

# Action report



January 2015

www.metroouthchamber.com

Leading Businesses  
Leading Communities



**CHAMBER MISSION**

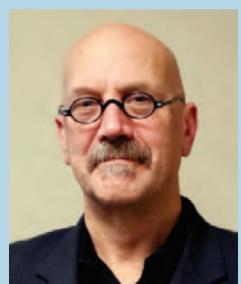
To best serve the unique interests and needs of member businesses and to champion the broader economic vitality of the Metro South region.



Joanne Schneider, page 7



Danina Rodrigues, page 7



Paul Cripps, page 10

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## Barry Bluestone, Economist; John Walsh at Next Breakfast

Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 7:30 am - 9:00 am, Stonehill College

Join us at the next Good Morning Metro South Breakfast on **Wednesday, January 14** from **7:30 am-9:00 am** at the **Martin Institute at Stonehill College, South Easton.**

The featured speaker is **Barry Bluestone**, Stearns Trustee Professor of Political Economy, the founding Director of the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy, and the founding Dean of the School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs at Northeastern University in Boston. At the breakfast, Bluestone will give a summary of the Economic Development Self Assessment Tool (EDSAT). The EDSAT is designed to assist cities and towns throughout Massachusetts.



Barry Bluestone, Ph.D.  
Northeastern University

At the Dukakis Center, Bluestone has led research projects on housing, local economic development, state and local public finance, and the manufacturing sector in Massachusetts. As a political economist, Bluestone has written widely in the areas of income distribution, business & industrial policy, labor-management relations, higher education finance, and urban and regional economic development. He contributes regularly to academic, as well as popular journals, and is the author of ten books. Professor Bluestone attended the University of Michigan where he received his Ph.D. in economics.

Also speaking will be **John E. Walsh**, Executive Director of TogetherPAC, Deval Patrick Committee. A graduate of Brockton's Cardinal Spellman High School and Princeton University, Walsh was elected to

the Abington Board of Selectmen at the age of 26, where he served from 1983 to 1993. He later spent three years as a member of the Plymouth County Charter Commission, was the Campaign Manager for the Massachusetts Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign, and served as Deval Patrick's Campaign Manager during his successful 2006 Massachusetts gubernatorial run. From 2007 to 2013, Walsh was Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, resigning in 2013 to become Executive Director of Deval Patrick's Together PAC. Walsh owns and manages his own insurance business and has served as chairman of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce.



John E. Walsh  
TogetherPAC

The Breakfast is sponsored by the Martin Institute at Stonehill College. The Martin Institute at Stonehill College prepares students for leadership as active citizens in service to an improved human community. Please visit [www.stonehill.edu](http://www.stonehill.edu) for more information.

As always, the Good Morning Metro South breakfast program is a great networking opportunity. The cost to attend is \$25 for members and \$35 for future-members and includes breakfast. Please register in advance by contacting Athena Lavoie, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com), 508.586.0500 x231, or register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration).

## New Year; New Development; New Prosperity



With new economic development and construction in the region, community events, and more taking place in 2015, we're looking forward to the year ahead and what it will bring to Metro South, the place that we call home. There are exciting things in store, and we want you to be a part of it!

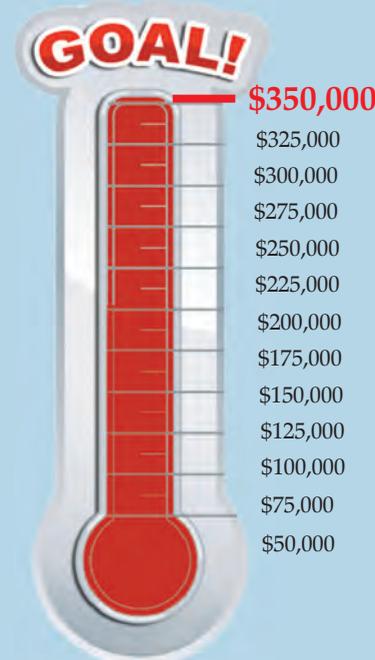
Many large development projects that began in 2014 are expected to be completed this year in 2015; take note of these changes and celebrate what's going on in your community. The first phase of **Trinity Financial's**

**\$100 million Enterprise Block** project will be completed this year, providing 42 artist live-work spaces and a gallery space. The **Downtown Brockton Higher Education Collaborative's** 226 Main Street Renovation project will begin, a collaborative of Massasoit Community College, Bridgewater State University, and the University of Massachusetts Boston. Construction and development of local businesses will bring new jobs and investments to the region, including the expansion of **B.C. Tent & Awning** in Avon, **Vicente's Tropical Grocery/ Brockton Neighborhood Health Center** in Brockton, and much more.

Of course, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce looks forward to the events we have planned for the year, and the connections that will be fostered and created through them. Already planned are monthly Business After Hours networking events, Good Morning Metro South breakfast programs, and A Taste of Metro South this March. If you're looking for a great way to get involved in the community while promoting your business to large audiences this year, **consider sponsoring or hosting an event!** For more information on any events and how you can get involved, contact **Athena Lavoie**, 508.586.0500 x231, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com). Read on to learn more about what's happening this year!

## Goal Achieved!

Thank You!



Thank you for helping to reach our goal of raising \$350,000 for the Metro South Centennial Innovation Fund!

The campaign was inaugurated in 2013 in celebration of the Chamber's 100th year of service. A total goal of \$350,000 was sought to ensure that the Chamber could continue to provide valuable education and programming for the region's workforce through workshops, counseling, and networking events and to renovate the historic Edison building which serves as the Chamber headquarters - a hub of business and networking.

Turn to page 11 to see more

## Great Restaurants at 23rd Annual "Taste" Event

March 18, 2015



More on page 6

## H&R Block Opens Another New Location!

Thursday, January 8, 3:00 pm

Please join the Metro South Chamber, H&R Block, and Brockton

**H&R BLOCK**



Rox Mascot K.O. for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on **Thursday, January 8** to celebrate the Grand Opening of H&R Block's newest location at **641 Belmont Street in Brockton!** A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at **3:00 pm**.

The Grand Opening will take place in conjunction with National H&R Block Affordable Care Act Q&A Day running from 9 am-9 pm (no appointment necessary). In addition, H&R Block will be collecting gently used, clean winter clothing and toiletries for the Winter Clothing Drive to benefit

the Universal Ministries Church.

With over 12,000 locations and having prepared more than 650 million tax returns since 1955, H&R Block is the world's largest tax services provider. In fiscal 2014, H&R Block had revenues over \$3.0 billion and prepared 24.2 million tax returns worldwide. To learn more, visit [hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com).

For more information about the Ribbon Cutting, please contact Carolyn Staley, [carolyn.staley@hrblock.com](mailto:carolyn.staley@hrblock.com), 781-252-1133.

## Chamber to Host Business Plan Workshops

Thursday, January 8, 9 am - 12 pm (Session I)

Thursday, January 8, 1 pm - 4 pm (Session II)

Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton



presented. Attendees will also be provided 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 and How They Can Help Determine the Health of Your Business."** The focus of this workshop is to help attendees understand a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. The workshop also explains how a small business owner can anticipate financial needs in order to operate his/her business more efficiently.

Please call the SEED Corporation at 508-822-1020 for more information or to register for either or both of these free sessions. Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge for attendees. For more information on SEED and its programs, visit [www.seedcorp.com](http://www.seedcorp.com).

