

Action report



March 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.



Doug King, page 7



Alexandra Parham, page 7



Patricia Bureau, page 10

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"Taste" Event Sizzling with Restaurants, Entertainment

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015
THE SHAW'S CENTER, BROCKTON • 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Come celebrate the region...

A TASTE OF Metro South

- Sample tastes from over 40 area restaurants
- Discover cultural and community service organizations
- Enjoy live entertainment from local performers including the BHS Jazz Band, Brockton Symphony Quartet, acapella group Symphonium & more!

Tickets Available Now!

\$35. Must be purchased in advance. Visit: metrosouthtaste.com

For more information, see page 6.

Win a MasPass coupon book!

**Impacted by Snow?
Loans Available**



As a result of significantly reduced patronage during recent snow storms, many Massachusetts small businesses have lost sales and fallen behind in meeting their financial obligations, including payroll. This can have a negative impact as it ripples through the local economy, on business owners and employees.

Often, small business financials cannot support traditional bank debt. Solutions available to them include hard money lenders, internet loan programs and credit card debt. All of these sources typically charge high fees and interest rates approaching or even exceeding 20% causing the small business to fall even further behind.

The following proposed loan program from the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) is meant to address this pressing need for impacted Massachusetts businesses.

A Proposed Micro Loan fund: MGCC will make available up to \$1,000,000 in loan funds to provide micro-loans of \$5,000 up to \$10,000 to small businesses, targeted to Boston, Gateway Cities, and other communities in need. Anticipate this program to be available for disbursements through May 2015.

The program is targeted to small businesses profitable in the prior year but suffering cash flow problems due to recent loss of revenue. Your business may be eligible to participate in this program.

If you are a small business interested in participating in the loan program, please contact the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation for more information by calling 617-337-2820. Learn more about MGCC online at www.mcdcf.com.

Chamber Supports Brockton Destination Resort Casino

In the wake of losing six hundred jobs after entertainment gaming (dog racing) was banned in Massachusetts by referendum a few years ago, The Metro South Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted that if entertainment gaming were made legal again in Massachusetts, that this region, the Metro South region, should be given top priority.

"In the interest of fairness to this industry and the hundreds of people who operated entertainment gaming for decades within this region, the Chamber is on record in support of moving this proposal for a destination resort casino facility in Brockton, forward," said Christopher Cooney, Chamber President and CEO.

The Rush Street Gaming proposal features a destination resort gaming facility at the Brockton Fairgrounds on twenty-five acres of land in Brockton. The proposed facility represents a \$650 million dollar investment, including a gaming facility, a 250 room hotel, restaurants, retail, event space and other features to enhance the site and the visitor's experience.

"We will testify before the Brockton City Council in support of this proposed entertainment gaming facility for Brockton and we look forward to the prospect that will allow these lost jobs in gaming to return to the city and the region." concluded Cooney.

Plainridge Park Casino to Open this June

Penn National Gaming began constructing Plainridge Park Casino in March 2014, following the award of the Category 2 Gaming License by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on February 28, 2014.

Set to open this June, Plainridge Park Casino will include a fully integrated 106,000 square foot racing and gaming facility featuring live harness racing and simulcasting with 1,250 slot machines, an upscale casual dining restaurant, the first-ever Doug Flutie Sports Bar, four-venue food court, harness concourse bar, multi-purpose banquet room, entertainment lounge and casino bar, 1,620 structured and surface parking spaces, 26,000 square foot grandstand with box and reserved seats, and 13,000 square foot clubhouse with box seats.



See More on page 11

Investing 101, Member-led Workshop

Tuesday, March 10, 10:00 am - 11:30 am



Want to learn some of the basics about investing your money? Join us on **Tuesday, March 10** from **10:00 am - 11:30 am** at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, **60 School Street in Brockton**, for a member-led workshop all about investing! Chamber member Laura Bradeen of Primerica will cover investing basics in this free seminar. Primerica is a company whose mission is to help families earn more income and become properly protected, debt free, and financially independent.

Topics covered during the workshop will include:

- How Money Works: Basic Financial Principles
- The Rule of 72: How Compound Interest Works
- The 3 D's of Investing: Discipline, Dollar Cost Averaging, & Diversifying
- What is a Mutual Fund?
- Retirement Products

For more information or to register for this complimentary workshop, please visit metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration or contact Laura Bradeen by emailing JUWC5@primerica.com. Please include your full name and phone number in your email to register.



GOVERNMENT Affairs

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 13, 2015

Join us on **Friday, March 13, 12:00 pm** at the Chamber, **60 School Street, Brockton**, for our monthly Government Affairs Meeting. The guest speaker will be **State Representative Michael Brady**.



Rep. Michael Brady

Michael D. Brady was born and raised in Brockton, Massachusetts. He is a lifelong resident of the City, the 9th Plymouth District, and Ward 2, which he has represented since 1996, first as a Member of the School Committee (1996-1997) and then as City Councillor (1997 to present). He was first elected to the MA

House of Representatives in 2008.



Governor's budget (to be released the first week of March).

If you would like to attend, please contact Athena Lavoie, alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231, or register online at metrosouthchamber.com/events-registration. The cost to attend is \$8 for members and \$15 for future-members and includes a light lunch.

Representative Shaunna O'Connell Speaks to Chamber; Small Business Bill of Rights



Pat Ciamarella, Old Colony Planning Council, Vice Chair Economic Development; John McGovern, McGovern Business Valuation, Chamber Treasurer; State Representative Shaunna O'Connell; Christopher Cooney, Metro South Chamber President & CEO

Small Business Bill of Rights



Shaunna O'Connell is actively working on fostering the adoption of the Small Business Bill of Rights in Massachusetts. For more information, please visit the Facebook page at facebook.com/MABizRights

Business After Hours at Crescent Credit Union

Tuesday April 7, 5:30 - 7:30 pm



Please plan to join us for a Business After Hours networking event on **Tuesday, April 7** from **5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** at Crescent Credit Union, **1300 Belmont Street in Brockton**.

Founded in 1919, Crescent Credit Union was originally chartered to serve the financial needs of employees at the Tarlow Brothers Leather Company in Brockton, Massachusetts. As the credit union grew, it moved into a small build-

ing on Crescent Street and adopted the street's name. Today, they serve over 50,000 members who look to them as their financial partner. When you bank with Crescent, feel confident in knowing your deposits are invested locally. Crescent puts your money to work right here, in your community, in the form of prudent home loans, car loans, and business loans to your friends and neighbors. Visit crescentcredit.org to learn more.

To register, visit metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration or contact Athena Lavoie, alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231. This event is complimentary to attend, but please RSVP in advance. Networking, refreshments, and raffles are included - don't forget your business cards!

