

# Actionreport



January 2016

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.



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## Gov. Baker's Economic Development Head at Next Breakfast

Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 7:30 am - 9:00 am, Stonehill College

Join us at the first Good Morning Metro South breakfast of the new year on **Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 am - 9:00 am** at the **Martin Institute at Stonehill College in South Easton**.

The featured speaker will be **Jay Ash, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development** for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Secretary Ash is responsible for directing and executing Governor Charlie Baker's agenda on housing and community development, job creation, business development, consumer affairs, and business regulation.



He previously served as the city manager in his native Chelsea, a position he held from 2000 to 2014. In Chelsea, Secretary Ash's leadership produced both economic expansion and fiscal stability. He grew the city's housing stock by over ten percent, expanded its commercial base with two dozen major projects, led all Gateway Cities with a 15% increase in new employment, developed 10 new parks, secured five credit rating increases, and won two All-America City des-

ignations for Chelsea.

Secretary Ash has led statewide initiatives on health insurance, youth violence, transportation infrastructure and expanded gaming in Massachusetts. He previously served as co-founder and vice-chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, as past president of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, as a board member of the public policy think tank MassINC, the staff director to the Massachusetts House Majority Leader, and as an elected trustee of his alma mater, Clark University.

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



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

## Business Tax Rate Better in New Year

From The Enterprise  
Staff Writer Marc Larocque

The Brockton City Council Finance Committee voted 6-4 to adopt a residential tax rate of \$17.37 per thousand dollars of assessed value, and \$32.03 per thousand dollars of assessed value for commercial and industrial entities.

Chris Cooney, President & CEO of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, was the only one to provide public input, requesting that the tax factor be lowered to 1.5. After the meeting, Cooney said that the councilors ultimately decided against raising the factor, showing that local businesses have some allies in city government.

"Just hearing all the debate back and forth made

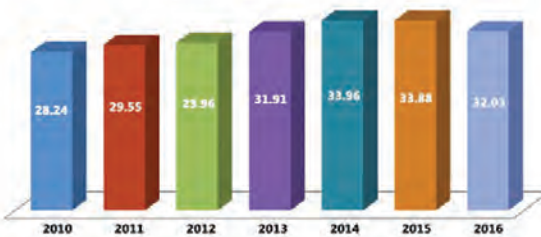


Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO  
testifies at the Brockton Tax Rate Hearing.  
Photo from The Enterprise

me understand that there are councilors in this city that want to see more business come into the city," said Cooney, attending his 18th Brockton tax rate hearing. On the other

side, Cooney said several councilors asked how high they could raise the factor, but no one asked how low it could go. The lowest it could possibly go is one, representing a single tax rate, meaning

Brockton Commercial Tax Rates  
(Based per \$1,000 of Assessed Value)



that all properties in the city are taxed at a proportional share of the tax levy.

"But that's not what the business community was asking for," Cooney said. "So we are willing to pay more than our share. But let's not drive us out of the city."

Dan Evans, owner of Evans Machine, said that in order to grow and invest a lot of money in his Brockton business, he needs more value for the real estate. "I certainly want to pay my share of taxes," Evans said. "I didn't want to see an increase."

To learn more about this topic, please contact the Metro South Chamber at 508.586.0500 x223, or [chris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:chris@metrosouthchamber.com).

## Taste Event Set; Sponsorships Available

Wednesday, March 23



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

The region's most anticipated annual food event, the Taste of Metro South, will take place this year on **Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm** at the Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way in Brockton.

This popular food event is a great way to gather with business leaders and community members to sample the tastes of local restaurants. Over 50 delicious and diverse area restaurants are expected to participate, also featuring community organizations, live entertainment, and giveaways.



Sponsorship opportunities are available; sponsoring this premier community event means promoting your business to an audience of over 700 attendees in one night! **Join sponsors Good Samaritan Medical Center, Tufts Health Plan, The Shaw's Center, The Enterprise, and more in supporting this community celebration.** To sign up or customize a sponsorship package, contact Athena Lavoie, 508.586.0500 x231, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com). See sponsorship packages on page 11.

Continued on page 11



# Networking in the New Year; St. Joseph Manor

Thursday, January 21, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Please plan to join us for a Business After Hours networking event taking place on **Thursday, January 21, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** at St. Joseph Manor Healthcare, 215 Thatcher Street in Brockton.



Built on a mission of compassion and care, **St. Joseph Manor Health Care** welcomes people of all faiths and traditions. From their state-of-the art short term rehab to their thoughtfully designed spiritual care program, they set the standard for quality care in greater Boston. St. Joseph Manor Health Care works hard to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each of their residents. For more information, visit [sjmbrockton.org](http://sjmbrockton.org).

This event is complimentary; to register, please visit [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar-registration) or contact Athena Lavoie at 508.586.0500 x231, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com).

