

Action report

December 2015

www.metroouthchamber.com

Leading Businesses
Leading Communities

Governor Baker to Address Chamber at Next Breakfast

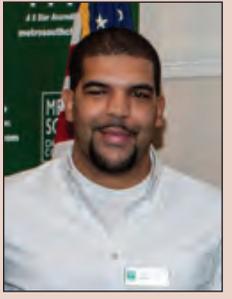
Thursday, December 17, 7:30 am - 9:00 am, Conference Center @ Massasoit



CHAMBER MISSION
To best serve the unique interests and needs of member businesses and to champion the broader economic vitality of the Metro South region.



IM Wireless Ribbon Cutting, page 5



Jason Barbosa, page 7



Tori Zupkofska, page 8

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GOVERNMENT Affairs & Good Morning Metro South



Join us at the next special edition Good Morning Metro South and Government Affairs combined breakfast meeting on **Thursday, December 17 from 7:30 am - 9:00 am** at The Conference Center at Massasoit, 770 Crescent Street in Brockton. The featured speaker is **Governor Charlie Baker.**



long, successful career in both the private sector and public service where he has worked hard to put the people of Massachusetts first.

As a cabinet secretary under Governors William Weld and Paul Cellucci, Baker helped lead efforts to reform and modernize state government. During his time as CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Baker turned a company on the brink of bankruptcy into the nation's highest ranked health care provider for six straight years.

Good Morning Metro South Sponsor: **Event Host:** **Government Affairs Sponsor:**

Charlie Baker was elected in November 2014 as the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on a platform of making Massachusetts great for everyone. Governor Baker's arrival in the Corner Office continues a

Raised in Needham, Baker is a graduate of Harvard College and Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Governor Baker and his wife, Lauren, live in Swampscott, and have three children: Charlie, AJ, and Caroline.

Please bring non-perishable/canned food items with you to donate to The Charity Guild, Inc.'s food drive



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102nd Annual Meeting Draws a Crowd of 500+

Chamber Celebrates Accomplishments; Hosts Brockton Native Jan Singer

A sold-out crowd of over 400 business people and community members attended the Metro South Chamber of Commerce 102nd Annual Meeting & Expo on November 18, 2015 at the Conference Center at Massasoit in Brockton. Crescent Credit Union was the premier event



sponsor, with contributing sponsor UMass Donahue Institute and additional supporting sponsors. The event celebrated the start of the Metro South Chamber's 102nd year of serving businesses and the announcement of the Chamber's 5-star re-accreditation status.

The celebration included an Expo featuring over 50 businesses, activities with FUN

Enterprises, a photo booth with Rob Peters Entertainment, a Ride & Drive with the 100% electric Nissan LEAF, valuable raffles and give-aways, and keynote speaker Jan Singer, CEO of Spanx, Inc. and Brockton native.

The event also featured the presentation of numerous awards including the Charles A. Fuller Award to Peter Neville, President & CEO of Concord Foods, and Economic Impact Awards, which were presented to 11 local companies whose combined investment exceeded \$209 million dollars and represents employment of over 620 people in the Metro South region.

Susan Joss, Executive Director of Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, was re-elected Chair of the Metro South Chamber.

Premier Sponsor: **Contributing Sponsor:**

Continued on page 9

For more information on Awards, see page 6-7 & 9
Business Expo, see page 8

Metro South Chamber Earns 5 Star Re-accreditation



The Metro South Chamber of Commerce, the region's most dynamic business and economic development organization, has earned re-accreditation as a 5-Star Chamber by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

This is the highest designation of accreditation awarded within the United States of America. The Metro South Chamber is one of fewer than 100 Chambers across the nation to earn this highest level of accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, establishing the Metro South Chamber among the top 1% of Chambers nationwide.

The re-accreditation was announced following an intense evaluation period, during which the Metro South Chamber was benchmarked against some of America's strongest chambers through a lengthy documentation process.

Continued on page 11

Brockton Tax Hearing It's Time to Speak Up!

***December 8, 2015**
Brockton City Hall

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."

Continued on page 11

Ribbon Cutting & Free Rock Climbing!

Thursday, December 3, 3:00 pm

Join us in celebrating the Grand Opening of new member Central Rock Gym on **Thursday, December 3, 3:00 pm**, located at **445 High Street in Randolph**.

Central Rock Gym will be celebrating their new location with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony, followed by free rock climbing, gear, & refreshments for



Central Rock Gym exists to provide everyone with a world class indoor climbing, fitness, and community experience through their state of the art facilities, expansive climbing walls, cutting edge fitness equipment, professional yoga classes, and various youth programs and summer camps. Central Rock Gym embraces its role as an integral part of the social fabric of all of their host cities and communities. Learn more at centralrockgym.com.



all attendees. Bring your kids to check out their kids play area!

Save the Date for Good Morning Metro South!

Mark your calendar 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.metroouthchamber.com/calendar or by contacting Athena Lavoie, 508.586.0500 x231, alavoie@metroouthchamber.com.

January Breakfast to Feature Secretary Jay Ash

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

7:30 am - 9:00 am, Martin Institute at Stonehill College

The January edition of Good Morning Metro South will feature **Jay Ash, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development** for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Secretary Ash is responsible for directing and executing Governor Charlie Baker's agenda on housing and community development, job creation, business development, consumer affairs, and business regulation. He previously served as the city manager in his native Chelsea, a position he held from 2000 to 2014.



Sponsored by:

Secretary Ash has led statewide initiatives on health insurance, youth violence, transportation infrastructure and expanded gaming in Massachusetts.



February Breakfast With Author Hank Phillippi Ryan

Wednesday, February 10, 2015

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



The February edition of Good Morning Metro South will feature **Hank Phillippi Ryan**, Award Winning Author and on-air investigative reporter.

Hank Phillippi Ryan is the on-air investigative reporter for Boston's NBC affiliate. She's won 33 EMMYs, 13 Edward R. Murrow awards and dozens of other honors for her groundbreaking journalism. A bestselling author of eight mystery novels, Ryan has won multiple prestigious awards for her

crime fiction. National reviews have called her a "master at crafting suspenseful mysteries" and "a superb and gifted storyteller."

Sponsored by:



Networking in the New Year This January

Thursday, January 21, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Please plan to join us for a Business After Hours networking event taking place on **Thursday, January 21, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** at **St. Joseph Manor Healthcare, 250 Thatcher Street in Brockton**.



Built on a mission of compassion and care, St. Joseph Manor Health Care welcomes people of all faiths and traditions. From their

state-of-the-art short term rehab to their thoughtfully designed spiritual care program, they set the standard for quality care in greater Boston. St. Joseph Manor Health Care works hard to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each of their residents. For more information, visit sjmbrockton.org.

This event is complimentary; to register, please visit metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration or contact Athena Lavoie at 508.586.0500 x231, alavoie@metroouthchamber.com.