Networking at Mansfield Bank, Easton

Tuesday, April 28, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Save the date and join us on **Tuesday, April 28** from **5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** for a Chamber Business After Hours. This networking event will take place at Mansfield Bank, **73 Belmont Street in Easton**.

Since 1883, Mansfield Bank has been a cornerstone of the Mansfield, Massachusetts community. Still a cooperative bank owned by their depositors, Mansfield Bank features a five-location branch network, and an experienced staff of one hundred dedicated professionals. Mansfield Bank is particularly known for the strength of their commercial and residential lending teams, the friendly expertise of their branch employees, and the significant commitments they make to charitable causes. For more information, visit



mansfieldbankonline.com.

Bring your business cards and join us for an evening of networking and refreshments, courtesy of Mansfield Bank. Register online at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration, or contact Athena Lavoie, 508.586.0500 x231, alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com. This event is complimentary to attend, but pre-registration is required.

Legislative Luncheon - Let Your Voice Be Heard!



The 2015 Legislative Luncheon is scheduled *tentatively* for **Friday, April 24** at **12:00 pm**. The event will be held at the Conference Center at Massasoit, **770 Crescent Street, Brockton**. 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.

Past speakers have included Former U.S Congressman Bill Delahunt, Speaker

Sponsored by:



of the House Robert DeLeo, Senate President Therese Murray, Attorney General Martha Coakley and former Governor Deval Patrick. The cost is \$39 for members and \$49 for future-members. To register or for further information, call the Chamber at **508.586.0500 ext. 231** or register at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Chair of the Board
Susan Joss
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

President and CEO
Christopher Cooney
Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Chair-Elect
Gerard Nadeau
Rockland Trust Company

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Vice Chair Membership Development
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Immediate Past Chair
William Morse
Mutual Bank

DIRECTORS

Jason Barbosa - *Vicente's Tropical Grocery*

Steve Bryant - *Columbia Gas*

Jane Callahan - *HR Alternatives*

Joe Cardinal - *National Grid*

Joseph Casey - *HarborOne Bank*

Peter Dello Russo - *Bridgewater Savings Bank*

Francis Dillon - *Stonehill College*

Gregory Hart - *Cohn Reznick*

Kim Hollon - *Signature Healthcare*

Richard Hynes - *Barbour Corporation*

Gigi Johnson - *Christo's To-Go Restaurant*

John Jurczyk - *Good Samaritan Medical Center*

Robert Kenworthy - *Bank of America*

Mahsa Khanbabai -
Law Office of Mahsa Khanbabai

Dr. Dana Mohler Faria -
Bridgewater State University

Jim Murphy LSP - *Tracey Environmental, LLC*

Peter Neville - *Concord Foods*

Jonathan "Jay" Pike - *Sharkansky LLP*

Andrew Raczka - *Abington Bank*

Kathleen Smith - *Brockton Public Schools*

Stan Usovicz - *Verizon*

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

Dr. Charles Wall -
Massasoit Community College

508-586-0500 Front Desk x 221

CHAMBER STAFF

Christopher Cooney, CCE, IOM
 President and CEO x 223

Athena Lavoie
 Director of Programs & Events x 231

Melanie McGrath
 Communications Coordinator x 222

Lisa Pearce
 Finance x 230

Alison van Dam, IOM
 VP of Business Development/Operations x 227

*Newsletter Written & Designed by Melanie McGrath
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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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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

- 4** Ambassador Meeting 8:00 am
- 10** Investing 101 Workshop 10:00 am
- 13** Government Affairs 12:00 pm
- 26** Taste of Metro South 5:30 pm
The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton
- 24** Executive Board Meeting 3:00 pm

Coming Up April

- 1** Board of Directors 12:00 pm
- 7** Business After Hours 5:30 pm
Crescent Credit Union, 1300 Belmont St., Brockton
- 8** Ambassador Meeting 8:00 am
- 20** Patriot's Day - Chamber Closed
- 24** Legislative Luncheon (tentative) 12:00 pm
Massasoit Conference Center, Brockton
- 28** Business After Hours 5:30 pm
Mansfield Bank, 73 Belmont St., Easton

Save the Date May

- 6** Ambassadors Meeting 8:00 am
- 8** Government Affairs 12:00 pm
- 12** Executive Board Meeting 3:00 pm
- 13** Business After Hours 5:30 pm
Abington Bank, 6 Harrison Ave., Abington
- 21** Small Business Awards Breakfast 8:00 am
The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton
- 25** Memorial Day - Chamber Closed
- 27** Board of Directors 12:00 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 Celebrates American Heart Month

Good Samaritan Medical Center recently collaborated with Randolph Community Partnership and Psi Iota Omega to present a free lecture on maintaining optimal heart health to commemorate American Heart Health Month in February. The discussion included the importance of maintaining heart health for both men and women at any age and various recommendations for maintaining a healthy heart. Visit goodsamaritan-medical.org for more information.

Mutual Bank Recruits Suzanne Fernandes as Asst. VP

Mutual Bank CEO Glen White recently announced that Suzanne Fernandes has joined the bank as Assistant Vice President, and will manage operations and business development for the Mutual Bank branch on Belmont Street in Brockton. Ms. Fernandes, an active member of the Brockton area banking community, previously held management positions with Eastern Bank and Community Bank. She is a Registered Mortgage Loan Originator and is experienced in small business lending. A Brockton native, Ms. Fernandes serves as chairman of BAWIB, is treasurer for the Brockton Redevelopment Authority, and an active member of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached at Mutual Bank at 781-524-5035.

Brian Hoffman Named Stonehill Career Mentor

When it comes to career advice, networking and mentoring, Brian Hoffman '77 has been a friend to Stonehill students and alumni. A human resources professional, he is accessible and gracious in sharing his expertise, helping alumni navigate new career options or challenges. In appreciation of his efforts, the Alumni Council presented Hoffman with the Alumni Service Award in Donahue Hall in February. Hoffman currently serves the Children's Museum in Easton as its director of corporate relations and annual giving.

Mechanics Cooperative Bank Launches Comm. Grants

Mechanics Cooperative Bank, and President and CEO Joseph T. Baptista Jr., are proud to announce the launch of our new Community Grant Program! Mechanics Cooperative Bank will be donating \$25,000 to local non-profit organizations and we want you to decide who gets it! Now, through December 1, 2015, we will be tracking all votes from Mechanics Cooperative Bank customers to determine which organizations will win and take home the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Prizes! Voting is simple and is open to all Mechanics Cooperative Bank customers that have a loan or deposit account! Visit www.Mechanics-Coop.com and click on the Community Grant Program graphic on our homepage to vote for your favorite local non-profit.

