

# 4ctionreport

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**Leading Businesses Leading Communities** 

## ACCREDITED

### **CHAMBER MISSION** To serve the interests of member businesses while providing community leadership to ensure the

economic advancement

of the Metro South region.





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Mark D'Agostino, page 10

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## Chamber Centennial Draws 500 + to Celebration!

Governor Patrick Pledges \$32 Million; Bill Morse Re-Elected Chair



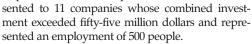
Governor Deval Patrick

A sold-out crowd of nearly 500 business people attended the Metro South Chamber of Commerce 100th Annual Meeting & Expo on November 20, 2013 at the Conference Center at Massasoit in Brockton, sponsored by Crescent Credit Union, UMASS Donahue Institute, and Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board. The Centennial celebration paid homage to the Chamber's leadership over the past century, acting as a convener, educator, and advocate for business in the Metro

The spirited event included an expo featuring over 60 businesses, a 1900's photo booth, musical entertainment, candy station, valuable raffles and give-aways, and NY Times Best Selling Author Dr.

Ned Hallowell. The event also featured the presentation of numerous awards, including the Charles A. Fuller Award to Chamber Ambassador Chair Friend Weiler of HarborOne Bank, and the Board Service Award to Larry Siskind of Siskind & Siskind LLC.





William Morse, Chamber Chair

Governor Deval Patrick was on hand to mark the auspicious occasion, as well as to further contribute to news of economic progress in the region with the announcement of a \$27.4 million investment for a

Continued on page 11

For more information on Awards, see page 6-7 & 9 Business Expo, see page 8 Bill Morse Re-Elected, see page 9 Centennial Innovation Campaign, see page 11

## District Attorney, Rox Owner at Next Breakfast Meeting

Friday, December 13, 2013, 7:30 am - 9:00 am, Shaw's Center

## ${ t GOVERNMENT} Affairs~{f \&}~Good~Morning~Metro~South$

Join us at the next special edition Good Morning Metro South and Government Affairs combined

breakfast meeting on Friday, December 13 from 7:30 am - 9:00 am at The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way in Brockton. The featured speaker is District Attorney Timothy Cruz.



District Attorney Timothy Cruz

Tim Cruz is a tough, experienced prosecutor who is dedicated to seeking justice for victims and protecting the public from the criminals who would do them harm. Over the last 12 years he has aggressively investigated and prosecuted the criminal activity that threatens the safety of our children, our neighborhoods, and our community. Under Cruz's leadership, District the

Attorney's Office has also worked tirelessly to reduce crime through education and community based prevention programs.

Sponsored by:

## Walgreens





Tim Cruz has been a lawyer for 29 years. Cruz began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Plymouth County in 1985, prosecuting thousands of criminal cases. In 1989, he entered a private practice before opening the Brockton law firm of Cruz, Horan & Sorrenti, P.C. In 1996, Cruz

opened his own law practice and worked in the courthouses throughout Plymouth County. In November 2001, he was appointed District Attorney by Governor Jane Swift. Cruz was elected District Attorney in 2002, and was re-elected to two full four-year terms in November 2006 and November 2010.



Chris English

Also speaking will be new Brockton Rox owner Chris English, a Milton hedge fund manager with an extensive baseball background,

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### December 9, 2013 Brockton City Hall

**Brockton Tax Hearing:** 

It's Time to Speak Up!

Brockton is the hub of the Metro South Region (south of Boston). With an extensive infrastructure, ample workforce and strategic location, it is a natural hub of business and an attractive city for businesses looking to grow and expand. Aside from these factors, however, the most prominent indicator a business considers in choosing where to operate is the commercial tax rate. This is particularly true when comparing a nearby community or a similar sized "gateway city." When combining a lower commercial tax rate with water and sewer rates, a city like Brockton can gain a significant strategic advantage in attracting and retaining business. In order to achieve growth, Brockton must provide an irresistible value to business. Setting a tax rate of 1.5 is a clear sign, Brockton wants business!

Over the past 3 years, the City Council took a step to attract and retain business when they adopted a tax fairness strategy by a 6 - 5 vote. This step is part of a larger strategy designed to attract and retain businesses in Brockton, thereby increasing the commercial tax base and alleviating the burden to residents. The Chamber considers the move toward a factor of 1.5 beneficial to Brockton residents because when businesses locate and grow here, job creation for city residents is the result. Business-friendly policies promote strong businesses and in turn good jobs.

The current commercial tax in Brockton is 31.91 for every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value - up from \$18.48 in 2008.

Join us at Brockton City Hall on Monday, December 9 at 8:00 pm to prevent an increase in this Commercial Tax Rate. Let your concerns be heard!

### **GolfTEC Celebrates New Location**

Thursday, December 12, 3:00 pm

Join the Metro South Chamber and new Chamber member GolfTEC as we celebrate GolfTEC's newest location in Avon at 75 Stockwell Drive, Unit A with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, December 12 at 3:00 pm.

GolfTEC has been helping players of all skill levels play better and enjoy the game more. Whether the student is a total beginner or accomplished player, GolfTEC's comprehensive approach to improvement is the proven way to master the fundamentals of golf and reach one's personal goals.

The undisputed leader in golf improvement, GolfTEC's 500-plus Certified Personal Coaches are responsible for more than 25% of all golf lessons given in the U.S. each year. GolfTEC Coaches have given more than 3 million lessons to more than 250,000 clients producing a success rate of better than 95%.



inside of Golfsmith, with Brian Spitz as the center manager for the location. Brian has over 18 years of teaching experience, has taught over 5,000 lessons, is a PGA Class A member, and has qualified for 5 PGA National Championships.

Chamber members are also welcome to join GolfTEC for a VIG (Very Important Golfer) night on Thursday, December 12 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. This event will be filled with great contests, prizes, and special offers from our partners at Golfsmith.

Visit golftec.com/boston for more information. Register by contacting Kathleen Lynch, 508.586.0500 x229, klynch@metrosouthchamber.com.

## **Good Morning Metro South!**

Save the date for upcoming editions of Good Morning Metro South, bringing important speakers to you in a television show style format. The cost to attend the Good Morning Metro South Breakfast is \$25 for members and \$35 for future-members and includes breakfast and networking opportunities. As always, don't forget your business cards! Register online at www.metrosouthchamber.com/calendar or by calling Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231, or email kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com for more information.

### January Breakfast to Feature Charlie Baker

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 7:30 am - 9:00 am, Location TBD



Charlie Baker, Candidate for Governor

The January edition of Good Morning Metro South will feature candidate for Massachusetts governor, Charlie Baker.

Charlie Baker is a Republican candidate for governor of Massachusetts. A former Secretary of Administration and Finance under Governors Weld and Cellucci, and former CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Charlie has been a highly successful leader of complex organizations in both the private and public sectors. He has spent the past three years as an Entrepreneur in Residence at the venture capital firm General Catalyst Partners.

## **Ribbon Cutting & Business After Hours at Crescent**

Wednesday, January 8, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Please join us on Wednesday, January 8 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for a Chamber Business After Hours networking event at Crescent Credit Union's newly renovated Campello branch in Brockton, 129 Main Street. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place at the start of the Business After Hours.

Crescent Credit Union was founded in 1919, and today serves over 48,000 members who look to them as their financial partner. Their Campello branch has a newly renovated interior and recently updated exterior signage. While other businesses have pulled out of Campello, Crescent Credit Union remains committed to the neighborhood. By investing in the branch renovation, Crescent seeks to provide a better in-branch experience for both personal and business clientele. For more information, visit www.crescentcredit.org.