## Free Small Business Advising Sessions Available

Thursday, January 8- Schedule Your Appointment

As a business owner, you have a million decisions to make. You're not alone! The Massachusetts Small Business Development



Center (MSBDC) can help you with high quality, one-on-one, confidential, no cost business advice. Entrepreneurs and small business owners are invited to meet with a Business Advisor, for hour-long sessions at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street in Brockton on **Thursday, January 8** to dis-

cuss anything from new business start ups to existing business strategies.

MSBDC clients range from novice entrepreneurs to highly respected and experienced business owners who receive advice in a wide variety of business topics!

Appointments are required and subject to availability. To schedule a session at the Metro South Chamber in Brockton, please call the MSBDC office at (508) 673-9783, x10. For more information on MSBDC, visit [msbdc.org](http://msbdc.org).

## Business After Hours, Bowling at Charlie Horse

Tuesday, January 27, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us as we kick off the New Year networking season with a Business After Hours at The Charlie Horse, 674 West Center Street in West Bridgewater on **Tuesday, January 27** from **5:30 pm- 7:30 pm**.



If you're looking for great food, music, sports, games and more, The Charlie Horse is the right place! The Charlie Horse has some of the best food and entertainment around. The Midway Café has over 70 simulators, video games and other hi-tech toys. Feeling lucky? They're also a full service lottery agent! The Charlie Horse offers the best music and dancing every weekend, 6 ten-pin bowling alleys, and more. Their facility is ready to make your function easy, fun and affordable. Visit [thecharliehorse.com](http://thecharliehorse.com).

This fun networking event is sponsored by Family & Community Resources, Inc. FCR, Inc. is dedicated to serving individuals and families whose lives are impacted by trauma at home, school, or in their community. FCR, Inc. provides crisis intervention, emergency "safe home" shelter, advocacy, support, individual and group treatment, case management, and community education and training. All FCR services are provided within a setting that preserves safety, confidentiality, and dignity. Visit [fcr-ma.org](http://fcr-ma.org).



Kick off a new year with us at The Charlie Horse! There will be networking, appetizers, cash bar, open bowling lanes, raffles, and more! Register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration) or contact Athena Lavoie, 508.586.0500 x231, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com). The cost to attend is \$5 for members and \$15 for future-members.

## Video Surveillance Explained

Tuesday, January 27, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Are you thinking about using video surveillance technology in your business or interested in learning more about it? Join us for an informative workshop at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street in Brockton, on **Tuesday, January 27** from **9:00 am - 10:00 am**.

This workshop will be presented by Eric Lutz of MDCOM, a Massachusetts Security Licensed and Axis Certified Professional with over 30 years experience in commercial business technologies. Lutz will give an overview of today's video surveillance technologies including topics such as:

- Reasons to implement video surveillance (and reasons not to!)
- Detection, Recognition and Identification
- Audio surveillance techniques and responsibilities
- HDTV vs CCTV - major design and resolution differences
- Pan/Tilt/Zoom vs Fixed: when and why to use
- How to keep storage from taking a 'byte' out of your budget
- Intelligent applications to help your business

For more information or to register for this complimentary workshop, visit [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration) or contact Athena Lavoie, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com), 508.586.0500 x231.



## U.S. Small Business Programs Offered

Attend a FREE SBA workshop designed to highlight the various SBA programs and services. General information will be provided on the following: Small Business Counseling (SCORE) Small Business / Development Centers • Business Information Center SBA 7(a) • Loan Guaranty Program • 8(a) Business Development HUB/Zones • Small Disadvantaged Business Assistance • Government Contracting Opportunities.

The workshop will be held at **CareerWorks**, 34 School Street, Brockton from **2 - 4 pm** on the third Wednesday of each month. The next workshops will be held on **January 21 and February 18, 2015**. Contact CareerWorks at 508.513.3400 for more information or visit [careerworks.org](http://careerworks.org).

CareerWorks

U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA  
Your Small Business Resource

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

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**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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**Photography by: Rich Morgan \* www.richmorganphotography.com**  
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**ACTION Report Volume 15 - Issue 1**  
 (USPS-410630) is published monthly except for combined July/August for \$5.00 per year by the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087.

Periodical Postage Paid at Brockton, MA.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Action Report, Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087

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

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

*Networking at Events*  
 is one of the most effective ways to grow your business!

**JANUARY Calendar**

- 7** Ambassador Meeting 8:00 am
- 8** MSBDC Free Advising Sessions by appt.
- 8** SEED Basic Business Workshops 9:00 am
- 8** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 3:00 pm  
*H&R Block, 641 Belmont Street, Brockton*
- 13** Executive Committee Meeting 3:00 pm
- 14** Good Morning Metro South 7:30 am  
*Martin Institute at Stonehill College, Easton*
- 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Chamber Closed
- 27** Video Surveillance Workshop 9:00 am
- 27** Business After Hours 5:30 pm  
*Charlie Horse, 674 W. Center Street, W. Bridgewater*
- 28** Board of Directors 12:00 pm
- 29** Workforce Development Training 9:00 am  
*with English for New Bostonians*

**Coming Up February**

- 4** Ambassadors Meeting 8:00 am
- 6** Government Affairs 12:00 pm
- 11** Good Morning Metro South 7:30 am  
*TBD*
- 16** President's Day - Chamber Closed
- 26** Business After Hours 5:30 pm  
*TBD*

**Save the Date March**

- 4** Ambassador Meeting 8:00 am
- 13** Government Affairs 12:00 pm
- 18** Taste of Metro South 5:30 pm  
*The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton*
- 24** Executive Committee Meeting 3:00 pm

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.

# GOODNews

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



## Good Samaritan Hosts New Cancer Support Group

Good Samaritan Medical Center has started a new cancer support group every Wednesday from now until March 4, 2015 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm at the Good Samaritan Radiation & Oncology Center, 818 Oak Street in Brockton. This is a weekly informal get-together for people currently receiving cancer treatment; family and caregivers are welcome. For more information, contact Trish McClean at 508-427-2908. Visit goodsamaritanmedical.org.

## Bridgewater Savings Expands Commercial Lending

John Moran and Glenn Silverberg, Jr. have joined Bridgewater Savings Bank's Commercial Lending department. John Moran has over 25 years of banking experience specializing in helping businesses and real estate investors meet their short term and long term financial goals. Glenn Silverberg Jr., has 21 years of commercial lending experience and building strong relationships with his customers. Bridgewater Savings is a full service financial institution offering commercial, consumer and residential loans as well as business and personal banking. Please visit [www.bridgewatersavings.com](http://www.bridgewatersavings.com) or call 508-884-3300 to learn more.

## Source4 Renews Brockton Lease

Source4 recently renewed its lease at 1010 West Chestnut Street in Brockton through September 2018. The Brockton facility includes sales and customer service, a graphic design studio and a fulfillment and distribution center. Source4 provides printing, promotional products, logo apparel and related services. For more information contact Murray Vetstein at 508-562-4812.

## School on Wheels of MA Seeks Tutors/ Mentors

School on Wheels of Massachusetts is seeking one-on-one afterschool tutor/mentors to work with students impacted by homelessness in grades K-12 at shelters, hotels, and schools in Brockton, New Bedford, Norwell, Randolph, Stoughton and Weymouth, starting in January 2015. In order to be a tutor, volunteers must take a 3-hour tutor training. Training sessions will be held at School on Wheels office at 790 West Chestnut Street in Brockton in January. Only one training session is required. For more information or to register, visit [sowma.org/get-involved/tutor-mentor/new-tutor-training](http://sowma.org/get-involved/tutor-mentor/new-tutor-training) or contact Robert Gilbert, 508-587-9091.