Free Family Fun Day at Maplewood

Join Maplewood Country Day Camp &

Enrichment Center, 150 Foundry Street in S. Easton, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm on Sunday, March 15 for a fun packed day full of free activities. Activities are geared towards children ages 5 and up and include moonwalks, pedal karts, gymnastics, art, chess, bricks for kids (legos), rock climbing, glitter tattoos, and more. A special performance, "Bubbleology," will take place from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. For more information, call 508-238-2387.

Old Colony YMCA's Annual Spin-a-thon

Join the Old Colony YMCA as they pedal with a purpose! The Annual Spin-a-thon will take place on Saturday, March 7; help to make this year the best yet! One hour is all it takes to help make a significant impact in the life of a local family. Your participation in this event will help support those in need in our community; all proceeds raised will benefit the Y's Annual Support Campaign. To learn more or to book a bike, visit oldcolonyymca.org/events/spin-thon-2015.

David Orfutt Named to Massasoit Board of Trustees

Dr. Charles Wall, president of Massasoit Community College, recently announced that David Offutt of Brockton has been named to the College's Board of Trustees. David has more than 15 years of experience in the real estate industry and has since 2008 been the proprietor and broker of Equity Plus Real Estate, which serves the greater Boston area and focuses on assisting clients who face default. He is also an active and engaged member of the Old Colony YMCA Brockton Branch Board of Governors. Mr. Offutt's appointment by former Governor Deval Patrick prior to leaving office fills the vacancy left by former trustee Nelson Ross, who had served on the Board since 2011.

Breakfast With Your Banker

The department of Commercial Lending at Bridgewater Savings Bank invites business owners and/or assigned HR representatives to attend an upcoming Breakfast with your Banker event on Wednesday, March 11 from 7:30 - 9:00 am at the Fireside Grille, located at 30 Bedford Street in Middleboro. Due to several new HR regulations and policies put in place in 2015, the breakfast topic will be: The Top Ten New Human Resource Issues Facing Businesses in 2015, presented by Paychex, a Bridgewater Savings Bank partner. Breakfast is complimentary but pre-registration is required. Please RSVP to Kathleen Lynch no later than March 6 by calling 508-884-3356 or by emailing klynch@bridgewateravings.com

Brockton Public Library LEGO Club for Kids

By popular demand, Brockton Public Library is proud to announce the continuation of our LEGO Clubs for kids ages 5 to 12, and our separate club for teens. The theme for the new year is Winter Fun.

Bring winter fun indoors by building wintry models. Projects for teens follow the same theme but involve robotics and advanced model making. Clubs will be held from 1 -2 pm on the first Saturday of each month including March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 6, 2015. Space is limited so register today at 508-580-7890 x301.

BYF's 7th Annual Breakfast with Champions

Please join the Brockton Youth Foundation to celebrate and honor student and adult leaders who have made a difference in the lives of our youth on Sunday, March 22, 10:00 am at the Shaw's Center in Brockton. Class of 2015 Honorees include Kevin Karo of Abington - Principal of South Middle School; Aidan "Dan" Feeney, age 9, of Brockton - Founder of "Pennies for the Homeless"; Brockton Cape Verdian Association - Provider of youth programming and services; Nina Bonanca, age 12, of East Bridgewater - organizer and fundraiser for Blue Dog Shelter; Amy Rossi of Natick and VP of Bernardi Auto Group - community leadership and support to youth programs; Save Our Sports (SOS) - 21 years leadership and support to BHS Athletics; Adrian Niles, age 18, of Brockton - inventor and engineer who modified the robotics of the Segway to assist disabled and aged; and John Merian of Brockton - head "Elf" of the Holiday Parade, Christmas City, and Santa Hat Challenge. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for students. Call 508.584.2506 or visit brocktonyouthfoundation.org. Sponsors, advertisers and auction donors still needed.

Old Colony Hospice Coins for Comfort

Old Colony Hospice's new Coins for Comfort campaign gives you an opportunity to participate in raising awareness and funds to support quality care for loved ones during their end of life journey. Every donation counts, big or small - just one example of how you can make an impact in the lives of friends and neighbors right here in your own community! There are several ways to get involved: place a "Coins for Comfort" jar in your office or business or invite your children to fundraise at a school or community group. For more information, or to get your jar today, contact Nicole Rozelle, nrozelle@oldcolonyhospice.com, 781-318-7331, or visit oldcolonyhospice.org.

Mutual Bank Names Dan Trout Senior VP

Mutual Bank CEO Glen White has announced that Daniel K. Trout has been named Senior Vice President. Mr. Trout leads the commercial lending and business development effort at Mutual Bank, where he and his team are responsible for the Bank's recent growth in that arena. He joined the Bank in 2010, with more than 25 years' experience in local commercial banking and lending. Mr. Trout, an Abington resident, is an active member of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, president of

the Rotary Club of Brockton, and serves on the board of directors for Old Colony YMCA. He can be reached at Mutual Bank at 781-524-5044.

Caring for the Caregiver Breakfast

In partnership with Old Colony Hospice, St. Joseph Manor cordially invites you to Caring for the Caregiver ~ Compassion Fatigue CEU presented by Michael Cruza of Old Colony Hospice on Wednesday, March 11. Caring for the sick and/or elderly can consume a lot of one's energy and compassion. What happens when the well runs dry? Please join us at St. Joseph Manor, 215 Thatcher Street, Brockton from 7:45 am - 9:15 am. Cost is free and a full breakfast will be served. 1 CEU for Nurses and Social Workers. Please RSVP to Marni Dunton, Director of Marketing at 508-583-5834 ext. 3055 or at mdunton@sjmbrockton.org.

MATRA 2015 Spring Training

Join MATRA at their 5th Annual MATRA Spring Training Day on Tuesday, March 24, where Tent Rental Companies can spend a day to learn about topics that can benefit the owners and your work crew. Sessions will allow you to learn from other professionals in the tent rental industry on what you need to know before you dig or stake, and two outstanding sessions on identifying issues and challenges in your business and implementing solutions. This event will take place at B.C. Tent & Awning in Avon from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. Registration is open and table-top expo space is available. Visit matramembers.org or call 302-765-3945 x2.