Bring your business cards and join us for an evening of networking, refreshments, and celebration. Register online at www.metrosouthchamber.com/calendar or contact Kim Prosper, kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231. This event is complimentary, but please RSVP in advance.

### February Breakfast With Eastern Bank Economist

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 7:30 am - 9:00 am, Location TBD

The February edition of Good Morning Metro South will feature Economist from Eastern Bank, Michael Tyler.

Michael A. Tyler, CFA, sets investment policies and structures asset allocation strategies for client portfolios. As the primary spokesman for the firm's investment services, Michael develops and disseminates economic and financial market viewpoints. He is also responsible for selecting and overseeing providers of investment services. Michael holds a MBA with highest honors from Harvard Business School and a BA with honors from Princeton University. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.



SAVE THE

Michael Tyler

## **Chamber to Host Business Plan Workshops**

Wednesday, January 22, 9 am - 12 pm (Session I) Wednesday, January 22, 1 pm - 4 pm (Session II) Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton, MA



The South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation will hold free basic business workshops aimed at assisting positional and existing entrepreneurs.

Session 1: "Introduction to the **Fundamentals** of **Business** Ownership", is geared toward helping potential entrepreneurs evaluate and understand the fundamentals of owning one's own business. Information on how to get started, where and how to get financing and the loan application process will be presented. Attendees will also be provided with a free guide to writing a business plan and other materials.

Session 2: "Understanding the Purpose of Financial Statements and How They Can Help Determine the Health of Your Business" The focus of this workshop is to help attendees understand a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. The workshop also explains how a small business owner can anticipate financial needs in order to operate his/her business more efficiently.

Please call the SEED Corporation at 508-822-1020 for more information or to register for a free workshop. Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge to attendees. For more information on SEED and its programs, please call the SEED office at 508-822-1020 or visit www.seedcorp.com.

### SAVE THE DATE!

## **Chamber Travel: Amsterdam River Cruise**



Save the date for an exciting Metro South Chamber travel opportunity, taking place in Fall 2014! Join a Riverboat Cruise from Zurich, Switzerland to Amsterdam. Enjoy 7 nights and 9 days of breathtaking sights, luxury, and culture. Every day will bring a new adventure, from visiting medieval castles and exploring villages, to biking along the gorgeous Rhine River. Discover the hidden gems of historical and romantic Switzerland and Amsterdam with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This river cruise will take place October 19-27, 2014 with extension options in Paris and Amsterdam. Prices start at just \$2799 for double occupancy. Space is limited, reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. For more information, visit www.metrosouthchamber.com/events/travel.

#### www.metrosouthchamber.com **ACTION Report December 2013** 3 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTORS** Networking at Events Jane Callahan - On Deck Sports/Promounds **OFFICERS** is one of the most effective ways Joe Cardinal -National Grid Chair of the Board **William Morse** to grow your business! Pat Ciaramella - Old Colony Planning Council Mutual Bank Peter Dello Russo - Bridgewater Savings Bank **DECEMBER** Calendar President and CEO Francis Dillon - Stonehill College **Christopher Cooney** Metro South Chamber of Commerce Gregory Hart - Ercolini & Company, LLP Ambassador Appreciation Holiday Breakfast 8:00 am Chair-Elect Kim Hollon - Signature Healthcare 10 3:00 pm **Executive Board Meeting** Susan Joss Richard Hynes-Barbour Corporation 12 **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** 3:00 pm Brockton Neighborhood Health Center GoldTEC, 72 Stockwell Drive, Unit A, Avon Gigi Johnson - Christo's Treasurer 13 Good Morning Metro South/ Gvt. Affairs 7:30 am Robert Kenworthy - Bank of America John McGovern The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton Rodman & Rodman, PC, CPA's Ray Ledoux - Brockton Area Transit 18 **Board of Directors** 12:00 pm Vice Chair Community Affairs Jeffrey Liebman -25 Chamber Closed for Christmas Loretta DeGrazia Good Samaritan Medical Center/Steward East Coast Petroleum Dr. Dana Mohler Faria -Bridgewater State University Vice Chair Economic Development Coming Up Steve Hall Jim Murphy LSP- Tracey Environmental, LLC January Prism Energy Services Gerard Nadeau- Rockland Trust Company Chamber Closed for New Years Vice Chair Government Affairs Jonathan "Jay" Pike - Sharkansky LLP 8 8:00 am Susan Joss **Ambassador Meeting** Brockton Neighborhood Health Center Andrew Raczka - Abington Bank 8 5:30 pm Ribbon Cutting & Business After Hours Crescent Credit Union, 129 Main Street, Brockton **Andrew Schwartz** Vice Chair Membership Development Law Office of Andrew H. Schwartz, LLC 14 Patricia Williams 3:00 pm **Executive Board Meeting** HarborOne Bank Kathleen Smith - Brockton Community Schools 15 Good Morning Metro South 7:30 am Location TBD Peter Vlaco - Brophy & Philips Company, Inc. Immediate Past Chair 20 Peter Neville Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Chamber Closed Dr. Charles Wall -Concord Foods Massasoit Community College 22 SEED Workshops 9:00 am 23 508-586-0500 Front Desk x 221 **CHAMBER STAFF Business After Hours** 5:30 pm Sharkansky LLP CPA's, 1350 Belmont Street, Brockton **Christopher Cooney, CCE Kimberly Prosper, IOM** 29 **Board of Directors** 12:00 pm President and CEO x 223 VP of Programs & Events x 231 **Doris Flecchia** Lisa Pearce Finance x 230 Administrative Assistant x 221 Save the Date **February** Kathleen Lynch **Donz Sogres** Membership Director x 229 Office Assistant/Graduate Intern x 227 5 **Ambassador Meeting** 8:00 am Melanie McGrath Alison van Dam, IOM 5 Communications Coordinator x 222 VP of Marketing & Communications x 225 **Business After Hours** 5:30 pm Eastern Bank, 1265 Belmont Street, Brockton Newsletter Written & Designed by Melanie McGrath 12 7:30 am Good Morning Metro South Printing Donated by The Enterprise Location TBD **ACTION Report** Volume 13 - Issue 11 17 President's Day - Chamber Closed (USPS-410630) is published monthly except for combined ACCREDITED July/August for \$5.00 per year by the Metro South Chamber of 18 **Business After Hours** 5:30 pm CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Commerce, Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087. H&R Block, 2001 Main Street, Brockton Periodical Postage Paid at Brockton, MA **CHAMBER MISSION:** To serve the interests



of member businesses while providing community leadership to ensure the economic advancement of the Metro South region.

### Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087 tel: 508 586-0500/fax: 508 587-1340 info@metrosouthchamber.com www.metrosouthchamber.com

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Action Report, Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is solely responsible for the editorial content of this publication.

The Chamber wishes to assure our members of our intention to provide physically challenged participants equal access to all programs. If you or your employees have special needs in this area, please let us know by calling the Chamber at 508-586-0500 at least 48 hours in advance.

Photography by Rich Morgan \* www.richmorganphotography.com





Note: All meetings are held at the Metro South Chamber Office or Metro South business Assistance Center (BAC) unless otherwise indicated.

