Actionreport, December 2006

Always about **OPPORTUNITY**



CHAMBER MISSION

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



Aguinaldo "Nato" Fonseca , page 4



James Blake, page 8



Patricia Williams, page 10

CONTENTS

Calendar of Events

Good News 4

Renewing Members 9

Upcoming Events 12

Annual Meeting Draws Capacity Crowd

Economic Impact Awards Featured



Thomas Finneran, President, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

The Metro
South Chamber of
Commerce celebrated
the 93rd Annual
Meeting at the
Massasoit Conference
Center on Wednesday,
November 15. The
event was sponsored
by HarborOne Credit
Union. Over 450
business professionals

and more than fifty exhibitors promoted products and services at the business-to-business expo. The keynote speaker was Thomas M. Finneran, president of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council who spoke about how Massachusetts is ideally positioned to take the lead in the biotechnology industry.



Ray Ledoux, Brockton Area Transit; Chamber Chairman

The Chamber presented Economic Impact Awards to ten area companies who have made a significant investment and contribution to the economic development of the region. The Chamber also presented the Charles A. Fuller Chamber Service Award

to James Blake of the HarborOne Credit Union.

Economic Impact Awards recipients are Bassett Furniture, Bridgewater Sports Complex, Bugaboo Creek Steak House, DRJ Investment Management, Mather Family Enterprises, The City of Brockton, Dick's Sporting Goods, Stoneforge Grill, Fitzgerald Design Build, and The Shaw Group Inc.

See page 10 & 11 for related articles

Yankee Magazine Publisher at Next Breakfast



J. D. Hale

Join us as we continue our popular **Good Morning Metro South** breakfast series. Enjoy a delicious breakfast while making valuable business con-

tacts. The next Good Morning Metro South is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Brockton.

The featured speaker is JD Hale, vice president of Yankee Publishing and publisher of Yankee Magazine. JD leads Yankee's sales and marketing operations out of the Yankee Publishing Building located on Union Street in Boston. A veteran

of AOL Time Warner, JD leads Yankee's efforts to develop new



Sponsor

revenue streams for the company and its customers. Born and raised in Dublin, New Hampshire, JD is the son of Jud Hale and greatnephew of founders Rob and Beatrix Sagendorph. In August 1959, one-month-old JD was brought to Mary Walker's farm – now the home and inspiration for Edie Clark's popular Yankee column titled "Mary's Farm." He remains a fan of Edie's column "Mary's Farm" to this day.

Another speaker is Patricia Kempthorne, Founder of the Twiga Foundation, a non-profit corporation dedicated to inspiring,



Patricia Kempthorne

promoting and maintaining a family-consciousness at home, in the workplace and in the commu-

Article continued to page 8

Chamber to Present Workplace Flexibility Award

Flexible work schedules are critical to employers and employees struggling with work/life/family issues. 74% of all businesses offer flexible work options, according to a Hewlitt Associates Work/Life survey. Many new human resource policies enable key employees to meet both their family and employment obligations.

The prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workforce Flexibility is presented to companies that have successfully used flexibility to meet both business and employee goals. The award process is an on-line survey application managed by The Families and Work Institute.

The chamber encourages employees and employers to complete the on-line application at www.whenworkworks.org To learn more, attend the next Chamber breakfast, December 14th at 7:45 a.m





December Business After Hours

Toys For Tots Featured

Join us for food and fun while meeting and greeting fellow business professionals. St. Joseph Manor, at 215 Thatcher Street, Brockton, will host a Business After **Hours** ~ Thursday, December 7 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. This is a great way to make business contacts in a casual setting. Admission is free with the donation of a "Toys for Tots" toy. To register, please call 508.586.0500 x 221.



Eddie Terrenzi and Christopher Cooney of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce display toys by local businesses.

MEMBEROrientation

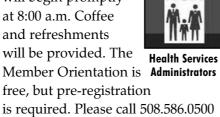
January $10 \sim 8:00 - 9:00 \text{ a.m.}$

Join us for a Member Orientation at the Chamber of Commerce building on Wednesday, January 10. The Member Orientation gives new members, prospective members, and new employees of existing member companies an opportunity to network and explore the many programs and services available to Metro South Chamber members.

The orientation will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. The free, but pre-registration

ext. 225 to register or email

eddie@metrosouthchamber.com.



H.R.M.C.Calendar!

Human Resource Management Council

Sponsored by



Sandra Reynolds

The next **Human Resource** Management Council (HRMC) meeting will take place on Thursday, December 7 at the Holiday Inn in Brockton.

The featured speaker is Sandra L. Reynolds, Senior V. P., Employer's Resource Group, Associated Industries of Massachusetts, Inc.

Sandy has extensive, in-depth expertise in all areas of human resource management. She is a successful coach, facilitator, public speaker, and trainer. Significant P&L responsibility has enhanced her strategic approach and understanding of the many issues facing employers today.

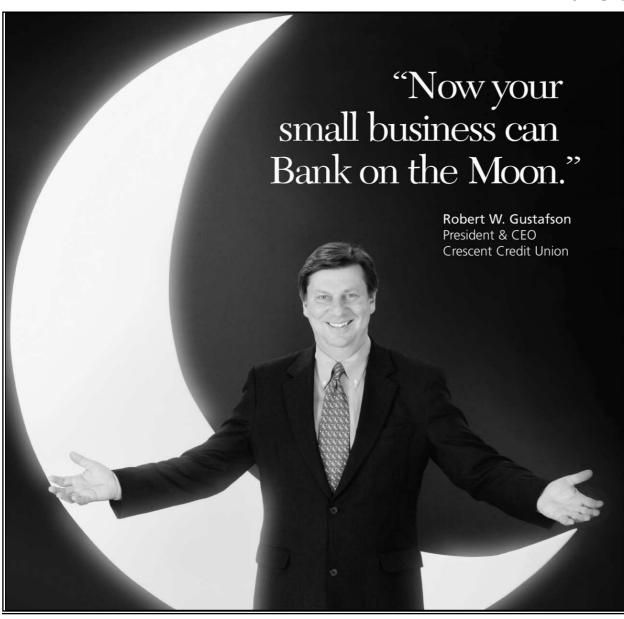
Today's savvy organizations make succession planning a primary component of their



strategic planning process - but no longer just for management positions. They are taking the principles of succession planning throughout the organization to enhance their ability to attract, develop, and retain the right people for their business.