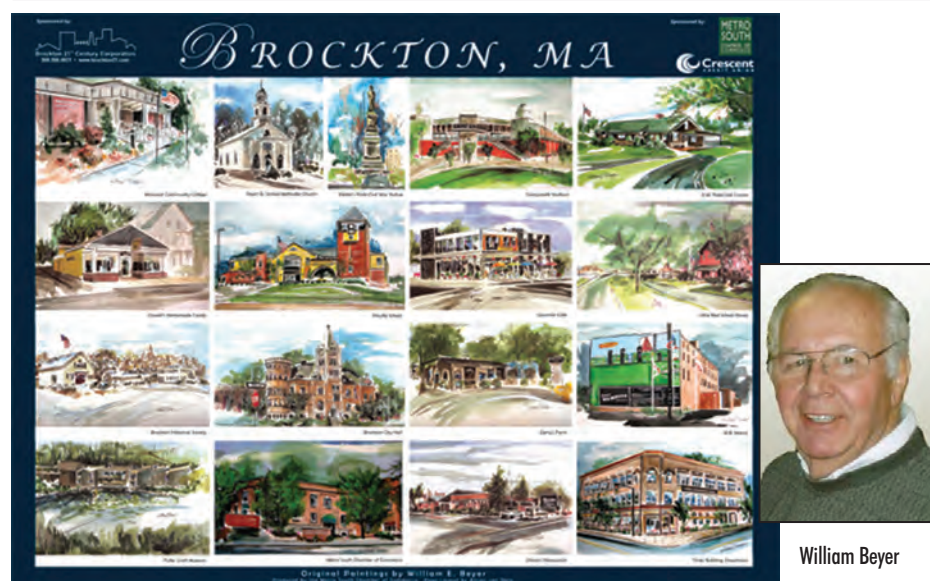
Brockton Rotary's Annual Pancake Breakfast

Brockton Rotary's annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 22, 8:00 am at Massasoit Conference Center on Crescent Street in Brockton. This year's program will honor Brockton's Fire Chief Sonny (Edward) Burrell. The cost to attend is \$5/person at the door; children 5 and under are FREE. Crafts, music, picture with the Easter Bunny, raffles, and a warm delicious breakfast!

Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake

On Sunday, March 22 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, the Old Colony YMCA Big Sister Big Brother program will be having its annual Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser at the Westgate Lanes bowling alley in Brockton. Teams of 4-6 people are welcome, and we ask each person to raise a minimum of \$50 or each team to raise a minimum of \$200. There will be food, raffle prizes, and awards for the highest score, most money raised, best bowling outfit, and more. As a non-profit, Big Sister Big Brother is entirely dependent on grants and donations; all proceeds from this event will go directly to supporting our youth! If you have any questions, please call Alison Daley at 508-580-7786.

Brockton Mourns Artist William Beyer



William Beyer

William E. "Bill" Beyer, a renowned New England water colorist, died January 31, 2015 peacefully at the age of 85 after a lengthy illness.

Bill was born and raised in Worcester and graduated from Pratt Institute in New York with a degree in Graphic Design. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as an illustrator of field artillery books. In 1950, he founded the William E. Beyer Associates advertising agency on Newbury Street in Boston, which for 27 years serviced large national companies including John Hancock and Polaroid and local companies such as Weekly Reader, Boston Bruins, and Shopper's World. In the 1980s, his company merged with Dickinson Direct Mail and he later joined Hub Mail as vice president of Advertising.

During this time, Bill fell in love with the fine art of watercolor and began painting. He opened a gallery in Quincy's Marina Bay and built a watercolor business capturing people's memories in portraits of homes, boats, and families.

In addition to the personal memories he created for his gallery clients, Bill's art will live on in his public work. In 1996, he founded the Marina Bay Arts Affair. In addition, Bill created many unique watercolor collage works that celebrated community landmarks and captured the essence of several local cities and towns. His signed and numbered prints raised valuable funds for each community, including "The City of Champions" painting that is still displayed in many buildings throughout Brockton.

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce commissioned William Beyers to paint Brockton scenes for a Brockton map brochure (shown above), hosted an open house and artist signing at Gourmet Cafe. The Chamber continues to proudly display his artwork throughout the Chamber building.

Chamber Welcomes New Ambassadors



Todd Drager,
Eastern Insurance



Katherine Light,
HarborOne Bank



Reiko McNeil,
Bridgewater Savings Bank



The Metro South Chamber would like to welcome three new members to the Ambassador team: Todd Drager from Eastern Insurance, Katherine Light from HarborOne Bank, and Reiko McNeil from Bridgewater Savings Bank.

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 4 and April 8, 2015 from 8:00 - 9:00 am at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton. For more information, call Doris at 508.586.0500 x 221.

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

Calling All Businesses; Support Career Day

April 7, 2015, 8:00 am - 11:45 am



We are pleased to announce the 18th Annual Connecting Activities Career Day presented by the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board and supported by the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. This initiative is designed as an opportunity to build stronger connections between schools and the community. By connecting schools with area businesses and organizations, students can see the relevance and authenticity of what they are learning in school, invigorating the school culture and the classroom, while they begin to consider their potential careers.

The event, which will be held on **Tuesday April 7th** from **8:00 am to 11:45 am** at **The Shaw's Center, Brockton**, will provide high school students with the opportunity to explore careers in the following areas:

Education and Human Services, Finance, Business Management, Sales and Marketing, Manufacturing and Construction Trades, Information Technology, Arts, Media & Communication, Cosmetology, Armed Services, Health and Science, Government, Court System and Law Enforcement, Travel /Hospitality, Retail, Animal Care, and Architecture.

Each business will be provided with a display table; electricity is limited but can be provided upon request. Please remember that our intent is to provide students with information about careers in a variety of areas. When developing your presentation, be mindful that this is not a job fair but a career awareness activity. For more information, please contact Krystal Love at kllove@bawib.org or (508) 584-9800.

Free Tax Preparation for Brockton Households

Low to moderate income families in the Greater Brockton area are again eligible for free tax preparation, sponsored by Neighborworks Southern Mass, the City of Brockton, Mayor Carpenter, and Massasoit Community College.



There will be Free Tax Preparation for qualified individuals through **April 6, 2015** 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 - 1:00 pm**.

The Household Income Limitation for this free service is \$53,000. Assistance will be provided on a first come, first serve basis.

For details on required documents, limitations, and eligibility, please visit www.brockton.ma.us and click on "Free Tax Preparation" on the website homepage.

Scholarship Funds Available for Students

The Pilgrim Foundation of Brockton is accepting applications for its scholarship, which is available to all Brockton residents who are pursuing an education beyond high school.

The deadlines for filing applications are April 1 for high school students and May 1 for college students.