## How to Survive a Data Breach: Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, January 27, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Could your company survive a data breach? This January, Cushman Insurance will present an important member-led workshop about cyber liability on **Wednesday, January 27, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm** at the Metro South Chamber, 60 School Street in Brockton. Cyber liability expert David P. Finneran will lead this complimentary lunch and learn.



With more and more data digitized in every industry, data breaches present real risks to every business. And breaches aren't limited to corporate giants like Home Depot and Target. 31% of all breaches occur in companies with fewer than 100 employees.

Learn how you can protect the future of your company against this increasing risk! Key Discussion Points Will Include:

- Examples of data breaches and associated breach response
- Privacy protection, current regulations, and breach notification requirements
- Data risk vulnerability and how to assess your cyber risks
- Best practices on data breach preparedness and response, & more!

Register for this free workshop by emailing your RSVP and contact information to Ted Hughes, [thughes@cushmaninsure.com](mailto:thughes@cushmaninsure.com).

## Free Basic Entrepreneurial Workshops

Thursday, January 28, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation and Rockland Trust



Community Development Corp. will hold free basic entrepreneurial workshops in Brockton aimed at assisting potential and existing entrepreneurs. Both workshops will be held at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street in Brockton, on **Thursday, January 28, 2016**.

**Session 1: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - "Learn the Fundamentals of Planning, Preparing, & Financing Your Business,"** 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 pro-

vided with a free guide to writing a business plan and other materials.

**Session 2: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - "Understanding the Purpose of Financial Statements & 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.

For more information or to register for either or both of these free sessions, please call SEED Corp. at 508.822.1020 x312. Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge for attendees. To learn more about SEED Corp. and its programs, visit [seedcorp.com](http://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.

## Special Edition: Candidates Forum

The next Government Affairs meeting will be held at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street in Brockton, on **Friday, January 22 at noon**.

The meeting will feature a State Representative Candidates' Forum for the 9th Plymouth District seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives left open by Michael Brady's election to State Senator. The three candidates running for the Democratic nomination are Shirley Asack, Brockton City Councilor, Ward 7; Shaynah Barnes, Brockton City Councilor at Large;

Gerry Cassidy, Former City Councilor and Aide to Senator Thomas Kennedy.

This meeting is by invite only and will be aired on the Brockton Community Access Channel following the event. We urge you all to take part by sending questions for the candidates to Christopher Cooney at [chris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:chris@metrosouthchamber.com). Selected questions will be asked and answered

during the taping. For more information or to be added to the wait list for the event, please call 508.586.0500 x 231. *Don't forget to vote in the primary on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.*



Sponsored by:

## February Breakfast to Feature Author, Reporter

Wednesday, February 10, 2015  
7:30 am - 9:00 am, The Shaw's Center, Brockton



The February edition of Good Morning Metro South will feature **Hank Phillippi Ryan**, Award Winning Author and on-air investigative reporter.

Hank Phillippi Ryan is the on-air investigative reporter for Boston's NBC affiliate. She's won 33 EMMYs, 13 Edward R. Murrow awards and dozens of other honors for her groundbreaking journalism. A bestselling author of eight mystery novels, Ryan has won multiple prestigious awards for her

crime fiction. National reviews have called her a "master at crafting suspenseful mysteries" and "a superb and gifted storyteller."

Sponsored by:



## Networking & Shaw's Center Showcase

Thursday, February 25, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us on **Thursday, February 25** at **1 Feinberg Way in Brockton** for a Business After Hours at The Shaw's Center. Check out the beautiful facility, delicious catering, and how you can make the space your own for your next special event. From weddings, to bat mitzvahs, corporate events, and more, the Shaw's Center's experienced staff and unique venue will exceed your expectations.

Are you or someone you know planning a wedding or special event in 2016? This will also be a great opportunity to visit with some of the best wedding and event vendors this region has to offer. Explore the services of local photographers, florists, and more - all ready to help make your special event memorable.

There will be refreshments and



networking opportunities. **This event is free and open to the public**, but pre-registration is required. Register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar).

This Business After Hours will feature the Shaw's Center as a facility for events and weddings. If you're a wedding or event vendor who would like to present your business, please contact Athena Lavoie, 508.586.0500 x231, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com) or Donna Sampson, 508.559.7090, [donna@theshawscenter.com](mailto:donna@theshawscenter.com).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	DIRECTORS
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	<b>Peter Vlaco</b> - <i>Brophy &amp; Philips Company, Inc.</i>
	<b>Dr. Charles Wall</b> - <i>Massasoit Community College</i>
<b>CHAMBER STAFF</b>	<b>508-586-0500    Front Desk x 221</b>
<b>Christopher Cooney, CCE, IOM</b> President and CEO   x 223	<b>Alison van Dam, IOM</b> VP of Business Development/Operations x 225
<b>Athena Lavoie</b> Director of Programs & Events x 231	<b>Doris Flecchia</b> Office Assistant x 221
<b>Melanie McGrath</b> Communications Coordinator x 222	<b>Aimee Bonneau, CPA</b> Finance x 230
<i>Newsletter Written &amp; Designed by Melanie McGrath Printing Provided by The Enterprise</i>	



**ACCREDITED**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

**Metro South Chamber of Commerce**  
Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087  
tel: 508 586-0500/fax: 508 587-1340  
info@metrosouthchamber.com  
www.metrosouthchamber.com

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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.