## **GOODN**ews

### Celebrate the great things going on!

## Members send your Good News to avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

#### Jingle Bell Rur

Kids and adults will put on their Rudolph and Santa costumes for the city's 15th annual Jingle Bell Run on Saturday, Dec. 7. The run will begin at 1 p.m. at the Conference Center at Massasoit at 770 Crescent St., with registration starting at noon. Each year, the run is held to raise money and collect toys for The Enterprise's Helping Hands Fund. All the money and toys raised for the event are donated to local charity organizations. There will be a silent auction, disc jockey and appearance by Santa Claus. Prizes will be awarded for the best children's costume, adult costume and team. The registration fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children age 12 and younger, and that includes prizes, a buffet lunch, and other surprises. On the day of the race, children can bring a non-perishable food item in exchange for their registration fee. Checks may be made out to The Jingle Bell Run - Helping Hands Fund. For more information, contact Dave Gorman at 508-588-3148.

#### Petti's Market Turns 100!

Petti's Market is celebrating its 100th year anniversary! Thanks to our loyal customers, we have reached a milestone rarely achieved in business. We would like to invite everyone to celebrate with us at Petti's Market, 216 Belmont Street in Brockton on Saturday, December 7 from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

### Loretta DeGrazia Honored - Women in Power

Loretta DeGrazia of East Coast Petroleum Corp. was recently honored on the Boston Globe's list of Top 100 Women-led businesses in Massachusetts. Since 2002, The Commonwealth Institute, a Boston-based nonprofit devoted to aiding women in business, has compiled an annual list of those for-profit companies with the biggest revenues. This year for the first time, the Globe Magazine partnered with the institute to publish the list, based on 2012 revenue. "Each of the women on our Top 100 list," says the nonprofit's executive director, Aileen Gorman, "has made a significant impact on the Commonwealth's economy and has established herself as a visionary leader of a successful company."

### HarborOne Brings Santa to Needy Children

HarborOne Bank will continue its longstanding tradition of bringing Santa to agencies serving needy children for free photos with St. Nick. During the month of December, HarborOne employees along with Santa will be visiting Brockton children at the David Jon Louison House, the Brockton Family Life Center, two BAMSI sites as well as the Brockton Day Nursery. In addition they will be traveling to Middleboro to stop at the Conway House Family Shelter. It each instance children at these locations will get to talk to the Jolly Old Soul and receive a free framed photo with him for the holidays.

### **Fuller Craft Museum Holiday Shop**

Holiday Shop Open at the Fuller Craft Museum, now through January 12, 2013. Choose from an array of hand-crafted jewelry, unique items for the home, elegant jackets and scarves, holiday ornaments, toys, books, and more. We'll have something for everyone on your list, and items to fit every budget. Located at 455 Oak Street, Brockton. Visit www.fullercraft.org.

### Franklin Sports Warehouse Sale

Franklin Sports will have a Holiday Warehouse Sale on Saturday, December 7th from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, cash and carry. Low prices and new items. Overstock, salesman samples, indoor games, baseball, soccer, hockey goals, and youth sports. Incredible prices and bargains! Located at 17 Campanelli Parkway in Stoughton. Visit www.franklinsports.com.

### **Good Samaritan Opens New Inpatient Unit**

Good Samaritan Medical Center (GSMC) has opened a new inpatient unit adding 16 new rooms. This provides an additional 6 semi-private and 10 private rooms to the hospital. Along with the recent expansion of a Same Day Surgery and Endoscopy Suite, this represents the newest \$15 million investment in Good Samaritan Medical Center to meet the growing needs of our community. The expansion of inpatient capacity to 267 beds is the latest in a series of significant investments at Good Samaritan Medical Center by Steward Health Care, including new buildings, technologies and systems that, since 2009, have totaled more than \$45 million. These projects, plus the addition of new physicians and surgeons and continued focus on quality, safety and service, have resulted in numerous national awards and are transforming the way patients experience care at Good Samaritan Medical Center.

### Special Olympics Jolly Jaunt 5K

The Special Olympics Jolly Jaunt 5K road race series, presented by the New Balance Foundation, is the race event of the holiday season. Taking place on December 7 and 8, the festive atmosphere is the perfect opportunity for you, your family, coworkers and neighbors to raise funds to support the amazing athletes of Special Olympics Massachusetts. All five locations (Boston, Danvers, Hyannis, Springfield and Taunton) are professionally timed USATF certified courses with alternate short courses for walkers and themed after-parties. We start everyone off with a pair of jingle bells for your sneakers and encourage you and your team to get creative with costumes – there will be prizes for the best ones! Plus music, food, prizes for the fastest runners and more! Visit www.specialolympicsma.org/events/fund raisingevents for more information, to register, or to make a donation.

### **United Way Launches New Volunteer Initiative**

United Way of Greater Plymouth County, together in a regional partnership with United Way of Greater New Bedford and United Way of Greater Fall River, is pleased to announce the launch of its new volunteer initiative: Volunteer SouthCoast. Volunteer SouthCoast is an online tool which can be used to post and to locate volunteer opportunities, in-kind needs and upcoming events in the local community. Volunteer SouthCoast offers volunteers the chance to find volunteer opportunities in their area by category, interest and zip code The site is also of value to health and human services agencies, who can post opportunities and connect with volunteers, and create a profile. Through this profile, they can post upcoming events and in-kind needs on their pages as well as promote their agency with pictures, videos and organization information. Visit www.volunteersouthcoastal.org.

### Healing Hearts Holistically Inc. Reopening/Fundraiser

Healing Hearts Holistically Cardiac Wellness center is hosting a grand reopening and fundraiser at our new location, 348 North Pearl Street in Brockton on December 17th. Representatives from Mary Kay will be there to help beautify before the holidays. A silent auction and 50/50 raffle are some of the activities planned. All proceeds raised will benefit cardiac wellness programs to serve the community. Come and meet the members and learn about our services. Refreshments will be served. The event takes place 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, with a ribbon cutting at 4:00pm. For more information call 508-58HEART. (43278) or visit HappyHolisticHeart.org

### HarborOne Welcomes Vladimir Jiminez

James W. Blake, President and CEO is pleased to announce the addition of Vladimir Jimenez as A.V.P., Branch Officer of HaborOne's Randolph location. Mr. Jimenez has over 8 years of Commercial and Retail banking experience. Prior to HarborOne he served as the Store Manager for TD Bank in Easton, MA. Mr. Jimenez earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts in Boston, MA. He resides in Brockton with his wife and two children.

### **Brockton Junior Boxers Celtics Raffle**

The Brockton Junior Boxers are raffling off a chance to see the Celtics play in VIP Fashion from the Luxury Box and it ONLY costs \$50 per ticket to help raise funds to get our girls to Florida on December 9th! This contest ticket price is per game so you will need to specify which game you wish to attend when purchasing the raffle ticket. Game One: Wednesday December 11, 2013 - LA Clippers, Game Two: Sunday January 26th, 2014 - Brooklyn Nets. To purchase contact Zena Curry at CheerCoordinator@BrocktonJuniorBox ers.org, Keith Hayes at Fundraising@BrocktonJuniorBoxers.org or you can make a \$50 donation for one chance at our website www.BrocktonJuniorBoxers.org.

#### Three New Accountants Join Rodman & Rodman PC

Rodman & Rodman, P.C., an independent accounting and tax firm, has hired additional staff to support its growing business. Carla Vaillancourt, a resident of Waltham, is a Six Sigma Certified tax professional with eight years of public accounting experience working within a Fortune 500. Justin T. Horr, a resident of West Roxbury, is a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and for the past 10 months has served as an Income Tax Assistant. Syed Hussain Ahmed, a resident of Southborough and native of Pakistan, has more than seven years of experience as a Bookkeeper having worked at Avian Friends Network, a general practice in Lahore, Pakistan and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with an Accounting Concentration.