Free Basic Entrepreneurial Workshops

Thursday, January 21, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation and Rockland Trust



Community Development Corp. will hold free basic entrepreneurial workshops in Brockton aimed at assisting potential and existing entrepreneurs. Both workshops will be held at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, **60 School Street in Brockton**, on **Thursday, January 21, 2016**.

Session 1: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - "Learn the Fundamentals of Planning, Preparing, & Financing Your Business," 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 pro-

vided with a free guide to writing a business plan and other materials.

Session 2: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - "Understanding the Purpose of Financial Statements & 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.

For more information or to register for either or both of these free sessions, please call SEED Corp. at 508.822.1020 x312. Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge for attendees. To learn more about SEED Corp. and its programs, visit seedcorp.com.

How to Survive a Data Breach: Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, January 27, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Could your company survive a data breach? This January, Cushman Insurance will present an important member-led workshop about cyber liability on **Wednesday, January 27, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm** at the Metro South Chamber, **60 School Street in Brockton**. Cyber liability expert David P. Finneran will lead this complimentary lunch and learn.



With more and more data digitized in every industry, data breaches present real risks to every business. And breaches aren't limited to corporate giants like Home Depot and Target. 31% of all breaches occur in companies with fewer than 100 employees.

Learn how you can protect the future of your company against this increasing risk! Key Discussion Points Will Include:

- Examples of data breaches and associated breach response
- Privacy protection, current regulations, and breach notification requirements
- Data risk vulnerability and how to assess your cyber risks
- Best practices on data breach preparedness and response, & more!

Register for this free workshop by emailing your RSVP and contact information to Ted Hughes, thughes@cushmaninsurance.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

President and CEO
Christopher Cooney
Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Chair-Elect
Gerard Nadeau
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Immediate Past Chair
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Mutual Bank

CHAMBER STAFF

Christopher Cooney, CCE, IOM
 President and CEO x 223

Athena Lavoie
 Director of Programs & Events x 231

Melanie McGrath
 Communications Coordinator x 222

*Newsletter Written & Designed by Melanie McGrath
 Printing Provided by The Enterprise*

DIRECTORS

Jason Barbosa - *Vicente's Tropical Grocery*

Jane Callahan - *HR Alternatives*

Joe Cardinal - *National Grid*

Joseph Casey - *HarborOne Bank*

Fred Clark - *Bridgewater State University*

Peter Dello Russo - *Bridgewater Savings Bank*

Francis Dillon - *Stonehill College*

Gregory Hart - *Cohn Reznick*

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Richard Hynes - *Barbour Corporation*

John Jurczyk - *Good Samaritan Medical Center*

Mahsa Khanbabai -
Khanbabai Immigration Law

Jim Murphy LSP - *Tracey Environmental, LLC*

Peter Neville - *Concord Foods*

Jonathan "Jay" Pike - *Sharkansky LLP*

Andrew Raczka - *Abington Bank*

Kathleen Smith - *Brockton Public Schools*

Stan Usovicz - *Verizon*

Peter Vlaco - *Brophy & Philips Company, Inc.*

Dr. Charles Wall -
Massasoit Community College

508-586-0500 Front Desk x 221

Alison van Dam, IOM
 VP of Business Development/Operations x 225

Doris Flecchia
 Office Assistant x 221

Aimee Bonneau, CPA
 Finance x 230

Networking at Events

is one of the most effective ways to grow your business!

DECEMBER Calendar

2	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
3	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony <i>Central Rock Gym, 445 High Street, Randolph</i>	3:00 pm
8	Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 pm
16	Board of Directors	12:00 pm
17	Good Morning Metro South ft. Gov. Baker <i>Conference Center at Massasoit, Brockton</i>	7:30 am
25	Christmas Day - Chamber Closed	

Coming Up January

1	New Year's Day - Chamber Closed	
6	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
8	Government Affairs	12:00 pm
12	Executive Committee Meeting	3:00 pm
13	Good Morning Metro South <i>Martin Institute at Stonehill College, Easton</i>	7:30 am
21	SEED Basic Business Workshop	9:00 am
21	Business After Hours <i>St. Joseph Manor, 215 Thatcher Street, Brockton</i>	5:30 pm
27	Cyber Liability Lunch & Learn	12:00 pm
27	Board of Directors	12:00 pm

Save the Date February

3	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
10	Good Morning Metro South <i>Location TBD</i>	7:30 am
12	Government Affairs	12:00 pm
15	President's Day - Chamber Closed	

Note: All meetings are held at the Metro South Chamber Office or Metro South Business Assistance Center (BAC), 60 School Street, Brockton unless otherwise indicated.



CHAMBER MISSION: To best serve the unique interests and needs of member businesses and to champion the broader vitality of the Metro South region.

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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.

GOODNews

Members - Send Good News to
mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com
Sponsored by: Good Samaritan



Good Samaritan Named Among Top 10% Nationwide

Good Samaritan Medical Center has been named among the top in the Nation for Patient Safety from two independent rating groups. Both Leapfrog and Healthgrades have given the hospital an A Grade and Five Stars, respectively, placing them in the top 10% of hospitals in the nation. This is Good Samaritan's 7th time earning an A Rating for Patient Safety from Leapfrog. "Our entire team is committed to Patient Safety," said John A. Jurczyk, FACHE, President, Good Samaritan Medical Center. "They each work tirelessly to raise the standard of excellence on a daily basis." Learn more at goodsamaritanmedical.org.

Jingle Bell Run

You're invited to participate in the 2015 Jingle Bell Run/Walk on Saturday, December 5 to help raise money for the Enterprise's Helping Hands Fund and to collect non-perishable food items for local charitable organizations. This year's run is scheduled for 1:00 pm at the Massasoit Conference Center in Brockton. Participants are invited to enjoy food, dress in holiday costume, sing along with the DJ, and of course run, jog, or walk the course. Entry Fees: Adults: \$20, cash or check. Children: \$10 or a non-perishable food item. For more information, visit kid-sroadraces.org or call 508.588.3148.

Rockland Trust Company Receives Diamond Award

Rockland Trust Company has received the National Association of Development Companies (NADCO) Diamond Award for being an "Extraordinary Lender Partner in Economic Development" with the South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation. The award honors a bank lender whose partnership with a local community development company extends beyond their partnership in the SBA 504 loan program. Rockland Trust was selected by NADCO from a national pool of bank candidates not only for its leadership in partnering with SEED under the SBA 504 Loan Program but more importantly for providing grants to SEED that support its Small Business Technical Assistance Program.

World Series of Comedy in Brockton December 4

Join us at The Shaw's Center, December, 4th for the World Series of Comedy presented by Brockton Area Networking Group (B.A.N.G.). We will welcome Boston's own Kevin Flynn, Tony V, and the Godfather of Boston Comedy Don Gavin! In addition to these great comedians, we are auctioning off signed New England sports memorabilia, with all proceeds benefiting 24 South Inc, "People Helping People". There will also be networking, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and more. Doors open at 6:45 pm, show time is 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by call-

ing 508-559-7090 or visit brocktonrox.com.

