



Leading Businesses
Leading Communities



CHAMBER MISSION

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



Joanne Schneider, Page 5



Andre Terrell, page 6



Stacey Corbett, page 9

CONTENTS

- Calendar of Events 3
- Good News 4
- Holiday Calendar 9
- Renewing Members 10
- New Members 10
- Member Profiles 12

Action report

Property Tax Increases Opposed by Business Community

“Unattractive commercial property tax rates discourage business and benefit competitors,”
- Chamber President and CEO, Christopher Cooney (testimony before the Brockton City Council)

In an evening involving lengthy testimony from Cooney, the business community, and many concerned citizens, the Brockton City Council, after nineteen rounds of voting, set a new commercial tax rate that inched closer to a factor of 1.50. The new tax rate is 1.56 in 2014. It was 1.57 in 2013. “The Chamber is advocating for a 1.5 factor. Within the past seven years the rate and tax burden on business has gone from somewhat attractive to noticeably unattractive compared with many surrounding and gateway communities.” Cooney stated before the Council.

According to the Boston Business Journal, Brockton’s new 2014 rate of \$33.96 per \$1,000 of valuation produces a year over year increase to business in the amount of 6.4%, well in excess of the average increase statewide of 3.5%.

Article From the Boston Business Journal

For the state’s tax minions at the Department of Revenue, ‘tis the season to officially deliver sticker shock to tens-of-thousands of property owners throughout the commonwealth.

Through the end of December, DOR had officially endorsed new property tax rates affecting roughly 300 towns and cities in Massachusetts in the current fiscal year. For most communities, these rates were first proposed and tentatively applied to property tax bills beginning in July. Pending DOR approval, the new rates will remain in effect through the end of the current budget year that ends June 30.

The state’s property-tax approval process is an annual rite of passage for local towns and cities as they hammer out budgets for the months ahead, and the stakes are high for community leaders and property owners alike. A thumbs-up from DOR means its full steam ahead for the fiscal 2014 spending plans already agreed upon by municipal officials; a thumbs-down — and I’m told they do happen if rate increases or decreases can’t be justified — can mean its back to the drawing board.

For many communities, the year-over-year changes in property tax rates are eye popping.

Continued on page 10

Lt. Governor Candidate; Dunkin Donuts Leader at Breakfast

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Join us at the next Good Morning Metro South Breakfast on **Wednesday, January 15 from 7:30 am-9:00 am at the Martin Institute at Stonehill College, Easton.**



Karyn Polito

The featured speaker is **Karyn Polito**, former State Representative and current running mate for candidate for governor Charlie Baker. Karyn Polito is driven by a commitment to public service and her desire to positively impact the quality of life of everyone around her. Karyn was inspired to public service after she graduated from Boston College (Bachelor of Science - School of Management) and New England School of Law (Juris Doctor) and began a path in local government, serving as a member of the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen. She then expanded her work to the state level, serving as a member of the State Lottery Commission. In 2001, Karyn ran for State Representative and won, proudly representing the 11th Worcester District. She was a leading advocate for the passage of “Jessica’s Law”, and consistently advocated for increases in local aid, Chapter 70 school aid, Special Education aid, and a safer commonwealth. Polito has worked hard to promote jobs and economic development as well as to lead initiatives that give back to the community.

Also speaking will be **Robert Branca**, Chairman of Dunkin Donuts Franchise Owners Political Action Committee. Branca was born and raised in Providence, RI and earned an undergraduate degree at Boston College as well as a graduate degree from the University of Michigan Law School. He practiced law in New England and Washington D.C., and worked in real estate development and lobbying before becoming a Dunkin donuts franchisee.



Robert Branca
Dunkin Donuts

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

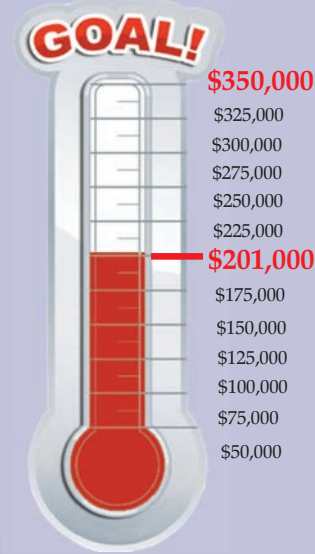
Continued on page 11

Save The Date: February 14, 2014
Fall In Love With Your Facebook Page

A Business Facebook Workshop
from Geek Girl

See page 11.

Metro South Centennial Campaign Fund



In celebration of 100 years of service and economic advancement of the Metro South region, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Foundation has inaugurated a Centennial Innovation Campaign.

A total goal of \$350,000 is sought to ensure that the Chamber continues to provide valuable education and programming for the region’s workforce through workshops, counseling, and networking events. Funds will also be used to renovate the historic Edison building which serves as the Chamber headquarters and hub of business and networking, promoting assistance and advocacy in the region. *Learn how you can help on page 6.*

Great Restaurants at 22nd Annual “Taste” Event

March 19, 2014

A TASTE OF Metro South
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
The Shaw's Center
1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

More on page 6

Ribbon Cutting & Business After Hours at Crescent

Wednesday, January 8, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Please join us on **Wednesday, January 8** from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for a Chamber Business After Hours networking event at Crescent Credit Union's newly renovated **Campello branch in Brockton, 1219 Main Street**. A **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** will take place at the start of the Business After Hours.

Crescent Credit Union was founded in 1919, and today serves over

48,000 members who look to them as their financial partner. Their Campello branch has a newly renovated interior and recently updated exterior signage. Crescent Credit Union remains committed to the neighborhood. By investing in the branch renovation, Crescent seeks to provide a better in-branch experience for both personal and business clientele. For more information, visit www.crescentcredit.org.

Bring your business cards and join us for an evening of networking, refreshments, and celebration. Register online at www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar or contact Kim Prosper, kprosper@metroouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231. This event is complimentary, but please RSVP in advance.

Chamber to Host Business Plan Workshops

Wednesday, January 22, 9 am - 12 pm (Session I)

Wednesday, January 22, 1 pm - 4 pm (Session II)

Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton, MA



The South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation will hold free basic business workshops aimed at assisting positional and existing entrepreneurs.

Session 1: "Introduction to the Fundamentals of Business Ownership", is geared toward helping potential entrepreneurs evaluate and understand the fundamentals of owning one's own business. Information on how to get started, where and how to get financing and the loan application process will be presented. Attendees will also be provided with a free guide to writing a business plan and other materials.

Session 2: "Understanding the Purpose of Financial Statements and How They Can Help Determine the Health of Your Business" The focus of this workshop is to help attendees understand a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. The workshop also explains how a small business owner can anticipate financial needs in order to operate his/her business more efficiently.

Please call the SEED Corporation at 508-822-1020 for more information or to register for a free workshop. Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge to attendees. For more information on SEED and its programs, please call the SEED office at 508-822-1020 or visit www.seedcorp.com.