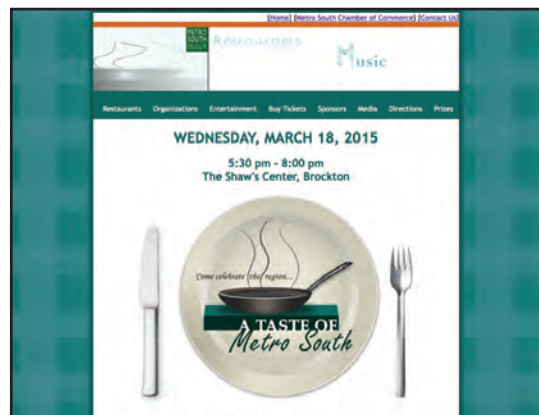
Applications may be obtained through the guidance offices at Brockton High School, Cardinal Spellman High School, and Southeastern Regional Vocational-Technical High School in Easton.

Applications are also available by mailing a self-addressed, stamped, business size envelope to The Pilgrim Foundation, P.O. Box 3400, Brockton, MA 02304.

Chamber Displays New Awnings as Part of Renovation Project



Your Guide to the Taste, 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

metrosouthtaste.com

Great Entertainment Featured at Taste



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 Cardinal Spellman High School's Acapella group Symphonium. Rob Peters Entertainment will also be there to DJ and maintain a fun atmosphere for the night. More entertainment to come!

Restaurant Spaces Still Available!

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 Athena Lavoie at 508.586.0500 x 231 or email alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com. Download the vendor application and see photos from last year's event at metrosouthtaste.com.

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

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



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT METROSOUTHTASTE.COM

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

RESTAURANTS

More than 40 restaurants expected, including:
 C.M. Petti's Market • Fresh Catch Restaurant & Sushi Bar • Gowell's Candy • Italian Kitchen • JJ's Caffé • Just Desserts Bakery & Cafe • Lady C&J Soulfood & Catering • Skinners Sugarhouse • Stoneforge Grill • The Brockton Rox
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Boston Masspass • Brockton Rox Heights Crossing • Old Colony Elder Services • Next Step Living Metro South Chamber of Commerce • Old Colony Elder Services Rob Peters Entertainment • Signature Healthcare
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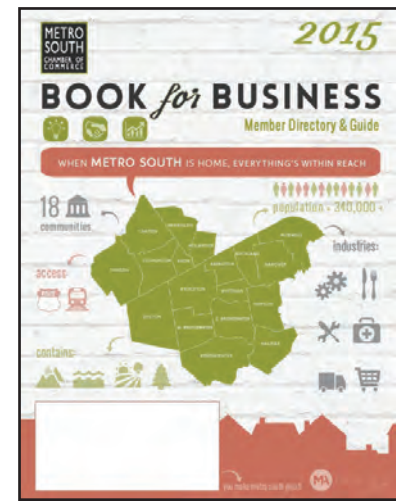
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Metro South Releases '15 Book For Business

Charlie Horse Restaurant Hosts Networking

Photos by www.richmorganphotography.com



The Chamber of Commerce will be distributing the 2015 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 with the new regional branding tagline, colors, and theme. 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@metroouthchamber.com.



Timothy McCaul, McCaul Land Title Company; Jessica Wainwright, Wainwright Law Office, P.C.; Andrea Laroque, Old Colony Hospice



Jess Rubino & Alexandra Parham, Brewster Ambulance Service

Easton Edgewater Apartments Draw Crowd

Edgewater at Quset Commons is Douglas A. King Builders Inc.'s newest apartment building. Quset Commons is a smart growth development located in Easton MA that will provide an attractive option for convenient, safe and healthy living. Quset Commons' great architecture, landscape, and neighborhood design will make a difference in ways that will boost the local economy, protect the environment and public health, and enhance community vitality. For more information, visit quaset.com.

Photos by www.richmorganphotography.com



Rolando Lima, Residential Mortgage Services; Thomas Fernandes, JPF Financial Services



Robin Howard, C&C Design Studio; Tim Holick, Wood Palace Kitchens, Inc.



Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center; Doug King, Douglas A. King Builders; Matt Light, former NE Patriots; Brendan O'Neil, Eastern Bank; David Howe, J Derenzo Co.; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO



Attendees enjoy catering by the Foundry/Maguire's in Easton



Doug King welcomes a large crowd to his newest apartment building project completed at 11 Roosevelt Circle in Easton.



Guests tour a new two-bedroom unit with Property Manager Jackie Cracknell



Patricia Kelleher, Family & Community Resources, Inc. (event sponsor) is introduced by Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO



The Charlie Horse Restaurant in West Bridgewater holds a spacious function room that offers a unique alternative for corporate affairs, birthday celebrations, bridal showers, and other special events.



Andrew Pierce, Director of Sales, The Charlie Horse presents a raffle prize to Estrela Carvalho, Eastern Bank



Business After Hours attendees enjoy bowling in The Charlie Horse's six 10-pin bowling lanes. Visit thecharliehorse.com to learn more.

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HR Hotline: Managing Weather Emergencies

Posted by Tom Jones, AIM; Shared by Jane Callahan, HR Alternatives

Major weather events like what our region has experienced recently raise a diverse set of questions for employers from employee pay to partial or full day closures. Here are some frequently asked questions along with answers.



Q.) *The business will be closed for the entire week because of bad weather. Must exempt employees be paid?*

A.) No. The US Department of Labor DOL regulations state that: "Exempt employees need not be paid for any work week in which they perform no work." However, this is unlikely to apply since most exempt employees will have worked at least Monday and perhaps other days this week.

Q.) *An exempt employee performs work at home when the office was closed because of bad weather. Must the employee be paid?*

A.) Simple answer, yes. The FLSA regulations make it clear that "An exempt employee must receive his or her full salary for any week in which he or she performs work, without regard to the number of days or hours worked. There are exceptions but none of them apply in this case.

Q.) *The office opened today but an exempt employee couldn't make it in because of bad weather. Instead the employee worked at home for a few hours and spent the rest of the day shoveling snow. Pay or no pay?*

A.) Pay. Work at home is also work. Furthermore, anytime an exempt employee misses less than a full day of work because of snow or other adverse weather conditions, his/her salary may not be docked.

Q.) *May an employer require an exempt employee to use vacation or accrued leave for part of the day in this situation?*

A.) Yes according to a DOL Opinion Letter from 2005. This is different from a deduction in that the employee still gets a full day's pay, just from two separate accounts. It may help eliminate some misunderstandings later about an employee's remaining time off if you make it clear to your employees that you are charging their vacation or PTO account. How you handle this issue is more likely to be an employee morale issue than a legal issue given the lateness of your decision.

Q.) *We opened today but an exempt employee couldn't make it in due to bad weather. After spending 90 minutes waiting for a bus, the employee gave up and went home. Pay or no pay?*

A.) Qualified no pay. Commuting is never working time but if the employee did actual work (i.e. more than a de minimis amount of work) while waiting for the bus (e.g. checking emails, making phone calls), the employee is working and must be paid for the day.

