	Skidmore	65
13	Harvard	58
14	Bloomsburg	57
15	MIT	56
16	Colby	50
17	Princeton	49
18	Columbia	45
19	Bucknell	41
19	Boston College	41
21	UPenn	36
22	UNH	35
23	Vassar	26
24	Lehigh	23
25	Boston University	18
26	Johnson State	12
27	Mount Holyoke	5
28	UConn	4
29	UDelaware	3
29	Tufts	3
29	Brown	3
32	Rochester	1

For a complete individual order of finish for the 2005 Beanpot Races
please see the ECCC Web Site at:

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**The Boston Beanpot Classic
Grafton & Somerville, Massachusetts
April 9-10, 2005**

criterium - Final Results

Courtesy of PEP Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	UVM	339
2	Dartmouth	273
3	UNH	257
4	Penn State	195
5	Harvard	113
6	Boston University	101
7	Cornell	94
8	USMA	91
9	Yale	76
10	UMass	67
11	Skidmore	61
12	UPenn	59
13	Bloomsburg	53
14	Princeton	45
15	Tufts	44
16	Columbia	35
17	UConn	31
18	Williams	23
19	MIT	15
19	Johnson State	15
21	CT College	9
22	Drexel	7
23	Boston College	5
24	Colby	4
24	Bates	4
26	Mount Holyoke	3
27	Vassar	2
27	UMaine	2
27	UDelaware	2
30	St. Michael's	1

For a complete individual order of finish for the 2005 Beanpot Races
please see the ECCC Web Site at:

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