Shop at the Fuller Craft Museum Holiday Shop

The Holiday Shop is open at the Fuller Craft Museum, now through January 10, 2016. Choose from a superb selection of hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind gifts: elegant winter wear, lovely jewelry, ceramics, children's toys, catalogs, gift certificates, and more. We'll have something for everyone on your list, and items to fit every budget. Located at 455 Oak Street, Brockton. To learn more, visit www.fullercraft.org.

Brockton Blue Dog Shelter Seeks Board Members

Attention all professionals and animal advocates! Looking to get involved in animal welfare? We are looking to expand our Board of Directors from a 'roll up your sleeve' active board to a managerial board. It is an exciting time to become part of an organization that has been saving dogs in our community for the past 15 years. We are growing and we need qualified professionals such as attorneys, financial professionals and insurance professionals who can bring fresh ideas to the Shelter. If you have always had a passion for dogs and dog rescue and would be excited to join our team in the quest to make a difference, we ask that you please reach out to info@bluedogshelter.com by writing a one-page essay explaining why you feel you would be an integral member of the Board of Directors for the Brockton Blue Dog Shelter. Please submit your resume along with your essay. Thank you!

"A Christmas Carol" Discount to Members!

The Massasoit Theatre Company will be performing Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on December 5, 11, & 12 at 8:00 pm and December 6 & 13 at 3:00 pm. A discount is being offered on full-price tickets to all Metro South members! Use the code MSCC to receive \$4 off the general ticket price of \$18. To purchase tickets, please visit massasoit.edu/about-massasoit/theater/tickets/index.

Mechanics Cooperative Helps Breast Cancer Awareness

Mechanics Cooperative Bank employees pooled together their ideas in an effort to raise funds and awareness for Breast Cancer Research and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. With October being Breast Cancer Awareness month, Mechanics Cooperative Bank employees designed and sold pink t-shirts featuring the breast cancer awareness ribbon as well as the Mechanics Cooperative Bank logo. Employees had the option of purchasing the shirt for \$20 and wearing it every Thursday throughout the month in direct support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. As a result, Mechanics Cooperative Bank will be sending a donation of more than \$1600 to Dana Farber!

OCES Joins "Giving Tuesday" Campaign

What's your reason for giving...is it to help others in need? OCES (Old Colony Elder Services) has joined the "Giving Tuesday" campaign to help raise money for OCES' Emergency Funds! Your help will provide such things as heat in the winter, food, and life-sustaining medications to older adults and people with disabilities. "Giving Tuesday" is Tuesday, December 1, but donations can be made anytime during December. To learn more or make a donation to this campaign, visit ocesma.org or donatenow.networkforgood.org/oldcolonyelderservices.

Bridgewater Savings Bank Welcomes Beth Ellis

Beth M. Ellis has joined the Bridgewater Savings Bank Trust Department as a Trust Officer with Bridgewater Financial Advisors. Ellis has over 20 years of trust account management experience, including 17 years working at the law firm of Oppenheim & Cole, LLC. Ellis will be helping clients achieve their estate planning objectives by developing personalized plans based on each client's unique situation. Bridgewater Financial Advisors, a trade name of Bridgewater Savings, offers the expertise and options you need to plan for a secure and successful future, no matter what your unique financial goals. Please visit www.bridgewatersavings.com or call 508-884-3300 for additional information.

Old Colony Hospice Music, Fun, and All That Jazz!

You are cordially invited to join Old Colony Hospice for a wonderful day filled with a delicious brunch buffet, live jazz, amazing silent auction with terrific prizes, and a Caribbean Get-A-Way raffle to help give compassionate care to patients in our community. This year's event will support our Music Therapy Program. Your participation gives the gift of music to patients in skilled nursing facilities where a board certified therapist will help meet the emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of patients through music. This event will take place on Sunday, December 6, 11:30 am at Lombardo's in Randolph. Visit oldcolonyhospice.org to learn more.

Hope Health Commits to "We Honor Veterans"

HopeHealth announced it has progressed to a Level Two partner of *We Honor Veterans*, a pioneering campaign developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. The *We Honor Veterans* campaign provides tiered recognition to organizations that demonstrate a systematic commitment to improving care for veterans. HopeHealth provided over 30 pinning ceremonies to veterans in their care and trained veteran volunteers throughout their service area during 2015, which acknowledge military service and sacrifices made by veterans and their families. To learn more about We Honor Veterans, visit WeHonorVeterans.org.

Bridgewater State University "Winter Dance"

The Bridgewater State University Department of Theater & Dance is proud to present Winter Dance 2015 on Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 pm and Sunday December 6 at 2:00 pm in the Rondileau Campus Center Auditorium, 19 Park Ave. in Bridgewater. Winter Dance consists of advanced student choreographers that create their own pieces, develop them in the classroom and culminate in a full-scale production during this dance concert. For more information, visit arts.bridgew.edu. Tickets are available at the door and online.

Brockton Symphony Holiday Pops Concert

Sunday, December 13, 2015 - 3:00 pm at the Brockton High School. Brockton Symphony Pops Concert returns to a larger venue with abundant parking. The usual pops favorites and many new pieces not heard before will be featured. Conducted by Emilian Badeau, this concert will feature mezzo-soprano Margaret Lias and Brockton's Angelo Elementary School chorus. For more information or to reserve tickets, visit brocktonsymphony.org or call 508-588-3841.

Pictures with Santa and Toy Drive

All are welcome to this free event hosted by State Representative Michelle DuBois on Wednesday, December 9, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Buckley Performing Arts Center at Massasoit Community College, 1 Massasoit Blvd in Brockton. Come have your picture taken with Santa and enjoy holiday music, yummy sweets, hot cocoa, and festive cheer. If you're able to bring a toy for a child in need, or a non-perishable food item for a local food pantry, please do. For more information, call Becca at the office of State Rep. DuBois at 617-722-2011.

Kids' Holiday Shop & Elves' Workshop

A time honored tradition at the Children's Museum in Easton, the exclusive Kids' Holiday Shop is a safe and fun way for children to learn the joy of giving! Brimming with new and lightly used items, children browse to find the perfect gift item for everyone on their list. There is also an Elves' Workshop featuring crafts, cookie decorating, and costumed characters. The Kids' Holiday Shop & Elves' Workshop will take place on Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6 from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Visit childrensmuseumineaston.org/whats-new to learn more.

Gingerbread House Drop-In Workshop

Kids create while parents visit the holidaySHOP on Saturday, December 5, 10 am - 4 pm at the Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street in Brockton. Candy, gingerbread, and icing included, \$3 per child. Learn more and sign up online at fullercraft.org.