While these Q & A's address many of the questions about work and blizzards, it may not address your particular case. Should you have any questions about this or any other HR related question please contact the AIM Hotline at 1-800-470-6277.

Agriculture Grants Available for Small Business

Recently, the federal government announced that rural agricultural producers and small business owners can now apply for resources to purchase and install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements.

These efforts are aimed at helping farmers, ranchers and other small business owners save money on their energy bills. The resources are made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill. Any agricultural producers with at least 50% of gross income coming from agricultural operations may apply.

USDA is making more than \$280 million available to eligible applicants through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). USDA is accepting and reviewing loan and grant applications year-round. Projects eligible for REAP funding include lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation, fans, automated controls and insulation upgrades that reduce energy consumption.

Details on how to apply are available by contacting the Massachusetts Rural Development Office. Visit rd.usda.gov/ma to learn more.

Brockton Downpayment Assistance Program Open



The City of Brockton, Office of Mayor Carpenter, in partnership with NeighborWorks Southern Mass (NWSOMA) and the Brockton Redevelopment Authority (BRA) is offering down payment/closing cost assistance to eligible first time homebuyers purchasing a single or two-family home (no condos) in the City of Brockton. The First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHP) is funded by the U.S Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) HOME Investment Partnership.

The FTHP offers a maximum of \$10,000 financial assistance though a zero-interest deferred loan, repayable in the event of property transfer of ownership or loan refinancing (except for rate and term of the loan). The approval for the amount of funding is based on the amount of assistance needed at the mortgage closing. The funds are subject to availability.

For complete details and requirements, and to download the full application visit www.nwsoma.org and choose the Homebuyer Education Tab. If you have questions or would like an application mailed, email Cindy Pendergast at c.pendergast@nwsoma.org or call 508-587-0950 ext. 46.

Fair Housing Event to Take Place at Westgate Mall

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The City of Brockton will hold a Brockton Fair Housing Event on **Saturday, April 18** at the **Westgate Mall** in Brockton from **10:00 am - 4:00 pm**. This event is organized by the Brockton Redevelopment Authority and sponsored by the Office of Mayor Bill Carpenter and the Metro South Redevelopment Organization.



Over thirty vendors are expected to participate in the housing event, including banks, credit unions, realtors, and non-profit agencies providing

information on issues relating to the purchasing of homes, foreclosure prevention, energy savings opportunities, and other government programs. Small group workshop sessions will also be held. This event is being held to promote the goal of providing equal access and opportunities for all in housing. Members of the community are invited to attend!

Exhibitor space is still available for businesses and organizations related to housing as well as sponsorships! If you would like more information, please contact David Guzman at the Brockton Redevelopment Authority, 508.586.3887.

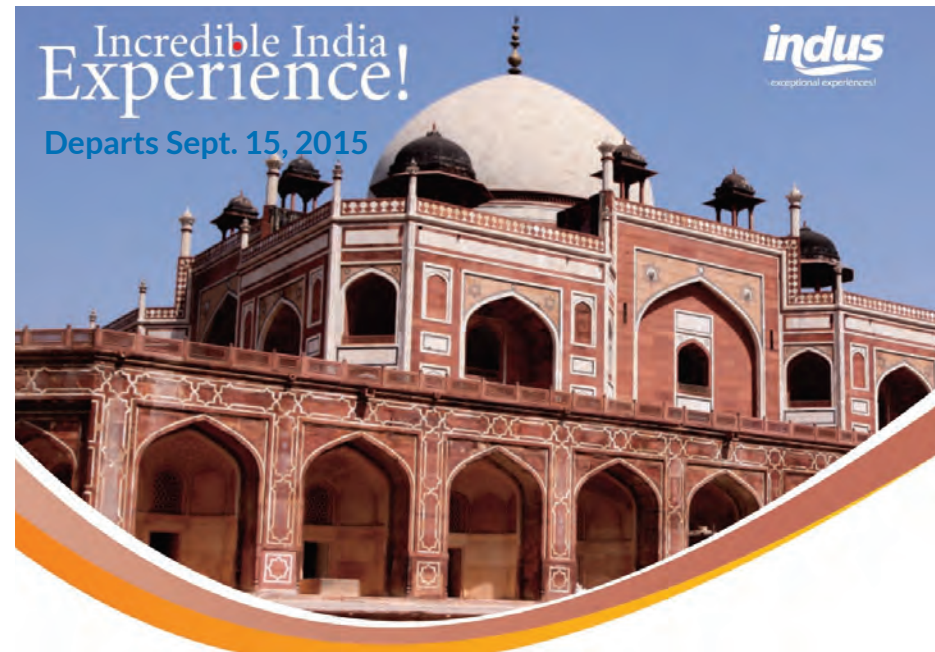
buybrockton.org

LIVE WORK SHOP PLAY

Buy Brockton is a public/private partnership between the City of Brockton, Brockton Housing Partnership, and Local Business who are working together to promote homeownership in the great City of Brockton.

Exciting Travel Opportunities...

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 or call 508.586.0500.



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. Visit www.metroouthchamber.com/events/travel for a detailed itinerary and more information or call 508.586.0500.



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! Visit www.metroouthchamber.com/events/travel for a detailed itinerary and more information or call 508.586.0500.

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Shelley Tierney
OWNER

Call For Small Biz Award Nominations

The Metro South Chamber and Bank of America recognizes the achievements and contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in creating new jobs and economic opportunities in the Metro South region. We welcome you to nominate businesses for the 2015 Small Business of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year awards.

Nominating someone is easy...

You may nominate your own business or any other business you deem worthy. **Call the Chamber at 508.586.050 x 231 for nomination forms.** You may include any additional documentation that will help illustrate why the business is deserving of the award. Nominees do not need to be

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members of the Chamber.
Small Business of the Year Criteria: 50 or less full-time equivalent employees; in business more than 3 consecutive years under the current ownership; for-profit business.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Criteria: 10 or less full-time employees or equivalent; 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 demonstration of growth, and a reflection on internal and external social responsibility.

Nominations are due to the Chamber by **April 1, 2015**. Recipients will be announced at the Small Business and Entrepreneur Luncheon on **May 21**.

Prior Small Business of the Year Recipients

- 2014 J.M. Pet Resort
- 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.
- 2001 Robert Sharkansky & Company, CPA

Prior Entrepreneur of the Year Recipients

- 2014 JJ's Caffè
- 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
- 2001 Randy Yanoff of Eye of the Tiger Karate

ATHENA Award Recognizes Leadership

Call for Nominations

This June, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce will present the 16th 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.