<i>Networking at Events</i> is one of the most effective ways to grow your business!		
<b>JANUARY Calendar</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Ambassador Meeting</b>	8:00 am
<b>12</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>	3:00 pm
<b>13</b>	<b>Good Morning Metro South</b> <i>Martin Institute at Stonehill College, Easton</i>	7:30 am
<b>15</b>	<b>Regional Roundtable Meeting</b> <i>Gallery @ Enso Flats, 50 Centre Street, Brockton</i>	12:00 pm
<b>18</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Chamber Closed</b>	
<b>21</b>	<b>Business After Hours</b> <i>St. Joseph Manor, 215 Thatcher Street, Brockton</i>	5:30 pm
<b>22</b>	<b>State Representative Candidates Forum</b>	12:00 pm
<b>27</b>	<b>Cyber Liability Lunch &amp; Learn</b>	12:00 pm
<b>27</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	12:00 pm
<b>28</b>	<b>SEED Basic Business Workshops</b>	9:00 am
<b>Coming Up February</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Ambassadors Meeting</b>	8:00 am
<b>10</b>	<b>Good Morning Metro South</b> <i>The Shaw’s Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton</i>	7:30 am
<b>12</b>	<b>Government Affairs</b>	12:00 pm
<b>15</b>	<b>President’s Day - Chamber Closed</b>	
<b>25</b>	<b>Business After Hours &amp; Event Showcase</b> <i>The Shaw’s Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton</i>	5:30 pm
<b>Save the Date March</b>		
<b>9</b>	<b>Ambassador Meeting</b>	8:00 am
<b>11</b>	<b>Government Affairs</b>	12:00 pm
<b>15</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>	3:00 pm
<b>23</b>	<b>Taste of Metro South</b> <i>The Shaw’s Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton</i>	5:00 pm
<b>30</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	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 Welcomes New Endocrinologist

Good Samaritan Medical Center welcomes Asad Saeed, MD to the Medical Staff and the greater Brockton community. Dr. Saeed recently served as the Director of Inpatient Diabetes at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis where he also completed his fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism. Dr. Saeed brings with him over 20 years of expertise in the field including several teaching credentials. His practice, Steward Medical Group Endocrinology is located at 1 Pearl Street, Ste. 1500, Brockton and may be reached at 508-897-6390. Visit [good-samaritanmedical.org](http://good-samaritanmedical.org) to learn more.

## "Threads of Healing" Poetry at Brockton Public Library

The Brockton Public Library will host "Threads of Healing, Artistic Expression Individuality Inspiration and Insight" at the Driscoll Gallery, 304 Main Street on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. This free event is open to the public and will include poetry and inspirational speaker Philip Hasouris. For more information please contact Lucia Shannon at 508-580-7890 ext 201, or visit [metrosouthchamber.com/communitycalendar](http://metrosouthchamber.com/communitycalendar).

## New Family Arts Center Performs "Seussical"

BSU/AFY Family Performing Arts Center is proud to announce the formation of the Family Performing Arts Center and its inaugural production of Seussical, at the Rondileau Campus Center Auditorium at Bridgewater State University from January 8th - 17th. Friday and Saturday nights begin at 7:00 pm, and Sundays at 2:00 pm. Seussical is a delightful family musical which celebrates the power of imagination, believing in yourself, and diversity, reminding us that "A person's a person, no matter how small!" The show features many well-known Dr. Seuss characters. An opening night reception will follow the Friday, January 8th performance to celebrate BSU's exciting new artistic venture. For more info, visit go to: [artsforyouth.com/family-performing-arts-center.html](http://artsforyouth.com/family-performing-arts-center.html).

## School on Wheels of MA Seeks Tutors/ Mentors

School on Wheels of Massachusetts is seeking one-on-one afterschool tutor/mentors to work with students impacted by homelessness in grades K-12 at shelters, hotels, and schools in Brockton, Fall River, New Bedford, Norwell, Randolph, Stoughton and Weymouth, starting in January 2016. In order to be a tutor, volunteers must take a 3-hour tutor training, offered at various locations on evenings from Monday, January 4 - Thursday, January 7. Only one training session is required. For more information or to register, visit [sowma.org/get-involved/tutor-mentor/new-tutor-training](http://sowma.org/get-involved/tutor-mentor/new-tutor-training) or contact Robin Gilbert, 508-587-9091, [robin@sowma.org](mailto:robin@sowma.org).