Metro South Businesses Celebrated

IM Wireless Verizon Store Opens in East Bridgewater



IM Wireless, your local Verizon Wireless Store, recently celebrated the Grand Opening of their new location at 225 Bedford Street in East Bridgewater with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House. Pictured left to right: Kathi DeGrande, District Manager, Verizon Wireless; Dory Sansone, Account Manager, Verizon Wireless; Holly Storm, Director, Indirect Agent Channel NE, Verizon Wireless; Manny Arora, Principle Owner, IM Wireless; Sharad Arora, Owner, IM Wireless; State Representative Geoff Diehl; Kelly Targowski, Manager, Sales Operations; Chris Sullivan, District Manager, Verizon Wireless. Visit imwireless.net.

Braemoor Health Center, Brockton Reveals Renovations



Braemoor Health Center, located at 34 North Pearl Street in Brockton, recently hosted an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Celebration to reveal their newly renovated facility. Left to right: Janet Catton, Director of Nursing Services; Helena Silva, Sr. Executive Director of Braemoor; Alison van Dam, Vice-President, Metro South Chamber; Senator Michael Brady; Mayor Bill Carpenter; Charlie Johnson, President of Resident Council at Braemoor; Zisha Lipshutz & Dov Newmark, co-owners of Synergy Health Centers. To learn more about Braemoor Health Center's short-term rehab programs and compassionate long-term and respite care, visit braemoorhc.com.

Enterprise Center, Veterans' Park Completed in Brockton



Trinity Financial, Inc. held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony in November to celebrate the completion of Phase One of the Enterprise Center located at 50 Centre Street in Brockton. The ceremony also included a Park Rededication in partnership with Brockton Veterans' Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs - Brockton.

Brockton Arts Celebrates Reception at Stacy Adams Cultural Arts Building

The Brockton Arts celebrated a soft opening of their new gallery space, Gallery Thirty Three, at the Stacy Adams Cultural Arts Building last month. They also held a reception in partnership with the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts (HAAM) for "The Jacmel Project - Reflection and Celebration." The Stacy Adams Cultural Arts building is a state-of-the-art multiplex studio style facility of 80 plus rooms, located at 33 Dover Street in Brockton. Spaces are available for rent! To inquire, call 508-587-5288.



Bridgewater Savings Supports Small Business

The Bridgewater Savings Charitable Foundation recently presented a generous donation to the Metro South Business Assistance Center (BAC). Pictured left to right: Peter Dello Russo, Bridgewater Savings Executive Vice President, Chamber Board Member; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO; Kathleen Lynch, Bridgewater Savings Executive Assistant



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:
- Business Related Software
 - Access to Computers & Online Resource
 - Comprehensive Reference Library
 - Informational & Instructional Videos
 - Professional Counseling (by appt.)
 - Workshops & Seminars (fees may apply)

Located at 60 School Street, Brockton, in the Chamber Building. Call 508.586.0500



Chamber Hosts Business Diversity Workshops



The Metro South Chamber recently hosted a workshop presented by the MA Supplier Diversity Office entitled "Connecting Your Business to the Commonwealth" where attendees learned about COMMBUYS, bidding opportunities, and more.



The Chamber also hosted a Pre-Certification workshop, presented by the MA Supplier Diversity Office, teaching attendees how to apply for certification as a Minority, Woman, and/or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.



CICE Meets with Chamber

Chambers for Innovation & Clean Energy (CICE) recently met with the Metro South Chamber to discuss upcoming initiatives. Pictured: Daren Cheatham, Clean Energy Organizer, CICE; Diane Doucette, Executive Director, CICE; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO; Jessica Bergman, New England Programs & Engagement Director, John Gingrich, EnergySage

Copeland Chevy in Brockton Parade

Thank you to Chamber member Copeland Chevrolet for providing a beautiful new Chevy Camaro SS convertible for the Brockton holiday parade. Actor Craig O'Connor, in Massasoit Theatre Company's upcoming "A Christmas Carol" production, rode in the convertible during the Brockton Holiday Parade held recently. Visit copelandchevrolet.com to learn more.



GRO-N-THINGS, INC. Interior Plant Maintenance and Design Service

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Recognition for \$209 Million Investment and Over 620 Jobs!

Each year at the Annual Meeting, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce recognizes companies in the Metro South region who have made a significant economic impact in the region, creating jobs and adding to the rich business culture by providing valuable products, resources, and services to help our region thrive. Combined, this year's Economic Impact Award recipients have invested more than \$209 million dollars and added more than 620 jobs. Congratulations to these companies, and thank you for investing in the Metro South region!

Bell Stoughton Apartments, Stoughton



Bell Partners Inc. has acquired the Lodge at Stoughton, a 240-unit community in Stoughton for \$54.1 million from the Hanover Company. The property, located at 400 Technology Center Drive, has been rebranded as Bell Stoughton. The 175,000 sq. ft. property is comprised of 4 residential buildings. Unit interiors feature modern kitchens with slate tile flooring, maple cabinets and modern appliances. The property also includes a clubhouse with fitness center, resident lounge area, movie theatre, swimming pool, dog park and a children's playground. In 2014 Bell completed more than \$440 million in apartment transactions and now owns and operates over 220 apartment properties. For more information, visit www.bellstoughton.com.

Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, Brockton



The Brockton Neighborhood Health Center has expanded their campus, investing \$8 million on a 13,600 sq. ft. outpatient clinic at 160 Pleasant Street, adjacent to Vicente's Tropical Grocery. The expansion has created 40 jobs, including a full time-nutritionist. This new site is expected to serve about 6,700 patients each year, with a particular focus on low-income residents. By providing aligned health care services and support for healthy eating habits in one location, the center and supermarket will offer programs to make it easier for residents to access these critical services, improve their health, and start to transform their quality of life. For more information, visit www.bnhc.org.

Delta Service, Inc., Easton



Delta Service Inc., a company that holds transportation contracts for cities, town, and schools in the region, has expanded their location at 7 Plymouth Drive in the Easton Industrial Park with a 40,000 sq. ft. addition. Representing an investment of over \$1 million, the addition now houses a separate car wash, opening up additional space within the headquarters for operations. Delta Service, Inc. was founded in 1994 and employs 150 people. Delta Service, Inc is also the parent company of VHS Transportation, a company that provides consistent and timely

transportation to a wide range of individuals with special needs. For more information, visit www.vhstrans.com.

Douglas A. King Builders, Inc. (Edgewater at Crescent Commons), Easton



Edgewater at Queset Commons is a brand new community located in South Easton featuring 50 brand new, stunning apartments. Units feature a living room, kitchen, balcony (for 1 and 2 bedrooms), carpeted bedrooms, dishwasher, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, and more. Queset Commons is a smart growth development providing an attractive option for convenient, safe and healthy living. The project represents an investment of \$15 million. It also boosts the local economy, protects the environment and enhances community vitality. Douglas A. King Builders is currently building 60 more condominiums, apartment units and commercial space at Queset Commons. For more information on Douglas A. King Builders, visit www.dakbuilders.com. For more information on Edgewater, visit www.queset.com.