To nominate an individual for an ATHENA award, or for more information, please call Athena Lavoie at 508.586.0500 x 231, or email alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com.

Prior ATHENA Recipients

- 2014 Janet Trask, Brockton VA Hospital
- 2013 Kathleen Smith, Brockton Community Schools
- 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, WXBR 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
- 1999 Janice Cunningham, East Bridgewater Police



View photos from last year's Small Biz & Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, ATHENA Awards, and more Metro South Chamber events at flickr.com/metrosouthchamber.

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 its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 19, 6:30 pm, at BBA member business Playball Baseball Camp, located at Glenn Tufts Baseball Training & Development Center, 1 Component Park, West Bridgewater. Visit bridgewaterbiz.biz for more information.

The **Stoughton Chamber of Commerce** together with League of Women Voters Stoughton/Sharon will host Candidates Night on Monday, March 23 at the Stoughton Town Hall, 3rd floor, 10 Pearl Street in Stoughton. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm with a debate following at 7:00 pm. Visit stoughtonma.com for more information.



The **Norwell Chamber of Commerce** will hold a Business After Hours networking event on Wednesday, April 1 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at South Shore Bank, 400 Washington Street in Norwell. This event is complimentary to attend and includes refreshments. Visit norwellchamberofcommerce.com to learn more and register.

The **East Bridgewater Business Association (EBBA)** will hold their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 8:00 am at TJ Smith's Victorian House, 13 Cross Street in East Bridgewater. There will be voting on nominated board members, updates on planned events, and a light breakfast. There is no charge to attend. Please visit www.eastbridgewaterbiz.com for more information.



The **Avon Industrial Park Association** is a non-profit group seeking to advance the advocacy and business of its members in public and private affairs. Membership is open to all companies who operate within the confines of Avon Industrial Park. Visit avonindustrialpark.org for more information.

The mission of the **Randolph Chamber of Commerce** is 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 randolphchamberofcommerce.org.



ProLink Networking Group is one of Metro South's finest business networking groups. Because we are a category exclusive network, each member feels comfortable knowing that we provide a non-competitive environment. We invite you to come visit us and see for yourself! For more information, visit www.prolinknetworking.com or contact Craig Pina at 508-408-1049.

The **South Shore Women's Business Network (SSWBN)** will hold their March Speaker Breakfast on Thursday, March 26 from 7:30 am - 9:30 am at the Holiday Inn, 929 Hingham Street in Rockland. The featured speaker will be Martha Pesa, teaching attendees how to grow your business with blogging. Visit www.sswbn.com to learn more.



ProLink Celebrates 2 Years of Networking at Chamber!



The ProLink Networking Group, marking its second anniversary, is a unique category-exclusive business networking group where members from throughout the MetroSouth region enjoy long-term friendships, referrals and business development, outstanding social events, and informative presentations. Shown are (from left): Craig Pina, Commonwealth Financial Group / ProLink President; Nancy Levine, Residential Mortgage Services; Robert Astore, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Easton; Rich Morgan, Rich Morgan Photography; Laurie Blair, Laurie B Design / ProLink VP; Ebony Cottrell, Solex Payroll Systems; Jean Brilliant, Brilliant Move, LLC; Charlie Wade, Impact Expressions signage; Barry Greene, Providing Excellence Through Technology business computer support; Maria Krikis, Attorney at Law; and Stan Hurwitz, Creative Communications public relations and marketing. Visit prolinknetworking.com.

WELCOME *New Members*

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Ms. Angella Henry
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Mr. Christopher Sheehan
260 Centre Street, Unit B
Holbrook, MA 02343
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www.servpromiltonbraintree.com
Restoration

To Join the Chamber,
contact Alison van Dam,
508.586.0500 x 227,
avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

Annual rates start at just \$295.

RENEWING *Members* Thank You!

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Bridgewater Savings Bank
Brockton 21st Century Corporation
Brockton Public Library
Buffalo Wild Wings
Central Glass Company, Inc.
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
Commonwealth Financial Group
Franklin Sports, Inc.
George Washington Toma
Good Samaritan Medical Center
Heavenly Spirits
Holiday Inn Express
J. Frank Conley, Inc.

Michael Haikal Real Estate
MMM Licious Cupcakes
Old Colony YMCA
Philadelphia Insurance Companies
Rockland Trust Company
Sign Design, Inc.
South Shore Rehab & Skilled Care
Center
Stonehill College
Tedeschi's
The Children's Museum in Easton
The Guardian Center for Skilled
Nursing, Rehabilitative Service
Tuxedos By Merian Inc
Westgate Mall

MEMBER *Profile*

The Courtyard by Marriott - Raynham
37 Paramount Drive
Raynham, MA 02767
(508) 822-8383
www.marriott.com/pvdry

Year Established: 1999

Products or Services:
Hotel Accommodations

Number of Employees: 33

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

Renovation completed September 2014! New state-of-the-art lobby provides greater flexibility and choices for our guests. Free wi-fi, Bistro open breakfast & dinner, full bar, Starbucks, fitness & cardio room, indoor pool & whirlpool, free shuttle service within 5 mile radius.

What is your market area?

Business during the week; leisure during the weekends



Patricia Bureau,
The Courtyard by Marriott



What markets do you serve?

Raynham, Taunton, Bridgewater, Middleboro, Lakeville

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

We are a corporate based hotel offering corporate rates. We accommodate leisure travel, wedding groups, sports groups, and more with special group rates. We are also a "green" hotel with a recycling program.

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

Interested in Becoming a Casino Vendor?

The Plainridge Park Casino, the only gaming casino and live harness-racing track in Massachusetts, will be opening June 2015 in Plainville, MA! Plainridge Park Casino will feature a \$225 million dollar integrated racing and gaming facility that will include:

- The only live harness-racing track in Massachusetts
- Football legend Doug Flutie's first restaurant, Flutie's Sports Pub
- 1,250 of the latest slot machines, video poker, video blackjack, and more
- Upscale casual restaurant and four-venue food court
- Entertainment lounge bar featuring local and regional bands
- 1,620 structured and surface parking spaces
- Seasonal entertainment – food and wine festivals, simulated game shows, & more



Do you want your business to be a part of this exciting venue by becoming a casino vendor? Detailed information for vendors interested in

providing products and services for the operations of Plainridge Park Casino will be available on a rolling basis. Procurement policies include: a solid financial standing, a proven track record, references, competitive with quality & pricing, timely price quotes, and consistent on-time deliveries. Plainridge Park Casino will recognize and accept certifications for Local and Traditionally Disadvantaged & Diverse Businesses from the following certifying bodies: Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office, Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, Women's Business Enterprise National Council, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Massachusetts Gaming Commission Division Of Licensing.