### **Brockton Public Library MA eBook Pilot Project**

Brockton Public Library is proud to announce its participation in the  $\dot{M}A\,eBook$ Project, a statewide venture to provide free access through our website to thousands of additional ebook titles. 51 pilot libraries are offering over 33,000 additional ebooks to their communities for a six-month pilot project to explore different models for ebook lending, different platforms and user experiences. Users can access ebooks on a web browser or through award-winning native apps for iPad, Kindle Fire HD, Nexus 7, and Galaxy Tab. All you need is a valid Brockton Public Library card in good standing. Visit our website at www.brocktonpubliclibrary.org.

### Katherine Light Joins HarborOne

James W. Blake, President and CEO has named Katherine Light A.V.P., Business Development Officer, Ms. Light has over 18 years of experience in the financial industry. She joined HarborOne in 2011 as A.V.P., Branch Officer of the Attleboro Office. Ms. Light is a graduate of McCallum Graduate School of Business, Bentley College where she earned an MBA with High Distinction in Management. Active in the community, Ms. Light is a member of the Board of Directors for the United Regional Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce. She is a past member of the Board of Directors for the Bridgewater Business Association.

### District Attorney at Breakfast, Continued from page 1 —

including ownership of the Nashua Pride of the old independent Atlantic League. English and his group have already begun renovations, including a new infield, newly seeded outfield, renovated rest rooms, and a backstop built from vintage 1930's factory bricks, paying tribute to the Shoe City's workingman's history.

Please bring non-perishable food items for The Charity Guild, Inc. to the event and receive a goody bag sponsored by Walgreens of Brockton.

A free flu clinic, sponsored by Walgreens, will be held in The Shaw's Conference Center board room following breakfast.

The cost to attend is \$25 for members and \$35 for future-members and includes breakfast and networking opportunities. If you would like to register, please call Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231, email kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com or register online at metrosouthchamber.com.

### November Government Affairs Meeting



State Representative Michael Brady; Sue Joss, Chair of Government Affairs, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center; State Representative Claire Cronin; Ed Lambert, Vice Chancellor, UMass Boston; William Morse, Chair of the Board, Mutual Bank; Shaynah Barnes, Brockton City Councilor-elect; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO



Mayor- elect Bill Carpenter and Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO

Mayor-elect of Brockton, Bill Carpenter will be speaking at the next Board Meeting. He recently stopped by the Metro South Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Carpenter expressed his excitement to work with the Chamber, "The Metro South Chamber is a strong organization with a long history and powerful leadership. The Chamber provides resources and support to area businesses, markets the strength of the region, helps to shape a strong workforce, and drives Economic Development in the City of Brockton. We are very pleased to have the Metro South Chamber as a partner in developing the future of our city."

## More Good News: Increased Incentives to Hire

The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development is pleased to announce it has more than doubled cash grants available to employers hiring Massachusetts residents who have been unemployed for 6 months or more, or Massachusetts veterans (regardless of length of unemployment).

Increased grant funding is available through the state's Hiring Incentive Training Grant (HITG), a program of the Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund. Any forprofit company and non-profit organization that contributes to the Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund, a state fund enacted in 1998, are encouraged to apply.

A copy of the Hiring Incentive Training Grant application, eligibility requirements, Frequently Asked Questions and other relevant materials are available at EOLWD's website www.mass.gov/hiringgrant. Grant awards are subject to funding availability, and applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

## Featured Property: 160 Pleasant Street



Looking for a space to lease? Take a look at a newly listed property on the Metro South SiteFinder website, located at 160 Pleasant Street in Brockton. This site is ideal for restaurant, retail, or office, with drive-through capability. For more details on this property, and to search or list others in the region, visit www.metrosouthsitefinder.com.

## Signature Healthcare Hosts Businesses at New Facility

Photos by RichMorganPhotography.com.



Natalia Piasecki and Richard Hooke of Crescent Credit Union, and Sherry Meadows, Roger Keith & Sons Insurance



Lorraine McGrath and Hilary Lovell of Signature Healthcare with Brian Hoffman, The Children's Museum in Easton



A great night of networking at Signature Healthcare's new facility in Easton



Lauren Murphy and Sarah Vaz, Comcast Spotlight

The new office is Signature Healthcare's first medical space in Easton (built by Whelan Associates) and is part of a larger medical office expansion and renovation plan intended to better serve the patient population.

The two-story space encompasses 50 Signature Healthcare physicians and employees in the disciplines of Internal Medicine, Laboratory, OB/GYN, Imaging, Pediatrics, and Plastic Surgery. Conveniently located with plenty of parking, the aesthetically pleasing space was built with patient comfort in mind. Visit www.signature-healthcare.org for Bottom row: Dr. David Drinkwater, Marie Gross, and Kim Hollon more information.



Chamber VP, Ameriprise Financial; Christopher Cooney, Metro South Chamber President & CEO; Michael Asack, Easton Chamber President, North Faston Savings Bank of Signature Healthcare

## Ambassador Appreciation Holiday Breakfast

An Ambassador Appreciation Holiday Breakfast will take place on Wednesday, December 4 at Bickford's Grille, 37 Oak Street Extension, Brockton from 8:00 am -9:00 am. An ambassador committee photo will be taken.

The Ambassador Team meets on a monthly basis to serve fellow members by providing information, resources, member-to-member support, increasing awareness and promoting active participation in Chamber programs and services.

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador, contact Kathleen Lynch at 508.586.0500 x 229, or email klynch@metrosouthchamber.com.

## Chamber Welcomes Intern Tricia Seda



The Chamber would like to welcome Tricia Seda as a new intern at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. Tricia is a freshman at Massasoit Community College studying Early Childhood Education with a minor in Business. Tricia hopes to use her time at the Chamber to gain experience in the field of Event Planning to make her dream of opening her own event planning business more achievable.

To learn more about internships at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, contact Kimberly Prosper, kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231.

## Recognition for \$55 Million Investment and 500 Jobs!

### Brophy & Phillips, Brockton & Whitman



Brophy & Phillips, a general contracting, real estate development and property management company, has invested a total of \$10 million on a 36unit apartment property located at 793 Oak Street in Brockton, and a 2.5 acre 45-unit apartment property located at 670 Bedford Street, Route 18, in Whitman. Brophy & Phillips was founded by John Vlaco in 1971. His vision is being carried on by his son, Peter Vlaco. Brophy & Phillips employs 20 people and owns and manages approximately 250,000 square feet of commercial real estate. For more information, visit www.brophyandphillips.com.

### Canoe Club, West Bridgewater



The Canoe Club Ballroom, located at 2 South Street in West Bridgewater, has undergone major renovations to their 10,000 square foot ballroom. Renovations includes a new acoustical drop ceiling, new carpets, recessed lighting, a re-designed lounge, LED column-style lighting, a newly painted interior, a refurbished dance floor and 97% efficient lighting throughout. There is also new heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems. The

Canoe Club Ballroom has been owned and operated by the Merola family since 1964, offering everything needed for a wedding, party, or corporate meeting. The Canoe Club employs 12 people. For more information, visit www.canoeclubballroom.com.

## Capstone Communications (Station Lofts), *Brockton*



Station Lofts, located at 124 Montello Street in downtown Brockton, is a revitalization of the former Lilly Brackett Boot & Shoe Co./Geo. Knight & Co. building which had been vacant for 10 years. The 35,000 square foot property has been transformed into 25 loft-style one and two bedroom apartment homes. Capstone Communities has invested \$9 million in the project, generating 46 construction and facility management jobs. Station Lofts includes mixed-income residential apartments, surface and garage parking, a resident fitness center and storage, onsite management and easy access to the MBTA Commuter Rail. Station Lofts opens in 2013. For more information, visit www.stationloftapts.com.