## SEED Corp. SBA 504 Program Congress Reauthorized

SEED Corp.'s SBA 504 Loan Refinancing Program has been permanently reinstated. Known as the Commercial Real Estate and Economic Development (CREED) Act, it will allow small business owners to refinance eligible business debt with an SBA 504 loan. Current interest rates are 4.8% for 20 years and 3.7% for 10 years. The SBA 504 Loan Refinancing Program was originally enacted in 2010, and expired in 2012. The provision was placed into the omnibus bill that will fund the government for the rest of FY 2016. It will reauthorize the 504 refinance program to help business owners refinance their commercial mortgages. For more information, visit [seedcorp.com](http://seedcorp.com).

## Fuller Craft Museum Hosts Wedding Fair

Planning your wedding should be a special affair. Join us at Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street, Brockton on Saturday, January 16 for a special bridal event to see our venue space and meet with vendors. We'll have champagne and guided tours. Don't forget to bring your maid/matron of honor or fiancé. We will have demos for creative bachelorette party ideas. It's a one-stop shopping opportunity. Entry is \$10 in advance (by Sunday, January 10), \$15 (January 11 and after) and includes admission to our galleries, champagne, tours, demos, and a swag bag. Register at: [fuller-craft.org](http://fuller-craft.org) or call 508-588-6000.

## NAACP MLK 30th Annual Breakfast Celebration

The Brockton Area NAACP will host the 30th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast on Saturday, January 16 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Shaw's Center, 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children ages 15 and under. Tables of ten are also available. For tickets or more information, call (508) 944-8212 or visit [naacp-brockton.org](http://naacp-brockton.org).

## Deborah Enos Named to Massasoit Board of Trustees

Massasoit Community College is pleased to announce that Governor Charlie Baker has appointed Deborah C. Enos to the College's Board of Trustees. Ms. Enos's appointment fills the vacancy of trustee David Lincoln Phillips who recently concluded nearly ten years of service to the Board. Ms. Enos is a senior healthcare leader who was most recently President and CEO of Neighborhood Health Plan in Boston. An Ashland resident, she holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and her Master of Science degree in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health. Visit [massasoit.edu](http://massasoit.edu) to learn more.

## Antique Appraisal Fair at Simpson Spring

Saturdays at the Marketplace are always special! On Saturday, January 9th, Simpson Spring will be open from 10 am to 2 pm, and

will feature Gary Epstein from Timeless Antiques, Boston for an Antique Appraisal Fair. A \$5.00 appraisal donation will go to ALS Knights. The Marketplace is located at 719 Washington Street, S. Easton. Stop in to browse or take in our featured entertainment, local authors, educational seminars and lecturers as well! To learn more, visit [simpsonspringmarketplace.com](http://simpsonspringmarketplace.com).

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Easton Childrens Museum

Please join us on Monday, January 18th at the Children's Museum in Easton, 9 Sullivan Avenue, Easton and celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Children and families are invited to join us from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm as we celebrate diversity and participate in service-learning activities commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, we'll be working together on a community art project that will be a reminder of his dreams. For more information, visit [childrensmuseumineaston.org/events](http://childrensmuseumineaston.org/events).

## Brenda Carrens: Volunteer Programs Manager

The Mayflower Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at Old Colony Elder Services (OCES) is pleased to announce that Brenda Carrens has assumed the position of Volunteer Programs Manager. In her new role, Brenda will oversee RSVP. She has been involved with RSVP since 2014 and before this as a service partner and is very familiar with this program! Brenda has been an employee of OCES for over 10 years, and has focused on coordinating OCES' Volunteer Programs for the last 8 years. OCES wishes to thank former Volunteer Programs Manager Darcy Lee, who is moving on from her position. Brenda can be reached via email: [BCarrens@ocesma.org](mailto:BCarrens@ocesma.org) or via phone: (508) 584-1561, ext 252.

## Good Samaritan Welcomes VP of Patient Care & CNO

Following an extensive search, Good Samaritan Medical Center has chosen its next Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO). Lisa Litchfield Zani, RN, MS will assume the role replacing Jerilyn Thomas, RN, MS who will be retiring at the start of the new year after dedicated service of more than 50 years. Among her many exceptional attributes, Ms. Zani brings extensive experience in both leadership and nursing practice. Most recently, Ms. Zani has served as Associate Chief Nursing Officer for Saint Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, MA, a 391 bed acute care hospital. Learn more at [goodsamaritanmedical.org](http://goodsamaritanmedical.org).