For more information on becoming a vendor, please visit plainridgeparkcasino.com/Vendors or call 1-800-426-1234.



Job opportunities are also available at the Plainridge Park Casino! To view open positions, visit pngaming.jobs/massachusetts/usa/jobs/.

Top Ten Reasons to Go Solar!

Going solar has a wide range of benefits and that's great news! Whether economic, environmental, or personal, all of these benefits are fueling the United States' solar power boom.

- #1 Completely eliminate or drastically reduce your electric bills
- #2 Earn a great return on your investment
- #3 Protect against rising energy costs
- #4 Increase your property value
- #5 Boost U.S. energy independence
- #6 Create jobs and help your local economy
- #7 Protect the environment
- #8 Build your brand, demonstrate your commitment to sustainability
- #9 Increase employee morale
- #10 Stay competitive

MA Businesses are going solar to:

- Hedge against rising electricity costs, saving thousands!
- Generate investment returns exceeding 30% annually!
- Boost property value by 3% or more
- Enhance brand image for customers, employees and partners

Tight operating budgets and rising energy costs make solar power systems an easy choice for non-profits and businesses. Lower costs demonstrate a commitment to sustainability by going solar.

Do you want to learn more? Visit

energysage.com to read more about solar energy and its benefits, get instant estimates for going solar, compare quotes online, and more.

Casino Execs, Enterprise at Breakfast

Photos by Rich Morgan Photography.

Sound by Rob Peters Entertainment.

Video by Brockton Community Access Channel (check listings for air times).



Domenic Longobardi, VP Community Relations, Plainridge Park Casino



Shannon Wells, VP Human Resources, Plainridge Park Casino



Sponsored by:



Barbara Duffy, DJ Dream Fund, Brockton Area Multi-Services & Angella Henry, DJ Dream Fund (sponsor) are interviewed by Dan Trout, Mutual Bank



Sue Joss, Chair of the Board, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, emceeds the program



Maria Papadopoulou, Senior Reporter, The Enterprise



Marc Vasconcellos, Photographer, The Enterprise



Guests enjoy breakfast catered by The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

Power of YES Campaign & How You Can Help

The DJ Dream Fund is a non-profit 501 [c] 3 organization dedicated to the memory of Danroy "DJ" Henry. Their mission is to share DJ's love of sports by providing the financial resources to enable children and young adults to say "YES" to healthy lifestyles through athletics, wellness and arts programs. Their support is more than a scholarship. It is designed to empower young people to be the best that they can be.



January 2015 kicked off the DJ Dream Fund Power of Yes Campaign. What is the power of yes? It's the look in a girl's eyes when she nailed a move in gymnastics class. It's the smile

on a boy's face when he scored his first soccer goal. It's the relief a mom felt when was able to send her son to camp after a sudden shift in circumstances.

Here's how you can get involved:

- Donate a scholarship; the average award is \$200.
- Sponsor a community event.

• Or become a Yes Maker, Yes Partner, or Yes Supporter through a special Power of Yes Campaign program. Contact Dan Henry or Angella Henry to get involved at 1-855-211-7733 or visit djdreamfund.org to learn more.

Buy Local From These Chamber of Commerce Members

Lynch's Towing Service

Laura Bradeen - Primerica

Diamond Gourmet Meat & Deli

Churchill Linen Service, Inc.



1200 Montello Street, Brockton
508-586-7577 • www.lynchstowing.com

5 Cabot Place, Stoughton • 617-838-9371
www.primerica.com/Laura-J-Bradeen

1274 Main Street, Brockton • 508-857-1983
www.diamondgourmetmeat.com

7 Evans Street, Brockton • 800-370-0219
www.churchill-linen.com

Lynch's has been serving the greater Brockton Area businesses since 1986. We provide trespass signage and towing to keep your property clear of abandoned vehicles along with jump starts and lockouts for your employees and customers. We buy old cars & trucks along with any type of unwanted equipment. Lynch's is always available 24-hours a day for towing service when needed. Drive away in your next vehicle from our Auto-Cycle-Truck Center.

My mission is to provide clients with the proper information and access to quality services and products to meet all their financial goals. In the business community, I want to help agencies add value for their employees through workshops that encourage understanding of the financial programs available to them. How much money we have and, more importantly, how we manage it, affects nearly every aspect of our lives. I want to help my clients build better lives for themselves & their families.

Diamond Gourmet Meat & Deli, is "Your Old Fashioned Butcher Shop". Your one stop shop for all your "Fresh Meat". We take pride in the product and services we offer to our customers and the community. Our meat plans and packages are planned out by our team of staff to fit all the different family needs, cultural needs, financial needs, and nutritional needs. We take great pride in what we do to "Meat Your Needs".

Churchill Linen Service is a full service linen rental company that has been in business since 1932. We service both the restaurant and medical establishments. Examples of the products we rent to restaurants are tablecloths, napkins, kitchen garments, kitchen towels, aprons and mats. Examples of products we rent to medical accounts are sheets, towels, patient gowns, blankets and lab coats. Visit churchill-linen.com to learn more.

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 Chamber of Commerce
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!

BUSINESS EVENTS Planner

March 10

Investing 101 Workshop

10:00 am - 11:30 am
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
60 School Street, Brockton

Join us and Laura Bradeen from Primerica for this free member-led workshop that will teach you the basics of investing your money. (see p. 2)

Tickets: Complimentary
Please RSVP at JUWC5@Primerica.com

March 13

Government Affairs

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
60 School Street, Brockton

Join us for lunch with featured speaker Representative Michael Brady at our monthly Government Affairs meeting. (see p. 2)

Cost; \$8 members, \$15 future-members
Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

March 18

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. metrosouthtaste.com (see p. 6)

Tickets: \$35. Must be purchased in advance.
For more information, call 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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Tuesday, April 7

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Crescent Credit Union
1300 Belmont Street, Brockton

Enjoy networking and refreshments at a Chamber member business courtesy of Crescent Credit Union! (see p. 2)

Tickets: Complimentary
Please RSVP call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

April 24 (tentative)

Legislative Luncheon

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Conference Center at Massasoit
770 Crescent Street, Brockton

Join other Chamber members for this opportunity to interact with legislators over lunch. (see p. 2)

Tickets: \$39 members, \$49 future-members
For more information, call 508-586-0500 ext. 231

Tuesday, April 28

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Mansfield Bank
73 Belmont Street, Easton

Please join us for an evening of networking and refreshments at a Chamber member business. Don't forget your business cards! (see p. 2)

Tickets: Complimentary
Please RSVP call 508-586-0500 ext. 231