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.

A Metro South Regional Roundtable will be held in lieu of January's Government Affairs meeting on **Friday, January 17, 2014** at the Chamber Office.

This will be a private meeting of town officials to discuss matters of regional importance with

Sponsored by:



Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter.

For more information or if interested in attending, please contact Kimberly Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231, email kprosper@metroouthchamber.com. See page 8 for more details.

H&R Block Ribbon Cutting

Friday, January 17, 3:00 pm



Please join us for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony as we welcome H&R Block to their new location at **300 Westgate Drive in Brockton**. The ceremony will take place on **Friday, January 17th at 3:00 pm**. Refreshments to follow.

H&R Block is happy to announce their new location. They have operated an office in the Westgate Mall area for over 40 years offering tax, financial, and business services to thousands of clients each year. The T.A. professionals

at the office have experience working with clients individually for as many as 35 years, with a majority having over 15 years of experience. You can rest assured they know taxes. Visit hrblock.com for more information.

To register, contact Kimberly Prosper, kprosper@metroouthchamber.com or 508.586.0500 x231.

H&R Block Self Employment Business Solutions

Series Starts: Friday, January 17, 8:30 am

H&R BLOCK®

This winter, H&R Block will be presenting a three-part workshop series on Self-Employment Business Solutions. All workshops will be held at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, **60 School Street in Brockton**, with registration beginning at **8:30 am** and the workshop running from **9:00-10:30 am**.

The first workshop will take place on **Friday, January 17th** and is titled: **"Health Care Reform and the Affordable Care Act: What Taxpayers and Business Owners Need to Know"**. This workshop will include a discussion of issues impacting individuals including HSA/FSA changes, coverage for adult children, medical expense deduction changes, Medicare tax changes, and a continuing conversation on the individual mandate. We will then continue with issues specific to business owners,

including the impact of the ACA as a small business owner and as an individual consumer, the small employer credit, employer reporting of health insurance premiums, higher Medicare withholding for some employees, and the Employer Mandate. An extensive question and answer session will be available. **Additional workshops to include:** **February 7:** Small Business Tax Issues, Part 1: Considerations for Starting a Small Business. **February 21:** Small Business Tax Issues, Part 2: Considerations for the Self-Employed and Compliance.

This series will be run by Michael Lemke, the Self Employment Business Advisor for H&R Block Business Services.

All workshops are free to attend. For more information or to register, contact Kim Prosper at kprosper@metroouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231, or register online at www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration.

Sharkansky Celebrates 50 Years & After Hours

Thursday, January 23, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Sharkansky LLP CPA's will be hosting a Metro South Chamber Business After Hours on **Thursday, January 23** in celebration of their 50th year in business! This networking event will take place at Sharkansky's offices located at **1350 Belmont Street in Brockton** from **5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**.

At Sharkansky LLP, helping clients build strong businesses is a personal commitment. As an independent CPA firm, they provide comprehensive tax, accounting, audit, and advisory solutions to privately held businesses of all sizes. Their emphasis on developing a holistic understanding of each client's business enables them to provide solutions that meet their needs—and exceed their expectations. Visit www.sharkcpa.com for more information.

Please join us in celebrating Sharkansky's 50th Anniversary with networking, refreshments, and prizes. They will be raffling off two sets of Red Sox tickets and one set of Bruins tickets! For more information or to register, contact Kim Prosper at kprosper@metroouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231, or register online at www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**OFFICERS**

Chair of the Board
William Morse
Mutual Bank

President and CEO
Christopher Cooney
Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Chair-Elect
Susan Joss
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Treasurer
John McGovern
Rodman & Rodman, PC, CPA's

Vice Chair Community Affairs
Loretta DeGrazia
East Coast Petroleum

Vice Chair Economic Development
Steve Hall
Prism Energy Services

Vice Chair Government Affairs
Susan Joss
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Vice Chair Membership Development
Patricia Williams
HarborOne Bank

Immediate Past Chair
Peter Neville
Concord Foods

CHAMBER STAFF

Christopher Cooney, CCE, IOM
President and CEO x 223

Doris Flechia
Administrative Assistant x 221

Kathleen Lynch
Membership Director x 229

Melanie McGrath
Communications Coordinator x 222

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

DIRECTORS

Jane Callahan - *On Deck Sports/Promounds*

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*

Jeffrey Liebman -
Good Samaritan Medical Center/Steward

Dr. Dana Mohler Faria -
Bridgewater State University

Jim Murphy LSP - *Tracey Environmental, LLC*

Gerard Nadeau - *Rockland Trust Company*

Jonathan "Jay" Pike - *Sharkansky LLP*

Andrew Raczka - *Abington Bank*

Kathleen Smith - *Brockton Community Schools*

Peter Vlado - *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

Networking at Events

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

JANUARY Calendar

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 8 | Ambassador Meeting | 8:00 am |
| 8 | Ribbon Cutting & Business After Hours <i>Crescent Credit Union, 1219 Main Street, Brockton</i> | 5:30 pm |
| 14 | Executive Board Meeting | 3:00 pm |
| 15 | Good Morning Metro South <i>The Martin Institute @ Stonehill College, Easton</i> | 7:30 am |
| 17 | H&R Block Workshop | 9:00 am |
| 17 | H&R Ribbon Cutting <i>300 Westgate Drive, Brockton</i> | 3:00 pm |
| 20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Chamber Closed | |
| 22 | SEED Workshop | 9:00 am |
| 23 | Business After Hours <i>Sharkansky LLP CPA's, 1350 Belmont Street, Brockton</i> | 5:30 pm |
| 29 | Board of Directors | 12:00 pm |

Coming Up February

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 5 | Ambassador Meeting | 8:00 am |
| 5 | Business After Hours <i>Eastern Bank, 1265 Belmont Street, Brockton</i> | 5:30 pm |
| 7 | H&R Block Workshop | 9:00 am |
| 7 | Government Affairs | 12:00 pm |
| 12 | Good Morning Metro South <i>The Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton</i> | 7:30 am |
| 14 | Geek Girl Workshop <i>Stoughton YMCA, 445 Central Street, Stoughton</i> | 12:00 pm |
| 17 | President's Day - Chamber Closed | |
| 21 | H&R Block Workshop | 9:00 am |
| 25 | Rich Morgan Professional Headshots | 9:00 am |
| 27 | Business After Hours <i>H&R Block, 2001 Main Street, Brockton</i> | |
| | New Member Reception | 4:00 pm |
| | Business After Hours | 5:30 pm |

Save the Date March

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 5 | Ambassador Meeting | 8:00 am |
| 12 | Executive Board Meeting | 3:00 pm |
| 14 | Government Affairs | 12:00 pm |
| 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 |

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



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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.

GOODNews

Celebrate the great things going on!