Join us for a discussion of how the application of succession planning concepts might impact the future success of your organization.

Pre-register by calling 508.586.0500 ext. 231. The cost is \$18 for members and \$28 for non-members.



Now you can turn to Crescent for what your business needs most: money.

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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

Some Photography by Eagle Photography

DIRECTORS

Pasquale Ciaramella -

Old Colony Planning Council

Jack Conway - Jack Conway & Company, Inc.

John Costa - B C Tent & Awning Company

Loretta DeGrazia - East Coast Petroleum

Dotun Diyaolu - Pharmacist

Jeffrey Dukess - Frenette & Dukess, PC

Linda Faria Braun - Adult Learning Center

John Holiver - Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center

Susan Joss -

Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Kelly Carney Kelly -

Raynham Taunton Greyhound Park

Stephen McDuffy - Holmes-McDuffy Florists

Dana Mohler-Faria -

Bridgewater State College

William Morse - Mutual Bank

Gerard Nadeau - Rockland Trust Company

Basan Nembirkow - Brockton Public Schools

David Orloff - Sharkansky & Co., LLP, CPA's

Andrea Papadopoulos - Arista Associates, Inc.

Lester Schindel -

New England Sinai Hospital

Larry Siskind -

Siskind and Siskind Attorneys at Law

John Vlaco - Brophy & Phillips Co., Inc.

Charles Wall - Massasoit Community College

Patricia Williams - Harbor One Credit Union

Kerry Sullivan Finance x 230

Ellen Moore Design Communications x222

Eddie Terrenzi

Membership and Public Relations x225

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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.

Website Design by www.mc-internet.com

Networking at Events

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

DECEMBER Calendar

) L C L IVI I	olk Calenaar	
6	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
7	Human Resource Management Council Meeting Holiday Inn, 195 Westgate Drive, Brockton	8:00 am
7	Business After Hours St. Joseph Manor, 215 Thatcher Street, Brockton	5:30 pm
8	Government Affairs Meeting	7:45 am
12	Executive Committee	4:00 pm
14	Good Morning Metro South Holiday Inn, 195 Westgate Drive, Brockton	7:30 am
20	Board Meeting	12:00 pm
25	Christmas Day - Chamber Closed	
Coming up January		
3	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
10	Member Orientation	8:00 am
12	Government Affairs	7:45 am
17	Executive Committee	12:00 pm
	Good Morning Metro South Holiday Inn, 195 Westgate Drive, Brockton	7:30 am
31	Board Meeting	12:00 pm
ave the date		
February		
7	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
8	Human Resource Management Council Holiday Inn, 195 Westgate Drive, Brockton	7:30 am
9	Government Affairs	7:45 am

15 **Good Morning Metro South** 7:30 am Holiday Inn, 195 Westgate Drive, Brockton

19 Presidents Day - Chamber Closed

22 **Business After Hours** 5:30 pm Grow Associates, 101 Wales Avenue, Avon

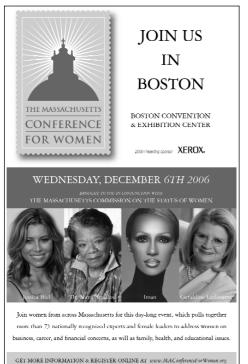
Photo and print production by Mark Mahoney, The Enterprise

GOODNews

Celebrate the great things going on!

The 2nd Annual Massachusetts **Conference for Women**

December 6 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. For more information go to www.MAConferenceForWomen.org



East Coast Petroleum named one of Massachusetts' Top 100 **Women-Led Businesses**

Babson College and the Commonwealth Institute released the 2006 list of the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts.



Loretta DeGrazia

Loretta DeGrazia, CEO and President of East Coast Petroleum in Stoughton, has been named to that list. The award is based upon 2005 rev-

enues as well as the leadership capabilities of the women who run the businesses.

East Coast Petroleum, a fullservice-heating and air conditioning business, was started from the ground up by DeGrazia twenty-six years ago. It is now a six million dollar company with 27 employees.

Boys & Girls Club Member Wins Art Award

The winner of Rockland Trust's annual "Winter Theme" art contest is Danielle Austin, a 12 year-old member of the Boys & Girls Club of Brockton. The club was selected by Rockland Trust to be the 2006 community organization to hold a contest for the design of the bank's corporate holiday card.



Dainelle Austin receives award from Rockland Trust

"We are always looking for ways to engage our community at Rockland Trust", said Stephanie Pretti, who works in the bank's marketing department. "We are thrilled with Danielle's design, and proud to offer her a \$100.00 U.S. Savings Bond to show our appreciation. She is one talented young lady".

The Boys & Girls Club of Brockton, located at 233 Warren Avenue, annually serves nearly 1,400 Brockton area youth. For more information, please call the club at 508-584-5209.

Joseph F. Casey Promoted

HarborOne Credit Union announced the promotion of Joseph F. Casey to Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

He has exten-



Joseph F. Casey

sive banking and accounting experience, having previously served as Senior V. P. and CFO for Compass Bank for Savings and V. P. of Seacoast Financial Services of New Bedford.