Evans Machine Co., Inc., Brockton



Evan's Machine Co., Inc., (EMI) located at 32 N. Manchester Street in Brockton, has invested more than \$6.6 million in the last year and a half on an expansion in order to support increased product demand and a growing employee base. Founded in 1967 in founder Dan Evan Sr's basement, EMI is a job shop, machine shop and man-

ufacturing facility, specializing in machining and welding for clients ranging from high-tech/bio tech companies to mom and pop shops. In 1984, EMI outgrew their space and relocated to a 4,000 sq ft facility in Brockton, employing 8 people. They have since expanded 4 times at their current location, for a total of 35,000 sq. ft. They also now employ 65 full time employees and 5 part-time employees. For more information, please visit www.emievens.com.

Kenworth Northeast Group, Inc., Brockton



Kenworth Northeast recently relocated from Stoughton, MA to two lots at 1150 West Chestnut Street in Brockton. The new 40,000 sq. ft. facility features an 8,500 sq. ft. showroom, as well as a warehouse and maintenance space. The project represents an investment of \$2.5 million and the creation of 40 jobs. Kenworth Northeast is an independently owned truck dealership supplying the northeast region with the world's best new and used heavy and medium duty trucks and parts. The Brockton location serves as a regional headquarters for Eastern, MA and Rhode Island. To learn more, visit www.kenworthne.com.

KOSO America, West Bridgewater



Koso America has grown independent from REXA Electraulic Actuators and Drives (now REXA, Inc.), and has invested in a new 20,250 sq. ft. building for its 20 employees at 253 Pleasant Street in West Bridgewater.

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Koso America Inc. is a world-leading manufacturer of high-quality control valves, actuators, and accessories for the automation market and is the legal entity and manufacturer of Koso Hammel Dahl control valves and Koso Severe Service. REXA, Inc., continues to operate at 4 Manley Street in West Bridgewater. For more information, visit www.hammeldahl.com.

Trinity Financial, Inc., Brockton



Trinity Financial has invested over \$100 million in the redevelopment of the transit oriented Enterprise Block located on the corner of Main and Centre streets in downtown Brockton. The development consists of 55,000 sq. ft. of commercial/office space, 113-unit apartment building including 42 artist's lofts and 71 workforce and market rate units, artist gallery space, ground floor retail, green space and parking. A second phase of development will consist of an additional 102 units of housing, 325 space parking garage and additional green space. For more information, please visit www.trinitymanagementllc.net.

Vicente's Tropical Supermarket, Brockton



Vicente's Tropical Supermarket has invested \$14.5 million and added 90 jobs in a new 32,000 sq. ft. supermarket located at 160 Pleasant Street in Brockton. Along with the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center's adjacent building, the project has revitalized a long-term vacant building and lot. The development is also located within a neighborhood that has been federally designated as a "food desert". Vicente's offers a selection of international foods, including Cape Verdean, Haitian and Portuguese, as well as typical grocery items. The supermarket also features a modern dining area, international beer and wine section, and a large Churrasco grill and kitchen area. Vicente's continues to operate another grocery store which has been in operation since 1994, located at 689 Main Street, Brockton. For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/VicentesTropical.

Phoenix Electrical Corp., Canton



Phoenix Electric Corp. recently purchased and relocated to a 39,687 sq. ft. industrial building at 40 Hudson Road in Canton. The sale represents an investment of \$2.35 million. The business was established in 1973 to manufacture air core reactions (ACR) for the electric power industry. More than half of the company's 50 employees are experienced engineers with the skills and expertise to custom design products and systems to meet your specific application needs—fully and without compromise. For more information, visit www.pec-usa.biz.

Sulmonte & Frenier, LLP, Brockton



Sulmonte & Frenier, LLP, a full-service accounting firm, serving clients from throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island, recently invested \$1.4 million in their relocation from downtown Brockton to 1322 Belmont Street, off route 123 on the Brockton/Easton line. The custom built out 7,388 sq. ft., two-story, class "A" office building represents phase II of construction at Office 24. Sulmonte and Frenier was founded in 1965 by Anthony Sulmonte. Their mission is to help clients maintain financial viability in the present, while taking a proactive approach to achieve future goals. Sulmonte and Frenier employs 6 full time workers and 3 part time workers. For more information, visit www.sulmonteandfrenier.com.



Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, Chamber Chair; Mel Benson, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center; Pat Ciaramella on behalf of Bell Stoughton Apartments; Doug King, Douglas A. King Builders, Inc.; Dan Evans, Evans Machine Company; Vincent Savill III, Delta Service, Inc.; Rich Josselyn, Kenworth Northeast Group; Matthew MacDonald, Delta Service, Inc.; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO



Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, Chamber Chair; Jason Barbosa, Vicente's Tropical Supermarket; Mark Gallagher, KOSO America; Kenan Bigby, Trinity Financial (Enterprise Center); Bruce Hughes on behalf of Phoenix Electrical Corp.; Chris Sulmonte & Carol Frenier, Sulmonte & Frenier, LLP; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO

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Mark Sullivan & Ken Rubino
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Eric Thornberg
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Tori Zupkofska
Family & Community Resources, Inc.



Denise Jezewski
Healing Hearts Holistically



Ron Ferrigno
Sign Design



Joanne Schneider & Nelia Arruda
Eastern Bank



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Fisher College



Jeff Yost
Bank of America Merrill Lynch



Suzanne Catraio & Reiko McNeil
Bridgewater Savings Bank



Mike Costa
ABC Disposal Services



Billy Boneski
Stepcho Cleaning & Restoration



Dennis Carman & Rick Noll
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Kevin Brower, Joan Richards, & Katherine Light
HarborOne Bank



Ted Hughe & Marc Lane
Cushman Insurance Group



Mark Offstein
Costco Wholesale, Avon



Josh Narciso & Dianne Martin
Mechanics Cooperative Bank



William Fennelly
Associated Energy Developers



Laura Eve-Cowles
UMass Donahue Institute



Deborah Brackett & John Ward
Mansfield Bank



Derren Chaves
Buffalo Wild Wings



Julie King & John Butler
Mutual Bank



Marni Dunton & Cathy Asack
St. Joseph Manor Health Care, Inc.

Peter Neville Receives Charles A. Fuller Award



Peter Neville, President & CEO of Concord Foods;
Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO

At its 102nd Annual Meeting, the Metro South Chamber presented the **Charles A. Fuller Chamber Service Award** to Peter Neville, President & CEO of Concord Foods.

Concord Foods is a family owned business established by Peter's father with the production of plastic lemons and honey. Concord Foods has expanded to become a leading, advanced food manufacturer with over 800 products. The company operates out of a 255,000 square foot manufacturing plant on 20 acres of land in Brockton & employs 220 full time employees.

Formerly the Chamber Chairman, Peter currently serves on the Metro South Chamber Board of Directors. Peter also recently served as Chair of the Chamber's Centennial Innovation

Campaign. In this role, he provided exceptional leadership through giving and outreach, and was pivotal to the success of the campaign. In addition, Peter has demonstrated a commitment to Chamber programs, hosting job development and workforce trainings at his facility.