### DeSantis Chevrolet, Brockton



Since 1927 3rd Generation Specializing In... Family Owned & Operated Elegant Floral Designs • Balloons Fruit Baskets Corporate Specialist . Wedding Consultants **Funeral Consultants** DAILY PROMPT DELIVERIES 110 North Leyden Street TO BROCKTON AND VICINITY Brockton, MA 02302 OR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD 508-586-2000 All Major Credit Cards visit our website at www.holmesmcduffy.com Accepted...

DeSantis Chevrolet has opened a newly expanded showroom in a 10,000 square foot facility located at 1555 Main Street in Brockton. The project represents an investment of \$1.75 million. DeSantis Chevrolet is a family owned business serving the South Shore since 1981, employing 45 people. They offer Chevy cars and trucks and a variety of pre-owned vehicles, located on a 12.5 acre lot. Their body shop, service, and parts departments are open 6 days a week. Visit desantischevrolet.com for more information.

### Eastern Bank, Brockton



Eastern Bank has merged with the Community Bank and established a regional headquarters at 1265 Belmont Street in Brockton. Founded in 1818 and based in Boston, Eastern Bank is the largest independent and mutually owned bank in New England, with \$8 billion in asset, \$6.5 billion in deposits and 1,700 employees in over 94 Eastern Massachusetts branches. This is the fifth time in the past 30 years that Eastern has merged with another mutual organization in Massachusetts. Eastern Bank also manages insurance and investment divisions to provide additional services to customers and clients. For more information, visit www.easternbank.com.

### Freeman Expo Services, Avon



Freeman is the world's leading provider of integrated solutions for face-to-face marketing events , including expositions, conventions, corporate events and exhibits. Freeman acquired Champion Exposition Services, formerly of Braintree and Middleboro, consolidating operations into a 160,000 square foot property at 275 Bodwell Street in Avon, and a 7,400 square foot property at 27R Doherty Avenue in Avon. The acquisition and consolidation represents a significant investment in the community.

Freeman produces more than 3,000 expositions and more than 10,000 other events worldwide each year. For more information, visit www.freemanco.com.

### H.T. Berry, Canton



H.T. Berry, Co., a family run paper products distribution company serving commercial markets since 1964, has invested \$1 million dollars in a sustainability initiative, installing photovoltaic solar panels atop its 100,000 square foot warehouse. H.T. Berry's investment demonstrates a commitment to the community and the environment. H.T. Berry celebrated the completion of the installation with an Earth Day Celebration, attracting 400 business people to learn about innovative ways to lessen the carbon footprint while earning total-cost savings. H.T. Berry employs 50 people and is located at 50 North Street in Canton. They have also invested \$1 million for a recent expansion of their facility, adding additional space for growth. information, more www.htberry.com.

## The Mockingbird Restaurant & Martini Lounge, East Bridgewater



The Mocking Bird Restaurant, located at 838 North Bedford Street, has recently expanded to include the Miraval Ballroom accommodating up to 220 guests. The Miraval Ballroom offers the perfect setting with modern elegance for a dream wedding, social party, or corporate event. Also featuring an outdoor tranquil winding walkway, garden area with waterfall pond, and beautiful wedding pergola. The Mockingbird Restaurant & Martini Lounge, open since 2000, is best known for serving outstanding contemporary Italian cuisine and the largest selection of martinis in the South Shore. For more information, visit www.mockingbirdrestaurant.com.

www.metrosouthchamber.com ACTION Report December 2013

### Restaurant Depot, Avon



The Restaurant Depot, a membershipbased wholesale cash and carry foodservice supplier with quality products at low prices, recently opened at 30 Bodwell Street in the Avon Industrial Park. Open 7 days a week, the 90,000 square foot warehouse offers 11,000 products including beverages, baking ingredients, condiments and dressings, frozen and refrigerated foods, fresh meats, and groceries, as well as health and beauty aids, tobacco products, general merchandise, and restaurant supplies. Restaurant Depot, in operation since 1996, operates a nationwide network of 70-plus stores in 27 states. For more information, visit www.restaurantdepot.com

### Rosen Realty, Whitman



Rosen Realty, a full service real estate company operating in the Metro South area, has completely renovated the First Baptist Church in Whitman Center, transforming it into fifteen one-bedroom apartments. Much of the original wood was preserved and re-introduced into the common areas of the 15,000



Pat Ciaramella, Old Colony Planning Council, John White, General Manager, Freeman Expo Services; Christopher Cooney. Chamber President & CEO

square foot historic building, representing an investment of \$1.5 million. Rosen Realty employs 25 people. Owner Richard Rosen was recognized in 2011 by the Metro South Chamber as Entrepreneur of the Year for opening and successfully operating McGuiggan's Pub in Whitman. For more information, visit www.rosenrealty.com.

### Yale Appliance & Lighting, Stoughton



Yale Appliance + Lighting has relocated their operations center from Mansfield to a newly purchased building at 75 Campanelli Parkway in Stoughton, employing 60 full time staff members. Yale Appliance + Lighting is a family-owned company in operation since 1923 offering kitchen appliances, washers, dryers, sinks, faucets, trash compactors, barbeque grills, home lighting and more. The delivery and product service departments in Stoughton offer the best repair and installation service locally. Yale Appliance + Lighting operates a 25,000 square foot showroom in Dorcester and has received many awards including Showroom of the Year by Residential Magazine, Best of Boston Home by Appliances by Boston Magazine, Best of Angie's List, Best of Yelp and Best of Boston. For more information, visit www.yaleappliance.com.



Pat Ciaramella, Old Colony Planning Council; Matt Ciresi, Assistant Branch Manager, Restaurant Depot; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO

## **Businesses Rewarded for Economic Impact**



William Morse, Mutual Bank, Chair of the Board; Peter Vlaco, Brophy & Phillips; Eldon Moreira (on behalf of Canoe Club); Susan Gustin, Capstone Communications; Gary Lee, DeSantis Chevrolet; Jan Miller, Eastern Bank; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO



William Morse, Mutual Bank, James Berry, H.T. Berry Company; Bruce Hughes (on behalf of Freeman Expo Services); Rich Rosen, Rosen Realty; Richard O'Flaherty (on behalf of The Mockingbird Restaurant & Martini Lounge); Kathleen Thomassen, Yale Appliance + Lighting; Pat Ciaramella, (on behalf of Restaurant Depot); Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO

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2.25% APR\*

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Member FDIC. Member DIE Equal Housing Lender.

## "Sold Out" Chamber Expo and Annual Meeting Draws 500+

Photos by Rich Morgan Photography, www.richmorganphotography.com



Emily Harriman, Rhonda Karcher, and Jane Wells Crescent Credit Union



Hilary Lovell, Signature Healthcare



Steven Litcoff, Massasoit Community College



Jessica Foley, Dave and Busters



Kaitlyn Beauregard, Patrick O'Brien, and Lisa McTighe, Minuteman Health



Faline Rezvani and Donna Bates, FUN Enterprises, Inc.