Members send your Good News to avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

Brockton Knocks Down Diabetes Campaign Renewed

"Brockton Knocks Down Diabetes" has been successfully offered in 2012 and 2013. The plans for 2014 are to run a free week-long campaign from June 14 to 21. It will be launched with a Changing Diabetes Day at the Shaw's Center on Saturday, June 14 hosted by Signature Healthcare and Novo Nordisk a pharmaceutical firm. There follows a week of over twenty workshops held at numerous venues and all dealing with diabetes prevention and control. It concludes on Saturday, June 21 with a Walk Just for Walking at Brockton High School and Campanelli stadium. HarborOne bank has served as the lead sponsor since 2012. Leo MacNeil, Senior VP of HarborOne, observed: "The risk and dangers of diabetes are increasing in the region...These programs are intended to elevate awareness of the seriousness of the condition and reverse the trends." Those seeking more information or interested in participating can reach Mr. MacNeil at 508-895-1314 or lmacneil@harborone.com.

Good Samaritan Awarded "A" Safety Grade

Good Samaritan Medical Center (GSMC) was awarded an "A" grade in the Fall 2013 update to the Hospital Safety Score, which rates how well hospitals protect patients from accidents, errors, injuries and infections. The Hospital Safety Score is compiled under the guidance of the nation's leading experts on patient safety and is administered by The Leapfrog Group (Leapfrog), an independent industry watchdog. The first and only hospital safety rating to be analyzed in the peer-reviewed Journal of Patient Safety, the Score is designed to give the public information they can use to protect themselves and their families. All ten acute care hospitals in the Steward Health Care System (Steward) received "A" grade from Leapfrog. For more information, visit www.steward.org/Good-Samaritan.

MLK Luncheon

Temple Beth Emunah's Brotherhood and Sisterhood in conjunction with area Churches, Eastern Bank and Stop & Shop, invites everyone to join us at the 18th annual free kosher luncheon to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr on Sunday, January 19. The Keynote Speaker will be Mr. Willie A. Wilson Jr. Mr. Wilson, has served as a teacher, deacon, educator, curator, department chair, and community leader in the South Shore for nearly 30 years. Mr. Wilson has committed his life to the education of young people. The event will be held at Temple Beth Emunah in Brockton, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm. For more information, visit www.templebethemunah.org.

Bridgewater Savings Bank Donates

Bridgewater Savings held a community shred day event on October 19, 2013 and raised over \$1,100 for the Bank's Charitable Foundation. The proceeds from the Shred Day event were donated to several local

food pantries. The food banks that received the donations include Raynham Food Basket, Citizens for Citizens in Taunton, St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry in Middleboro and West Bridgewater, Pembroke Food Pantry, Bridgewater Food Pantry, East Bridgewater Food Pantry, and West Bridgewater Food Pantry. For more information, visit bridgewateravings.com.

Brockton Recognized in State Treasurer's New Reality Fair Tool Kit

Recently, the office of State Treasurer, Steve Grossman, announced the electronic publication of a free special Tool Kit or Guide Book which provides details on organizing and running a Credit for Life Fair or Reality Fair, a nationally award-winning financial education program for students. Treasurer Grossman has publicly encouraged every high school in Massachusetts to host a Fair. The Fair teaches financial education in the most effective way, learning by doing. Students select a career they wish to be in at age 25 and are given a scenario which tells them their income. They must spend 3 or more hours visiting booths staffed by community volunteers to make monthly budget decisions. The booths include Housing, Furniture, Clothing, Food and Nutrition, Savings, Transportation, Credit, Insurance and Chance among others. Each year, upwards of 300 Brockton students attend the event and approximately 80 volunteers from the Partnership staff the booths. The Treasurer's Tool Kit opens by recognizing the Brockton program and HarborOne Bank for originating the event in the state and for spearheading its success elsewhere.

Good Samaritan Medical Center Earns Accreditation

Good Samaritan Medical Center has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation in radiation oncology as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiation (ACR). Radiation oncology (radiation therapy) is the careful use of high-energy radiation to treat cancer. A radiation oncologist may use radiation to cure cancer or to relieve a cancer patient's pain. The Radiation Oncology Center at Good Samaritan Medical Center has a staff of eleven including radiation oncologists, oncology nurse and patient navigator, radiation therapists, medical physicist, dosimetrist, and administrative support. The Center offers a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care which allows for specialists to coordinate the care delivered to patients. For more information, visit www.steward.org/Good-Samaritan.

Massasoit's 12th Annual MLK Celebration

The President's Community Advisory Council will host the College's 12th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, entitled "Living Dr. King's Legacy: Making a

Career of Humanity," on Monday, January 20, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The celebration will be held at the Buckley Performing Arts Center at Massasoit. Light refreshments will be served. This is a meaningful event for Massasoit and the Brockton community and it is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Office for Institutional Diversity at (508) 588-9100, ext. 1309.

Brockton Public Library Presents New Year Resolve

Let's resolve this New Year to ring out the old and welcome in the new. Brockton Public Library is looking to lighten your load this year by assisting you with materials and resources that are free to all. Can't afford a movie or theater ticket? Borrow any of 25 discount museum passes; take advantage of the many free events at the library. We'll have author talks, book clubs, story hours, arts & crafts, and so much more. Check our online calendar of events often. If you don't have a computer, come on in and use ours. Or download three free tunes every week using our Freegal music download product. Can't afford a new video game for your son or daughter? We loan games in Playstation, PS2, PS3, Xbox, Xbox360, Gameboy, Nintendo DS, and Wii platforms. Had to cut back on cable? Check out a DVD from our collection of thousands of titles. Or resolve to read more. Download a free ebook through Overdrive or our 6 month EBook Pilot Project. Or an emagazine through Zinio. It's all available by visiting our website at www.brocktonpubliclibrary.org, and it's all free! Stop by and use our resources this year, located at 304 Main Street in Brockton.

HarborOne Bank Promotes Eliud Herrera III

James W. Blake, President and CEO is pleased to announce the promotion of Eliud Herrera III to A.V.P., Branch Officer of HarborOne's Mansfield location. Mr. Herrera has over 7 years of retail banking experience joining HarborOne in 2009 as part of a merger with NationsHeritage Federal Credit Union. He has grown within the organization serving in several roles including Teller, Customer Service Representative and most recently as Floating Assistant Branch Manager providing coverage in multiple branches. Mr. Herrera holds an Associates Degree in Business Management from the New England College of Business and Finance. He resides in Boston with his wife and two children.

Brockton Poetry Series at Fuller Craft Museum

Brockton Arts presents The Brockton Poetry Series at Fuller Craft's artKitchen Cafe, 455 Oak Street, in Brockton, every 3rd Saturday, 12-5pm. Whether you wish to participate in the workshop, read your work during the

open mike, or listen to one of the featured poets-it proves to be a fun and creative afternoon well spent. For more information, visit www.fullercraft.org.

NAACP MLK Annual Breakfast

Please Join Brockton Area NAACP on Saturday, January 20, 2014 for the 28th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast. Held at: 1 Feinberg Way Brockton. Time: 9 am to 12 noon. Tickets: \$35.00 per adult and \$15.00 for children 15 and under. For ticket or more information please contact Brockton Area NAACP at 508-587-0502.

Old Colony YMCA Easton Winterfest

Join the YMCA in Easton and chase your winter blues away to the beats of the popular band, Java Jive on Friday, January 31. Please join us for an evening of fun, dancing, silent auction and raffle prizes!! This event will take place the Easton Country Club, 265 Purchase Street, Easton. Doors open at 7:30, and the band starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased in advance. Proceeds benefit the Easton Y's Annual Campaign. Please stop in or call the Old Colony YMCA - Easton to purchase tickets. (508) 238 - 9758. For more information, visit the Easton YMCA facebook page.

Celebrate MLK Day at the Children's Museum in Easton

Visit the Children's Museum in Easton, located at 9 Sullivan Avenue, on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 20. Children and families are invited to celebrate diversity and participate in service-learning activities commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We'll be working together on a community art mosaic that will be a reminder of his dreams. Activities will take place from 10am-4pm. Sponsored by HarborOne Bank. For more information, visit www.childrensmuseumineaston.org

Haitian Independence Day Gala

Haitian-Americans United, Inc. (H.A.U.) of Boston, Massachusetts and the General Consulate of Haiti in Boston celebrated the 13th Annual Haitian Independence Day Gala on Saturday, January 4 at Lombardo's Function Hall in Randolph. This year's gala was dedicated to honor the First Massachusetts Haitian-American State Senator, our keynote Speaker Linda Dorcena Forry and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. There were patriotic and artistic performances with Emeline Michel, the reigning Queen of Haitian Song, Dance Group Arc-en-Ciel, Young musicians from Youth Enrichment and Family Services (YOFES), the Pathfinders of the Seventh Day Philadelphia Church of Malden and more. For more information, visit www.hauinc.org.

Babel's Paint Transforms Boys & Girls Club



The painting crew at the Boys & Girls Club of Brockton along with representatives from Babel's Paint, Benjamin Moore, the Boy & Girls Club, and Christopher Cooney



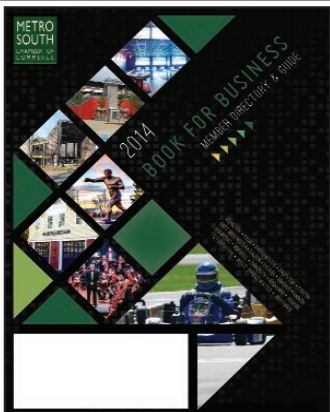
Vic Babel, William Conlon, Jeanne Babel, and Christopher Cooney with Benjamin Moore representatives

On December 19th, 2013, Chamber member Babel's Paint & Decorating Stores, in partnership with Benjamin Moore, donated paint and services as well as a \$5,000 check to the Boys & Girls Club of Brockton. Owner Vic Babel pitched the idea to the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America, of which he is a member, as an option for its annual community service project. The association

agreed to the project and, in conjunction with Benjamin Moore, donated 100 gallons of paint as well as the time and labor of nearly 30 professional painters. This project was part of Benjamin Moore's, "your main streets matter" campaign.

"We thank Babel's and Benjamin Moore for working on this project", said Christopher Cooney, Chamber President and CEO.

2014 Book for Business In Production



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

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 McGrath, 508.586.0500 x 222.

The Chamber of Commerce is working on producing the 2014 Metro

UMass Boston Comes to Brockton



Keith Motley, UMass Boston at the Chancellors Luncheon held recently at the Donovan Center function room at Old Colony Elder Services on Main Street, Brockton. UMass Boston held the luncheon in order to hear ideas and concerns of people in the community, share news of activities on campus, and explore ways that the university and community can work together more closely.

Station Lofts Opens Downtown



JASON KORB, Station Lofts; MARY WALDRON, Brockton 21st Century Corporation at a recent ceremony dedicating the lobby of Station Lofts Apartments in Brockton to the late John A. Waldron, husband of Mary Waldron.

Nadeau Elected SEED Chair

The South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation elected Gerard Nadeau as the new chair for the coming year at its 31st Annual Meeting at White's of Westport. SEED is located in Taunton, and provides financing and technical assistance to small businesses in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Gerry Nadeau as the new SEED chair. Gerry has served as SEED vice chair for the last three years, and on the SEED Board of Directors for six years. He has been a great supporter of SEED while serving as executive vice president and senior lender for Rockland Trust Company," stated Maria Gooch-Smith, SEED's executive



Gerry Nadeau, Rockland Trust, Chamber Board member

GolfTEC & Healing Hearts Open Doors



Gail Delgado, Brockton Area Arc; Marni Dunton, St. Joseph Manor; Andrea Larocque, Old Colony Hospice; Craig Pina, New York Life; Brian Spitz, GolfTEC Manager; Steve Hancock, GolfTEC City Manager; Stephen Petluck, Brockton Area Arc; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO; Christopher Kenney, St. Joseph Manor; Jay Pike, Sharkansky LLP CPAs; Howie Barrow, GolfTEC Personal Coach; Joe Travers, United Way of Greater Plymouth; Thomas Rudolph, Jack Conway & Co.; Laurie Blair, Laure B Design; John Nesti, Brockton Rox



Andrea Larocque, Old Colony Hospice; John Nesti, Brockton Rox; Larry Jezewski and owner Denise Jezewski of Healing Hearts Holistically; Joanne Schneider, Eastern Bank; Chamber President & CEO Christopher Cooney; Bob Wisgirda, Metro South Resources; Shelley Clough, Crescent Credit Union

AMBASSADOR of the Quarter

Joanne Schneider
Eastern Bank
276 Quincy Street,
Brockton
508-427-9412
www.easternbank.com



Joanne Schneider, Eastern Bank

became an Ambassador over the past year.

How does your Chamber membership work for you?

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

What is your business?
I am a Branch Manager at Eastern Bank 276 Quincy Street in Brockton

How long have you been in this business?

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

Please list your past experience and educational background.

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

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

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

What additional organizations do you belong to?

I volunteer for several walks and fundraisers. I was a previous board member with Brockton Arc for 6 yrs. and VP of Oliver Ames High School Football and Cheerleading Boosters for 4 yrs.

The Ambassador of the Quarter program highlights and rewards Ambassadors who go above and beyond in their duties as a member of the Ambassador Team. Each Quarter, an outstanding Ambassador will be featured in the Action Report newsletter.



22nd Annual TASTE OF METRO SOUTH

Wednesday, March 19, 2013, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Shaw's Center, Brockton

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.METROSOUTHCHAMBER.COM

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/atasteofmetrosouth to stay up to date on participating restaurants, organizations and entertainment acts.



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@metroouthchamber.com. Download the vendor application and see photos from last year's event at metroouthchamber.com/taste.html.

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

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

Take Part in the Region's Most Anticipated Annual Food Event!
Reserve Your Space Today!

Come celebrate the region...
A TASTE OF Metro South

March 19, 2014
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
The Shaw's Center
Brockton

750+ POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN ATTENDANCE!

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

D.A. Tim Cruz & Rox Owner at Recent Breakfast



District Attorney Tim Cruz



Brockton Rox owner Chris English



Futures Collegiate Baseball League Commissioner, Chris Hall



Jim Mahoney and Andre Terrell of Walgreens are interviewed by Charlie Hickey, Career Works



Sue Joss, Chair of Government Affairs, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

DJ service by Rob Peters Entertainment. Photography by Rich Morgan Photography.

Sponsored by:



Vic Babel, Babel's Paint & Decorating Stores; Serena Huxley, South Coastal Bank; Gail Delgado, Brockton Area Arc, Inc.; Joanne Schneider, Eastern Bank; Laurie Blair, Laurie B. Design



Michael Molyneux, The Charity Guild; Al Asif, Massasoit Community College

Centennial Innovation Campaign Tops \$200,000

Now Accepting Online Donations

In celebration of 100 years of service and economic advancement of the Metro South region, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Foundation has inaugurated a Centennial Innovation Campaign.

Contributions to the Centennial Innovation Fund will allow the Chamber to continue to provide valuable programming, political advocacy, and the necessary resources to help attract, retain and promote the wonderful companies within the region. A portion of the funds will also be used to renovate the Metro South Chamber of Commerce Building located in the historic Brockton Edison Power Plant, creating an updated and modern business hub and incubator space, with cutting edge technology, resources and accessibility. Who will be the next great business to emerge? Support the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and keep the American spirit of entrepreneurship and strong communities alive.

Any size donation is appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible and support the Community Reinvestment Act. Naming options available for donations over \$10,000.

A handsome Donor Wall Plaque featuring each Special Naming Opportunity as well as donations greater than \$250 will be placed in the Metro South Chamber lobby as a permanent reminder of those whose generosity and support have ensured the success and strengthening of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to those who have already donated!



Donor Honor Board

To learn more, contact Alison van Dam, 508.586.0500 x 225, avandam@metroouthchamber.com, or visit www.metroouthchamber.com/programs/donate to make a secure online contribution via PayPal.

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NW-CN13052403



Chamber Staff Directory



Doris Flecchia, Kathleen Lynch, Kimberly Prosper, Christopher Cooney, Alison van Dam, Lisa Pearce, Donzilia Soares, Melanie McGrath

MAIN PHONE LINE: 508.586.0500

Christopher Cooney, President & CEO
(ext. 223) chris@metrosouthchamber.com

Chris provides effective leadership for the organization and its members in carrying out the Chamber's mission, directing internal operations and developing external relationships beneficial to business and community advancement.

Doris Flecchia, Office Assistant
(ext. 221) doris@metrosouthchamber.com

Doris helps in all aspects of running the office and assists the office staff in meeting their goals.

Kathleen Lynch, Director of Member Services
(ext. 229) klynch@metrosouthchamber.com

Kathleen is responsible for membership recruitment and development. Her role includes site visits with current and prospective members as well as promotion of existing benefits and programs. She also works to identify and develop new and effective means to engage and reward chamber ambassadors.

Melanie McGrath, Communications Coordinator
(ext. 222) mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com

Melanie designs and produces the Chamber's Book for Business, monthly Action Report, weekly e-Update, and social media pages. In addition, she creates event marketing pieces and press releases.

Kimberly Prosper, Vice President, Special Events & Program Development
(ext. 231) kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com

Kim is responsible for all Chamber programs and events. This includes the monthly Good Morning Metro South breakfasts, Business After Hours, and Government Affairs meetings as well as The Small Business & Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Luncheon and Expo, the Taste of Metro South, The ATHENA Award & Women's Expo, and the Chambers Annual Meeting and Business Expo.

Lisa Pearce, Contoller
(ext. 230) finance@metrosouthchamber.com

Lisa is responsible for all of the Chamber's financial reporting. She works cooperatively with the management team to produce forecasts, projections and budgets.

Donz Soares, Graduate Intern
(ext. 227) donz@metrosouthchamber.com

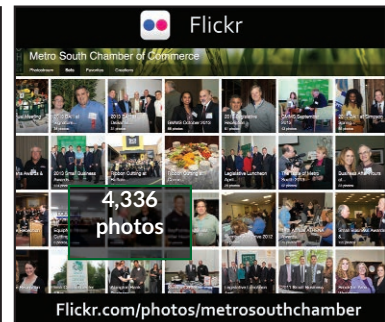
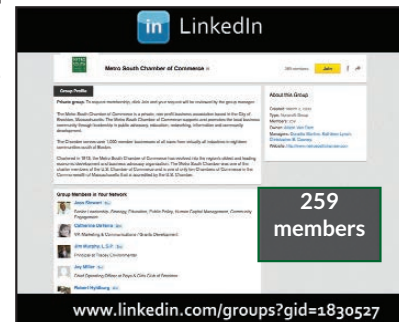
Donz is responsible for producing the monthly 10 Fun Activities Around the Corner, serves as an assistant to Careers in Health and Grant Projects, and helps the staff with many other special projects.

Alison van Dam, Vice President of Marketing & Business Development
(ext. 225) avandam@metrosouthchamber.com

Alison provides research and assistance on business development programs and special chamber/community projects, seeks grant opportunities, and oversees all communications and Chamber/regional branding and design. In addition, she is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Chamber website.

Connect Your Business Online; Social Media

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is on a number of Social Media Sites. Find us to stay up to date on current news and events. For more information, visit www.metroouthchamber.com/news-media/social-media.



Bridgewater Savings

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Since 1872, Bridgewater Savings has been supporting our local community; providing financial expertise and friendly, knowledgeable service.

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

Chamber Leads, Collaborates Regionally



Bill Morse, Chairman and Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter at a recent Chamber Board meeting

Business Meeting with Mayor Carpenter:

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce hosted Mayor of Brockton, Bill Carpenter, at a recent board meeting. Mr. Carpenter listened to the regional concerns of each Board member, taking note of important issues which he will prioritize and work on during his time as Mayor of Brockton. Issues of concern included helping small businesses and making Brockton

safer in order build a better reputation to attract and retain businesses.



Regional Roundtable: In an effort to join the region together, Mayor-elect of Brockton Bill Carpenter and the Metro South Chamber of Commerce are collaborating in hosting a Regional Roundtable meeting. Town Managers, chairmen, and designees from each town in the region are invited to gather at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce on January 17th to

voice items of importance to their town that the new Mayor of Brockton should be aware of. Agenda items for discussion may include wastewater/water supply, regional identity/promotion, life-sciences, collaborative forums, economic development, the creative economy, and community border issues.



Chamber Affiliates: For the third year in a row, the Metro South Chamber has received a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Business Development that designates the Chamber as a Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO). This grant will enable the Chamber to strengthen regional collaboration and expand economic development strategies to achieve a competitive advantage for the Metro South region. A collaboration meeting will take place at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce on January 13 to discuss issues of regional importance.



Bio Initiative Grant for Region: The Metro South Chamber of Commerce recently applied for a planning grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to establish a Life Science Cluster in the Metro South Region. The Chamber acknowledges the positive impact of the life sciences cluster on the Commonwealth's economic growth and the important benefits of a strong network among businesses and institutions involved. A planning grant would help support the establishment of a Life Science Steering Committee (LSSC) and the convening of a Metro South Life Science Cluster Summit focused on regional assets, capacity and linkages. The outcome would provide the region with a better understanding of existing life science businesses, labor market issues, research activities and cluster assets to enhance the life sciences work force and define the "unique" opportunities that can be realized in the Metro South region. The planning process would also include the identification of areas with the greatest potential for success and growth and provide an effective mechanism to establish priorities for investment and collaboration among various life sciences players.

Do You Need a Professional Headshot?



Your business image matters. Do you have a professional headshot for use in marketing and social media such as LinkedIn or Facebook, business cards or press releases? Plan your session with professional photographer Rich Morgan Photography (www.richmorganphotography.com) at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce office, 60 School Street, Brockton on February 25, 2014, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

For only \$49 for members and \$99 for non-members, you will receive a 20 minute photo shoot session with 1 clothing

change, and a DVD containing 6 of the best images. This package is valued at \$99. When 3 or more employees from the same organization sign up, pay only \$35 per person. First come, first serve basis. For more information or to reserve your space, contact Doris Flecchia, 508.586.0500 x 221, doris@metrosouthchamber.com.

Chamber Supports Gaming at Raynham Park

Chairman Stephen Crosby
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Boston, MA



RE: Metro South Chamber of Commerce support of slot machine license at Raynham Park

Dear Chairman Crosby and Commissioners:

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce supports expanded gaming(slot-machines) at Raynham Park in Southeastern Massachusetts to allow for a first-class facility that will attract economic development, create new jobs and return money to Massachusetts that is routinely lost to gaming attractions in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is located in Brockton and represents more than 900 businesses within 18 communities south of Boston. Our mission is to serve the interests of member businesses while providing community leadership to ensure the economic advancement of the Metro South region. The proposal to develop Raynham Park as a first-class gaming facility would greatly advance the economic opportunities of our region.

The Raynham Park facility has operated successfully for decades in concert with the community and in compliance with state gaming laws. With more than six hundred experienced employees currently out of work as a result of the recent ban on dog racing, this slot machine license could put people back to work. This facility has a proven track record of producing an entertaining gaming experience in a convenient location.

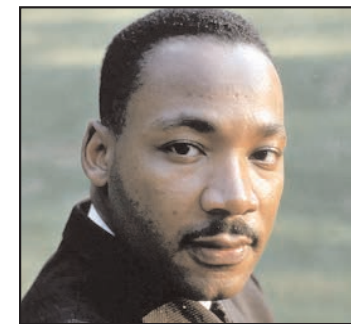
The Carney family and the many talented gaming staff that live throughout the region are an asset to the community and state of Massachusetts. They deserve the support necessary to secure the slot machine license so important to the future of this region. I respectfully request, on behalf of the business community, a positive response to Raynham Park's application for a slot-machine license.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Cooney, CCE
President and CEO

Local MLK Celebrations Planned



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Article from the www.thekingcenter.com

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

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

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

Area MLK Day Events: Monday, January 20, 2014

See Good News on page 4 for MLK activities and contact the following organizations for further information on additional MLK Day celebrations:

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

2014 Holiday Calendar



| | Manufacturing | Retail Stores/ Supermarkets | Liquor Stores | Taverns/Bars | Banks | Stock Markets | State/County Municipal Offices | Schools | Libraries | Mail Delivery |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| New Year's Day Wednesday, January 1 | § | ■ | ■ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |
| M.L. King Day Monday, January 20 | | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | No |
| President's Day Monday, February 17 | | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | No |
| Patriot's Day Monday, April 21 | | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | Yes |
| Memorial Day Monday, May 26 | § | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |
| Independence Day Friday, July 4 | § | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |
| Labor Day Monday, September 1 | § | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |
| Columbus Day Monday, October 13 | § | ◆ | ◆ | ■ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |
| Veteran's Day Tuesday, November 11 | § | X | X | ● | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |
| Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 27 | | ● | ● | ■ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |
| Christmas Day Thursday, December 25 | | ● | ● | ■ | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● | No |

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

Summary of State Laws Relative to Legal Holidays Blue Law

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

Other Holiday Facts

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

For further information

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

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

* Chapter 136, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Law provides a list of 54 clauses which detail different activities that are not prohibited on Sundays or holidays. These are know as exceptions to the Blue Laws.
** As defined in Chapter 136, Section 6, Clauses 25, 27, and 50 and in Chapter 138.

Prism Energy Efficiency

No matter what size or type of business you operate, you receive at least one monthly energy bill for electricity and often another for natural gas. Do you know that your utility company wants to help reduce your monthly consumption and operating cost? That's right, whether it is National Grid, NSTAR or Columbia Gas providing your service, all of these companies have incentive programs to help reduce your energy costs and save on your bottom line.

Be sure to take advantage of these programs if you haven't already. If you qualify as a small business, the incentives can be as much as 70% of the installed cost of the energy efficiency measure. In addition, you may be eligible to pay the remaining cost as an added line item on your utility bill over a 24 month period with 0% interest. Most often the energy savings are greater than the monthly payment, which sets up an immediate positive cash flow.

For large businesses (those with



an electric demand greater than 300kW per month), the incentives can be as high as 50% and depending on the project and your utility company you may also be eligible for the bill repayment program.

The programs include all electric and gas end uses such as lighting and controls, HVAC equipment, building energy management systems, motors and drives, refrigeration, gas fired boilers and controls, food service equipment, process and manufacturing equipment, etc. For more specific information please visit www.massave.com/business.

Prism Energy Services, located in Quincy, MA specializes in the evaluation, design and installation of energy efficiency measures, for commercial, industrial, and municipal customers and is an authorized full service vendor of energy efficiency services for National Grid, NSTAR and Columbia Gas. For more information please contact Prism at 617-328-9896 or email Info@PrismEnergyServices.com.

MEMBERProfile

USA Mobile Drug Testing of Greater Brockton



Stacey Corbett

20 Roche Bros Way, Suite 6-221,
No. Easton, 02356
508-436-4404
www.usamdt.com/greaterbrockton



Year Established: 2013

Products or Services: Occupational screening services, drug testing, compliance consultation, training, policy review

Number of Employees: 1

What is your market area?

MetroSouth-Brockton, Stoughton, Avon, South Walpole, Foxboro, Cohasset, Hanover, Pembroke, Whitman, Abington, Rockland, Easton, Sharon, Marshfield, Norwell, Scituate, Duxbury, Hanson.

What markets do you serve?

Transportation, corporate, banking, court system, sports associations, construction, manufacturing, electrical, contractors.

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

We offer a comprehensive assessment and implementation of employers' needs or desires to create a Drug-Free environment. One point of contact and on-site testing provides a unique convenience factor as does web-based access to test scheduling, results, and record-keeping. Web-based training is also available for supervisors to meet mandatory requirements set forth by DOT. Owner/operator is available around the clock as compared to traditional collection sites.

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

To serve in the capacity of expert in guiding employers through the tedium of creating and implementing drug policy & testing, whether mandated or not. To raise awareness of the statistics that show that tolerating substance abuse adversely affects productivity and liabilities, which costs employers and consumers alike.

RENEWING Members Thank You!

Beacon Financial Planning, Inc
 BKA Architects-Accounts Payable
 Brockton 21st Century Corporation
 Charlie's Computers
 Controller Service & Sales Co., Inc.
 Copeland Toyota
 CWB Contractors, Inc.
 Direct Media
 Douglas A. King Builders, Inc.
 Four Points Realty
 Good Samaritan Medical Center
 Hampden Technologies
 Hanson & Associates
 HarborOne Bank
 Hill-Top Candy
 Holiday Inn Express
 Holmes-McDuffy Florists, Inc.
 J. Frank Conley, Inc.
 Law Office of Mark D. Petti

Leahy Title / Peter & Elaine Leahy
 Lee Brokers & Lee Associates
 Lincoln Technical Institute
 M. Donahue Associates, Inc.
 Manny's Night & Day Cleaning Service
 MDCOM
 National Grid
 Nemo's Carry All Market, Inc.
 Northern Lights Electric Company, Inc.
 Old Colony Hospice
 Prism Energy Services
 Rockland Trust Company
 Romm Diamonds
 Stepchco Cleaning and Restoration
 Stonehill College
 Sullivan Appraisal/Marlene Ann, Inc.
 Supreme House of Pizza
 TRACEY Environmental
 United Way of Greater Plymouth County, Inc.

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 with BBA Member Eric G. Disbrow, MSF Financial Services Professional with New York Life, at their offices located at One Lakeshore Center, Suite 202-204, Bridgewater, on Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 PM. Visit www.bridgewaterbiz.biz for more information.

The **Stoughton Chamber of Commerce** recently held their Annual Meeting at New England Sinai Hospital with special guest speaker Emmy award winning Channel 5 Sportscaster Bob Halloran. Business and volunteer awards and chamber and community supporter certificates were presented. For more information, visit www.stoughtonma.com.



The **Norwell Chamber of Commerce** will host their Annual State of the Town Breakfast on January 29 at 7:30 am at the Norwell Public Library, 64 South Street. Meet Town Officials and network with Chamber members. To purchase tickets or 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** will host their Annual Awards Dinner on Wednesday, January 15 from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm at Lombardo's newly renovated Jessica Suite, 6 Billings Street in Randolph. Featured keynote speaker is Social Media and Google SEO Expert Patrick O'Malley. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. For more information, visit www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org.



ProLink Networking Group is an invitation-only, non-competitive business networking group. Regular meetings are held on alternating Tuesdays at 7:30 am at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street in Brockton. For more information, visit www.prolinknetworking.com or contact Craig Pina, at 508-279-4194 or email craigpina@gmail.com.

WELCOME New Members

Making an Investment in Our Community

Blue Chip Protection Services

Mr. Daniel F. Matukas
 200 Pleasant Street
 Stoughton, MA 02072
 (508) 686-0563
www.bluechipprotection.com
Private Investigators

Lisa's Sweet Tooth

Ms. Lisa A. Rodrigues
 245 Main Street
 Brockton, MA 02301
 (508) 588-2253
www.lissasweettooth.com
Bakeries

Broadview Networks

Mr. M. Scott Ventura
 1250 Hancock Street, 6th Floor
 Quincy, MA 02169
 (617) 801-2062
www.broadviewnet.com
Telecommunications

Petpourri Pet Sitting & Dog

Walking Service
 Ms. Debbie Hanrahan
 35 Robin Road
 Bridgewater, MA 02324
 (508) 269-2371
www.petpourrisittinganddogwalking.com
Pet Care

Crown Uniform & Linen Service

Ms. Sebrinna Jameson
 15 Technology Way
 Nashua, NH 03060
 (800) 221-2725
www.CrownUniform.com
Uniforms

Pressure Bio Sciences, Inc.

Mr. Nate Lawrence
 14 Norfolk Avenue
 South Easton, MA 02375
 (508) 230-1828
www.pressurebiosciences.com
Manufacturers

Home Instead Senior Care, LLC

Ms. Mary Worthington
 31 Schoosett Street, Suite 504
 Pembroke, MA 02359
 (781) 924-5694
www.homeinstead.com
Home Health Care

West Bridgewater Economic Development Commission

Mr. Stephen Lang
 65 North Main Street
 West Bridgewater, MA 02379
 (508) 894-1200
www.town.westbridgewater.ma.us

To Join the Chamber, Contact Kathleen Lynch, 508.586.0500 x 229, klynch@metrosouthchamber.com

Property Tax Increases, Continued from page 1

Nine communities have won state approval for residential and commercial rate increases in excess of 10 percent, while 84 towns and cities will see year-over-year increases exceeding 5 percent. To date, the state's average rate increase is 3.5 percent. All of which would appear to fly in the face of Proposition 2 1/2, the state's decades-old law preventing cities and towns from expanding collections on existing properties by more than 2.5 percent on a year-over-year basis.

To compare community tax increases; go to, Boston Business Journal at www.bizjournals.com/boston/real_estate/2014/01/the-massachusetts-towns-and-cities.html.

-Craig Douglas, *Managing Editor, Online & Research- Boston Business Journal*

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

The Metro South Business Assistance Center (BAC), a partnership of over twenty organizations, is a high-tech, one-stop business resource center that offers counseling, technical assistance, and financing to potential, existing and expanding businesses.

FREE services offered

Premier Sponsor:

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

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

Fall in Love With Your Facebook Page

Friday, February 14, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm



This Valentine's Day, fall in in love with your business' Facebook page. The Metro South Chamber



of Commerce will be hosting a Facebook workshop presented by Geek Girl on **Friday, February 14 from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm** at the **Stoughton YMCA, 445 Central Street in Stoughton**. Registration will begin at 11:45 am.

This two-hour information session is for the beginner to intermediate Facebook user or page administrator. You may already have a Facebook page for your business, or are ready to create one- now you need to attract fans to your page and keep them coming back.

This session will help you better understand the types of posts and content that will engage your fans; how to grow your fan base with Facebook advertising and contests; and provide tips and best practices to develop your own Facebook marketing strategy.

For more information or to register, contact Kim Prosper at kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com, 508.586.0500 x231, or register online at www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar-registration. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$50 for future-members and includes lunch.

Networking Opportunities in February!



Save the date for upcoming Chamber Business After Hours taking place in February! At these informal networking events, attracting 75 to 150 people, businesses are invited to introduce themselves to other businesses, enjoy refreshments, beverages, tours, prizes, and more. All After Hours events take place from 5:30pm to 7:30pm unless otherwise noted. Don't forget your business cards! Register online at www.metroouthchamber.com/calendar or by calling Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x 231, or email kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com for more information.

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, 1265 Belmont Street, Brockton



Join us at Eastern Bank, 1265 Belmont Street in Brockton on **Wednesday, February 5** from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

Eastern Bank has helped generations of individuals, families, and businesses reach their goals for nearly two centuries. They've accomplished it with honest values and service that always puts their customers first. It's how they've grown to be the largest independent mutually owned bank and earned their reputation as a bank that cares about its customers, communities, and employees.

Tickets to this event are complimentary, but please RSVP in advance.

Thursday, February 27, 2014

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, 2001 Main Street, Brockton



H&R Block will host a Chamber Business After Hours and New Member Reception on **Thursday, February 27** at their offices on **2001 Main Street in Brockton**.

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 1955. Brothers Henry W. Bloch and Richard A. Bloch founded the company in 1955 and grew the business to become a brand and franchising icon.

Tickets to this event are complimentary, but please RSVP in advance.

New Member Reception: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm, prior to Business After Hours A New Member Orientation will take place at H&R Block prior to the Business After Hours networking event. The orientation and Business After Hours is free for new members to attend. Please bring plenty of business cards for networking and some promotional materials about your business to share. If you have questions or to register, contact Kathleen Lynch at 508.586.0500 x 229, klynch@metrosouthchamber.com

— Karyn Polito at Breakfast, Continued from page 1 —

As always, the GMMS breakfast program is a great networking opportunity. Guests are encouraged to stay for the informal networking immediately following the program. The cost to attend is \$25 for members and \$35 for future-members. Register by calling Kim at 508.586.0500 x 231, email kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com or register online at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration.

February Breakfast with Eastern Bank Economist

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

7:30 am - 9:00 am, Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

The February edition of Good Morning Metro South will take place at the Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way in Brockton, and feature Economist from Eastern Bank, Michael Tyler.



Michael Tyler

Michael A. Tyler, CFA, sets investment policies and structures asset allocation strategies for client portfolios. As the primary spokesman for the firm's investment services, Michael develops and disseminates economic and financial market viewpoints. He is also responsible for selecting and overseeing providers of investment services. Michael holds a MBA with highest honors from Harvard Business School and a BA with honors from Princeton University. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

The cost to attend is \$25 for members and \$35 for future-members and includes breakfast and networking opportunities. If you would like to register, please contact Kim Prosper at 508.586.0500 x231, kprosper@metrosouthchamber.com, or register online at metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration.

Discover the Hidden Gems of the Rhine



October 19 - 27, 2014

Rhine & Moselle River Cruise

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

Highlights of the Rhine & Moselle Rivers Presentation
Thursday, January 16, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

There will be a webinar presentation on this trip on **Thursday, January 16** beginning at **12:00 pm**. Listen on your lunch break and learn about this opportunity of a lifetime! Join in and listen through your computer speakers by visiting www.anymeeting.com/932-847-072, or by dialing in on the conference call. Toll number: 213-416-1560, access code 784 3806.

Buy Local From These New Chamber of Commerce Members

GolfTEC Avon



75 Stockwell Drive, Unit A, Avon
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GolfTEC has been helping players of all skill levels play better golf and enjoy the game more. GolfTEC's comprehensive approach to improvement is the proven path to master the fundamentals of golf and reach one's personal goals. Brian Spitz and Howie Barrow will be coaching in the Avon center. Combined they have taught over 13,000 golf lessons. Both have a passion for teaching players of all levels and skill sets. Visit golftec.com/boston for more information.

Dirt Dawg Sports



40 Industrial Drive, Canton
781-562-0758 • www.dirtdawgsports.com

Dirt Dawg Sports is a premier baseball and softball training facility offering year-round top-notch professional instruction. Our custom-designed facility spans 17,000 square feet, offers 4 Iron Mike coin operated machines, 18 batting tunnels and pitching tunnels. This unique design, along with our top notch and high quality instruction enable us to serve all of your baseball and softball needs year round. www.dirt-dawgsports.com

ProLink Networking Group



60 School Street, Brockton
508-279-4194 • www.prolinknetworking.com

ProLink Networking Group is one of Metro South's finest business networking groups. Our members enjoy long-term friendships, outstanding social events, informative presentations, and excellent networking opportunities. What makes ProLink great is the quality of our members. Because we are a category exclusive network, each of our members feels comfortable knowing that we provide a non-competitive environment. We invite you to come visit us and see for yourself. We are always looking for new members!

The Greenway Wellness Foundation



62 Cliff Street, Plymouth • 617-830-2560
www.thegreenwaywellnessfoundation.org

The Greenway Wellness Foundation is committed to governing and upholding a safe, compliant, and successful health care experience at The Greenway Wellness Community & Dispensary. The Greenway Wellness Community & Dispensary is palliative, patient-centered health care model with high quality medical marijuana products, and an array of free, holistic therapies in a wellness community setting.

Business or Pleasure...
THE METRO SOUTH REGION: THE HEART OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
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Over 500 Hotel Rooms • Many Parks & Lakes

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

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

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

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

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OWNER

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

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

Call 508.586.0500 x 229 or visit metroouthchamber.com to learn more.

BUSINESS EVENTS Planner

January 8

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Crescent Credit Union
1219 Main Street, Brockton

Join us for networking and refreshments at Crescent Credit Union's newly renovated Campello facility. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 5:30 pm.

Free to Attend
Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

January 15

Good Morning Metro South

7:30 am - 9:00 am
The Shaw's Center
1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

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

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

January 17

H&R Block Workshop

8:30 am - 10:30 am
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

The first workshop of a three-part series on Self-Employment Business Solutions. Learn important information about the Health Care Reform & ACA. (see p. 2)

Free to Attend
Please RSVP at 508.586.0500 ext. 231

IT'S EASY TO REGISTER!

508-586-0500 x 231
508-587-1340
E-mail: info@metroouthchamber.com
Online: www.metroouthchamber.com
Send reservation and payment to:
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
Sixty School Street
Brockton, MA 02301-4087

January 22

SEED Basic Business Workshops

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

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

Free to Attend

January 23

Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Sharkansky LLP, CPA's
1350 Belmont Street, Brockton

Join us for networking and refreshments at Crescent Credit Union's newly renovated Campello facility. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 5:30 pm. (see p.2)

Free to Attend

February 12

Good Morning Metro South

7:30 am - 9:00 am
The Shaw's Center
1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

This breakfast program features informative speakers in a talk show style format and also allows for networking opportunities. (see p. 11)

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

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