Peter is an active Board member of the Old Colony YMCA. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of Brockton 21st Century Corporation and Build a Better Brockton, and Co-Chair of the Southeast Regional Competitive Council under Governor Romney. Peter also serves on the Finance Committee in his hometown of Westwood, MA.

Peter is married and father to three sons. He's a member of World Presidents Organization, holds a Bachelors Degree from Lehigh University, and an MBA from Babson College.

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.

Chamber Celebrates 102nd Annual Meeting

(continued from page 1)



During the program, Sue Joss reflected on some of the many recent accomplishments of the Chamber over the past year that helped the Chamber achieve its 5-star re-accreditation. These achievements included hosting over 70 programs, celebrating more than 20 new businesses with Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies, completing two important studies in partnership with the UMass Donahue Institute on the creation of a Regional Water Supply & Treatment Authority and the underutilized 32 acre Brockton CSX Railyard, in addition to completing a regional branding study.

Other advocacy initiatives have included the development of an entertainment and gaming resort casino in Brockton, as well as the passage of the Small Business Bill of Rights. The Chamber also continues to advocate for more local control of regional assets as well as a lower commercial tax rate and better water/sewer rates to retain and attract business.

Over the year, the Chamber continued its Careers in Health program through a \$40,000 Lumina Foundation Grant, gained two new tenants in its Edison Business Incubator, and saw an influx of over 1,000 people seeking advocacy, education, and counseling in its Business Assistance Center. The Chamber has aided hundreds of companies seeking economic development opportunities through consultation, referrals, and the Metro South Site Finder website. The Metro South Chamber also conducted downtown and intercity tours highlighting available space, and have invited state agencies to meet with many of the region's successful businesses.

Finally, over the past year, the Chamber celebrated the success of its Centennial Innovation Campaign with an Open House at the Chamber, in the historic Edison building.

The Metro South Chamber looks forward to serving the business community as the local business hub in the coming years.

CEO of Spanx, Entertainment at Annual Meeting

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



Keynote speaker Jan Singer, CEO of Spanx, Inc. and Brockton native spoke of her start in Brockton, MA and how it led her to become the CEO of Spanx, Inc.



Jan Singer is presented with citations from the city of Brockton, the Senate, and the House of Representatives in honor of her accomplishments and leadership, as well as a donation made in her name to the Brockton High School Music Department. Pictured: Sue Joss, Chamber Chair, Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter; Jan Singer, CEO of Spanx, Inc.; Kathleen Smith, Superintendent of Brockton Public Schools.



The Cardinal Spellman High School Cabaret Choir sings the National Anthem at the start of the Annual Meeting



FUN Enterprises, Inc. runs an interactive letter art activity that guests can take as a giveaway.



A crowd of over 420 business and community leaders attend the Chamber's 102nd Annual Meeting Luncheon & Business Expo



Attendees had the opportunity to test the 100% electric, no gas Nissan LEAF during a ride & drive event with Nissan 24



Annual Meeting attendees had fun taking photos in a photo booth with Rob Peters Entertainment. Chamber members and their employees receive a 10% discount on DJ, uplighting, and photo booth services. Make sure to contact Rob Peters Entertainment for your next event! Visit robpetersentertainment.com or call (781) 848-4235.

Chamber Elects Fred Clark to Board of Directors

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce welcomes a new member to its Board of Directors: **Fred Clark, President of Bridgewater State University.**

The Metro South Chamber Board of Directors is responsible for helping the Chamber carry out its mission: to best serve the unique interests and needs of member businesses and to champion the broader economic vitality of the Metro South region.

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 Wednesday, December 16, 12:00 pm at the Metro South Chamber.

Frederick W. Clark Jr., Esq., is the 12th president in the 175-year history of Bridgewater State University, his alma mater. He is a dedicated leader in public higher education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



WELCOME *New Members*

Kenworth Northeast Group, Inc.
Mr. Rich Josselyn, Sr.
1150 W. Chestnut Street, Suite 3
Brockton, MA 02301
(781) 341-0008
www.kenworthne.com
Truck Dealership

Sullivan Tire Company, Inc.
Mr. Dan Sawiski
41 Accord Park Drive
Norwell, MA 02061-1614
(781) 982-1550
www.sullivantire.com
Automotive Repairs

To join the Chamber, contact Alison van Dam
508.586.0500 x 225, avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

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 22nd Annual Christmas on the Common on Sunday December 6 from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm on the Bridgewater Town Common. There will be over 90 vendors for your holiday shopping indoors and outdoors, fun for the kids, photos with Santa, food, music, pony rides, and much more. Visit bridgewaterbiz.biz for more information.

The **Stoughton Chamber of Commerce** will host their 13th Annual Holiday Party on Monday, December 7th, 5:30 pm at the Portuguese National Club, 21 Railroad Avenue in Stoughton. They will have great food, a great emcee, prizes, and more. Tickets are \$25. Visit stoughtonma.com for more information.



The **Norwell Chamber of Commerce** will co-host a Tri-Chamber holiday party on Wednesday, December 9 from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at Cardinal Cushing School, 405 Washington Street in Hanover. Join in for great food, casual networking, and a holiday raffle. Visit norwellchamberofcommerce.com for more information and to reserve tickets.



The **East Bridgewater Business Association (EBBA)** exists to promote a healthy and ethical business environment in East Bridgewater and to provide services to assist its members including education, networking, and fellowship. Please visit www.eastbridgewaterbiz.com for more information.



The **Avon Industrial Park Association** is a non-profit group seeking to advance the advocacy and business of its members in public and private affairs. Membership is open to all companies who operate within the confines of Avon Industrial Park, Avon, MA. For more information, call Bob Costa at 508-586-0900. Visit avonindustrialpark.org.



The **Randolph Chamber of Commerce** is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1986 representing businesses in Randolph and the surrounding communities. The chamber provides leadership in fostering business success, growth and development. Visit www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org.



ProLink Networking Group is an invitation-only, non-competitive business networking group. Meetings are held on alternating Tuesdays, 7:30 am at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. For meeting schedule or more information, visit www.prolinknetworking.com or contact Craig Pina at 508-279-4194 or email craigpina@gmail.com.



The **South Shore Women's Business Network (SSWBN)** will hold a Hospitality Intro Breakfast on Wednesday, December 2, 8:00 am - 9:00 am at Ameriprise, 25 Recreation Road, Suite 100 in Hingham. This is a free event, light breakfast included, for guests thinking of joining SSWBN and current members looking for a refresher on what the network has to offer. Visit www.sswbn.com to learn more.