Serena Huxley, South Coastal Bank and Lucille Dallaire, Old Colony Elder Services



Ron Ferrigno and Scott Clement, Sign Design



Nicoline Batista, BAWIB



Jennifer Luukkonen, Fisher College



Suzanne Fernandes, David Sawyer, and Joanne Schneider, Eastern Bank



Liza Grosso and Lena Khalek, Sharkansky LLP CPA's



Holly Coots and Erin Easter, Old Colony YMCA



Mark D' Agostino, R.F. D' Agostino Insurance



Brian Hardy, The Enterprise



Murray Vetstein, Source 4



Ray Vassill, Rob Peters Entertainment



Dorothy McFarland,



Matthew Ledin, Dianne Martin, and Joshua Narciso Mechanics Cooperative Bank



Mark Burgess, McLaughlin Chevrolet, Inc.



Vanessa Jackson, Tara Guinan, and Jessica Coonan, Sullivan Tire - Brockton



Jennifer Rutherford, Carousel Family Fun Center



Pat Bonvie, Nancy Koczela, and Suzanne Catraio, Bridgewater Savings Bank



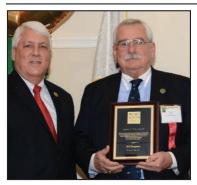
John Pyne, Elements Therapeutic Massage



Lisa Wyn, Bath Fitter

Photos by Rich Morgan Photography, Video by Brockton Community Access, Sound by Rob Peters Entertainment

## Friend Weiler Receives Charles A. Fuller Award



William Morse, Chamber Chair; Friend Weiler, HarborOne Bank, Fuller Award Recipient

At its 100th Annual Meeting, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce presented the **Charles A. Fuller Chamber Service Award** to Friend Weiler, Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending at HarborOne Bank.

Friend has served as a chair of the Chamber Ambassador Committee for the past three years, demonstrating strong leadership and passion. He has played a pivotal role as chair of the largest Chamber membership drive in recent years, recruiting over 20 team captains from throughout the business community. As a result of Friend's leadership, the Chamber has had the pleasure of welcoming over 200 new members.

Elsewhere in the community, Friend is a Director of the Old Colony YMCA, is the Town Moderator in Duxbury and is a director for SEED Corporation.

The late Mr. Charles A. Fuller served as Chairman of the Board for the Chamber and was very dedicated to the organization and the community. The Fuller Award recognizes an individual whose leadership performance, personal example, and good influence has done the most to advance the welfare of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and the community.

## **Larry Siskind Recognized for Chamber Service**

Board member Larry Siskind, Siskind & Siskind LLC, was honored at the 100th Annual Meeting for completing his maximum eight consecutive years of service on the Board of Directors. Mr. Siskind is a life-long resident of Brockton and a well-respected attorney.

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank Larry Siskind for his significant contribution in serving on the Board.



Larry Siskind, Siskind & Siskind LLC and Christopher Cooney,
Chamber President & CEO

## **Bill Morse Re-Elected Chamber Chair**

The Chamber



William Morse, Mutual Bank

is pleased to announce that William Morse of Mutual Bank has been re-elected chairman of the Metro South Chamber.

William Morse has served as President of Mutual Bank a

\$380 million community bank serving customers through nine branch office in Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod, since 2006. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Goddard Health Foundation, is a member of Bankers' Mutual Resource and is past Chairman of

Trustees of Massasoit Community College, and past Chairman of School on Wheels and MASSFIT, the Massasoit Financial Institutions Training program.

Morse was first elected to the Chamber board in 2006, joining the executive committee in 2009 as Vice-Chair of the membership division. Morse also served as Chair of the Ambassador Team and two years as Chair-Elect. As the Chamber Chair, Morse will work with the Board, Chamber Staff, and membership to champion the Chamber in its mission to serve the interests of member businesses while providing community leadership and ensuring economic advancement throughout the Metro South region.

## **Annual Meeting Rewards Investment, Promotes Business**



Keynote Speaker Dr. Edward Hallowell, New York Times Bestselling Author of "SHINE" & Psychiatrist



Tenor singer and Vocal Soloist Robert Barney sings the National Anthem



A candy station full of vintage candy!



The Redline Brass Quintet performs during the luncheon



The "Moxie Man" roams the Expo floor as a blast from the past to celebrate the centennial.



Jane Callahan, On Deck Sports; Fran Dillon, Stonehill College, Dan Trout, Mutual Bank, Marie Kelly, Stonehill College



Sponsored by:







Over 500 people attend the 100th Annual Meeting, held at the Conference Center at Massasoit, Brockton

## **Chamber Elects Three New Board Members**

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors: Pat Ciaramella, Old Colony Planning Council; Gigi Johnson, Christo's; and Kathleen Smith, Brockton Public Schools.

In their new role as directors, they will be responsible for helping the Chamber carry out its mission: to serve the interests of member businesses while providing community leadership to ensure the economic advancement of the Metro South region. The 30 member Board of Directors are elected from and by members of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of Directors meets regularly to address policy and issues of economic and community concern.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on December 18, 12:00 pm at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce located at Sixty School Street in Brockton.



Pat Ciaramella, Old Colony Planning Council



Gigi Johnson, Christo's



Kathleen Smith, Brockton Community Schools

## RENEWINGMembers Thank You!

Affordable Closet Systems AGM Industries, Inc. B.E. Peterson, Inc. **Bay State Cooling** Berish Properties, Inc. Bridgewater Square Chiropractic - A Creating Wellness Center Brockton Area Transit Authority Capstone Communities Complete Payroll Solutions Concord Foods, Inc. Crescent Credit Union Cushman Insurance Group Eagle Elevator Company, Inc. Frenette & Associates, P.C. George Washington Toma Hilliards Chocolate System Home Health Resources, Inc. Ideal Jewelry & Loan Jon L. Jenmarc, Inc.

KenMark Office Systems Laurie B Design McCormick & Sons Insurance Agency, Inc. Mutual Bank National Electrical Testing & Services Panera Bread LLC Rodman & Rodman, PC, CPAs Roger Ferguson, Horticulturist Rose Therese Cap & Gown Company Source4 Stoughton Motel Texas Roadhouse Thorny Lea Golf Club Town of East Bridgewater TRACEY Environmental Trans Courier Systems, Inc. Universal Business Equipment Corp. University of Massachusetts Boston Wal-Mart #2904 Yale Appliance + Lighting

### **Chamber Affiliation News & Events**

To become an affiliate organization of the Chamber, contact Christopher Cooney at 508.586.0500 x 223 or email chris@metrosouthchamber.com.



The Bridgewater Business Association (BBA) will hold their Annual Holiday party on Thursday, December 12 from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at the Bridgewater Citizens Club at 60 Hale Street in Bridgewater. This will be in place of the regular BBA monthly meeting. Visit

www.bridgewaterbiz.biz for more information.

The Stoughton Chamber of Commerce will hold their 11th Annual Holiday Party on Monday, December 9 from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm at the Portuguese National Club, 38 Wyman Street in Stoughton. There will be fabulous food provided by Stoughton



Chamber restaurants and vendors, entertainment, raffles, silent auction, and cash bar. \$25 per person. Call 781-492-5876 to RSVP or visit www.stoughtonma.com.



The Norwell Chamber of Commerce, along with the Hanover Chamber, will hold a Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 18 at the Cardinal Cushing Center in Hanover. For

more information, visit norwellchamberofcommerce.com.

The East Bridgewater Business Association (EBBA) will hold a Small Office Holiday Party on Friday, December 6, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm at TJ. Smith's Victorian House, 13 Cross Street, East Bridgewater for all employees of member businesses. This event includes a cock-



tail hour with cash bar, three course dinner, and live entertainment. \$30 per person. Call 508-378-7436 to reserve your office table. Visit www. eastbridgewaterbiz.com.