## 7th Annual Mentor Recruitment Rally & Celebration

The Brockton's Promise Caring Adults team is excited to host the 7th Annual Mentor Recruitment Rally and Celebration in honor of National Mentoring Month! The event will be held at the Shaw's Center in Brockton on January 22, 2015 from 5:30-8:00pm. This is a FREE event, open to all in the community. This event will include fabulous keynote speaker and recognition for exceptional mentors and businesses making a difference in

the community. Please RSVP as soon as possible at [2015mentorrally.eventbrite.com](http://2015mentorrally.eventbrite.com). For more information, call 508-580-7786.

## Mechanics Cooperative Bank Donates to PRIDE

Mechanics Cooperative Bank is once again proud to support their local community with a \$5,000 charitable gift to PRIDE Inc. (Preparatory Rehabilitation for Individual Development and Employment, Inc.), directly supporting their Adult Day Habilitation Program. PRIDE Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Taunton, MA but serves hundreds of individuals from the surrounding towns. PRIDE Inc.'s mission is "to improve the quality of life of individuals with disabilities, empowering them to become productive and valued members of their community." To learn more, please contact Sarah Campbell, 508-823-7134.

## NAACP MLK Annual Breakfast

The Brockton Area NAACP will host the 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast on Saturday, January 17 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton. The keynote speaker is retired judge Gordon A. Martin, Jr. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door for adults and \$15 for children ages 15 and under. For tickets or more information, call (508) 587-0502.

## BAWIB Awarded \$10,000 AMP it up! Grant

The Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board in partnership with Brockton Public Schools, Bridgewater State University and AccuRounds has been awarded one of nine AMP it up! matching grants through MassDevelopment. BAWIB will use the \$10,000 award to conduct outreach and programs that will educate young people and adults about career options in advanced manufacturing. Partners will target middle and high school students in the Brockton Public School system to deliver a career awareness program and workshop series to youth. For more information, please visit [bawib.org](http://bawib.org).

## Winter Wonderland Program for Kids

No snow? No problem! Bring the winter fun indoors with Bricks 4 Kidz! Kids can build motorized models of popular winter activities from the thrilling luge to the relaxing horse and sleigh as well as ice hockey, snowplowing, skiing, snowmobiling, and more. Classes take place Wednesdays from January 7 - February 11, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm at Simpson Spring, 719 Washington Street in South Easton. The cost is \$10 per class; multi-sibling discounts available! For more information, call 508-345-4440 or visit [bricks4kidz.com](http://bricks4kidz.com).

**Massasoit Comm. College Welcomes Barbara McCarthy**  
Massasoit Community College announces the appointment of Barbara W. McCarthy to

the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs (Chief Academic Officer). Ms. McCarthy has seventeen years of service to community colleges, most recently as Chief Academic Officer at Asnuntuck Community College. Ms. McCarthy will supervise the hiring, evaluation, and tenure recommendations of faculty, the hiring and evaluation of academic professional staffing in the division pursuant to the MCCC/MTA and AFSCME contracts and Non-Unit Professionals Personnel Policies Handbook, and lead the accreditation and strategic planning processes. Visit [massasoit.mass.edu](http://massasoit.mass.edu) to learn more.

## Celebrate MLK Day at Children's Museum in Easton

A Day On, Not A Day Off! Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19, at the Children's Museum in Easton, 9 Sullivan Avenue in North Easton. Activities are on-going and FREE with admission 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Children and families will celebrate diversity and participate in service-learning activities commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We'll be working together on a community art mobile that will be a reminder of his dreams. For more information, visit [childrensmuseumineaston.org](http://childrensmuseumineaston.org).

## Mutual Bank Announces \$8,000 Gift to Food Pantries

To help meet the holiday season's increasing need for food assistance in local communities, Mutual Bank, a depositor-owned, full-service bank serving Southeastern Massachusetts, recently donated a total of \$8,000 in direct gifts to food pantries throughout the Bank's service area, from Brockton to upper Cape Cod. The donations are helping pantries provide meals and staple items to hundreds of families in need of a helping hand at this time of year. The cash gifts supplement canned goods donated by Mutual Bank customers and staff that are collected year-round at each of the Bank's 10 banking centers. Visit [mymutualbank.com](http://mymutualbank.com).

## Free Family Fun Day at Maplewood Day Camp

On Sunday, January 11, enjoy a free, fun-packed day at Maplewood Country Day Camp & Enrichment Center, 150 Foundry Street in South Easton, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. This day will be full of free activities including moonwalks, swingshot, gymnastics, green-screen photo booth, arts & crafts, animal world experience, and more! Meet the owners Lee and Sue who will be available for personal tours. For more information, please visit [maplewoodyear-round.com](http://maplewoodyear-round.com).

## G.T. Reilly & Co. Adds to Business Services Staff

G.T. Reilly & Company has added two professionals to its business services staff. Lee Ann Bruno and Gena V. Schulz joined the firm recently in the Reilly Business Services Department, which provides accounting and bookkeeping support to smaller businesses and nonprofits. G.T. Reilly & Company is a full-service accounting and

consulting firm that offers accounting, auditing and tax services, as well as management consulting and estate planning. Visit [gtreilly.com](http://gtreilly.com) for more information.

## OCES Receives MA Emergency Relief Grant

The Massachusetts Emergency Relief Grant Program awards grants to be used in the development, implementation and expansion of emergency relief programs in the Commonwealth of MA. Old Colony Elder Services (OCES), the Brockton based regional agency serving older adults and individuals with disabilities, has been awarded a \$3,450 grant for their Shelf-Stable Meals emergency program. The Massachusetts Emergency Relief Grant enables OCES' Nutrition Department to help support the purchase of shelf-stable foods for home delivered meals consumers through their Meals on Wheels program. For more information, visit [www.oldcolonyelder-services.org](http://www.oldcolonyelder-services.org).

## Brockton Day Nursery Hires Early Education Director

Brockton Day Nursery, a leading Early Education and Care services provider for children and families, has recently appointed a new Early Education Director. Last month, Patti Plummer-Wilson left the organization after 8 years of outstanding service. Sharon Fayette now holds the position. Fayette began working with young children as a teacher and has been an Education Director for 25 years. She is certified to teach infant/toddler and preschool children. Sharon holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, with a minor in Education, and a Master's Degree in Education. For more information visit [www.brocktondaynursery.org](http://www.brocktondaynursery.org) or call 508-588-2700.

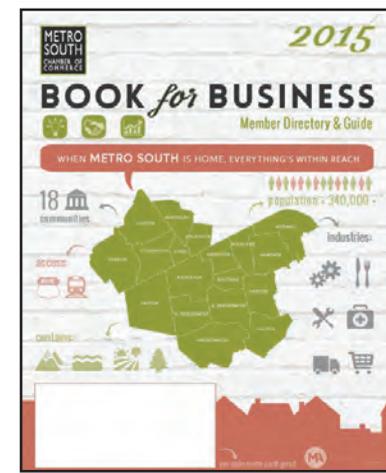
## Brockton Symphony Chamber Music Concert

The Brockton Symphony Orchestra will once again perform their popular Chamber Music concert on Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 pm at Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant Street in Brockton. Small groups of musicians will perform more intimate music from Baroque to Contemporary. The Brockton Symphony players will perform their favorite pieces. For more information, visit [brocktonsymphony.org](http://brocktonsymphony.org).

## Old Colony YMCA Easton Winterfest

Join the YMCA in Easton and chase your winter blues away with an evening of dancing, silent auction, raffle prizes, and fun on Friday, January 30. This event will take place the Easton Country Club, 265 Purchase Street, Easton from 7:30 pm - 12:00 am. The popular band Java Jive will perform live music beginning at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance. All proceeds will benefit the Easton Y Strong Kids Campaign. Please visit the Easton Branch to purchase your tickets. Visit [oldcolonyymca.org](http://oldcolonyymca.org).

# 2015 Book for Business In Production



The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is working on producing the **2015 Book for Business**. The book features area dining, lodging, public golf courses, recreation, legislative leaders, community demographics, regional and economic data, and a complete membership listing. The book also includes a full color map of Metro South, highlighting hotels, golf courses, industrial parks, town halls, and other points of interest.

Copies of the Book for Business will be distributed to over 5,000 throughout the region including all Chamber members, real estate offices, town halls, libraries, colleges, and more.

Do you want to be a part of the 2015 Book for Business by **advertising your business to thousands** in the region? For information, contact Melanie McGrath, 508.586.0500 x222, [mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com).

## Mayor Carpenter Provides Update Chamber Hosts Marketing Seminar



The Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter attended the last Chamber Board of Directors meeting to give an update on his first year in office and address issues of concern. To view a video, visit Mayor Bill Carpenter's channel on youtube.com - Shoe City Scoop 32



The Chamber recently hosted a marketing workshop entitled "Rock Your Holidays, Grow Your Business" presented by Adrienne Baumann of 508 Marketing. If you are interested in hosting a member-led workshop, contact Athena Lavoie, 508.586.0500 x231.

## Good News for Artists, Public Art Commission

From mass-creative.org: In the waning days of his administration, Governor Deval Patrick made a bold show of support for the arts community this week by signing a public art commission into law. Under the Executive Order, a minimum of .5% of the costs of construction and renovation of state-owned property in Boston and Gateway Cities will be dedicated to the preservation of and creation of public art.

These direct sources of funding will help spur economic development and build a sense of community in our downtowns and cultural districts. As Gov. Patrick puts it: "Good for artists, good for businesses, good for communities."



The Enso flats developed by Trinity Financial in Brockton, is a four-story building at a corner of Centre and Montello streets which will contain 42 affordable live-work apartments for artists, plus an art gallery on the ground floor. The apartments are slated to open in April 2015. For more information, call the Artist Leasing Center at 508-434-4072.

## B.C. Tent & Awning Expands



B.C. Tent & Awning, located at 25 Bodwell Street in Avon, is expanding! Their expansion will give B.C. Tent the ability to supply larger tents, add washing services, and increase warehouse staffing. They also plan to add solar panels to the warehouse roof. The company has increased its revenue by 71% since 2001. Visit [btent.com](http://btent.com) to learn more.

## Sulmonte & Frenier, LLP Opens



Sulmonte & Frenier, LLP recently celebrated their Grand Opening at 1322 Belmont Street, Suite 201 in Brockton. Sulmonte & Frenier, LLP is a full-service accounting firm serving clients throughout the Brockton area. For more information, please visit [sulmonteandfrenier.com](http://sulmonteandfrenier.com)

# American Student Assistance & Moe's Open Doors



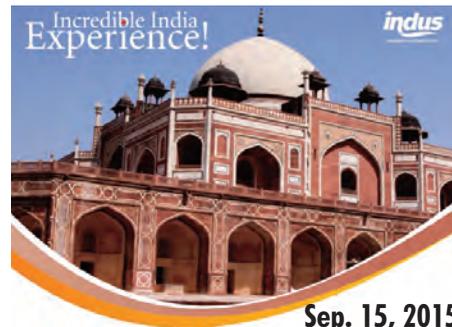
The community gathers to celebrate the Grand Opening of American Student Assistance's new location at 231 Main Street in Brockton. Visit [asa.org](http://asa.org) for more information. Pictured: Sue Joss, Chamber Chair, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center; Michael Brady, State Representative; Mayor Bill Carpenter; Paul Combe, ASA President & CEO; Claire Cronin, State Representative; Julia Frederick, Regional Director Senator Warren's Office; Kristi Pierce & Michael Rogovin, ASA



Moe's Southwest Grill, serving fresh and made-to-order Southwestern food, opens at 27 Westgate Drive in Brockton. Visit [moes.com](http://moes.com) to learn more. Pictured: Michael Brady, State Representative; Gary Leonard, Brockton Main Street Manager; Mayor Bill Carpenter; Robert Zinc and Richard Valarioti, owners of Moe's Southwest Grill; Don Johnson, General Manager

## Value, Convenience, Adventure - India & Ireland!

Take a look at what's in store for Fall 2015! The Metro South Chamber of Commerce will be offering exciting travel trips to India & Ireland. Save the date and join in on the adventure of a lifetime! For more information, visit [metrosouthchamber.com/events/travel](http://metrosouthchamber.com/events/travel) or call 508.586.0500.



Sep. 15, 2015

Explore India in this 10 day travel trip. Your journey starts in Delhi and moves on to Samode, Jaipur, Agra, and back to Delhi. Feel like royalty with spa activities and a Gala dinner at the Samode Palace. You'll get the chance to participate in exciting activities like Elephant Polo in the spectacular countryside, a gem cutting demonstration, exploration of famous pink sandstone city buildings and museums, a visit to the Taj Mahal, and much more!

Departs September 15, 2015. Prices start at just \$2795 per person for double occupancy. Space is limited.



October 7, 2015

Enjoy the highlights and hidden gems of Ireland with your local Irish driver/guide in this ten day, eight night Ireland tour. Your unforgettable experience of Ireland will include visits to historic castles, mills, and abbeys, beautiful scenery and dramatic landscapes, shopping, pubs, and more! Start in Kilarney and journey through Galway, Connemara, Derry, and Belfast.

Departs October 7, 2015. Prices start at \$2495 per person for double occupancy. First come, first serve - reserve your space now!



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual TASTE OF METRO SOUTH

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Shaw's Center, Brockton

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.METROSOUTHCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.METROSOUTHCHAMBER.COM)**

Ticket Price: \$35. Tickets must be purchased in advance.  
Call Athena, 508.586.0500 x 231 for tickets and more information.



Like us at [www.facebook.com/metrosouthchambercommerce](http://www.facebook.com/metrosouthchambercommerce) to stay up to date on participating restaurants, organizations, and entertainment

### Calling All Restaurants! Taste of Metro South

We invite your restaurant to participate in the widely popular and anticipated "A Taste of Metro South."

Celebrate living and working in the region with a night of food and entertainment. You provide your specialty in sample sizes for 500 people, and we provide the opportunity to market your business to the ideal target audience.

Participating restaurants will be listed on our website with a logo and link, receive promotion in "The Action Report" newsletter, receive mentions on facebook and social media, will have their logo and contact information placed in the program and event presentation, and receive the opportunity for television promotion.

Sponsorships are also available. For more information, please contact Athena Lavoie at 508.586.0500 x 231 or email [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com). Download the vendor application and see photos from last year's event at [metrosouthchamber.com/taste.html](http://metrosouthchamber.com/taste.html).

Take Part in the Region's Most Anticipated Annual Food Event!

750+ POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN ATTENDANCE!

Over 50 diverse delicious area restaurants expected.  
Also featuring live entertainment and giveaways.  
Celebrate living and working in the Metro South region!

**DO YOU KNOW OF A NEW RESTAURANT IN TOWN, OR IS THERE A RESTAURANT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE PARTICIPATE?**

Let us know! Call Athena at 508-586-0500, x231.

## MA Taxpayers Widmer at Breakfast

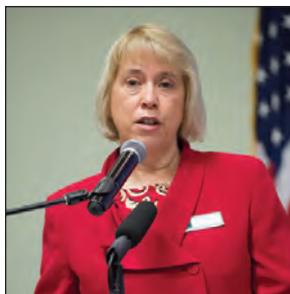
Photos: RichMorganPhotography.com, Sound: RobPetersEntertainment.com  
Video: Brockton Community Access



Michael Widmer, President of MA Taxpayers Foundation



Richard Hooke, Crescent Credit Union, (sponsor) is interviewed by Dan Trout, Mutual Bank



Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, Chamber Chair, emcees the program



Attendees enjoy breakfast catered by The Shaw's Center, located at 1 Feinberg Way in Brockton

Sponsored by:



Skip Darmody, BSU; Pat Garamella, Old Colony Planning Council; Beth Roll Smith, W. Bridgewater Public Library



Attendees enjoy a game of holiday musical bingo led by Rob Peters Entertainment ( see more information below)

## Extreme Bingo Discount for Chamber Members!



Are you tired of the same old party games? Get ready for a whole new experience in entertainment at your next event with Extreme Bingo!

Put your musical knowledge to the test with the ultimate in party fun that blends the fun of "Name that Tune" with everyone's favorite game...Bingo! Extreme Bingo offers a variety of musical themes, and can be enhanced and customized with music videos, product jingles, photographs, and more. Whether it's a corporate event, birthday party, for kids or adults, event at a nursing home, community center, or any other kind of event, Extreme Bingo will make your next event buzzworthy.

Rob Peters Entertainment is pleased to offer Chamber members and their employees a 10% discount on Extreme Bingo or any DJ Entertainment service booked between now and October 1, 2015.

Contact Rob Peters Entertainment today at 781-848-4235 or visit [www.robpetersentertainment.com](http://www.robpetersentertainment.com) to learn more about their services and the fun that they can add to your next event!

### GRO-N-THINGS, INC.

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NWQCN13220815

# Joanne Schneider Named Ambassador Chair

Joanne Schneider, Eastern Bank, was recently named Chair of the Metro South Chamber's Ambassador Team. She was also recognized as Ambassador of the Quarter, a program which highlights and rewards Ambassadors who go above and beyond in their duties as a member of the Ambassador Team.

## AMBASSADOR of the Quarter

**Joanne Schneider**  
Eastern Bank

276 Quincy Street,  
Brockton  
508-427-9412  
www.easternbank.com



Joanne Schneider,  
Eastern Bank

**What is your business?**  
I am a Branch Manager at Eastern Bank's Quincy Street branch in Brockton.

**How long have you been in this business?**

I have been a Manager for over 30 yrs. I have been with Eastern Bank since the merger with The Community Bank.

**Please list your past experience and educational background.**

Previous Employee of Rockland Trust Co., Peoples Savings Bank and Polaroid Credit Union.

**How long have you belonged to the Chamber? When did you become an Ambassador?** I have been a volunteer for several Chamber drives (new membership) etc. for 10 years. I became an

Ambassador within the past couple of years.

**How does your Chamber membership work for you?**

One of my responsibilities as an employee of Eastern Bank is to promote the bank in the community; the chamber has allowed me to do this attending several events and drives. As an Ambassador my job

is to introduce myself to new members and also contact existing members to see if they are using all of the services offered to them as a member. This has allowed me to meet several new business contacts and establish many new friends.

**What additional organizations do you belong to?** I volunteer for several walks and fundraisers. I was a previous board member with Brockton Arc for 6 yrs. and VP of Oliver Ames High School Football and Cheerleading Boosters for 4 years.

# Networking at Eastern Bank Draws Many

Photos by www.richmorganphotography.com



Ryan Byers, Kate Thomas-Moody, Todd Marlin, Armando Abscal, and Ben Rapaport, The Brockton Rox



Patti Schiappa and Kathy McKernan, Eastern Bank



Derek O'Connor, Eastern Bank, Steve Murphy, Massasoit Community College



Scott Stephenson, Regional Manager of Eastern Bank welcomes a crowd & introduces the new Belmont St. branch manager, Nelia Arruda



Melanie McGrath, Metro South Chamber of Commerce; Danina Rodrigues, Brockton Public Schools



Jay Pike, Brian Coyne, and Mike Bradley, Sharkansky LLP, CPA's

# Chamber Honors Friend Weiler for Service



The Metro South Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Friend Weiler, HarborOne Bank, for his dedicated service as Ambassador Chair for the past four years. He has played a pivotal role as chair of the largest Chamber membership drive in recent years.

Friend also received the Charles A. Fuller Award at the Chamber's 100th Annual Meeting in 2013 for his involvement in the community, and will continue to serve the Chamber in his new role as Vice Chair of Membership Development on the Board of Directors.



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. For more information, visit [metrosouthchamber.com/about-the-chamber/ambassadors](http://metrosouthchamber.com/about-the-chamber/ambassadors).

## Busting out with custom solutions for your business.



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Bridgewater Savings caters to the business owner. Commercial services include:

- Checking Accounts & Money Market Accounts
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- Lines of Credit
- And More...

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# Chamber Staff - Serving Business Every Day



Back row: Melanie McGrath, Athena Lavoie, Doris Flechia, Lisa Pearce  
Front row: Alison van Dam, Christopher Cooney

MAIN PHONE LINE: 508.586.0500

**Christopher Cooney, President & CEO**  
(ext. 223) [chris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:chris@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Chris provides effective leadership for the organization and its members in carrying out the Chamber's mission, directing internal operations and developing external relationships beneficial to business and community advancement.

**Doris Flechia, Office Assistant**  
(ext. 221) [doris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:doris@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Doris helps in all aspects of running the office and assists the office staff in meeting their goals.

**Athena Lavoie, Director of Programs & Events**  
(ext. 231) [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Athena is responsible for all Chamber programs and events. This includes the monthly Good Morning Metro South breakfasts, Business After Hours, and Government Affairs meetings as well as The Small Business & Entrepreneur of the Year Awards and Expo, the Taste of Metro South, The ATHENA Award & Women's Expo, and the Chambers Annual Meeting and Business Expo.

**Melanie McGrath, Communications Coordinator**  
(ext. 222) [mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Melanie designs and produces the Chamber's annual Book for Business, monthly Action Report newsletter, weekly e-Update, and maintains the Chamber's website and social media pages. In addition, she creates event marketing pieces and press releases.

**Lisa Pearce, Controller**  
(ext. 230) [finance@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:finance@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Lisa is responsible for all of the Chamber's financial reporting. She works cooperatively with the management team to produce forecasts, projections, and budgets.

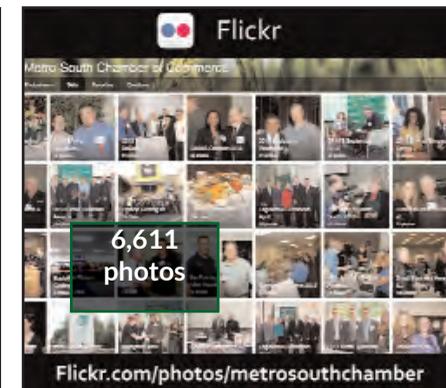
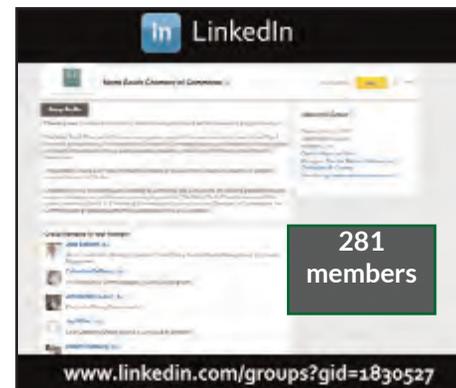
**Elisangela Da Silva, Graduate Intern**  
[intern@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:intern@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Elli is responsible for producing the monthly 10 Fun Activities Around the Corner and helps the staff with many other special projects.

**Alison van Dam, Vice President of Business Development/ Operations**  
(ext. 225) [avandam@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:avandam@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Alison provides research and assistance on business development programs and special chamber/community projects, seeks grant opportunities, and oversees all communications and Chamber/regional branding and design. In addition, she is responsible for the creation of the Chamber website.

For more information on the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and membership, events, and more, please visit [www.metroouthchamber.com](http://www.metroouthchamber.com).

# Connect Your Business Online; Social Media

Find us on social media to stay up to date on current news and events!



## Office Suite Available at Edison Building

Looking for office space? The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is offering an office suite for rent. The offices are located in the heart of Downtown Brockton in the historic Chamber office building at 60 School Street. The suite is a 1,000 square foot space made up of six offices, all with exposed brick walls. Occupant space includes use of:

- Conference rooms for meetings with outside guests (overhead projectors and other audio-visual equipment available)
- Access to training courses, seminars, consulting services, and business resource library available at Metro South Business Assistance Center
- Mailing center on premises
- Hospitality area including refrigerator, microwave, and complimentary coffee and spring water
- Photocopying and faxing facilities
- Notary public on premises
- High-speed internet access
- Access to ample parking



Rent includes all

For more information, contact Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO at 508.586.0500 x223, [chris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:chris@metrosouthchamber.com).

# 2015 Holiday Calendar



	Manufacturing	Retail Stores/ Supermarkets	Liquor Stores	Taverns/Bars	Banks	Stock Markets	State/County Municipal Offices	Schools	Libraries	Mail Delivery
<b>New Year's Day</b> Thursday, January 1	\$ ■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>M.L. King Jr. Day</b> Monday, January 19	■	■	■	■	□	■	●	●	●	No
<b>President's Day</b> Monday, February 16	■	■	■	■	□	■	●	●	●	No
<b>Patriot's Day</b> Monday, April 20	■	■	■	■	□	■	●	●	●	Yes
<b>Memorial Day</b> Monday, May 25	\$ ○	■	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Independence Day</b> Saturday, July 4	\$ ○	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Labor Day</b> Monday, September 7	\$ ○	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Columbus Day</b> Monday, October 12	\$ ◆	◆	■	■	●	■	●	●	●	No
<b>Veteran's Day</b> Wednesday, November 11	\$ ✕	✕	●	■	●	■	●	●	●	No
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Thursday, November 26	●	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Christmas Day</b> Friday, December 25	●	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	No

- Open
- Closed
- Manufacturers and other non-retailers may not open without local police permit.
- Open at the discretion of the individual bank. Most banks are expected to be closed on Martin Luther King Day.
- ◆ Blue Laws apply before noon. Local police permit is required to operate before noon.
- ✕ Blue Laws apply before 1pm. Local police permit is required to operate before 1 pm.
- \$ Retail stores must pay time and one-half.

## Summary of State Laws Relative to Legal Holidays Blue Law

- apply until midnight
- on Columbus Day apply until noon
- on Veteran's Day apply until 1 p.m

## Work permits for "Blue Law" holidays

- can be obtained at the discretion of local authorities
- should be requested 60 days in advance
- shall not cover more than one day Overtime
- In general, retailers\*\* (with 8 or more employees) are required to pay a minimum of time and one-half to non-professional employees working on all Sundays. All retailers, regardless of size, are required to pay a minimum of time and one-half on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Independence Day, Veteran's Day and on January 2 in years on which January 1 fall on a Sunday.

## Other Holiday Facts

- When January 1 falls on a Sunday, retailers may open for regular hours the following day.
- The provisions of the law relating to overtime, to the stipulation that a person cannot be required to work and to permits concerning the opening of retail stores on restricted holidays, are enforced by the department of Fair Labor & Business Practices.

## For further information

- The information contained in this calendar is based on current state statutes and regulations. For further information, contact the agencies listed below.
- For questions regarding permit regulations, contact the Executive Office of the Attorney General, Division of Fair Labor and Business Practices at 617-727-2200.
- For all other questions, please contact the Citizen's Information Service at 617-727-7030 or 1-800-392-6090.

When a legal holiday falls on a Sunday, it is observed on the following day.

When a legal holiday falls on a Saturday, it is observed on that day.

\* Chapter 136, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Law provides a list of 54 clauses which detail different activities that are not prohibited on Sundays or holidays.

## What Employers Need to Know in the New Year

Employers should take note of these important changes effective in Massachusetts in 2015!

### Important Changes to the MA Minimum Wage Effective: January 1, 2015

In accordance with An Act Restoring the Minimum Wage and Providing Unemployment Insurance Reforms Chapter 144 of the Acts of 2014:

#### MINIMUM WAGE: \$9.00 PER HOUR

The minimum wage law applies to all employees except those being rehabilitated or trained in charitable, educational, or religious institutions; members of religious orders; agricultural, floricultural, and horticultural workers; those in professional service; and outside salespersons not reporting to or visiting their office daily. For further information, contact the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards at (617) 626-6952 or visit [www.mass.gov/dols](http://www.mass.gov/dols). In no case shall the Massachusetts minimum wage rate be less than \$0.50 higher than the effective federal minimum rate.

#### SERVICE RATE: \$3.00 PER HOUR

Wait staff, service employees and service bartenders may be paid the service rate if they regularly receive tips of more than \$20 a month, and if their average hourly tips, when added to the service rate, are equal to or exceed the basic minimum wage.

#### AGRICULTURAL RATE: \$8.00 PER HOUR

Work on a farm and the growing and harvesting of agricultural, floricultural and horticultural commodities requires payment of no less than the above listed rate per hour, except when such wage is paid to a child seventeen years of age or under, or to a parent, spouse, child or other member of the employer's immediate family.

### MA Earned Sick Time Law Approved; Benefits Expand Effective: July 1, 2015

On November 4, 2014, Massachusetts voters approved a ballot initiative providing for earned sick time for employees (the "Law"). The Law takes effect on July 1, 2015, and will require certain employers to provide up to 40 hours of earned sick time per year to their employees for a wide variety of covered reasons.

Given the significant changes to sick time under the Law - including accrual, payment, usage, and documentation requirements - adjustments may need to be made in order to stay within compliance. It is expected that the Massachusetts Attorney General will be issuing rules and regulations for the Law in 2015.

For more information, visit the website of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, & Lehane, LLP at [mhtl.com](http://mhtl.com) or call 617-479-5000.

## Local MLK Celebrations Planned



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

taught us through his example -- the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit.

We call you to commemorate this Holiday by making your personal commitment to serve humanity with the vibrant spirit of unconditional love that was his greatest strength, and which empowered all of the great victories of his leadership. And with our hearts open to this spirit of unconditional love, we can indeed achieve the Beloved Community of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream.

### Article from the [www.thekingcenter.com](http://www.thekingcenter.com)

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he

### Area MLK Day Events: Monday, January 19, 2015

See Good News on page 4 for descriptions of MLK activities including an annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast, activities for children, a community art mobile, and more! Contact the following organizations for further information on these and additional Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations that will continue into the month of February:

- Bridgewater State University at 508.531.2446
- Brockton Area NAACP at 508.587.0502
- The Children's Museum in Easton at 508.230.3789
- Massasoit Community College at 508.588.9100 x 1309

# RENEWING Members Thank You !

Abington Bank	Leahy Title / Peter & Elaine Leahy
Affordable Closet Systems	M. Donahue Associates, Inc.
AGM Industries, Inc.	Massasoit Community College
Amabile & Burkly, PC.	McLaughlin Chevrolet, Inc.
Beacon Financial Planning, Inc	Mia Regazza Ltd
Brothers Pest Control, Inc.	MSW Financial Partners
Capstone Communities	My Brother's Keeper
Charlie's Computers	National Grid
Controller Service & Sales Co., Inc.	Nemo's Carry All Market, Inc.
Copeland Toyota	NorthEast Electrical Distributors
Courtyard by Marriott Boston Stoughton	Source4
Douglas A. King Builders, Inc.	South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corp.
Duncan Kitchen & Bath	Stephco Cleaning and Restoration
Grant's Rental	Texas Roadhouse
H&R Block	The Law Office of Chantelle Hashem
Hampden Technologies	The Mockingbird Restaurant & Martini Lounge
Holmes-McDuffy Florists, Inc.	Viking Sheet Metal, Inc.
Jon L. Jenmarc, Inc.	
Kindred Hospital Northeast - Stoughton	

# WELCOME New Members

## Making an Investment in Our Community

**CapeNet**  
 Ms. Judy Sterling  
 1900 West Park Drive, Suite 280  
 Westborough, MA 01581  
 (508) 983-1475  
 www.capenet.com  
**Telecommunications**

**Schuerch Corporation**  
 Mr. Jarrod DiBona  
 452 Randolph Street  
 Abington, MA 02351  
 (781) 982-7000  
 www.schuremed.com  
**Manufacturers**

To Join the Chamber, Contact Alison van Dam,  
 508.586.0500 x 225, avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

## MEMBER Profile

### Plymouth County Development Council/ Convention & Visitors Bureau



Paul Cripps, Executive Director

134 Court Street  
 Plymouth, MA 02360  
 508-747-0100  
 www.SeePlymouth.com



ing our efforts to include younger generations to explore our pub/bar/nightlife & dining scene (along with our historic core) through focused social media campaigns.

*What is unique or special about your firm and the products and services you offer?* Tourism is the number one industry in Massachusetts and accounts for \$500 million in visitor spending. We are one of 16 Official Massachusetts Regional Tourism Councils whose job it is to promote the entire County as a fun, and affordable vacation destination. As a development council we also encourage business development and the benefits of making Plymouth County your home.

*What is your main business objective concerning your customers and the business community?* Our customers are our partners and our main objective is to fill their business with tourists/travelers so they in turn can offer their product to the best of their ability and create, for the visitor, an experience they will long remember and share with others so to further increase awareness of Plymouth County as a viable, fun and experiential destination.

*Year Established:* 1972

*Products or Services:* Marketing and promoting our partners to the millions of potential visitors to the County through cooperative advertising, attendance at travel trade shows and through digital marketing efforts including social media, e-newsletters and web presence.

*Number of Employees:* 8

*What is your market area?* Domestically: greater Northeast; Texas & California – Internationally: Canada; UK, Germany; France; Netherlands; Japan; China, and emerging markets as directed by the State Office of Travel & Tourism.

*What markets do you serve?* We serve the consumer, the group and the international market, families, Baby Boomers, and the multi-generational market. We are widen-

## 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](mailto:chris@metrosouthchamber.com).



The **Bridgewater Business Association (BBA)** will hold its monthly meeting at BBA member business Wood Palace Kitchens, located at 7 Mill Street in Middleboro on Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 pm. Visit [bridgewaterbiz.biz](http://bridgewaterbiz.biz) for more information.

The **Stoughton Chamber of Commerce** recently held their Annual Meeting at New England Sinai Hospital in Stoughton, where they honored the Portuguese National Club as 2014 Business of the Year, presented additional awards, welcomed new board members, and hosted UMass Chancellor J. Keith Motley as guest speaker. Visit [stoughtonma.com](http://stoughtonma.com).



The mission of the **Norwell Chamber of Commerce** is to promote the civic, economic, and social welfare of its members and the town of Norwell. Visit [norwellchamberofcommerce.com](http://norwellchamberofcommerce.com) for more information.



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](http://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. Visit [avonindustrialpark.org](http://avonindustrialpark.org) for more information.



The **Randolph Chamber of Commerce** will hold their annual Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday, January 15 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at the Randolph Town Hall, 41 South Main Street in Randolph. Visit [www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org](http://www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org) for more information.



**ProLink Networking Group** is a category exclusive, non-competitive business networking group. Regular meetings are held on alternating Tuesdays at 7:30 am at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street in Brockton. For more information, visit [www.prolinknetworking.com](http://www.prolinknetworking.com) or contact Craig Pina at 508-408-1049.



The **South Shore Women's Business Network (SSWBN)** will hold their 2015 State of the Network Breakfast on Thursday, January 29 from 7:30 am - 10:00 am at the Holiday Inn in Rockland, 929 Hingham Street. Meet the 2015 Board of Directors and teams, learn about new programs, and more! Visit [www.sswbn.com](http://www.sswbn.com) to learn more.



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

The Metro South Business Assistance Center (BAC), a partnership of many 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
- Professional Counseling (by appt.)
- Workshops & Seminars (fees may apply)

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

# Chamber Celebrates Reaching Campaign Goal, Renovations Underway



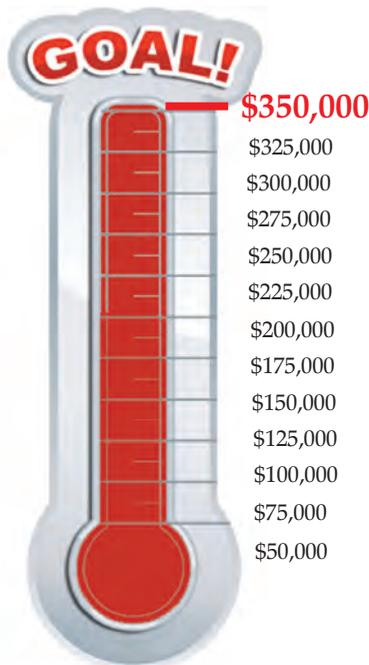
Each year, thousands of people pass through the Metro South Chamber of Commerce building, including workshop attendees and counseling clients, Business Assistance Center visitors, and individuals meeting with one of the many business resource partners. New residents and visitors also frequent the building, requesting maps and information on cultural attractions within the region.

The Chamber has a responsibility to represent Brockton and the Metro South region as the premier, modern hub of business and development, to serve as a model of innovation and progress, and to demonstrate the support and strength of the business community. The building in its current state, however, is unable to sufficiently do this.

In 2013 and in celebration of one hundred years of service, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce kicked off the Metro South Centennial Innovation Campaign to raise \$350,000 to renovate the Chamber's historic headquarters (built by Thomas Edison as a power plant), to provide structural, aesthetic and technological improvements. Renovations have already started; the outdated roof and skylights have been replaced, and more improvements lie ahead.

The Campaign also includes plans to update the Business Assistance Center (BAC) which provides workshops, education, counseling and resources to the region's small businesses, and the Edison Business Incubator, providing below-market price office space for entrepreneurs. Included in these updates will be new computers, equipment and software, as well as a more modern, technologically advanced conference room available for use by businesses and the community.

Recently, at the Metro South Chamber 101st Annual Meeting, **The Chamber was happy to announce that they have exceeded the target and raised \$354,000!** Thank you to all of our supporters that made this possible.



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## Metro South Centennial Innovation Progress

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce celebrates their 100th year of service, and inaugurates the Centennial Campaign Fund, announced at the 100th Annual Meeting in November 2013.



### Campaign Start

Chamber receives supportive donations of over \$10,000 from Concord Foods, HarborOne Bank, Eastern Bank, Mutual Bank, Rockland Trust, & Signature Healthcare



The Chamber receives its largest cash donation in its history! Good Samaritan Medical Center, under President John Jurczyk, donates a \$100,000 gift to the Centennial Campaign Fund, becoming Grand Sponsor of the campaign & bringing the goal to 85% completion.

After a year of campaigning and collecting donations from generous Chamber members and businesses in the Metro South region, the Chamber has exceeded their goal and raised \$354,000! Peter Neville of Concord Foods, past Chamber Chair, announces the good news at the Chamber's 101st Annual Meeting, held in November 2014.



### Goal Reached!



Renovations on the Chamber's office building at 60 School Street in Brockton began in August 2014. New skylights were installed, the roof was replaced, and walls were repainted. Renovations will continue through the new year, and are expected to be completed this Spring 2015! The Chamber looks forward to finishing these updates and inviting the community to view what was made possible through their generous donations.

November 2013

Spring 2015

## Buy Local From These New Chamber of Commerce Members

### F1 Boston



290 Wood Road, Braintree  
508-350-1000 • www.f1outdoors.com

Located in Braintree, F1 Boston is New England's premier high performance kart racing venue for corporate events and social functions, with a 106,000 square foot facility featuring two indoor tracks. All events are race-ready; with racing suits, helmets and karts provided. F1 Boston provides a wide array of race-themed programming for events including: off-site meetings, dinners, sales/staff meetings, trade shows, social events, rewards programs, summer outings, team building, recruiting, and holiday events.

### Cambridge Savings Bank



300 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 111, Quincy  
888-418-5626 • www.cambridgesavings.com

Cambridge Savings Bank, with our new offices in the South Shore, has the resources and seasoned Commercial Lending Team to support your business and equipment needs. Our Commercial Bankers will work closely with you to put together a proposal that takes into consideration your entire financial picture. Member of FDIC. Member of DIF. Equal Housing Lender.

### Join the Chamber!

## YOUR BUSINESS PROFILE HERE...

...When You Join the Chamber.  
Call 508.586.0500 or visit  
metrosouthchamber.com/  
membership/join

60 School Street, Brockton • 508-586-0500  
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 and access to Comcast Savings, Discounts, and more. Call to learn more today!

### Happy New Year!



#### Get Involved This Year!

Happy New Year from the Metro South Chamber of Commerce! Make a New Year's resolution to get involved this year! Introduce your business to the community by hosting or sponsoring a Business After Hours or Good Morning Metro South program, sponsor other annual events, advertise with us online or in print, and more. For more information, visit www.metroouthchamber.com or call 508.586.0500.

**When Metro South is Home, Everything's Within Reach**

Hundreds of Dining Options • Great Conference Space  
Over 500 Hotel Rooms • Many Parks & Lakes

The Metro South region offers the best of all worlds; cultural and corporate advantages, natural beauty, and the serenity of historic New England.

The region features **top notch education**, including three institutes of higher education, **exceptional health care** facilities, including four major hospitals. **Rich in culture**, the region is also home to symphonies, a craft museum, children's museum, and various historic museums. It also contains many **recreational activities**, including baseball outings, golfing and many parks and lakes for walking, biking, and fishing. With over 500 hotel rooms, the Metro South region is a **great place to stay** and competitive housing costs offer affordable and varied living opportunities.

Whether for Business or Pleasure, The Metro South region provides exceptional value in the heart of Eastern Massachusetts, centrally located between Boston, Providence, Plymouth and Cape Cod. *Ride the rail to Boston in only 35 minutes!* Call 508.586.0500 for your free map.

**METRO SOUTH** Regional Economic Development Organization  
For more info, contact the Metro South Chamber of Commerce,  
508.586.0500 • www.metroouthchamber.com

**METRO SOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

# Metro South Site Finder

**metrosouthsitefinder.com**

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

Map labels: CANTON, ALBURNHAM, NORWELL, SToughton, AVON, BROCKTON, BRIDGEWATER, SHARON, WEST BRIDGEWATER, EASTON, WEST BRIDGEWATER, EAST BRIDGEWATER, HANOVER, HANSON, HALIFAX, BRIDGEWATER.

## BUSINESS EVENTS Planner

### January 8

#### MSBDC Free Advising

Appointments as Available  
Metro South Chamber of Commerce  
60 School Street, Brockton

Meet with a MSBDC advisor in an hour-long free and confidential business advising session. (see page 2)

*Free to Attend- Reserve Your Time Slot*  
Call 508-673-9783 x10 to reserve your appt.

### January 8

#### SEED Basic Business Workshops

9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Metro South Chamber of Commerce  
60 School Street, Brockton

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

*Free to Attend*  
For more information, call 508-822-1020

### January 8

#### Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

3:00 pm  
H&R Block  
641 Belmont Street, Brockton

Join us in celebrating the Grand Opening of H&R Block's new location in Brockton! (see page 2)

*Free to Attend*  
For more information, call 781-252-1133

### IT'S EASY TO REGISTER!

508-586-0500 x 231 ☎  
508-587-1340 📠  
E-mail: [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com) ✉  
Online: [www.metroouthchamber.com](http://www.metroouthchamber.com)

**Send reservation and payment to:**  
**Metro South Chamber of Commerce**  
Sixty School Street  
Brockton, MA 02301-4087

### January 14

#### Good Morning Metro South

7:30 am - 9:00 am  
The Martin Institute at Stonehill College  
320 Washington Street, South Easton

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

*Tickets: \$25 members, \$35 future-members*  
Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

### January 27

#### Video Surveillance Workshop

9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Metro South Chamber of Commerce  
60 School Street, Brockton

Join us for an informative workshop explaining an overview of today's video surveillance technologies. (see page 2)

*Free to Attend*  
For more information, call 508.586.0500 x231

### January 27

#### Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
The Charlie Horse  
674 West Center Street, West Bridgewater

Enjoy networking and refreshments courtesy of The Charlie Horse and Family Community Resources (see page 2)

*Tickets: \$5 members, \$15 future-members*  
Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

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