RENEWING Members *Thank You!*

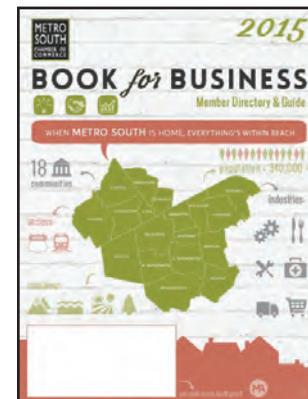
B.E. Peterson, Inc.
Baypointe Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Brockton Area Transit Authority
Brockton Community Access (BCA)
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
Busy Bee Jumpers & Tents
Concord Foods, Inc.
Creative Communications
Cushman Insurance Group
Electric by Design, LLC
Fisher College
Frenette & Associates, P.C.
Fuller Craft Museum
Healing Hearts Holistically
Home Health Resources, Inc.

Home/Health & Child Care Services, Inc.
Ideal Jewelry & Loan
Katiejobelle's Gifts
Kent, Parker & Associates
Laurie B Design
Lincoln Technical Institute
Mutual Bank
Old Colony Hospice
Romm Diamonds
St. Joseph Manor Health Care, Inc.
Stadelmann Electrical Services
Stoughton Motel
Sullivan Tire & Auto Service
The Woodlands at Abington Station
Trans Courier Systems, Inc.
Verizon Communications
Yamato Japanese Steak House

Last Chance to Advertise in Business Book!

Advertise in the 2016 Book for Business - Print & Online

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is getting ready to publish the 2016 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.



Why Advertise?

- **Exposure:** the Book for Business is distributed to over 5,000 people and businesses in the region and receives over 10,000 views online annually. Advertising is a great way to put your business in the forefront of thousands of fellow businesses, city and state officials, visitors, and more!
- **It's Worthwhile:** Advertising in the Book for Business is a one-time investment that you can benefit from all-year round. The Book for Business is distributed all year, and available for viewing online.
- **Convenience:** Don't have the time to create and ad yourself or the money to pay a designer? Our in-house designer will create a full-color ad for you, free of charge. The ad is yours to use for additional promotions or other publications.
- **It's Cost Effective:** Ad rates start at \$450. In addition to your ad, your business listing will receive extra embellishment in the alphabetical and categorical listings, and be included on a Advertising Index page.

Don't miss the opportunity to place an ad in the 2016 Book For Business! Call Melanie at 508.586.0500 x 222 or email mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com for more information and for ad rates.

Deadline This Month for Wellness Tax Credit!



The Massachusetts Wellness Tax Credit gives small businesses in Massachusetts a state tax credit for having an employee wellness program. This is an excellent opportunity for employers to help their employees live healthier lifestyles.

Massachusetts businesses that employ 200 or fewer workers may qualify for the tax credit for up to 25% of the cost of implementing a certified wellness program.

To receive certification, a business must:

- 1.) Check to see that the business and wellness program qualify by visiting the Massachusetts Wellness Tax Credit page at mass.gov/wellnesstaxcredit.
- 2.) Certify its wellness plan by filling out an online application form by **December 31, 2015** (<http://webapps.ehs.state.ma.us/wellnessTaxCredit/>).

This tax credit is an excellent opportunity for small businesses to improve their employees' health, but funds are limited, so apply today!

Chamber Earns 5 Star Re-Accreditation (cont.)

This is the sixth time in its history that the Metro South Chamber has gone through this process, beginning in 1990.

Among the findings in the report an issued statement reveals, "The Metro South Chamber of Commerce (MSCC) is recognized for utilizing a variety of communication methods in its Communications and Marketing Plan to represent itself as the region's leader for attracting and harnessing the energies, capabilities and ambitions of businesses as well as striving to position the region to seize a variety of emerging economic opportunities. The chamber has established itself as an effective advocate for the business community through the action of its Government Affairs Division and excellent working relationship with elected leaders at the local, state and federal level. The chamber has created an excellent Annual Report and has developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan."

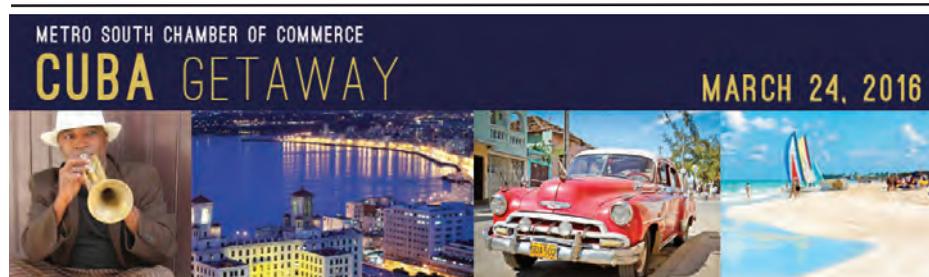
Tom Donohue, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce, presented a certificate of 5-Star Accreditation to Chamber President and CEO Christopher Cooney, CCE and to Sue Joss, Chair of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, "Accreditation is one of the highest honors bestowed on chambers that support pro-growth and economic policies at the federal, state and local level. This distinction honors your commitment to helping advance the principles of free enterprise - the bedrock of our great country." Donohue went on, "Many chambers employ the Accreditation process as a way to establish organizational excellence. The Metro South Chamber went above and beyond achieving Accreditation at the highest level with 5-Stars. You and your staff are to be commended on the quality of your chamber's performance."

Cooney said, "In a banner year of new initiatives around branding the city/region, exploring acquisition of the former CSX Rail property, fostering collaboration on regional water/sewer resources and growing the chamber's reach through formal affiliation agreements with local chambers and business organizations - it is nice to receive recognition in the form of accreditation."

Chamber Chair, Sue Joss said, "This Chamber, having achieved accreditation with 5-stars, is among the top 1% of Chambers nationwide. We thank the U.S. Chamber for their comprehensive review process. We are delighted to receive perfect scores in the areas of Human Resources, Government Affairs, Technology, Communications, Facilities and Benchmarking. With this recognition and the results of our recent Board retreat, we are well positioned to move forward for the benefit of our members and the communities we serve."

Travel Opportunity to Cuba Offered for March



The Metro South Chamber is partnering with Chamber Explorations to offer a once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunity to Cuba, departing March 24, 2016! With authorized travel to Cuba recently expanded, now is a great time to experience Cuba and all it has to offer.

In this five-day trip, you will visit the center of Cuban political life, Plaza de Revolution, enjoy a live dance performance by Habana Compas Dance Group and interact with the students & teachers to learn about the Cuban dance culture and history, tour a Cuban cigar factory, explore unique architecture, Hemingway's Farm, Museum of the Revolution, and more!

For more information and full itinerary, please contact Alison van Dam at 508.586.0500 x225, avandam@metrosouthchamber.com, or visit metrosouthchamber.com/events/travel.

— Governor Baker at Breakfast, Continued from page 1 —

and be entered to win a great raffle prize!

The cost to attend is \$25 for members and \$35 for future-members and includes breakfast and networking opportunities. Tables of ten are also available for reservation. If you would like to register, please call Athena Lavoie at 508.586.0500 x 231, email alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com or register online at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration.



This event is sponsored by Cambridge Savings Bank. As a community bank, Cambridge Savings Bank is deeply involved with the specific needs of local people, families, and businesses. For more than 180 years, they have provided banking services that enable those in their community to lead financially productive lives, from savings and checking accounts to business loans and home mortgages. Visit cambridge-savings.com to learn more.