The Avon Industrial Park Association is a non-profit group seeking to advance the advocacy and business of its mem-Industrial Park Association bers in public and private affairs. Membership is open to

all companies who operate within the confines of Avon Industrial Park, Avon, MA. The AIPA is governed by a board of directors and holds regular meetings to discuss AIPA business and promote camaraderie between members. For more information, call Bob Costa at 508-586-0900. Visit avonindustrialpark.org



The Randolph Chamber of Commerce will host a Holiday Open House at The Jonathan Belcher House, 360 North Main Street in Randolph on Wednesday, December 11. Stop by any time between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, free for members and \$10 for non-members.

Please RSVP by December 6 at 781-963-6862 or randolphchamber@verizon.net. Visit www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org.



Prolink Networking Group is an invitation-only, non-competitive **ProLink** business networking group. Regular meetings are held on alternating Tuesdays at 7:30 am at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60

School Street in Brockton. For more information, visit www.prolinknetworking.com or contact Craig Pina, at 508-279-4194 or email craigpina@gmail.com.

## **WELCOME** New Members

American Student Assistance Ms. Rose Arthur 34 School Street Brockton, MA 02301 (508) 586-3100 www.asa.org/plan Education

### GolfTEC

Mr. Brian Spitz 75 Stockwell Drive, Unit A Avon, MA 02322 (508) 419-7826 www.golftec.com Service

### **Healing Hearts Holistically**

Ms. Denise Iezewski 348 North Pearl Street Brockton, MA 02301 (508) 584-3278 www.happyholisticheart.org Holistic Healing

### International Food Gourmet - Deli Italiano, Inc.

Ms. Adelina Armas 57 Oak Street Extension Brockton, MA 02301 (508) 586-9862 www.internationalfoodgourmet.biz Catering, Grocers

### **USA Mobile Drug Testing of Greater Brockton**

Ms. Stacey Corbett 20 Roche Bros. Way, Suite 6-221 North Easton, MA 02356 (508) 436-4404 www.usamat.com/greaterbrockton Business Consulting Services

To Join the Chamber, Contact Kathleen Lynch, 508.586.0500 x 229, klynch@metrosouthchamber.com Annual rates start at just \$295.

## **MEMBER**Profile

### R.F. D'Agostino Insurance Agency, Inc.



7 Christys Drive, Suite 1 Brockton, MA 02301 508-586-0414 www.rfdinsurance.com



Mark D'Agostino

Year Established: 1986

Products or Services: Home, Auto, Business, and Life Insurance

Number of Employees: 4

What is your market area? Boston to Cape Cod, although we primarily focus on the greater Brockton area

Please list awards, honors or special recognition your firm has received: Year Service Award from Commerce Insurance in 2011

What is unique or special about your firm and the products and services you offer?

We enjoy the opportunity to spend time educating our clients about insurance. When someone buys a policy from us, we want them to leave with some level of understanding about what they just paid for. We represent multiple insurance companies, meaning we can provide many options to our clients. We are a local business in Brockton, not a call center thousands of miles away. As a business owner and resident of Brockton, I feel a responsibility to give back, so the agency donates 10% of its net income to various groups that help our community, from BHS Sports to church groups and beyond.

### What is your main business objective concerning your customers and the business community?

We are committed to client education and giving people the time and attention they deserve. We understand businesses need responsiveness. We strive to deliver that every day. For all our customers we try to balance cost and coverage needs while spending the time necessary to educate our clients about their coverage as much as we can.

### GRO-N-THINGS, INC.

Interior Plant Maintenance and Design Service

P.O. Box 1246 Middleboro, MA 02346



508.947.8433 (p) 781.767.2244 (f)

www.metrosouthchamber.com **ACTION Report December 2013** 

## **Chamber Celebrates Centennial (cont)**

new Allied Health and Science Building at Massasoit Community college, \$4 million to re-design and construct a central public green space at Brockton's City Hall Plaza, and a \$1 million grant to support Queset Commons in Easton.



Governor Patrick, Dr. Charles Wall, Massasoit Community College, and Gigi Johnson of Christo's. Massasoit Community College may acquire Christo's Restaurant, closing at the end of December, for the construction project.



The 100th Annual Meeting Luncheon included special Centennial giveaways, valued at over \$100

William Morse, President of Mutual Bank and master of ceremonies, was re-elected as the Chair of the Board. During the meeting, Morse reflected on some of the many recent accomplishments of the Chamber, including the opening of the Business Assistance Center, receiving and maintaining a 5-star accreditation by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, helping to attract growing businesses such as Cheer Pack and Crown Linen, successfully advocating for lower commercial tax rates, and recently being designated by state officials as a Regional Economic Development Organization, a MA Creative Economy Network Leader, and a Community Development Corporation.

Morse went on to list Chamber priorities for the future including "continuing to identify vacant sites for use and development, promoting and attracting programs and resources for business growth, advocating for a pro-active approach to meeting regional water supply and wastewater treatment needs, educating businesses and future workers to develop our workforce, and attracting growing industries that will ensure the region remains a hub of progress and innovation."

Morse further demonstrated his enthusiasm and optimism for the future of the organization by quoting President Calvin Coolidge in a speech addressed to the Chamber in 1916.

"Where commerce has flourished, there, civilization has increased." When business succeeds, we all benefit. This is a region of opportunity, enthusiasm, value and diversity. Together we can ensure the continued prosperity and future flourishing of the Metro South region. I am proud to be associated with the Metro South Chamber and with you my colleagues and friends...One hundred years from now, I am confident that future business leaders will look back at us with admiration and appreciation and will honor our progress and our dedication to the economic growth of this region."

Proceeds from the event benefited the Chamber's Centennial Innovation Campaign, used to refurbish the Edison building and further bolster programs and activities.

## **Chamber Centennial Innovation Campaign**

### Now Accepting Online Donations

In celebration of 100 years of service and economic advancement of the Metro South region, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Foundation has inaugurated a Centennial Innovation Campaign.

Contributions to the Centennial Innovation Fund will allow the Chamber to continue to provide valuable programming, political advocacy, and the necessary resources to help attract, retain

Thank you to companies who have already donated \$10,000 or more:

CONCORD FOODS ROCKLAND

**©**Eastern Bank A HARBORONE





and promote the wonderful companies within the region. A portion of the funds will also be used to renovate the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Building located in the historic Brockton Edison Power Plant, creating an updated and modern business hub and incubator space, with cutting edge technology, resources and accessibility. Who will be the next great business to emerge? Support the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and keep the American spirit of entrepreneurship and strong communities alive.

Any size donation is appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible and support the Community Reinvestment Act. Naming options available for donations over \$10,000. All gifts above \$250 will be recognized on a handsome donor wall.

To learn more, contact Alison van Dam, 508.586.0500 x 225, avandam@ metrosouthchamber.com, or visit www.metrosouthchamber.com/programs/donate to make a secure online contribution via PayPal.

## **Regional Metro South Branding Update**

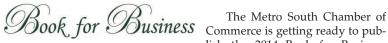


The Metro South Chamber of Commerce has been collaborating with Connelly Partners, an advertising and media company, over the last few months on a major Regional Branding of the Metro South Region. The Chamber has received an updated report from Connelly Partners, who has completed extensive research and

assessment of visitor and stakeholder demand for tourism promotion. The key findings of this report will be presented to the Board of Directors at their next meeting on December 18 for further consideration. Thank you to participating partners who aided in the research and assessment.