## Music to Warm the Heart: London & Brockton Players

Performed by the London + Brockton Chamber Players on Saturday, January 9th at the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, Music to Warm the Heart is a mix of passionate music from many countries, cultures and ages reflecting the theme of love. It is the inspiration of four musicians, three

from London and one from the Brockton music community, who reached around the globe to create this program together. 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. \$15 for tickets by January 8; \$18 Members, \$10 Children 12 & under; \$20 Nonmembers. Purchase tickets at [fullercraft.org](http://fullercraft.org).

## Winter Wonderland Skating Show at Carousel

Come and watch student skaters demonstrate their skating skills in an amazing live performance on Saturday, January 16th at Carousel Family Fun Center's Winter Wonderland Skating Show, 10:00am to 12:00 pm, 1055 Auburn Street in Whitman. \$10.00 includes admission, skate rentals and performance. For further information, please visit [carouselskate.com](http://carouselskate.com).

## Sharkansky Scholarship Awarded to Stonehill Student

Sharkansky, LLP ([www.sharkcpa.com](http://www.sharkcpa.com)), one of the region's leading CPA firms, recently announced the inaugural Sharkansky Accounting Scholarship has been awarded to Christopher McNamara, a Stonehill Accounting major in the class of 2016. The Sharkansky Accounting Scholarship was established by Sharkansky LLP to recognize the important relationship Stonehill and Sharkansky share in training and preparing future accountants. Stonehill students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher, have demonstrated financial need; preference given to students from Brockton or surrounding towns. For more information contact Howard Spiller, CPA, Managing Partner, at [hspiller@sharkcpa.com](mailto:hspiller@sharkcpa.com) or Jay Pike, CPA, Partner at [jpike@sharkcpa.com](mailto:jpike@sharkcpa.com).

## Brockton Symphony Chamber Music Concert

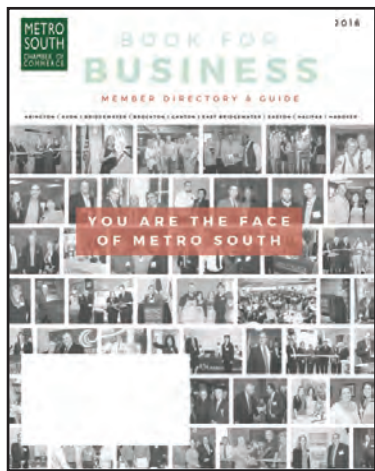
The Brockton Symphony Orchestra will perform A Chamber Music Concert at Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton, 3:00 pm on Sunday, January 24th. Once again, we offer our popular Chamber Music, in which small groups perform more intimate music, from Baroque to Contemporary. The BrSO Chamber Players perform their favorites. General admission is \$15, Students Under 18 are free. For more information, go to: [brocktonsymphony.org/season\\_current.php](http://brocktonsymphony.org/season_current.php)

## Old Colony YMCA Winter Blues Festival & Fundraiser

Join the Old Colony YMCA for their 5th Annual Winter Blues Festival & Fundraiser, Saturday, January 15th, 6:30 pm - midnight at the Ahavath Torah Congregation in Stoughton. There will be live music from blues legends and food, beer, and wine available all night. Learn more and purchase tickets online at [oldcolonyymca.org/stoughton/events/winter-blues-festival-and-fundraiser](http://oldcolonyymca.org/stoughton/events/winter-blues-festival-and-fundraiser). Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door; proceeds will be shared with ALYN Children's Hospital of Jerusalem.



# 2016 Book for Business In Production



The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is working on producing the **2016 Book for Business**. The book features area dining, lodging, public golf courses, recreation, legislative leaders, community demographics, regional and economic data, and a complete membership listing. The book also includes a full color map of Metro South, highlighting hotels, golf courses, industrial parks, town halls, and other points of interest.

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

## Chamber is Host to Development Meetings

### Mayor Carpenter Provides Update Chamber Updates Affiliates



The Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter attended the December Chamber Board of Directors meeting to give an update on his priorities since being re-elected and address issues of concern in the city.



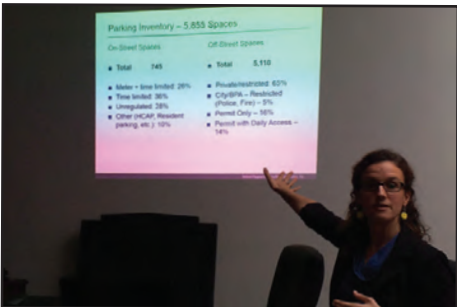
The Chamber recently hosted an Affiliates Holiday Luncheon to connect with our regional affiliates on past accomplishments & updates, and strengthen regional collaboration and priorities moving forward.

### TDI Study Released at Chamber



A study that resulted from a series of "Transformative Development Initiative (TDI)" meetings was recently released at a meeting held at the Chamber offices. The purpose is to establish development strategies in downtown Brockton.