#BuyinMA Campaign Launched for Holidays

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker recently joined the Retailers Association of Massachusetts (RAM), Mass Insight, and several other business groups to urge residents to buy their holiday gifts from Massachusetts businesses. The groups gathered in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace to launch a multimedia "#BuyInMA" campaign, featuring the tag line "Shop like the jobs depend on it, because they do."

"Small business owners and retailers are feeling optimistic as we head into the holiday shopping season, and for good reason," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Our local retailers play a big part in making our cities and towns great. Let's keep it that way by doing as much of our holiday shopping here in Massachusetts over the next month."

"Today, consumers have unlimited options on where they purchase their holiday gifts, but we are asking that they consider spending a significant portion of their holiday budget with local stores here in Massachusetts," said Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts. "When you buy in Mass., you are supporting local employers, their employees, local tax revenue and local investments in communities and economy."



Consumer spending represents 70% of the economy, and is vital for spurring economic growth. The holiday sales season historically represents on average 20% of annual retail sales.

The #BuyinMA campaign will primarily consist of a social media push on Twitter and Facebook, and will be supplemented by a local radio buy in the early part of December. RAM is partnering with the National Federation of Independent Businesses, as well as the Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce Executives (MACCE) and the many local chambers across the Commonwealth, to get the shop local message out.

To learn more about #BuyinMA and how you can help spread the message, visit retailersma.org/buyinma.

Brockton Tax Hearing - It's Time to Speak Up!

(continued from page 1)

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 4 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 current commercial tax in Brockton is 33.88 for every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value - up from \$18.48 in 2008.

Join us at Brockton City Hall on Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30 pm at the Brockton City Hall to prevent an increase in this Commercial Tax Rate. Let your concerns be heard!

Buy Local From These New Chamber of Commerce Members

Banner Environmental Services



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With over 25 years of experience in Greater Boston, Cape Cod, and the Islands, Banner Environmental provides environmental services including emergency disaster response, asbestos survey/abatement, mold/mildew remediation, black/gray water cleanup, select/interior demo, and vermiculite remediation. Our full staff of licensed technicians handles residential, municipal, commercial, and institutional projects in compliance with OSHA and EPA best practices.

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Call Alison at 508.586.0500 x 225,
or email: avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

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www.metroouthchamber.com

Join the Chamber and network your business to success! The Chamber hosts informative meetings, networking events, and puts you in touch with your legislators. We also offer marketing and advertising opportunities, referrals, publicity and exposure. In addition, we offer Health Insurance packages, Discounts, and Energy Purchasing Programs. Call Alison to learn more today!

Happy Holidays!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Thank You...

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

Healing Hearts Holistically, Newport Mansions, F1 Boston, B.C. Tent & Awning, HopeHealth, George's Cafe, Stephco Cleaning & Restoration, Westgate Mall, Brockton Rox, South Shore Bank, Hub Tech, Splitsville Lanes, Stoneforge Grill, McGuiggan's Pub, Petti's Market, Elvera's Cafe, Central Rock Gym, Children's Museum in Easton, Boston Red Sox, Jillian's/Lucky Strike, Cape Cod Maritime Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Associated Energy Developers, Cape Cod Museum of National History, Cape Ann Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art - Boston, Good Days Restaurant, New England Aquarium, Texas Roadhouse, The Shaw's Center, Spanx, Inc., Old Colony YMCA

We would also like to thank the following for all of their hard work and support during the 102nd Annual Meeting:

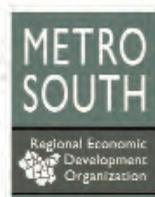
Jan Singer, CEO of Spanx, Inc., Cardinal Spellman High School Cabaret Choir, B.C. Tent & Awning Company, The Enterprise, Rob Peters Entertainment, Rich Morgan Photography, Brockton Community Access Channel, The Conference Center at Massasoit, the Chamber Ambassador Team

Premier Sponsor: Crescent Credit Union

Contributing Sponsor: UMASS Donahue Institute

Supporting Sponsors: Tufts Health Plan, Old Colony Elder Services, Vicente's Tropical Supermarket, Sharkansky LLP, American Express Small Business Saturday, Hub Tech, Brockton Area Transit Authority, Brockton Historical Society, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Source 4, Nissan, Energy Sage, Holmes McDuffy Florists, FUN Enterprises

Corporate Sponsors: Abington Bank, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Bridgewater Savings Bank, Bridgewater State University, Brockton Area Transit Authority, Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board, Brockton Housing Authority, Cambridge Savings Bank, Cohn Reznick, Concord Foods, Crescent Credit Union, Eastern Bank, Good Samaritan Medical Center, HarborOne Bank, HUB Tech., Mansfield Bank, Massasoit Community College, Mutual Bank, National Grid, North Easton Savings Bank, OCES (Old Colony Elder Services), Old Colony Planning Council, Old Colony YMCA, Rockland Trust, Sharkansky LLP, Signature Healthcare, Tufts Health Plan, UMass Donahue Institute



Metro South Site Finder

metrosouthsitefinder.com

Search for available commercial sites for purchase or lease in the Metro South region, or list a property!



BUSINESS EVENTS Planner

December 3

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

3:00 pm

Central Rock Gym

445 High Street, Randolph

Celebrate the Grand Opening of new member Central Rock Gym with a ribbon cutting, refreshments, free rock climbing, and more. (See p. 2)

Cost: Complimentary

For more information, call 508-586-0500 x231

December 17

Good Morning Metro South

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Conference Center at Massasoit

770 Crescent Street, Brockton

Governor Charlie Baker will address the Chamber in this special edition Breakfast & Government Affairs combined event. Sponsored by Cambridge Savings Bank (see p. 1)

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

To register, visit metrosouthchamber.com/calendar

January 13

Good Morning Metro South

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Martin Institute at Stonehill College

320 Washington Street, North Easton

Enjoy breakfast and networking at our Good Morning Metro South program, featuring guest speaker Secretary Jay Ash. Sponsored by Stonehill College. (See p. 2)

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

To register, visit metrosouthchamber.com/calendar

January 21

Free Entrepreneurial Workshops

9:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

60 School Street, Brockton

SEED Corp. and Rockland Trust Community Development Corp. will offer free basic business workshops to existing and potential entrepreneurs. (See p. 2)

Complimentary to Attend

Learn more at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar

January 21

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

St. Joseph Manor Health Care

215 Thatcher Street, Brockton

Enjoy networking and refreshments at member business St. Joseph Manor Health Care. Don't forget your business cards! (See p. 2)

Complimentary to Attend

To register, visit metrosouthchamber.com/calendar

January 27

Cyber Liability Lunch & Learn

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

60 School Street, Brockton

Could your company survive a data breach? Learn how you can protect the future of your company in this complimentary workshop (see page 2)

Complimentary to Attend

Learn more at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar