

Actionreport



March
2014

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.



Stefanie Moreno, page 5



Nelson Fernandes, page 7



Margie McNally, page 10

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"Taste" Event Sizzling with Restaurants, Entertainment

Over 50 food and cultural displays; BHS Jazz Band, Brockton Symphony Quartet, Acappella group to perform

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

- Sample tastes from area restaurants
- Discover cultural and community service organizations
- Enjoy live entertainment from local performers including the **BHS Jazz Band, Brockton Symphony Quartet, Rob Peters Entertainment, Acappella Anonymous, & more!**
- Enter to win exciting door prizes

Tickets Available Now!

\$35. Must be purchased in advance. Visit: metrosouthchamber.com/taste.html for more information.

For more information, see page 6.

Legislative Luncheon; Speaker DeLeo, Mayor at BSU

April 23, 2014, 12:00 pm

Sponsored by:



The Metro South Chamber of Commerce cordially invites you to attend the Annual Legislative Luncheon on **Wednesday, April 23, 2014 from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm** in the **Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom at Bridgewater State University.**



Robert DeLeo

The Legislative Luncheon offers Chamber members and the community an opportunity to hear from state and federal elected officials. With an attendance of over 250 people, it is also a great networking opportunity. The featured speakers will be **Speaker of the House, Robert DeLeo and Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter.**

Continued on page 9

Authentically New England Small Business Breakfast

May 15, 2014, 8:00 am

The 2014 Small Business and Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Breakfast will take place on **Thursday, May 15, 2014, 8:00 am** at the **Shaw's Center, Brockton.**

At the breakfast, The Small Business and Entrepreneur Awards will be presented to businesses that have displayed employment/staying power, growth, innovation and social responsibility. We are now accepting nominations.

Also at the Luncheon will be keynote speaker **Ted Reinstein of "Chronicle"** who will speak on what it means to be "Authentically New England." In addition, a Business Table-top Expo will be held where businesses can showcase their products and services.



Ted Reinstein, "Chronicle"



Continued on page 9

Water/Sewer Rates Chamber Urges Freeze

The Brockton Water Commission recently held a hearing to consider a rate increase where Chamber president and CEO Christopher Cooney, CCE testified. Cooney requested a comprehensive strategic plan be developed by the commission with specific items such as efficiency measures and cost cutting analysis be made prior to any increase. Cooney said, "Brockton is well positioned to provide leadership in the areas of water and sewer for the entire region. A strategic plan to do so is in the best interest of current and future rate payers." Cooney also addressed the six tiered rate structure that dissuades business from considering Brockton.

"The water and sewer capacity Brockton has is a tremendous asset, if managed more confidently and with a vision of regional strength, it could produce long range solutions to some of the region's greatest challenges going forward," said Christopher Cooney, Chamber President and CEO. "Our future deserves a plan," he said.

Cooney was not the only one in opposition of a rate increase. Mayor Bill Carpenter as well as the Commission's newest member, Kate Archard, among others advocated for the rates to remain. After voting to increase the tax rates the past two years, this year the commission voted to freeze the water/sewer rates through 2015.

World Class Musicians to Join Forces in Concert Brockton Native Returns



Peter Sykes



Christopher O'Hara

See Good News, Page 4 for details

Creative Business After Hours at Fuller Craft

Thursday April 3, 5:30 - 7:30 pm



Please join us for a Business After Hours networking event at the Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street in Brockton

Fuller Craft Museum is the most exciting place to be in the world of contemporary craft. They offer a collection, exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops, and special events where you can literally touch the materials and objects. Fuller

Craft strives to keep this work accessible, to put people in touch with the minds and methods of the makers, in touch with the values embodied by craft, thus their motto-let the art touch you. Visit www.fullercraft.org for more information about upcoming exhibitions and events.

To register, visit www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration or contact Kim Prosper, kprosper@metroouthchamber.com or 508.586.0500 x231. This event is \$5 for members and \$15 for future-members and includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

Upcoming Creative Economy Announcement - Stay Tuned for Details:

In Massachusetts, the creative industries include the many interlocking industry sectors that provide creative services or create and promote intellectual property products. They can be divided into the following categories: Marketing, Architecture, Visual Arts & Craft, Design, Film & Media, Digital Games, Music & Entertainment, and Publishing.

The Creative Economy Industry Director and Creative Economy Network is working to accelerate the economic growth of the Commonwealth's creative industries across the state. The Network will help to implement the Commonwealth's Action Agenda to support and grow the state's creative economy industries. Action agenda items include: Business Development, Access to Capital, Visibility, Talent, and Space. Stay tuned for updates.

Copeland Toyota, Business After Hours

Thursday, April 17, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Please join us on Thursday, February 17 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm for a Chamber Business After Hours. This networking event will take place at Copeland Toyota, 970 West Chestnut Street in Brockton.

Whether you're looking for a new or pre-owned Toyota, quality service, or genuine Toyota parts you can count on Copeland Toyota, located conveniently off Route 24 exit 17A in Brockton. They have been family owned and operated since 1970 with a huge vehicle selection, state-of-the-art facility, drive-in service, and much more. You can count on Copeland Toyota for all your automotive needs. Visit www.copelandtoyota.com



for more information.

Bring your business cards and join us for an evening of networking and refreshments. Register online at www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration, or contact Kim Prosper, kprosper@metroouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231. This event is \$5 for members and \$15 for future-members.

U.S. Small Business Programs Offered

Attend a FREE SBA workshop highlighting SBA programs and services that are available to prospective or current entrepreneurs who need assistance in starting or expanding their business. 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 March 19, 2014 and April 16, 2014. Contact CareerWorks at 508.513.3400.



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.

Friday, March 14, 2014

Join us on Friday, March 14, 12:00 pm at the Chamber, 60 School Street, Brockton for our monthly Government Affairs Meeting. The guest speaker will be Craig Sandler, Owner and General



Craig Sandler

Manager of the State House News Service in Boston. As reporter, then editor, then owner and general manager of the State House News Service in Boston, Craig Sandler has been following Massachusetts politics and policy since 1988. More than a century old, the News Service is the state's

most respected in-depth source of state government coverage. Sandler is also the general manager of the News Service of Florida, which he founded in 2008, as well as publisher of the Almanac of Massachusetts Politics. Sandler is a 2000 graduate of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Donz, 508.586.0500 x 227, email donz@metroouthchamber.com, or register at metroouthchamber.com/events-registration. The cost to attend is \$8 for members and \$15 for future-members and includes a light lunch.

Sponsored by:



President of MA Taxpayers Foundation, Michael Widmer Speaks



At the February Government Affairs Meeting: Pat Caramella, Old Colony Planning Council; Representative Michael Brady; Representative Rhonda Nyman; Michael Widmer, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation; Sue Joss, Chair of Government Affairs Committee; Bill Morse; Chairman of the Board; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO

Geek Girl Tech Conference 2014



Join us for the largest Tech Conference for Women and Men in the area on Saturday, March 22, 2014, 8am-6pm at the Plymouth North High School, 41 Obery Street in Plymouth.

Whether you are a beginner newbie who needs hand-holding on all things computer, to the intermediate self-starter entrepreneur who needs some new tools, to those entirely tuned in code toads looking to learn jQuery, you'll find it all here. Featuring workshops on Adobe products (Photoshop, Indesign, Dreamweaver), PC and Mac

Instruction, Microsoft programs (Word, Excel and Powerpoint, Outlook), Social Media, Social Apps, Web Design, Web Development, WordPress, SEO & Analytics, Digital Photography, Video, Blogging and more!

The cost to attend is \$169 for the all-day conference, but Metro South Chamber of Commerce members are invited to receive a 20% discount using code METRO14. Advertising and volunteer opportunities also available. Visit www.bostongeekgirlcon.com for tickets and information.

Geek Girl recently taught a Facebook business workshop, run by the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by the Metro South Regional Economic Development Organization. The Valentine's day event was held at the Old Colony YMCA in Stoughton. Adrienne Bauman of Geek Girl taught guests how to grow and engage their Facebook fan base using marketing strategies. Learn more about Geek Girl at geekgirlcamp.com.



Adrienne Bauman

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Melanie McGrath

Communications Coordinator x 222

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

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

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

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Photography by Rich Morgan * www.richmorganphotography.com**DIRECTORS****Jane Callahan** - *HR Alternatives***Joe Cardinal** - *National Grid***Pat Ciaramella** - *Old Colony Planning Council***Peter Dello Russo** - *Bridgewater Savings Bank***Francis Dillon** - *Stonehill College***Gregory Hart** - *Ercolini & Company, LLP***Kim Hollon** - *Signature Healthcare***Richard Hynes** - *Barbour Corporation***Gigi Johnson** - *Christo's***Robert Kenworthy** - *Bank of America***Ray Ledoux** - *Brockton Area Transit***Dr. Dana Mohler Faria** -*Bridgewater State University***Jim Murphy LSP** - *Tracey Environmental, LLC***Gerard Nadeau** - *Rockland Trust Company***Jonathan "Jay" Pike** - *Sharkansky LLP***Andrew Racza** - *Abington Bank***Kathleen Smith** - *Brockton Public Schools***Peter Vlaco** - *Brophy & Philips Company, Inc.***Dr. Charles Wall** -*Massasoit Community College***508-586-0500 Front Desk x 221****Kimberly Prosper, IOM**

VP of Programs & Events x 231

Lisa Pearce

Finance x 230

Donz Soares

Grants/Graduate Intern x 227

Alison van Dam, IOM

VP of Marketing & Communications x 225

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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!

MARCH Calendar

12	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
12	Executive Board Meeting	3:00 pm
14	Government Affairs	12:00 am
19	Taste of Metro South <i>The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton</i>	5:30 pm
26	Board of Directors	12:00 pm

Coming Up April

2	Ambassador Meeting	8:00 am
3	Business After Hours <i>Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street, Brockton</i>	5:30 pm
17	Business After Hours <i>Copeland Toyota, 970 W. Chestnut Street, Brockton</i>	5:30 pm
21	Patriots Day - Chamber Closed	
23	Legislative Luncheon <i>Bridgewater State University, Rondileau Campus Center</i>	12:00 pm
30	Membership Drive <i>Stonehill College, Easton</i>	8:30 am

Save the Date May

1	Membership Drive <i>Stonehill College, Easton</i>	8:30 am
7	Ambassadors Meeting	8:00 am
15	Small Biz Breakfast & Expo <i>The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton</i>	8:00 am
21	Business After Hours <i>Abington Bank, 6 Harrison Avenue, Abington</i>	5:30 pm
28	Board of Directors	12:00 pm

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

World Class Musicians Join Forces in Concert

On Sunday, March 9 at 3:00 pm, two world class musicians will join forces at The First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 900 Main Street in Brockton, as part of the church's Cornerstone Concert Series. Brockton native and internationally acclaimed organist Peter Sykes will be joined by celebrated trumpeter, Christopher O'Hara of Chicago. Proceeds from the Cornerstone Concert series benefit the exterior restoration of the First Lutheran Church building. Tickets are \$20.00 for general admission, \$15.00 for seniors and \$12.00 for students and may be purchased on line at www.firstevlutheran.org, from the church office or at the door the day of the performance. A light reception will follow the concert.

BAWIB's 2nd Annual Veteran Resource Fair

BAWIB is holding their 2nd Annual Resource Fair on Thursday, March 6. Join us with local Veteran support agencies and employers to learn about the latest incentives for hiring veterans. The resource fair takes place at Good Samaritan Hospital, 235 North Main Street in Brockton, from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Jason Hunter, 508-584-3234 x13 or jhunter@bawib.org. Visit bawib.org for more information.

John C. Thomas Memorial Athletic Scholarship

The Brockton Public Library Board of Trustees and Brockton Library Foundation is sponsoring the John C. Thomas Memorial Athletic Scholarship. John Thomas was a Champion from Brockton and two time Olympic medal winner and record holder in the High Jump. After passing away just last year, his memory is being honored with the John C. Thomas Memorial Athletic Scholarship. This college scholarship will be awarded annually, beginning this spring, to a deserving Brockton High School scholar-athlete. Won't you please help us with a tax deductible contribution? Any amount will be gratefully accepted to honor our true champion, John Thomas. Thank you! Make checks payable to: Thomas Scholarship/BLF. Send to: Thomas Scholarship Fund, Brockton Public Library, 304 Main Street, Brockton MA 02301.

Brockton Irish Heritage Day Celebration

The City of Brockton invites you to put on your green on March 17 and attend the Irish Heritage Day Celebration. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Irish Heritage Day will recognize the contributions of the Irish community to the City of Brockton. This event will take place at the Brockton City Hall Plaza at 11:00am. For

additional information, please contact Noubé Râteau, Director of Communications for the City of Brockton at (508) 580-7123 or by email at nrateau@cobma.us.

8th Annual Mardi Gras Madness

Please join Brockton Day Nursery in the revelry at their 8th Annual Mardi Gras Madness Fundraiser on Saturday, March 8; a great evening of food, live entertainment, dancing, auctions, raffles, and all the sights of the Big Easy-New Orleans. This is an adult event only that will take place from 7:00pm until 12:00 midnight at the Shaw's Center located at One Feinberg Way, Brockton. Tickets are \$50 per person and \$80 per couple. Proceeds from this event will be used to support BDN's after-school, before school, and early education programs. For more information please call 508-588-2700, ext. 18 or 29.

Saint Patrick's Day Celebrations

Join the Irish Cultural Centre for four days of celebration, Irish music, dance, food and fun, March 14-17. The fun and festivities will take place at the Irish Cultural Centre located at 200 New Boston Drive, Canton. There will be something for everyone: whether you're a family, individual, old friend, or newcomer, the ICC welcomes you! For more information, please visit our website at www.irishculture.org.

Brockton Symphony Orchestra Concert

Join the Brockton Symphony Orchestra Chamber players as they perform music in small ensembles in an intimate setting on Sunday, March 9. The Brockton Symphony Orchestra is recognized as Brockton's leading performing arts institution, one of the leading community symphony orchestras in Massachusetts, and one of the best regional orchestras in the country. The event starts at 3:00pm at the Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant Street in Brockton. For more information, please visit www.brocktonsymphony.org.

HarborOne Announces Corporate Donations

The board of directors of HarborOne Bank recently announced donations to Special Olympics of Massachusetts, Mansfield Public Schools for the Summer Institute, Old Colony Hospice, the South Shore Community Action Council, the DJ Dream Fund of Easton, and Sturdy Memorial Hospital of Attleboro. Presenting the checks, HarborOne CEO, James Blake, praised the efforts of these agencies on behalf of their clients and encouraged other businesses to support their efforts. Visit www.harborone.com for more information.

John Jurczyk, Good Sam Interim President

Steward Health Care System LLC (Steward) recently announced the appointment of John A. Jurczyk, FACHE, as interim president of Good Samaritan Medical Center. Jurczyk most recently served as COO of Steward's Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River. Jeffrey Lieberman, president of Good Samaritan and Chamber board member since February 2011, is leaving the Steward system to become President and CEO of Methodist University Hospital and SVP of Methodist Healthcare System in Memphis, Tennessee.

Buzz Around Health & Wellness Symposium

The Halifax Country Club (Rt 106) will be hosting a Health & Wellness Symposium on Sunday, March 30, from 12:00pm-4:00pm. The event will include , free massages, reiki treatments, and healthy food samples. There will be demonstrations in kickboxing, fencing, workshops on nutrition, chiropractic care, and a healthier you! For more information, please visit their facebook page.

Eastern Bank Supports Brockton Day Nursery

The Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation has donated \$15,000 to Brockton Day Nursery to support the new education requirements for teachers at the nonprofit early education and care program. Through this funding, BDN is able to offer financial support to our forty-four educators and substitute teachers who are continuing their education. BDN will enhance their Teachers' Continued Education Program through partnerships with Bridgewater State University, Brockton Public Schools, Massasoit Community College, Fisher College Brockton Campus and Eastern Nazarene College. For more information visit www.brocktonday.org or call 508-588-2700.

"The Stories We Tell" Reception at Fuller Craft

Come celebrate the "The Stories We Tell" exhibition at Fuller Craft Museum located at 455 Oak Street, Brockton. This reception will take place from 2:00pm to 5:00pm and is a wonderful opportunity to meet the artists and hear their stories first hand. Tommy Simpson, Michelle Holzapfel, and Binh Pho will be there to give a brief talk about their work. Admissions are \$7 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. For more information please visit www.fullercraft.org.

YMCA Spin-A-Thon

Enjoy the inspiration this event provides on Saturday, March 22 as the Old Colony YMCA all join together to pedal with the purpose to reach your \$100+ donation goal for every hour you ride! Enjoy moti-

national instruction, heartfelt stories, snacks, raffle items, and more as you conquer this year's event goal! The event is on March 22nd at the Easton, East Bridgewater, Middleboro, Stoughton and Taunton brunches, and March 24th from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the Central Brockton YMCA Cycle Room. To register or become involved, please see the welcome desk for your desired date and time.

Cocktails, Caring, and Comedy

Come and enjoy an evening of laughter with stand-up comic Marion Grodin on March 12 at Temple Israel, located at 125 Pond Street, Sharon. The Cocktail reception starts at 7:30pm and comedy performance at 8:15pm. Participants are asked to bring twin-sized sheet sets or bath-sized towels to the event to donate to New Hope, a South Shore organization dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence. Cocktails, Caring & Comedy is a program of the Ryna Greenbaum JCC Center for the Arts and is open to the entire community. The cost to attend is \$25, and \$30 at the door. Register here or contact southwomen@jccgb.org.

16th Stepping Out for Old Colony Hospice Walk

On Sunday, April 27, Old Colony Hospice will host the 16th Stepping Out for Old Colony Hospice Memorial Walk and Inaugural 5K, at the Irish Cultural Centre, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton. Choose to walk or run our flat and private 5K road race, or select our 2 mile wooded nature trail for a more scenic route. \$25 minimum donation required to participate, children 15 and under are FREE! Raise or donate \$50 and receive this year's memorial t-shirt. Activities include lunch sponsored by Texas Roadhouse, music, kid's corner, raffles and awards for race winners and top fundraisers. For more information, visit www.oldcolonyhospice.racewire.com. For questions on how to volunteer or sponsor this event, contact Andrea at alarocque@oldcolonyhospice.com or 781-318-7310.

St. Patrick's Day at Stoneforge Grill

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Stoneforge Grill in Easton - Join us for St. Patrick's Day dishes from Friday, March 14 - Monday, March 17 featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage. Can't make it to Stoneforge, order our "Ready to Eat" Corned Beef & Cabbage Family Meal and our Shepherd's Pie Family Meal. Get into the Irish spirit at home with Stoneforge! 10 Roosevelt Circle, Rte. 138, So. Easton, MA. Visit our website at www.stoneforgerestaurants.com.

Building Up the Region

Have you seen these new construction projects happening in the area?



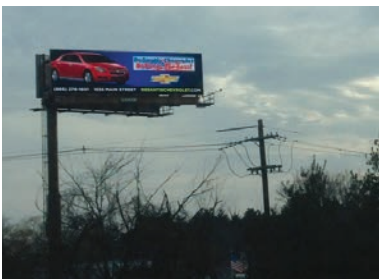
309 Battles Street in Brockton, where a 94,000 square foot Crown Uniform & Linen facility will house a laundering plant and administrative office space on twenty acres of land.



The Enterprise block MassDevelopment project, sponsored by Trinity Financial, in downtown Brockton. The historic Brockton Enterprise building block will be transformed into retail space, residential units, an artist's gallery, on-site property management, and an underground parking garage.



An expansion of IKEA Stoughton is underway. The store's warehouse will be extended by 58,575 square feet with improved customer service areas. The store will remain open for business, with marked off construction zones.



The new digital billboard owned by Lamar Outdoor Advertising on Route 24 in Brockton.



Kathy Crowley, Account Executive at Lamar Outdoor Advertising, recently met with Chamber President & CEO Chris Cooney to discuss the new digital billboard on Route 24 in Brockton (pictured above). To learn about advertising with Lamar, please visit www.lamar.com or call Kathy at 401-421-4504.

Good Samaritan's Economic Impact Very Positive



Good Samaritan Medical Center, a part of the Steward Health Care System LLC (Steward), recently released an economic impact report for 2010-2012, produced by the Health Business Group, an independent consulting firm in Boston. The report reveals that Steward invested \$33.5 million in construction and technology improvements at Good Samaritan Medical Center, provided \$14.9 million in community benefits, and delivered \$2.9 million in tax revenues to the City of Brockton. The \$33.5 million capital investment at Good Samaritan Medical Center includes a new, state-of-the-art emergency room, new spine surgery program, new angiography room, a bariatrics surgery clinic, a third CT scanner, and investments in robotic technology. To read the full report, please visit: www.steward.org/economicimpact.

"We are proud of the progress we have made and we will continue to make investments at Good Samaritan Medical Center to meet the evolving needs of our patients in this area."

-Jeffrey Liebman

Chamber Hosts SBA Workshop



A recent workshop held by the U.S. Small Business Administration at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 60 School Street in Brockton. Attendees of the workshop learned about changes now effective with the new SOP 50 10 5 (F). For more information on the services and workshops provided by SBA, please visit www.sba.gov.

Metro South Premier Book For Business



The Chamber of Commerce will be distributing the **2014 Metro South Book for Business** this month. 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 the Metro South region, highlighting hotels, golf courses, industrial parks, town halls and other points of interest. "This year's Book for Business features 100 pages of information useful to residents, visitors, and businesses in the Metro South region. It places the entire Chamber membership at your fingertips," said Christopher Cooney, President and CEO of the Chamber. Copies of

the Book for Business will be distributed throughout the region to banks, real estate offices, town hall offices, all Chamber members, area colleges, and sent to all relocating businesses and families interested in the Metro South area. For more information, contact Melanie at 508.586.0500 x 222, mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com.

"Get Your App Together" YouthWorks Program

In a 2011 report STEM: Good Jobs Now and for the Future, the Department of commerce reported that Employment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) grew 7.9% compared to Non-STEM growth of 2.9%. They further projected that growth in STEM employment from 2008-2018 would be 17% compared to 9.8% for Non-STEM employment.

In response to this and similar data, the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board has begun a push to include more STEM initiatives to help generate interest in the field. One of these initiatives is the Get Your App Together program.

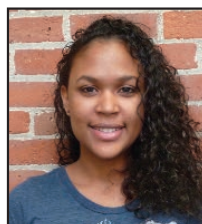
The program, being put on by YouthWorks, is designed for at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 18 whom are eager to learn, build and launch their own Mobile App.

Youth first learn how to use the MIT App Inventor software, which allows them to program apps in the cloud, and then use those skills to develop an app to be presented at the end of the program.

The program is funded by a \$10,000 grant from the **Best Buy Foundation**, which was used to purchase Asus Memo Pads for participants. The Memo Pads are used so that the students can see what they are programming through an emulator.

The second class of Get Your App Together begins March 4th and will go for 15 weeks. It will include 18 students and be held at the Southeastern Regional Technical High School during their extended day program. For more information on this program, please contact Vasiliki Palantzias or David Vincent of YouthWorks at (508)-584-9800.

Chamber Welcomes New University Interns



Stefanie Moreno

The Chamber would like to welcome two new interns at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Stefanie Moreno and Amer Galuak.

Stefanie is an international graduate student at Bridgewater State University, where she is pursuing her Masters degree in MAT-TESOL (Teaching English for Students of Other Languages). She hopes to use her time at the Chamber to develop her professional skills as well as to learn about event planning in a business setting.

Amer is also an international student at Bridgewater State University, concentrating in Corporate Communication Studies with minors in Management and Accounting. While at the Chamber, Amer would like to develop her public relations writing skills as well as business and networking skills.

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



Amer Galuak

Your Guide to the Restaurants, Online



- View participating restaurants and organizations with full contact information and websites, updated daily
- View what each restaurant will be serving
- Learn where to buy your tickets, or purchase tickets online
- View photos and videos from past years
- View the lineup of entertainment acts

www.metroouthchamber.com/taste.html

Follow the Taste on Facebook!

Visit the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page

and click the "Like" button! You will receive live feeds of newly added restaurants and media, learn what restaurants are serving, expand the Metro South Community, and stay up to date on other events and news of the Chamber. Your support will help the event grow and continue to become more successful. Spread the word of the social and food event of the year!



www.facebook.com/metrosouthchambercommerce

Great Entertainment Lined Up



A great lineup of entertainment will be featured at the Taste of Metro South event, with live music performances by the Brockton High School Jazz Band, Brockton Symphony Orchestra quartet, and Bridgewater State University singing group Acappella Anonymous. Rob Peters Entertainment will also be there to DJ and maintain a fun atmosphere for the night. More entertainment to come!

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or at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton (Across from City Hall), Monday-Friday, 9 am-4:30 pm.

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

More than 50 Restaurants are already signed on, including: Lobster Barn, Slap-Shotz Family Sports Pub, Harry's Westgate Pub & Grill, Fresh Catch Restaurant & Sushi Bar, Simpson Spring Company, McGuiggan's Pub, Skinner's Sugar House, Blue Hills Brewery, Organo Gold Coffee, and many more.

Entertainment to include: The Brockton Symphony Orchestra, The Brockton High School Jazz Band, Acappella Anonymous, Rob Peters Entertainment, and more!

Calling All Restaurants; Taste of Metro South

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

Celebrate living and working in the region with a night of food and entertainment. You provide your speciality 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 radio and television promotion.

Sponsorships are also available. For more information, please contact Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231 or email kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com. Download the vendor application and see photos from last year's event at metrosouthchamber.com/taste.html

IS THERE A RESTAURANT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE PARTICIPATE?

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

New Business Relationships Formed; Business After Hours & Orientation at H&R Block



Jordan Branco,
Apps Unloaded Northeast



Maryellen Brett,
Massasoit Community College



Mary McGonigle,
Braemore Health Center



Charles Beshwaty
Apps Unloaded Northeast



Karen Emery,
T2C Advertising



Nelson Fernandes & JJ Fernandes, JJ's Cafe



Barbara Alicea, Triple Berrie Events; Tim Holick, Wood Palace Kitchens; Robin CeCe Howard, C&C Design Studio



Georgianna Leonard & Renee Greene, Comcast Spotlight; Gail Delgado, Brockton Area Arc; Melissa Johnson, Karick Packaging



Carolyn Staley,
H&R Block



A.C. Anders, FUN Enterprises, Inc.; Rob Sheldon, ABC Specialtees



Mary Murgado,
H&R Block

Eastern Bank Holds Networking Event

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Chris Johnson, TNT Cleaning Services, Inc.; Kathy McKerigan, Eastern Bank; Dan Dande, Keller Williams Realty



Charles Beshwaty & Jordan Branco, Apps Unloaded Northeast, John Tosches, Italian Kitchen



Suzanne Fernandes, Eastern Bank; Jay Pike, Sharkansky LLP, CPA's; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO



David Sawyer, Scott Stephenson, and Matthew Osborne, Eastern Bank



Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter speaks to the crowd gathered at Eastern Bank's regional headquarters in Brockton



Patti Schiappa, Eastern Bank; Catering by Italian Kitchen of Brockton

A crowd of both new and existing members gathered at H&R Block, 2001 Main Street in Brockton, recently for a Business After Hours and New Member Reception. H&R Block is one of the world's largest tax services providers, utilizing more than 100,000 highly trained tax professionals and having prepared more than 550 million tax returns worldwide since it was founded in 1955. For more information, visit www.hrblock.com.

Photos by Rich Morgan Photography, www.richmorganphotography.com.



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April is Membership Month; Join Now! Membership Drive April 30 & May 1

Call for Volunteers



The 2013 winning Membership Drive Team, "The Underdogs" poses proudly while being recognized at the 2013 Small Business Awards for their hard work and volunteerism. From left: Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO; Friend Weiler, Drive Chair; Andy Schwartz, Team Captain; Rich Hynes, Team member/Top Individuals Sales; Linda Werman, Team Member; Bill Morse, Chamber Board Chair; John Nesti, Team Member

Lynch at 508.586.0500 x 229 or email klynch@metrosouthchamber.com.

Becoming a member of the Metro South Chamber provides your business opportunities to accelerate its growth. For more information, email klynch@metrosouthchamber.com or visit metrosouthchamber.com.

Exciting Chamber Travel Opportunities



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

This river cruise will take place **October 19-27, 2014** with extension options in Paris and Amsterdam. Prices start at just \$3098. Space is limited, reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Visit www.metroouthchamber.com/events/travel for a detailed itinerary and more information or contact Alison van Dam at 508.586.0500 x225, avandam@metrosouthchamber.com.



The amazing islands of the Azores are the perfect backdrop for your 8-day exploration of the region. Located in the Atlantic Ocean and just over a four hour flight from Boston, these islands are nature's masterpiece. Your island hopping program will expose you to stunning vistas, blue lakes bordered by flow-

ers, dazzling views of the sea, and lush green landscapes of ancient volcanic craters. The hospitality of the local people will surely be a highlight and talked about long after your return. Discover the Azores and feel different...feel alive. This exciting trip will take place **November 11- 18, 2014**. Prices start at just \$2,199. Space is limited, reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Visit www.metroouthchamber.com/events/travel for more information on the trip or contact Alison van Dam by calling 508.586.0500 x225, or emailing avandam@metrosouthchamber.com.

April of 2014 is an important month for the Metro South Chamber of Commerce as we focus on growing our membership. The membership campaign will culminate in a Membership Telephone Drive on April 30 & May 1, 2014 at Stonehill College in Easton. If you are a Chamber member who would like to participate in the drive in order to form a stronger business community and express to others what Chamber membership has meant to you, please contact Kathleen

Call for Prize Donations; Gain New Potential Customers



The Metro South Chamber asks for your support in this valuable campaign by donating a prize to the 2014 Membership Drive. This is a simple way to promote your business, gain extra visibility and introduce your business to new, potential customers. Suggested donations include: gift certificates, savings bonds, bottles of wine/liquor, free passes to cultural or education events, tickets to concerts/sporting events, free ads, clothing, vacation get-aways, promotional products (pencils, mugs, mouse pads), sports memorabilia and other traditional or creative prizes.

For your donation, you will receive recognition in the May and June Action Report Newsletters, recognition on the Chamber website (hundreds of views daily), the Chamber e-Update (sent to 3,500 subscribers weekly), direct promotion to 100 campaign volunteers, and listed as a sponsor/donor in press releases sent to our media outlets.

For more information or to donate a prize, contact Kathleen Lynch at (508) 586-0500 ext. 229, or email klynch@metrosouthchamber.com.

Loans Available for Brockton Businesses

The SEED Corporation has loan funds available for small businesses in the City of Brockton, and is seeking loan applications. "We would like to reach out to businesses in Brockton which need loans for working capital, equipment or real estate," stated Maria Gooch-Smith.



SEED CORPORATION | SOUTH EASTERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

depending on whether there is bank participation.

Under the SBA 504 Program, SEED can provide up to 40 percent of the financing needed in participation with a bank for the purchase of buildings and equipment for the use of the business. SEED's portion can range from \$120,000 to \$5 million for most small businesses, and \$5.5 million for manufacturing businesses, at a fixed interest for 20 years, currently 5.3percent.

SEED also has access to another \$5 million from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for micro loans up to \$50,000, and can make loans up to \$5 million for real estate under the SBA 504 Program.

Micro loans up to \$50,000 are available for existing and start-up small businesses including home based businesses. Loan funds can be used for: working capital, inventory, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures and refinancing business credit card debt with high interest rates. The term on the loans is up to six years and the current rate is 6 percent fixed.

SEED can also lend up to \$200,000 for working capital, equipment, furniture and fixtures, and real estate. The term on the loans is up to 10 years with longer repayment periods, if necessary. Interest rates range from 5 percent to 6 percent fixed

SEED is a non-profit economic development corporation certified by SBA in 1982 to assist small businesses in the region. Under various loan programs, SEED makes loans from \$1,000 to \$5.5 million to assist small businesses to grow and create jobs. SEED also provides technical assistance to small businesses and works with the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Brockton 21st Century Corporation and other economic development organizations and financing institutions in Brockton to ensure that individuals who are committed to owning and operating a small business are able to obtain the assistance they need to be successful. For more information about SEED's Loan Programs, the free entrepreneurial workshops and other SEED loan programs, please call 508-822-1020 or visit www.seedcorp.com.

Call For Small Biz Award Nominations

Thursday, May 15; Call for Nominations

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce recognizes the achievements and contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in creating new jobs and economic opportunities in the Metro South region. All members are invited to participate in the selection process to name the 2014 Annual Small Business of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year award winners.

Nominating someone is easy...

You may nominate your own business or any other business you deem worthy (maximum of one nomination per category). Submit a summary of your reasons for the nomination, based on the criteria listed here. You may include any additional documentation that will help illustrate why the business is deserving of the award. Nominees do not need to be members of the Chamber. Nominees must be a for-profit business.

Criteria...

Small Business of the Year Award:
50 or less full-time equivalent employees (Two part-time employees = one full-time); in business more than 3 consecutive years under the current ownership; for-profit business.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award:
10 full-time employees or equivalence; in business less than 3 years; a for-profit-business.

Companies will be rated on their creativity and imagination in the development of their business, their demon-

Sponsored by:

Bank of America



stration of growth, and a reflection on internal and external social responsibility.

Nominations are due by April 1, 2014. Visit

www.metroouthchamber.com to download the nomination form. Winners will be announced at the Small Business and Entrepreneur Luncheon on May 15th, 2014 and will receive an engraved plaque and publicity. For more info, call Kimberly Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231.

Prior Small Business of the Year Recipients

- 2013 Solex Payroll Systems, Inc.
- 2012 Vicente's Tropical Grocery
- 2011 McGuigan's Pub
- 2010 Prisco's Market
- 2009 MCG Partners
- 2008 Heights Crossing
- 2007 Westgate Lanes
- 2006 Cindy's Kitchen
- 2005 Northeast Wholesale Nail & Fastener Supply Co.
- 2004 Dupliron, Inc.
- 2003 Modern Auto Body
- 2002 United Furniture, Inc.

Prior Entrepreneur of the Year Recipients

- 2013 James Tran, Sky8 Shrimp Farm, LLC
- 2012 Billy Michaud, Sparky's Import Repair
- 2011 Al Ata, Elie Baking Corp
- 2010 Patricia Winberg, Topnotch Design Studio
- 2009 Michelle Cully, XPressman Trucking & Courier
- 2008 Robert Monahan of UPPAbaby
- 2007 Howard Wright of Wright Technology
- 2006 Rob Peters of Rob Peters Entertainment
- 2005 Jeffrey Chrzanowski of Spark Street Autobody
- 2004 Charles Bernard of The DJ Experience
- 2003 James Messinger of The Crazy Chefs Caterers
- 2002 Jerome Offutt of Top Quality Staffing

Small Business Program to Feature Chronicle Reporter

Thursday May 15, 8:00 am - 11:00 am



Ted Reinstein, "Chronicle"

The Small Business Luncheon & Awards Program will be held on May 15, 8:00 am -11:00 am at the Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

The featured keynote speaker will be Ted Reinstein of "Chronicle". Ted has been a reporter, producer, and occasional anchor for WCVB-TV Channel 5's "Chronicle", the nation's longest running locally-produced nightly news-magazine, since 1995. He also provides reports and commentary on Sunday mornings during WCVB's "On the Record", writes a weekly opinion column "And Another Thing" on WCVB.com, and is a contributor to WCVB's editorial board. His first book, "A New England Notebook", was released in May 2013. At the breakfast, he will be speaking about what it means to be "Authentically New England".

In conjunction with the Small Business Luncheon there will be a Business Table-top Expo. For table prices and information, or to purchase breakfast tickets, please contact Kimberly Prosper, 508.586.0500 x 231, kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com, or register online, www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration. The cost to attend is \$35 for members and \$45 for future-members and includes breakfast. The cost for an Expo table will be \$99 for members and does not include a ticket to the breakfast.



ATHENA Award Recognizes Leadership

Call for Nominations

Sponsored by:

Eastern Bank



To nominate an individual for an ATHENA award, or for more information, please call Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231, or email kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com.

Prior ATHENA Recipients

- 2013 Kathleen Smith, Brockton Public Schools, Superintendent
- 2012 Ruth Bramson, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts
- 2011 Elaine Reiser, Brockton Area Multi-Services
- 2010 Anne DeMinico, St. Joseph Manor
- 2009 Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- 2008 Vanessa Tierny, Brockton Area Multi-Services
- 2007 Susan Szachowicz, Brockton High Principal
- 2006 Loretta Degrazia, East Coast Petroleum
- 2005 Marianne Wroble Cox, WXB 1460am Radio
- 2004 Shailah Stewart, Brockton Public Schools
- 2003 Linda Faria Braun, The Adult Learning Center
- 2002 Christine Karavites, Proteas Consulting
- 2001 Barbara Duffy, My Turn, Inc.
- 2000 Noelle Foye, Brockton Elementary School Nurse

This summer, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce will present the 15th Annual ATHENA Award to an exceptional individual who has achieved excellence in his/her business or profession, has served the community in a meaningful way, and has assisted women in reaching their full leadership potential.

The ATHENA Awards Program was created in 1982 and has expanded to over 500 cities in the United States, Russia, Canada, China, The United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. The Metro South Chamber of Commerce believes in the values underlying the ATHENA Foundation's philosophy of incorporating the talents and expertise of women into the leadership of our businesses, communities and government.

Legislative Luncheon; Let Your Voice Be Heard

Continued from page 1

The Legislative Luncheon format allows for important dialogue concerning issues of significant political and economic impact. It has traditionally drawn significant and diverse participation from throughout the Metro South region, with over two hundred business and community leaders, several regional economic development agencies, members of the media, and many local, regional, state, and federal political figures in attendance each year.



Speaker of the House, Robert DeLeo

The keynote speaker of this special event will be Speaker of the House, Robert DeLeo. This is your opportunity to hear remarks from DeLeo, who will play a key leadership role as Massachusetts transitions a new Governor and Senate President in 2015.

Also speaking during the luncheon will be Brockton Mayor Bill Carpenter, who will reflect on issues of regional importance, as well as his first one-hundred days in office. In addition, Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, President of Bridgewater

Legislative Luncheon



Mayor of Brockton, Bill Carpenter

State University, and Dr. Charles Wall, President of Massasoit Community College, will provide welcoming remarks and comments regarding their respective institutions of higher education.

The Legislative Luncheon is a great networking opportunity so don't forget your business cards. To register or for further information, contact Kimberly Prosper at 508.586.0500 ext. 231, kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com, or register online at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration. The cost to attend is \$39 for members and \$49 for future-members. Sponsorships for Corporate Tables of 8 are also available at a member rate of \$312, and \$392 for future-members. All Corporate Sponsors will be recognized during the program and in the Action Report newsletter.

NEW! Site Finder

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

www.metroouthsitefinder.com

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

Chamber Affiliation News & Events

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



The **Bridgewater Business Association (BBA)** will hold their monthly meeting with 2 of their newest BBA Members! Cathleen Broderick of Cathleen Broderick Photography and Heather Ahern of The FUNctional Home will co-host at Cathleen Broderick Photography located at 7 Marble Street B5, Whitman, MA on Thursday, March 20 at 6:30 pm. Visit www.bridgewaterbiz.biz more information.

The **Stoughton Chamber of Commerce** recently held a meet and greet with candidates for Town of Stoughton elections for Board of Selectman, School Committee, Moderator, Housing Authority, and Redevelopment Authority. The event took place at the Outback Steakhouse in Randolph. For more information, visit www.stoughtonma.com.



The **Norwell Chamber of Commerce's** mission is to promote the civic, economic and social welfare of its members and the Town of Norwell. For more information, visit norwellchamberofcommerce.com.

The **East Bridgewater Business Association (EBBA)** was founded in 1993 "to promote a healthy business environment in East Bridgewater and to provide services to assist its members including education, networking and fellowship." For more information, visit www.eastbridgewaterbiz.com.



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



The **Randolph Chamber of Commerce** exists to promote, enhance, and strengthen the business interests of its members and to maintain and unify a sound and healthy business district and climate while contributing to the well being of the Randolph community. Visit www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org.



ProLink Networking Group is an invitation-only, non-competitive business networking group. Network After Work Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - 5:30pm at Harry's Westgate Pub, 59 Westgate Drive in Brockton. For more information, visit www.prolinknetworking.com or contact Craig Pina at 508-279-4194 or email craigpina@gmail.com.

RENEWINGMembers *Thank You !*

A Plus Blue Lion Insurance Agency, LLC
Advanced Hearing Care, Inc.
Albert Merola-General Contracting
Alphonse Leduc - Robert King, Inc.
Associação Caboverdiana De Brockton, Inc.
Battles Farm Company
Bridgewater Savings Bank
Bridgewater Trophy
Brockton Historical Society
Brockton Public Library
Brockton Visiting Nurse Association
Canoe Club Ballroom, Inc.
Central Glass Company, Inc.
Coastal Community Capital
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
Comcast Spotlight
Fairway Lawn Care
H&R Block
Hilliard's House of Candy, Inc.

Independence Insurance Agency
James E. Holmgren, CPA
Koso America
Loureiro Engineering
Masoneilan Dresser
McLaughlin Chevrolet, Inc.
Mia Regazza Ltd
Michael Haikal Real Estate
People's Best Care Chiropractic
School on Wheels of MA
Tedeschi's
The Children's Museum in Easton
Torrey & Associates
Tranquil Escape Day Spa
Tutto Bene / Pasta Bene
VHS Transportation Company, Inc.
Westgate Lanes and Pub
Westgate Mall

MEMBERProfile



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Margie McNally, Next Step Living

Year Established: 2008

Products or Services:

Home energy evaluations, weatherization, heating & cooling, solar power systems, windows

Number of Employees: 770

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

We're a one-stop resource for homeowners. We offer a "whole-home approach" to make residential energy efficiency and solar power systems accessible and affordable. This is a unique way to help homeowners live more comfortably and sustainably while saving money.

What is your market area?
Massachusetts and Connecticut

Awards, honors, or special recognition your firm has received?

No. 8 on the Inc. 500 list of fastest-growing private companies in the United States ('13) Hire Power Award from Inc. Magazine for leading the way in job creation ('13) Named to the Global Cleantech 100 list ('13) Finalist for MassEcon Economic Impact award ('13) New England Clean Energy Council Employer of the Year

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

We take the mystery out of home energy efficiency and solar power. By working with community and corporate partners, we help make it easy and affordable for homeowners to save energy and cut their utility costs.

Each month a member is drawn from attendees of the Good Morning Metro South Breakfast Program to be highlighted in the Action Report Newsletter.

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Shelley Tierney
OWNER

Chamber Promotes Development Regionally



“Moving Brockton Forward” Lowell Plan Director Brought to Town: Bill Carpenter, Mayor of Brockton, recently convened Brockton business leaders, with the help and support of the Metro South Chamber, to review The Lowell Plan, a non-profit economic development organization that is responsible for much of Lowell's recent success and economic turn-around. Bob Rivers of Eastern Bank, who serves on the Lowell Plan Board, introduced James Cook, Executive Director of the Lowell Plan. Cook discussed the financing, governance and projects involved with the Lowell Plan, including feasibility studies of key locations, downtown evolution plan, business improvement district, branding campaign, creative economy plan, and creation of a development & financial corporation. Brockton is currently discussing how to bring elements of the Lowell Plan to Brockton.



Easton Economic Development Assessment: The town of Easton recently held a gathering to present the results of Easton's Economic Development Self-Assessment at Northeastern University. Chamber President & CEO Christopher Cooney was invited to attend the presentation and is now serving on a committee studying the Easton Industrial Park.



Chamber Pursuing Bio-Friendly Initiatives: The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC), an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, research, development and commercialization, has awarded a grant to New Bedford to recognize the best bio use of the area south of Boston. The grant will include research of life science companies within the Metro South region, including Brockton, Rockland, Easton and Canton, in order to establish priorities, evaluate activities and cluster assets, and to determine the needs of the area in order to be able to attract and retain biotech companies. The inclusion of Metro South in this grant is a direct result of a recent planning grant request to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to strengthen the Life Science Cluster in the Metro South Region.

Your Input is Needed! State Theatre Survey

The Friends of the State Theatre, a non-profit organization, was recently formed to re-open the State Theatre in downtown Stoughton as an arts center for the region. We want to find out from you what types of events you attend and what you would like to see at this venue. As area business professionals, we very much want your opinion! It will only take a few minutes of your time. Please fill out the survey only once by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/s/StateTheatreWinterSurvey. Your response is anonymous unless you fill out your name at the end of the survey. Learn more about Friends of the State Theatre at www.statetheatre.us.

Chamber Welcomes New Ambassadors



Brian Hoffman, The Children's Museum in Easton
Jean Brillant, Brilliant Move Inc.

The Metro South Chamber would like to welcome two members to the Ambassador team, Brian Hoffman from the Children's Museum in Easton, and Jean Brillant of Brilliant Move, Inc. The Chamber would also like to thank Angel Nieves, Afllac; Brian Droukas, Whelan Associates; and Michael Lemke, H&R Block for their service as they end their time on the Ambassador team.

The Ambassador Team • Win-Win Opportunity!

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. The next **Ambassador meetings** will be held on March 12 and April 2, 2014 from 8:00 - 9:00 am at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton. For more information, call Kathleen Lynch at 508.586.0500 x 229.

Boston Strong, Economist at Breakfast

Sponsored by: Sharkansky LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Photos by Rich Morgan Photography.
Sound by Rob Peters Entertainment.
Video by Brockton Community Access Channel
(check listings for air times).



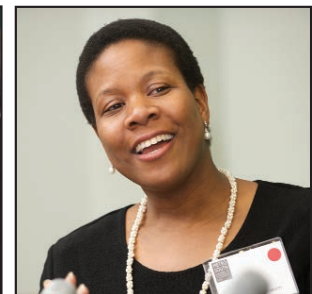
David Wedge, author of "Boston Strong" and former Boston Herald lead investigative reporter



Michael Tyler, CFA, financial analyst at Eastern Bank



Jay Pike, Sharkansky LLP, CPA's (sponsor) is interviewed by Charlie Hickey, CareerWorks



Titi Ngwenya, Fuller Craft Museum talks about the exciting events going on at Fuller Craft



Guests enjoy breakfast catered by The Shaw's Center



A great turnout for February's Good Morning Metro South Breakfast held at The Shaw's Center in Brockton.

Workers May Qualify; Earned Income Tax Credit



Low to moderate income families in the Greater Brockton area are again eligible for this free service. Most people can get their state refund in 3 to 5 days and their federal refund in about 7 days, saving hundreds of dollars in tax preparer and loan fees. Workers can claim both the federal and state EITC, even if they do not owe income tax, simply by filing federal and state income tax returns.

There will be Free Tax Preparation for qualified individuals through April 7, 2014 at the Brockton Public Library Main Branch, 304 Main St., Brockton on Mondays from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm and at

the Massasoit Community College Library in the Student Center, 1 Massasoit Blvd, Brockton, on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Who Is Eligible?

Earned Income Credit Income Limits

Tax year 2013				
# of children	Single	Married	Receive	
none	\$14,340	\$19,680	\$487	
one	\$37,870	\$43,210	\$3,250	
two	\$43,038	\$48,378	\$5,372	
three +	\$46,227	\$51,567	\$6,044	

For details on required documents, limitations, and eligibility, please visit www.brockton.ma.us/Information/News.aspx and click on "Free Tax Preparation Feb. 3 - Apr. 7, 2014". This program is sponsored by NeighborWorks, the City of Brockton, and Massasoit Community College.

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AutoDrive1 was formed by Joe DiBiasio and his family to assist in buying and financing high quality, low-priced vehicles for all credit profiles. We are proud to reach out to the car buying community with our auto loan origination program. We have perfected our Matrix Loan Process ® to provide our customers with quality service.

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34 North Pearl Street, Brockton • 508-586-3696
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Braemoor Health Center specializes in Short Term Rehab, Long Term Care, Skilled Nursing and Respite and Hospice Care. Braemoor is the only facility in its area MA licensed to offer outpatient services. Our patients have the benefit of maintaining continuity of care even after they have been discharged. We accept patients from the community as well. Visit our website, call to schedule a tour.

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540 Westgate Drive, Brockton
508-521-6027 • www.ihop.com

Hours of operation: Sunday-Thursday, 7:00 am - 10:00 pm, Friday & Saturday, 7:00 am - midnight. For 54 years, the IHOP family restaurant chain has served our world famous pancakes and a wide variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner items — offering an affordable, everyday dining experience with warm and friendly service. Celebrating National Pancake Day on Tuesday, March 4th!

JOIN THE CHAMBER FOR GREAT BENEFITS

YOUR BUSINESS PROFILE HERE...

...When You Join the Chamber.
Call Kathleen at
508.586.0500 x 229, or email:
klynch@metrosouthchamber.com

60 School Street, Brockton • 508-586-0500 x 229
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. Call Kathleen to learn more today!

BUSINESS EVENTS Planner

March 14

Government Affairs

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

60 School Street, Brockton

Featuring speaker Craig Sandler, owner and general manager of the State House News Service in Boston.

Tickets: \$8 members, \$15 future-members

Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 227

March 19

Taste of Metro South

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

The Shaw's Center

1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

This family event is a great opportunity to sample restaurants from throughout the region while enjoying live entertainment. www.metroouthchamber.com/taste.html

Tickets: \$35. Must be purchased in advance.

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

April 3

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Fuller Craft Museum

455 Oak Street, Brockton

Networking and refreshments. Don't forget your business cards!

Tickets: \$5 members, \$15 future-members

Please RSVP at 508-586-0500 ext. 231

IT'S EASY TO REGISTER!

508-586-0500 x 231 ☎

508-587-1340 📠

E-mail: info@metrosouthchamber.com ✉

Online: www.metroouthchamber.com

Send reservation and payment to: 🏠

Metro South Chamber of Commerce
Sixty School Street
Brockton, MA 02301-4087



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April 17

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Copeland Toyota

970 West Chestnut Street, Brockton

Enjoy networking at a Chamber member business. Refreshments will be served. Do not forget your business cards!

Tickets: \$5 members, \$15 future-members

Please RSVP call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

April 23

Legislative Luncheon

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Bridgewater State University

Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom, 19 Park Avenue

Join other Chamber members for this opportunity to interact with legislators. Featuring Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo and Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter.

Tickets: \$39 members, \$49 future-members

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

April 30/May 1

Membership Drive

8:30 am

Stonehill College

320 Washington Street, Easton

Help grow Chamber membership and strengthen the community by participating in this telephone membership drive.

For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 229