Mr. Casey is a CPA and BS Graduate of Bentley College. He is also a graduate of the Program for Management Development, Harvard Business School, and School of Bank Investments, American Bankers Association.

Costa Re-elected

John J. Costa, Jr., President of B.C. Tent & Awning, the region's

leading provider of tents, awnings and accessories, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce.



John Costa

Fonseca recognized by the **Brockton Housing Partnership**

SMALL BUSINESS SPACE

Available at Chamber Call 508-586-0500 x221

> The Brockton Housing Partnership recently voted an expression of appreciation to Aguinaldo "Nato" Fonseca, Minority Business Development Officer of HarborOne Credit Union in recognition of his many efforts on behalf of local residents.

Mr. Pike presented the letter of recognition to Mr. Fonseca commending his hard work and dedication to the partnership, observing that his efforts were critical in attracting a pool of candidates for the Brockton Interfaith Community's Nehemiah infill housing project. Additionally, his efforts in marketing, promoting, coordinating and participating in the partnerships First Time



Excellence in Training

Division of Workforce Development and Community Education

"Massasoit Community College's Division of Workforce Development and Community Education welcomes Mr. Jim Bolger and Mrs. Louise Howard as our New Business Developers. They will be responsible for providing outreach to regional businesses, industry and government.

> Jim Bolger 508-588-9100 x2032 900 Randolph Street Canton, MA 02021

> **Louise Howard** 508-588-9100 x1307 One Massasoit Blvd. Brockton, MA 02302



If you see them out and about, be sure to say hello! Each of them is able to offer organizations information about the quality education and training programs we have to offer; whether it be day or evening, at one of our convenient locations, or on site at your business. We will customize training to fit your needs.

SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR SPACE Now Available at the Chamber

Call 508-586-0500 x221



Stephen Pike, Senior Vice President and Senior Loan Officer of North Easton Savings Bank congratulates Aguinaldo "Nato" Fonseca, Minority Business Development Officer at HarborOne Credit Union.

Home Buyer Workshop and Financial Literacy program held in Portuguese at the Cape Verdean Association contributed to a wonderful program.

United Way Campaign Kick Off

A terrific Kick Off event was conducted by Talbots and Ocean Spray on October 30th. President & CEO of Ocean Spray, Randy Papadellis and his staff presented a "Straight from the Heart" production at their corporate headquarters.

Two United Way campaign

presentations
were given
at AcushnetFoot Joy in
Brockton.
Campaigns
coming up
soon include,
Brockton Public



Ocean Spray event entertainment

Schools, Brockton Hospital, and Jordan Hospital. If your company is interested in running a United Way campaign, please call Dennis P. Carman at 508-583-6306.

Brockton Hospital Appoints Geagea Director

Brockton Hospital is pleased

to announce the appointment of Jean-Pierre Geagea, MD, FACC as the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. Since Dr. Geagea's arrival in March, his leadership

and focus on quality



Dr. Jean-Pierre Geagea

has enabled the cardiology program at Brockton Hospital to reach several important milestones. Dr. Gaegea is board certified in Interventional Cardiology, Cardiovascular Disease, and Internal Medicine. Dr. Geagea comes to Brockton Hospital from private practice where he served on the medical staffs of three hospitals.

Brockton Hospital's Ring of Champion's Dinner Sponsored by HarborOne

Brockton Hospital is pleased to announce that HarborOne Credit Union will be the reception sponsor at this year's Ring of Champions dinner, to be held on Thursday, December 7.

The Ring of Champions dinner is expected to draw hundreds of community leaders, medical professionals and business leaders from throughout the region.

The gala event being held at the Shaw's Center, will feature dinner and dancing to the music of 'Intrigue'. A silent auction will also be included among the evening's festivities and all proceeds from the event will benefit Brockton Hospital. The event begins at 6 p.m. Valet parking will be provided.

Tickets are \$150 each and can be purchased by calling Brockton Hospital at 508-941-7078. A limited number are still available.

Piana to Head Bridgewater Savings' Pleasant Street Branch

Bridgewater Savings has named Patricia Piana as the branch manager of its Pleasant Street branch in Bridgewater, MA.

The Assistant Branch Manger for the Bridgewater Center branch for four years and then for the Lakeville branch for over a year, Ms. Piana began here career at Bridgewater Savings as a teller. "Patricia's versatility and natural leadership skills make her a tremendous asset," said James C. Lively, President and CEO of Bridgewater Savings.

Conway Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Homeless

Jack Conway Realtors 22nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament held recently at the Easton Country Club, netted over \$12,000 for the programs



Tom Washington (left) Director of MainSpring Coalition accepts a check for over \$12,000 from Denis Lilla, VP of Sales for Jack Conway & Co. Realtors,

and services of The MainSpring Coalition for the Homeless.

"This is fantastic," said Washington. "This money will go a long way toward helping to get people off the streets and giving them a new start in life."

Mearls Named Manager

John M. Mearls has been named Direct Underwriting Manager for HarborOne Credit Union. He will manage the underwriting process for



John M. Mearls

all direct consumer loan requests.

Mr. Mearls has 27 years of banking experience. He graduated from Mass School for Financial Studies.

Bridgewater Savings' Charitable Foundation Helping Kids

Bridgewater Savings Bank announced that their Charitable Foundation has made a matching donation to the South Shore Head Start Childcare's Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Program. The donation, equal to a quarter of the total amount received by Head Start through the RIF program, will allow Head Start to purchase children's books that will be distributed to Head Start children over the course of 2007.

Brockton Hospital & HarborOne Kick-off "Better Beginnings" Donation Drive

Brockton Hospital's Better Beginnings program offers area mothers-to-be assistance with health insurance, pre-natal care, doctor appointments, delivery, and postnatal care. The Better Beginnings initiative is a nationally recognized program for excellence in improving the health of the community.

Donations will be accepted at all full-service HarborOne Credit Union branches. Items most in need this year include: new infant clothing, blankets, baby towels, disposable diapers, formula, and other infant necessities. Donations will be collected throughout the month of December.

For additional information call Better Beginnings at 508-941-7530.



Ten Honored for Recent Investment in Brockton Area



Bassett Furniture, Stoughton

Bassett Furniture - located on Technology Drive in Stoughton, opened on February 17, 2006. This 29,000 square foot furniture store represents a \$10 million dollar investment in the region and provides full-time employment for eleven. Basset furniture offers custom design furniture with complimentary home design services. Brothers J.D., Charles and Sam Bassett along with their brother-inlaw Reed L. Stone founded Bassett furniture in 1902. The business began in the Virginia foot hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains as a producer of railroad ties. Today, Bassett Furniture has grown to a national company with 70 locations across the United States. Bassett Furniture is committed to producing well-made furniture that is beautiful and affordable!



Bridgewater Sports Complex, Bridgewater

Bridgewater Sports Complex -

also known as, "The Dome", is located on Bedford Street in Bridgewater. Owners, Mark and Patty Oliari, recently re-opened the facility in 2005 after the original structure, which opened in 1994, was crushed by a winter storm. The overall re-development project of the 77,000 square foot facility cost over \$1 million dollars. The complex features space for soccer, field hockey, basketball, softball, lacrosse and volleyball and pro-

vides employment for three full time and 60 part-time workers. The Bridgewater Sports Complex is open throughout the year and provides exceptional space protected from inclement weather and infected mosquitoes.



Bugaboo Creek Steak House, Brockton

Bugaboo Creek Steak House -

located on Westgate Drive in Brockton opened in the fall of 2005. "Bugaboo", seats 268 hungry customers and employs 70 people. Rare Hospitality, owners of Bugaboo, Longhorn Steak House and The Capital Grille invested more than \$3 million dollars to construct the facility. The restaurant is decorated as a Canadian Rockies hunting lodge with talking trophy animals. The restaurant prides itself on being family orientated and is very entertaining for children. Bugaboo Creek has 32 restaurants located in the eastern United States. At Bugaboo Creek you'll find your very own Canadian Rockies Retreat. You'll enjoy the bold, hearty flavor and generous portions of the Canadian Rockies in dishes such as the slowly roasted prime rib, grilled fresh salmon and spit-roasted chicken.



DRJ Investment Management project - Campello Heights

David Elman (DRJ Investment Management) - located at 1330 Main Street in Brockton was established in 1974. Since then, David has renovated many underutilized

buildings while creating hundreds of new housing units throughout Brockton. His most recent redevelopment project, Campello Heights, converted an abandoned mill into 21 well-appointed condominiums at a cost of over \$4 million dollars. Underground parking, central air conditioning, hardwood floors, Jacuzzi tubs, stainless steel appliances and granite floors are some of the amenities offered. Each unit has two bedrooms and two bathrooms and ranges in price from \$230,000 to \$250,000. Some of David's other completed housing projects in Brockton include 227 West Elm Street, 223 Clinton Street, 932 North Main Street and 1134 Montello Street. DRJ aspires to carry out its mission to revitalize neighborhoods and provide quality housing at affordable prices.



Mather Family Enterprises

Mather Family Enterprises -

recently opened Valero Gas and Paula Anne's Café at the corner of Montello and School Streets in Brockton, Michael Mather Sr. and his sons Michael Jr. and Josh renovated the former automobile glass business into a self service gas station, convenience store and café. The café is named after Michael and Joshua's mother and serves an extensive variety of breakfast, soups, sandwiches, entrees and desserts. The Mather family believes in Brockton. They have invested over \$1.5 million dollars renovating the 2,769 square foot building and employ 10 full and part time employees. The café is open from 6:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and the gas station is open from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.



City of Brockton, Brightfields

The City of Brockton - recently redeveloped the site of a former manufactured gas plant (brownfield) into a 3.7 acre brightfield, a solar energy generating station that converts sunlight to electricity. The \$3 million dollar project is located on the corner of Grove and East Union Street in Brockton. The project was paid for through state and federal grants, a municipal bond, and proceeds from a land sale. The Brockton Brightfield consists of 1,395 SCHOTT Solar modules that generate over 535 Megawatt hours of electricity per year, enough to power over 70 homes. The project is the largest solar array in New England and the largest brightfield project nationwide. In addition, the project will generate revenue of over \$131,000 annually and improve Brockton's image as innovate, cleaner and greener.



Dick's Sporting Goods, Brockton

Dick's Sporting Goods -

Dick's Sporting Goods located on Westgate Drive in Brockton opened in spring of 2006. The store is over 50,000 square feet and represents an investment of \$3.6 million dollars. Dick Stack, founder of Dick's Sporting Goods opened a modest bait and tackle shop in Binghamton, New York in 1948 with his grandmother's savings of \$300. By 1958 he expanded his

product line to include much of what you'll find at Dick's Sporting Goods today. Now with over 250 stores, Dick's family continues to offer the finest quality products at competitive prices, backed by the best service anywhere.



Stoneforge Grill, Easton

Stoneforge Grill - located on Roosevelt Circle in Easton opened in February 2006. This 7,100 square foot restaurant seats 240 patrons, offers rustic global cuisine and features over 36 beers on tap. Owners, Bill and Patti Rolland invested over \$3 million dollars in developing this property. They now operate four restaurants including the original Stoneforge (1998) in Raynham, the Stoneforge Foxboro and the Stoneforge Steakhouse and Raw Bar in Plymouth. Stoneforge employs over forty full and part time positions at each facility and is currently accepting reservations for holiday gatherings.



Fitzgerald Design Build, Abington

Fitzgerald Design Build -

owns and operates the Olde Towne Square office building at 1035 Bedford Street in Abington. The newly constructed 16,000 square foot building provides space for numerous small businesses with total combined employment of more than 50 people. Russ Fitzgerald

invested more than \$1.5 million dollars in the project. The building is currently full and features Brennan's Smoke Shop, De Ja Brew Coffee, On The Spot Cleaners, McSherry Realty, and Atlantic Mortgage. Fitzgerald Design Build, established in 1981 is a general contracting firm specializing in residential and commercial projects. They offer a complete range of design and remodeling services.



The Shaw Group Inc., Stoughton

The Shaw Group Inc. - recently purchased 100 and 600 Technology Drive in Stoughton. They plan to add a third location in Randolph bringing the total to more than 280,000 square feet of commercial space recently purchased within the Metro South region. The Company employs over 650 people in Stoughton and expects to add an additional 150 employees at the Randolph location. The Shaw Group Inc. was founded in 1987 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and generates \$4 billion dollars in revenue. Other locations in Massachusetts include Andover, Hopkinton and Cambridge. The Shaw Group is a national company employing 22,000 people. They provide premier engineering, design, construction, and maintenance services to government and private-sector clients in a wide array of industries, including the energy, environmental, infrastructure, and emergency response markets.

Join the **Chamber of Commerce**

508.586.0500 x 225 or 229

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Christy Place LLC

Mr. Robert Clark 53 Freeport Street Dorchester, MA 02122 508-284-6967 Real Estate Development

Stoneforge Grill

Mr. Edward MacLean 10 Roosevelt Circle South Easton, MA 02356 508-238-0550

Restaurants

Town of East Bridgewater

Mr. George Samia 175 Central Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333 508-378-1601 Municipal

Vega & Associates, Inc.

Mr. Jay Vega MM, LICSW P.O. Box 6002 Brockton, MA 02305 508-586-8362 Consultant



To Join the Chamber Call 508.586.0500 Eddie Terrenzi x225 Frank Gillooly x229

Holiday Parade Draws Thousands to Downtown

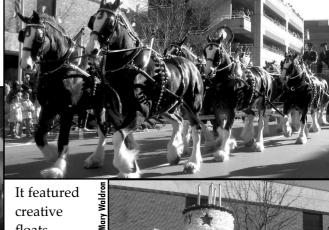
The annual Brockton Holiday Parade sponsored by the Downtown **Brockton Association** (DBA), the City of Brockton and the Montello Business Association drew a record crowd on November 25.

The parade began in front of the old BAT Terminal on Main Street and ended at



creative floats,

marching bands, Clydesdales, marching processions and, of course, a very jolly Mr. and Mrs. Claus in red.



Blake Receives Charles A. Fuller Award



James Blake of HarborOne Credit Union receives Fuller Service Award

At its 93rd Annual Meeting, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce presented the **Charles A. Fuller Chamber Service Award** to James Blake, President and CEO of HarborOne Credit Union.

Mr. Blake began his banking career in 1972 in Chelsea. From there, he has held senior management position with Banks in Boston and Worcester. In 1993 he was hired by the Brockton Credit Union as the Chief Operating Officer. In 1994 he became
President & CEO of what is now
HarborOne Credit Union. While
on the Board of the Metro South
Chamber, Mr. Blake was instrumental in forming the Metro
South Business Assistance Center
and Edison Business Incubator.
His deep commitment to the
community is reflected in the
numerous organizations he assists
both as an officer of the Credit
Union and personally.

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.

Join the Team!

The next **Ambassador Team meeting** will meet
on **December 6** from 8:00 9:00 am at the Metro South
Chamber of Commerce.

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. Presently, there are over twenty business professionals on the Ambassador Team.



Our ambassador team: Mark Gough of Brockton Hospital,
Dave Savage of Global Data Systems, Bob Wisgirda of
WBET Radio, Bob Tufts of SET Associates, Dan Trout of
Community Bank, Maria Carey Lallemund of Brockton Area
Workforce Investment Board, Joe Kameese of American
Business Solutions, Lori Patel of Sovereign Bank, Deborah
Smith of TD Banknorth, Cheryl Showstack of The Enterprise,
and Avalon McLaren of West Insurance Agency

To become an Ambassador, contact Eddie at 508-586-0500 x 225.

Article continued from page 1

nity. The Twiga Foundation is currently working in partnership with The Families and Work Institute of New York and the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, to promote the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business

Excellence in Workplace Flexibility in communities across the country.



The event is being sponsored by the Brockton Housing Partnership, a group of local lenders working together with local agencies to assist in the development and funding of affordable and market rate housing.

As always, the Good Morning Metro South program is a great networking opportunity. Guests are encouraged to stay for informal networking following the program. **Pre-register by calling 508.586.0500 ext. 221.** The cost is \$17 for members and \$24 for non-members.

Congratulations Award Recipients!



(Back Row, left to right) Steve Hall, National Grid; Patty and Mark Oliari, Bridgewater Sports Complex;
Herman Bronko, Bugaboo Creek Steakhouse; Mayor James Harrington, City of Brockton; Jerry Copsinis, Dick's
Sporting Goods; David Elman, DRJ Investment Management; Russ Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald Design Build; Michael Mather Jr.,
Mather Family Enterprises; Patti and Bill Roland, Stoneforge Grill; Christopher Cooney, President and CEO of
the Metro South Chamber of Commerce; and William Griffith, The Shaw Group

Raffle Raises Revenue for Chamber Foundation

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

Home Instead Senior Care • Clarion Nantasket Beach Hotel • Bank of America • HarborOne Credit Union • Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA • Home/Health & Child Care • North Easton Savings Bank • Old Colony YMCA • Crescent Credit Union • New England Sinai Hospital • Old Colony Eldery Services • SEED Corporation • PROTEAS Customized Consulting

A special thanks to:

HarborOne Credit Union, Massasoit Conference Center,
John Costa, BC Tent and Awning; Maria Carey Lallemand,
Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board; Mike Sellstone,
Eagle Photography; Judy McCarthy, Hilliard's House of Candy;
Steve Damon, Jack Conway and Co.; Rob Peters, Rob Peters
Entertainment; Stephen McDuffy, Holmes-McDuffy Florist, Inc.;
Jim Conlon, RICOH; Marilyn Jackson, Old Colony Hospice;
Lori Patel, Sovereign Bank; Robert Tufts, SET Associates;
Bob Wisgirda, WBET 1460 AM Radio; The U.S. Army Color Guard

Do You Have a HR Question?

Try the Human Resource Hotline

Sponsored by:



Does your business have Human Resource questions? Do you know where to turn for the answers?

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce has developed a hotline for your business to receive professional advice from experts in the HR field.

Simply e-mail your questions to the HR hotline at hrhotline@metrosouthchamber.com or log onto www.metrosouthchamber.com. For more information contact **Kerrie Blake** at 508.586.0500 ext. 231.

New Neighborhood Health Center Underway



On Wednesday,
November 22nd the
Brockton Neighborhood
Health Center commemorated the placing of the
final beam on the build-

ing under construction

in downtown Brockton.

Left: Brockton Neighborhood Health Center staff; Below: Construction worker "tops" the structure.



Photos courtesy of Mary Waldro

Exclusive Sponsorship Available





The Chamber's email newsletter is a great way to reach key business leaders and decision-makers about your firm's products and services. Distributed each week to 600+ subscribers, this is one of the Chambers most direct ways of reaching out to members with the latest in business trends, topics, programs and events.

Become the exclusive annual sponsor of the Chamber eUpdate. Your company's products and services will be highlighted as well as your logo (HTML version only) with a link to your website each week for an entire year (52 issues). Your company will also be recognized in the Chamber's print newsletter – The Action Report – and other publications as the official Chamber eUpdate sponsor.

If your company would like to be the annual eUpdate sponsor or would like further information, please contact Kerrie at 508.586.0500 ext 231 or kerrie@metrosouthchamber.com.

Post Your Jobs on the Web for Free

With the click of a button, area employers can now post their job openings for free with CareerWorks, the Massachusetts One-Stop Career Center serving the Brockton area.

A new form on CareerWorks' web site, at www.careerworks.org, allows employers the convenience of posting job openings online.

Employers can find the form on the home page of CareerWorks' Web site and on the Employer Opportunities page. Simple click on "Online Job Order Form," complete the form and click on the "Submit Job Posting" button. Employers who prefer to download the job posting from the web site and return it to CareerWorks by email or fax may continue to do so.

Job postings submitted online or by email or fax are posted with the Massachusetts One Stop Employment System and America's Job Bank, making them accessible to thousands of job seekers.

"Our new online posting service gives employers efficiency, convenience and immediate access to job seekers," said CareerWorks Director Kim McLaughlin.

For more info go to www.careerworks.org

RENEWINGMembers

1666 Liquors American Red Cross Blood Services Belmont Dry Cleaners Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts **Bridgewater Trophy** Brueggeman Real Estate **Buyers Network** CNC/Gatehouse Media Collins Crane & Rigging Service, Inc. Curtin-Sullivan & Sullivan, P.C. Customized Properties Inc. East Coast Transit Services, Inc. Edwards Movers, Inc. Ellen Moore Design Ercolini and Company, LLP, CPA's George's Service Station Gerald S. Derochea, CPA HR Alternatives/Primary Vision Consulting Jezard Carpet Law Office of Donald Williams

Law Office of Joseph M. Fidler

Thank You!

M. L. O'Brien Communications, LLC MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd. MetroSouth MRI Modell's Sporting Goods Mr. Appliance of Brockton LLC Northeast Wholesale Old Colony Hospice Paula Coffey Dance Center Related Realty Group Riordan Law Group Robert P. Savilonis Woodworking Roger P. Wedge, CPA Serve New England Sir Speedy Printing Center Spark Street Auto Body Texas Roadhouse Tierney Appraisals Timber Lanes, Inc. Training Resources of America, Inc. Webster Bank, N.A.



To Join the Chamber Call 508.586.0500 Eddie Terrenzi x 225 Frank Gillooly x 229



GOVERNMENTAffairs

The monthly Government Affairs meetings are held at the Chamber and provide an opportunity for member businesses to discuss issues important to them with their elected officials. The next Government Affairs meeting will be held on **December 8, 2006** at 7:45am.



State Representative Michael Rodrigues

This month's guest speaker is State Representative Michael Rodrigues.

Representative Michael Rodrigues has spent a lifetime serving the communities of Westport and Fall River through his family business and legislative position. He was first elected in April of 1996 in a special election. Michael was appointed by former Speaker Thomas Finneran as a member to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Michael then served six years as Vice-Chair and two years as Chairman of the former Joint Committee

on Commerce & Labor. In January 2005, Michael was appointed as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

If you would like to attend or if you would like further information, please call the Chamber at 508. 586.0500 ext. 221.

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Chamber Elects Six New Board Members

At its 93rd Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce welcomed six new members to its Board of Directors. Ray Ledoux of Brockton Area

Transit, and Chair of the Board of Directors, introduced, Loretta DeGrazia of East Coast Petroleum, Dotun Diyaolu, Pharmacist, John Holiver of Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center, William Morse of Mutual Bank, Basan Nembirkow of **Brockton Public** Schools, and Patricia Williams

In their new role as directors they will be responsible for helping the

of HarborOne

over four hun-

dred and fifty

Metro South

Chamber.



Loretta DeGrazia, East Coast Petroleum



Dotun Diyaolu, Pharmacist



John Holiver, Caritas Good Samaritan



Mutual Savings Bank



Patricia Williams HarborOne Credit Union



Basan Nembirkow, **Brockton Public Schools**

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 Chamber's 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 20 at the Metro

South Chamber of Commerce located at Sixty School Street in Brockton.

For more information on joining the Chamber contact Eddie Terrenzi at 508.586.0500 x 225.

Business EXPO Offers Leads and Sales

Thank you to all attendees who visited the 2006 Business-to-Business Expo. Attendees raved about the location, atmosphere and foot traffic. Here are just a few photos courtesy of Eagle Photography.



Bill Diskin and Tamarah Barao of SEED Corporation



Megan Abella Bowen and Maria Carey Lallemand of Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board



Tim Chapin of Timber Lanes



Lucila Velasquez and Bob Kenworthy of Bank of America



Gay Martin of New England Sinai Hospital and Rehabilitation Center



Christa St. Peter and Mark Ofstein of Costco

Boston Celtics Discount Tickets Nights!



Metro South Chamber of Commerce presents **Boston Celtics Discount Tickets** Nights. Tickets are discounted exclusively for

Metro South Chamber members. To order these tickets, please email your order to metrosouth@celtics.com or fax it in to 617-854-8068. The tickets will be left at the "will call" window 2 hours before the start of the game for the appropriate night or can be mailed out. You will get a confirmation within 24 hours of your order.

Any questions, please contact Jim Davis at 617-854-8086. Tickets are limited and sold on a first come first served basis! Orders must be

placed in advance and offer not valid at the TD Banknorth Garden Box Office.

December 6 '06 - 7:30 pm vs. Memphis Grizzlies December 15 '06 - 7:30 pm vs. Denver Nuggets January 24 '07 - 7:30 pm vs. Atlanta Hawks

\$30 (reg.\$60), \$37.50 (reg.\$75), \$42.50 (reg.\$85) in the lower bowl

January 10 '07 - 7:30 pm vs. Indiana Pacers January 12 '07 - 7:30 pm vs. Toronto Raptors January 28 '07 - 7:30 pm vs. Washington Wizards

\$40 (reg.\$60), \$55 (reg.\$75) in the lower bowl

For each order, please include:

Name, Mailing Address (if to be mailed), Phone No., Credit Card Type, Credit Card No., Exp. Date, Game(s) to attend, # of seats, Price of seating desired

MEMBER-LED Workshop

First Time Home Buyer Seminar

Thursday, January 18 5:30 - 7:00 pm at the Chamber of Commerce Office 60 School Street, Brockton

The seminar presented by Eastern Bank will cover how to qualify for a home mortage. Topics will include Assets, Income, Debt, and Credit.

Morgage products and rates will be discussed as well as other issues to consider.

To register please call the Chamber at 508-586-0500 x231 by January 11.



SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR SPACE Now Available at the Chamber

Call 508-586-0500 x221

New Massachusetts Health Care Legislation Imposes Obligations on All Employers in the State

By Martha M. Walz

As national headlines recently proclaimed, Massachusetts has passed a health care reform law that aims to cover 95% of the state's more than half

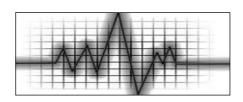


Martha Walz

million uninsured residents within three years. The law's underlying principle is that the government, employers, and individuals all share responsibility for contributing to the cost of expanded health insurance coverage.

All employers in the state will face new recordkeeping requirements and nondiscrimination obligations, while all but the smallest companies must pay penalties if they do not offer subsidized insurance to their employees. The key provisions of the law include:

- A first-in-the-nation mandate that every resident of the state have health insurance by July 1, 2007.
- Employers with 11 or more employees must have a section 125 cafeteria plan so their employees can purchase health insurance on a pre-tax basis.
- A "fair share contribution" to the state by employers with 11 or more full-time equivalent employees that do not offer subsidized health insurance.
- A "free rider surcharge" assessed against employers with 11 or more employees that do not provide health insurance when their employees and/or dependents use the state's free care system.
- The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector will connect individuals and small businesses with private health insurance plans.
- More residents will participate in the state's Medicaid program, and low wage workers will receive state subsidized insurance.



...with Liberty and Health Care for All

By Martha M. Walz, Legislator and David M. Jaffe

Across the country, employers are increasingly being required to provide expensive medical benefits or pay a penalty if they fail to do so. With this heightened regulatory activity, business advocacy groups and individual employers have the opportunity to shape these new laws, or be shaped by them. In Massachusetts, several business groups were influential participants as the health care reform law was written, and this level of involvement offers a model for how employers in other states can help determine the impact of these new laws on their bottom line.

Three New England states have adopted health care reform plans that should lead to nearly universal health care coverage once they are fully implemented. The plans in Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont seek to expand coverage within the structure of the existing health care system.

Bills have been proposed in approximately 30 states that require employers wither to provide health care coverage for workers or pay into a state fund that covers the costs of the uninsured.

If these laws are upheld, state legislatures will be emboldened, and employers should expect more states to adopt pay or play or similar-type health care coverage laws.

With states increasingly worried about the fiscal impact of providing health care to the working poor and uninsured, policymakers want taxpayers to know which employers are not providing insurance to their employees. The intent is to embarrass employers and put public pressure on them to offer health insurance or to make their health insurance more affordable to employees.

Some states are taking a cautious approach by expanding eligibility for existing insurance programs. Some states are allowing high deductible plans if they are paired with Health Savings Accounts.

Advocates and legislators in several states are seeking a more revolutionary approach to changing the health care system. The two leading proposals, the establishment of a constitutional right to adequate and affordable health care and the creation of a single payer system, much like Canada and other countries have enacted, have not been adopted - yet.

This patchwork of regulations poses a particular problem for multistate employers that are faced with the challenge of complying with an array of requirements, some of which may ultimately be preempted by ERISA. Employers that decline to comply with state laws regulating health insurance because they believe the laws are invalid under ERISA risk becoming a test case.

State legislatures are well aware of ERISA's preemption rules and are drafting their laws to minimize the likelihood of a successful challenge. Employers should closely evaluate each new law and how it affects their employees - some provisions of the law may apply to them and some may not depending on whether the employer's benefit plan is an ERISA plan.

A cautious step-by-step approach will allow an employer to assess how if at all, it should revise its medical benefit plans as states experiment with way to expand access to and control the costs of health care.

To contact Representative Walz, email her at mwalz@littler.com.

Fair Share regulations can be found at www.mass.gov/dhcfp

Employer Responsibilities

Chapter 58 imposes three new requirements on employers in order to facilitate access to insurance and implementation of the individual mandate and other provisions of the law. Each of these requirements is overseen by a separate agency.

"Cafeteria Plan" requirement

The new law requires that employers with more than 10 employees maintain a "cafeteria" plan in accordance with federal law (26 U.S.C. 125). Such a plan (also known as a "Section 125 plan") gives employees the opportunity to pay for health coverage in pre-tax dollars. The employer is not required to contribute to the premium cost, but must file a copy of the plan with the commonwealth Health Insurance Connector.

This requirement will go into effect July 1, 2007. the Connector will oversee implementation of this requirement.

Coverage Statement

The individual mandate contained in the new law requires residents of Massachusetts to buy insurance, as long as affordable products are available, and uses the state tax system to enforce the requirement. To facilitate implementation, the law requires employers to distribute to each employee whom it provided with creditable health coverage (as defined by the Connector) a written statement with information such as dates of coverage and names of those covered by the plan. This statement would be similar to the other statements provided to taxpayers (such as 1099 statement), and would be used by the employee to show compliance with the individual mandate when filling out tax forms. While employers bear primary responsibility for issuing this form, the law envisions that they will work cooperatively with insurance providers to collect the necessary information.

This individual mandate will go into effect July 1, 2007, so businesses will need to issue this statement early in 2008 for taxpayers to use when filling out 2007 tax forms. The Department of Revenue, in consultation with the Division of Insurance, will determine the final format of these statements.

Become a Chamber Member

Leading Businesses. Leading Communities.



It was February 14, 1913, when a dozen local business people united to establish the Metro South Chamber of Commerce to display their pride, commitment, and enthusiasm for the

community and region. Collectively, businesses working through the Chamber of Commerce produce far more individual and community success than they do working alone. To learn more about displaying your company pride, enthusiasm, and commitment through Chamber membership, call 508.586.0500 ext. 225 or 229.

* Please be advised that 95% of your membership investment can be deducted as a necessary business expense in accordance with the I.R.S. Service Code Sec, 162(e). Please consult your tax advisor to ensure proper credit for your business.

To join the Chamber, contact Eddie Terrenzi at 508-586-0500 x225



Impact.

It takes the right tools to start - or grow - a business. And it takes customers to keep business growing.

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce builds strong businesses and communities by connecting you to new customers and suppliers, as well as to those who influence the local economy and quality of life. You'll get the tools and resources you need to grow and make a positive impact.

Access to the right tools. One more way the Chamber makes an impact.



Be a part of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Leading Businesses. Leading Communities.

Call: 508.586.0500 or access www.metrosouthchamber.com

BUSINESS EVENTS Planner

December 7

Business After Hours

5:30 - 7:30 am

St. Joseph Manor

215 Thatcher Street, Brockton

This is a great way to make business contacts in a casual setting.

Tickets:

\$5. members

\$10. non-members

Admission is FREE with donation of toy "Toys for Tots"

Please RSVP by December 6 at 508.586.0500 ext. 221

December 8

Government Affairs

7:45 am

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

60 School Street, Brockton

Join other Chamber members for this opportunity to interact with legislators and hear first hand what is in store for the business community on Beacon Hill.

Free of charge.

Pre-registration is not necessary.

December 14

Good Morning Metro South

7:30 - 9:30 am

Holiday Inn and Conference Center

195 Westgate Drive, Brockton

This event is a great opportunity to network with other members while enjoying a buffet breakfast followed by a keynote speaker and program.

Tickets:

\$17. members

\$24. non-members

Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 221

IT'S EASY TO REGISTER!

508-586-0500 x 221

508-587-1340

E-mail:info@metrosouthchamber.com

Send reservation and payment to:



MSCC Sixty School Street Brockton, MA 02301-4087

PREREGISTRATION IS NECESSARY. Individuals registering at the event will be charged a \$5.00 late fee. For companies wishing to be billed there is a \$3.00 billing charge. Cancellations for all events must be received 24 hours in advance of the event, otherwise the company will be charged regardless of attendance.

Names of Persons Attending:		
	Event:	
Company:		
Phone:		
REMINDER: We	accept VISA, MasterCard and AMEX for dues and special events!	