### Last Chance to Promote Your Business in 2014 B4B

### Advertise in the 2014 Book for Business



lish the 2014 Book for Business

(B4B), a four-color publication that includes a complete membership directory and guide to the Metro South region. The Book for Business is a valuable tool for you and your business, distributed to over 5,200 people in the region and receives over 10,000 views online annually.

Don't miss the opportunity to place an ad in the 2014 Book For Business and stand out against the competition for years to come. Your ad will be listed in a special Advertisers' Table of Contents and in close proximity to your free business directory listing. In addition, your listing will be displayed in a bold colored font, will be listed on the Book for Business page on our website, and include your website with hotlink to your site. Enhanced listings are also available.

Don't have the time to create an ad or the money to pay a designer? If you reserve your ad space now, our in-house graphic designer will create a full color ad for you, free of charge. The ad is yours to use for additional promotions or for other publications.

Call Melanie at 508.586.0500 x 222 or email mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com for more information and for ad rates.

## **Rockland Trust Supports Small Business**

Gerard Nadeau, Executive Vice President of Rockland Trust Company (left), visited the Chamber recently to present the Chamber with a partner pledge from **Rockland Trust to the Metro South** Business Assistance Center, Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Christopher Cooney (right) accepted the generous donation on behalf of BAC.



1etro SOUTH

### Need Help Starting Your Business? **Searching for Money to Start Your Business?**

The Metro South Business Assistance Center (BAC), a partnership of over twenty organizations, is a high-tech, one-stop business resource center that offers counseling, technical assistance, and financing to potential, existing and expanding businesses. FREE services offered

Premier Sponsor:

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- Access to Computers & Online Resource • Informational & Instructional Videos
  - Professional Counseling (by appt.)
     Workshops & Seminars (fees may apply)

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To advertise here, contact Bonnie Brunetti, 508-638-5582

### Buy Local From These New Chamber of Commerce Members

Yale Appliance + Lighting



#### 75 Campanelli Parkway, Stoughton 607-822-5392 • www.yaleappliance.com

Yale Appliance + Lighting is a family-owned company, selling, servicing and delivering high end kitchen appliances, washers, dryers, sinks, faucets, trash compactors, barbeque grills, and home lighting. Our state-of-the-art showroom is since 1923.

### **Canoe Club Ballroom**



2 South Street, West Bridgewater

508-588-4747• www.canoeclubballroom.com The Canoe Club Ballroom has been providing happy couples with the weddings of their dreams for over 45 years. As a family owned business, we pay attention to every last detail helping to create the perfect setting for your special day. Your happily ever after will begin here at our

newly renovated venue and riverside grounds!

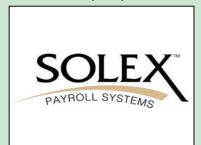
Lombardo's



## 6 Billings Street, Randolph 781-986-5000 • www.lombardos.com

At Lombardo's we have perfected the art of hosting corporate events. From our creative menus to our unique, upscale atmosphere, we offer the excellence that many companies are looking for in a venue. Our knowledgeable and experienced staff at Lombardo's located in Dorchester, and our operations Center is located in Stoughton MA. It is our commitment including audiovisual, teleconferencing and WiFi to to customer service that has kept us in business ensure that your image of professionalism is preserved

### **Solex Payroll Systems**



### 907 Park Street, Stoughton 781-297-3279 • www.solexpayroll.com We are a locally owned and operated full

service payroll bureau, specializing in small and mid-sized business solutions at typically 30-50% less than the payroll giants charge. We offer dedicated local customer support and have been doing so for over 15 years. At Solex, we take care of your paychecks.

### **Capital Lease Group**



## 145 Manley Street, Brockton 508-577-6633 • www.capitalleasegroup.com Capital Lease Group is a full service Fleet

Management Company with 40+ years of experience handling all sizes and types of business fleets. The result being the best solution to free up working capital, control operating costs, proide value and lower your overall cost of doing business. For more information contact us at jfitzgerald@capitalleasegroup.com or 508-584-

### **Healing Hearts Holistically**



## 348 North Pearl Street, Brockton

508-584-3278 • www.happyholisitcheart.org
I am a registered nurse with nearly 30 years of experience whose vision is to provide support to those with heart disease and its risk factors to live the healthiest lifestyle possible. Our mission is to assist those with heart disease and diabetes to live a healthier lifestyle by providing stress management courses, nutrition services, personal coaching, and support. We will work with your physician to track your progress.



The Chamber wishes to thank the following companies for their generous donations to benefit the Chamber's Education Foundation:

Asack's Turkey Farm, Bickford's Grille, Boston Market, Brown Chiropractic, Busy Bee Jumpers, Carousel Family Fun Center, Christo's, Chrysler Jeep, Daddy's Dairy, Dave and Busters, DeSantis Chevrolet, Elements Therapeutic Massage, F1 Racing, Good Days Restaurant, Harry's Westgate Lanes, Hilliard's Candy, Hyline Cruises, Huntington Theater, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Jillian's Nightclub, Joe Angelo's Cafe, Massage Envy, McGuiggan's Pub, Mohegan Sun, Narrows Center for the Arts, Reagle Music Theatre, Smith's Restaurant, Stoneforge Grill, Timberlanes, Venus Cafe, Water Wiz

### We would also like to thank the following for all of their hard work and support during the 100th Annual Meeting:

Dr. Edward Hallowell, Robert Barney, Redline Brass Quintet, The Moxie Man, B.C. Tent & Awning Company, Boston Business Journal, The Enterprise, Christine Karavites & Proteas Customized Consulting, Rob Peters Entertainment, Rich Morgan Photography, Brockton Community Access Channel, Holmes-McDuffy Florists, Concord Foods, The Conference Center at Massasoit, the Chamber Ambassador Team

Premier Sponsor: Crescent Credit Union

Grand Sponsors: Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board, UMASS Donahue Institute

Supporting Sponsors: Brockton Area Transit Authority, Comcast Business, FUN Enterprises, Inc., Good Samaritan Medical Center, Heavenly Spirits, Hub Technical Services, Old Colony Elder Services, Pops Fine Wines & Liquors, Prism Energy Services, Sharkansky LLP CPA's, Source 4

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## **BUSINESS EVENTS** Planner

## **December 12** Ribbon Cutting

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm GolfTEC

75 Stockwell Drive, Unit A, Avon

Join us to celebrate GolfTEC's newest location with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony. There will be networking opportunities and refreshments. (see page 2)

Free to Attend

Please RSVP at 508-586.0500 ext. 231

# HAPPY **HOLIDAYS**

### December 13

### **Good Morning Metro South**

7:30 am - 9:00 am

The Shaw's Center

1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

This breakfast program features informative speakers in a talk show style format and also allows for networking opportunities. (see page 1)

Tickets: \$25 members, \$35 future-members

Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

## January 15

### **Good Morning Metro South**

7:30 am - 9:00 am **Location TBD** 

This breakfast program will feature candidate for Governor Charlie Baker and allow for networking opportunities. (see page 2)

Tickets: \$25 members, \$35 future-members

Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

## **January 8**

### **Business After Hours**

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Crescent Credit Union** 

129 Main Street, Brockton

Join us for networking and refreshments at Crescent Credit Union's newly renovated Campello facility. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 5:30 pm. (see page 2)

Free to Attend

Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

### **January 22 SEED Basic Business Workshops**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00pm **Metro South Chamber of Commerce** 

60 School Street, Brockton

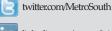
These workshops are aimed at assisting positional and existing entrepreneurs, with two different sessions. (see page 2)

Tickets: Complimentary Please RSVP at 508.822.1020

### **FIND US**

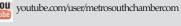


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