### Parking Study Update Presented



The Chamber was also host to a development meeting where updates were presented from a Brockton Parking Study, being conducted by the City of Brockton & Brockton Parking Authority in order to complete a plan to enhance and improve parking downtown.

## ProLink Networking Group Enters Third Year Meeting at Chamber



Shown are (standing left to right): Robert Astore, Keller Williams residential broker; Mark D'Agostino, R. F. D'Agostino Insurance; Stan Hurwitz, Creative Communications Public Relations and Marketing; Barry Greene, Providing Excellence Through Technology business computer support; Charlie Wade, Impat Expressions signage; Maria Krikis, Attorney at Law; and Craig Pina, Commonwealth Financial Group. Seated (from left) are Rich Morgan, Rich Morgan Photography; Nancy Levine, Residential Mortgage Services and ProLink Chair; and Linda Carroll, Copy Inks. ProLink members not shown: Laurie Blair, Laurie B Design; and Brad Lytle, AFLAC Insurance. New members are welcome. For more info, contact Craig Pina: 781-696-9511 or craigpina@gmail.com. The ProLink website is www.prolinknetworking.com.

## Mayor Carpenter Visits Cape Verde Rotary Club - Free Little Library



Praia, Cabo Verde has a new street named after Brockton, Rua Cidade de Brockton, as well as new street Avenida John Kennedy. The new streets were inaugurated by U.S. Ambassador Donald Heflin, Praia Mayor Ulisses Correia e Silva, and Brockton Mayor Bill Carpenter in a recent visit to Cabo Verde, further cementing the ties between Cabo Verde and Brockton/U.S.



Brockton Rotarian Steve Passias proudly displays the "Free Little Library," to be put up in a Brockton location. The "Free Little Library" is a free book exchange project promoting reading for children, literacy for adults, and libraries around the world. There are multiple Free Little Library location around Brockton. To learn more visit [freelittlelibrary.org](http://freelittlelibrary.org).

## Sullivan Tire Offers Metro South Benefit Program



One of the many benefits of being a Metro South Chamber member is connecting and collaborating with other businesses to offer goods and services to each other. Chamber member Sullivan Tire & Auto Service has designed a **Benefit Program** specifically for members and associates of the Metro South Chamber and their family members!

A special account number has been assigned to the MetroSouth Chamber account. This account number easily identifies members & employees and their vehicles for specific prices and discounts. Member invoices cannot be charged to a company account.

This benefit program is offered at over 65 Sullivan Tire & Auto Service locations from Maine and Mass-

achusetts through Rhode Island, and provides a **10% discount on all labor and parts**. Tires are always at everyday low prices and receive no discount. Once a member's vehicle is profiled in our system, an alert will notify any Sullivan Tire location that this customer is enrolled in the Special Program and discounts will be calculated automatically.

This is a valuable benefit that Metro South Chamber shares with its members, offering them a discount on tires and auto service that takes advantage of Sullivan Tire's 58 years of automotive expertise in the New England area.

To view the member discount account number, sign into your account at [metrosouthchamber.com/membership/member-login](http://metrosouthchamber.com/membership/member-login), click "Membership Directory" and "View all Member to Member Discounts."

To submit a "Member to Member Discount" for your company's products or services, contact Melanie McGrath, 508.586.0500 x222, [mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com).

## Chamber Thanks Ambassador Marni Dunton



The Chamber wishes to thank Ambassador Marni Dunton for her service on the Metro South Chamber Ambassadors Team. Marni, former Director of Marketing at St. Joseph Manor Health Care Inc., who has accepted a new position, has been a valued member of the Ambassador Team since joining in 2012.

The Ambassador Team meets on a monthly basis to ensure that the Chamber is responsive to the needs of its members through personal contact and networking. Team members act as representatives of the Chamber at functions and invite prospective members to join. If you are interested in joining the Ambassador team, please contact Doris Flecchia, 508.586.0500 x221, [doris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:doris@metrosouthchamber.com) or Alison van Dam, [avandam@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:avandam@metrosouthchamber.com).





# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual TASTE OF METRO SOUTH

Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Shaw's Center, Brockton

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

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

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

## Calling All Restaurants! Taste of Metro South

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

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

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

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



**750+ POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN ATTENDANCE!**

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

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

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

## Governor Baker Addresses Chamber

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



Governor Charlie Baker



Wayne Patenaude, Cambridge Savings Bank, (sponsor) is interviewed by Ray Ledoux, Vice-Chair Government Affairs, BAT



Mildred Walker, Massasoit student, sings the National Anthem



Mayor of Brockton Bill Carpenter



Sue Joss, Chair of the Board emcees the program



Charlie Wall, President of Massasoit Community College, event host



Guests enjoy networking at the start of the event. Pictured: Fred Clark, President of Bridgewater State University; Cheryl Oppen, School on Wheels of MA; Diane Bell, Bridgewater State University



Ellen Morrissey Rota, Cardinal Spellman High School; Fran Dillon, Stonehill College; Paul Kelly, Cardinal Spellman High School

**Good Morning Metro  
South Sponsor:**



**Event Host:**



**Government  
Affairs Sponsor:**



Governor Baker spoke to an audience of over 200 business and community members on his first year in office, the opioid crisis, sources for future electricity in the state, dealing with last year's historic snowstorms, making the RMVs more efficient, and more.

Thank you to the office of Governor Baker as well as all of the elected and selected officials in attendance at the event: Senator Michael Brady; State Representatives Claire Cronin, Michelle DuBois, William C. Galvin, Louis Kafka, Geoffrey Diehl; District Attorney Timothy Cruz; Mayor Bill Carpenter; Councilor at Large Shaynah Barnes; Councilor Shirley Asack; Councilor Anne Beauregard; Superintendent Kathleen Smith; Vice-Chairman of Southeastern Regional Vo-Tech Mark Linde; Dottie Fulginiti, Town of Easton Selectperson; Frank Lynam, Town Manager, Whitman; Carl Kowalski, Town of Whitman Selectman; Robert Brady, Town of Avon Selectman; Frank Hegarty, Town of Avon Selectman; Francis Crimmons, Town Manager, Avon; Michael Dutton, Town Manager, Bridgewater.



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NWCN13374211



# LOCAL ARTIST *Spotlight*

A profile of a local artist living & working in the Enso Flats at the Enterprise Center in Brockton - Contact Melanie, [mmcgrath@metroouthchamber.com](mailto:mmcgrath@metroouthchamber.com) to be featured.

**Andrew Marathas**

**Enso Flats Artist Live/Work Space**

50 Centre Street, Brockton

[www.andrewmarathas.com](http://www.andrewmarathas.com)

[www.thefloatinghotel.com](http://www.thefloatinghotel.com)

**What form of art do you create?**

My work ranges from nonlinear, non-objective painting to illustration and animated works that involve children's media of some kind, and the size and format of all of these forms vary depending on the series, commission, contract, or idea. I like pushing the boundaries of my own artistic form to discover new ways of creating. I try to learn and incorporate as much as I can.

**How did you get started as an artist? What is your background?**

My artistic life started as most others' have in the past - born to an artistic family, became inspired by other art and artists while young, made the decision to be an artist earlier on in public school, etc. I studied illustration at Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, MA, which is a wonderful program north of Boston that unofficially shares or derives professors with or from larger schools like the Rhode Island School of Design and MassArt. My post-college professional narrative includes much studio and commission work, which served as a backdrop to my personal development as an artist and storyteller and allowed me to show my work in a variety of venues across the country.

**What is your inspiration for creating?**

My work is pretty anecdotal most of the time, which means that I'm pulling from my everyday life to inform my work. Books, movies, classic stories, natural pastiche, society - there isn't much that doesn't inform what I like creating. A lot of my recent process,



A sample from Andrew Marathas' painting collection  
[www.andrewmarathas.com](http://www.andrewmarathas.com)



Andrew Marathas - preliminary character study and promotional materials exercise, Nicholas LaFerblantier ('HAPPINESS FOREVER: Stories of Joy from the Floating Hotel Galaxy') [www.andrewmarathas.com](http://www.andrewmarathas.com)

which has recently included a lot of animating, has been informed by my own admittedly amateurish music. I'll either write dialogue or draw characters or play music, and I'll let the chosen medium lead me to fill out the missing pieces that I didn't choose. It's been a rewarding process.

**What goals do you have for your work?**

I hope to make progress on a specific story idea that I've been attempting to breathe life into for a while, and my hope is that the dedicated space and time afforded by Enso Lofts will invigorate my processes. More generally, I'm hoping to work every day that I can, which is something that I'm pretty optimistic about.

**What are you most enjoying about living/working in the artist lofts?**

The space and time afforded by the economy of the space is really comfortable to think about. I have this romantic idea in mind about being in this new space and enjoying the solitude, going through the seasons and coming to understandings about my own work in a new and quiet situation. It's really exciting, and I haven't had this kind of insulated environment to get work done. If it's something I'm looking for, I can just lock myself away to offer my work a total focus - that is really pretty rare and precious a thing. I'm excited.

I also have an interest in what this building does for the city. My understanding is that the original intent of this building was to house artists throughout the northern half with the idea in mind that the created community could bring an artistic flair and culture (eg revitalization) to the downtown area. My hope is that some kind of impact can be achieved...

# Central Rock Gym Celebrates Randolph Opening

Photos by C&C Design Studio, [www.ccdesignstudio.com](http://www.ccdesignstudio.com)



John King, Cirees Engineering, Inc.; Richard Hooke, Crescent Credit Union; Joe Hardy, Owner of Central Rock Gym; Jack Hardy, Manager of Central Rock Gym; Christopher Cooney, Chamber President & CEO; Gail Delgado, Brockton Area Arc



New member Central Rock Gym celebrated their grand opening at 445 High Street in Randolph with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Central Rock Gym is a family run business with the goal to provide everyone with a world class indoor climbing, fitness, and community experience through their state of the art facilities, expansive climbing walls, cutting edge fitness equipment, professional yoga classes, and various youth programs and summer camps. Visit [centralrockgym.com](http://centralrockgym.com) to learn more.

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# Chamber Staff - Serving Business Every Day



Back row: Melanie McGrath, Doris Flecchia, Athena Lavoie, Elisangela Da Silva  
Front row: Alison van Dam, Christopher Cooney

MAIN PHONE LINE: 508.586.0500

## Christopher Cooney, President & CEO

(ext. 223) [chris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:chris@metrosouthchamber.com)

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

## Doris Flecchia, Office Assistant

(ext. 221) [doris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:doris@metrosouthchamber.com)

Doris helps in all aspects of running the office and assists the office staff in meeting their goals. She also organizes the Ambassador Team meetings.

## Athena Lavoie, Director of Programs & Events

(ext. 231) [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com)

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

## Melanie McGrath, Director of Communications

(ext. 222) [mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com)

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

## Marissa Recor, Controller

(ext. 230) [finance@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:finance@metrosouthchamber.com)

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

## Elisangela Da Silva, Graduate Intern

[intern@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:intern@metrosouthchamber.com)

Elli is responsible for producing the monthly 10 Fun Activities Around the Corner and helps the staff with many other special projects.

## Alison van Dam, Vice President of Business Development/ Operations

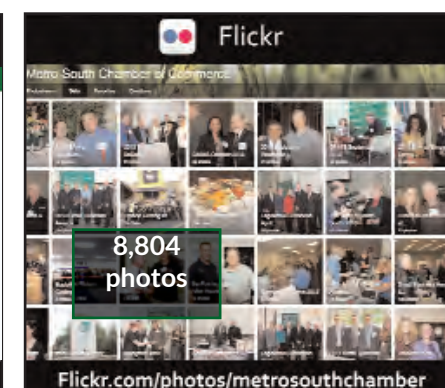
(ext. 225) [avandam@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:avandam@metrosouthchamber.com)

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

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

# Connect Your Business Online; Social Media

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



# Where Do You Turn for Your Advertising?

Advertising with the Chamber offers your company exposure to the Metro South business community and an opportunity to network with business leaders from the area. Not only does it create awareness for your products and services, it allows you to target your marketing efforts to business professionals and potential customers in the Metro South Region.

## Promote your Business with Web Advertising

Advertising on the Chamber's website is an easy and cost-effective way to promote your business. The Metro South Chamber website contains information for members as well as tourists and those considering relocating to the region. The website receives over 60,000 views annually. Rates start at just \$75 per month.

## Reach Members on the E-update

The E-update is an email blast sent to over 3,000 people weekly through Constant Contact. This newsletter keeps subscribers informed about upcoming Chamber events, legislative actions, helpful services, and resources. In addition, it offers active links to other websites for more information and links to register for events. Advertising rates start at just \$25 per week.

For more information, contact Melanie McGrath, 508.586.0500 x222, [mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:mmcgrath@metrosouthchamber.com).

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# 2016 Holiday Calendar

		Manufacturing	Retail Stores/ Supermarkets	Liquor Stores	Taverns/Bars	Banks	Stock Markets	State/County Municipal Offices	Schools	Libraries	Mail Delivery
<b>New Year's Day</b> Friday, January 1	\$	■	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>M.L. King Jr. Day</b> Monday, January 18		■	■	■	■	□	■	●	●	●	No
<b>President's Day</b> Monday, February 15		■	■	■	■	□	■	●	●	●	No
<b>Patriot's Day</b> Monday, April 18		■	■	■	■	□	■	●	●	●	Yes
<b>Memorial Day</b> Monday, May 30	\$	○	■	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Independence Day</b> Monday, July 4	\$	○	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Labor Day</b> Monday, September 5	\$	○	■	■	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Columbus Day</b> Monday, October 10	\$	◆	◆	■	■	●	■	●	●	●	No
<b>Veteran's Day</b> Friday, November 11	\$	✕	✕	●	■	●	■	●	●	●	No
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Thursday, November 24		●	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	No
<b>Christmas Day</b> Sunday, December 25		●	●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	No

■ Open

● Closed

○ Manufacturers and other non-retailers may not open without local police permit.

□ Open at the discretion of the individual bank. Most banks are expected to be closed on Martin Luther King Day.

◆ Blue Laws apply before noon. Local police permit is required to operate before noon.

✕ Blue Laws apply before 1pm. Local police permit is required to operate before 1 pm.

\$ Retail stores must pay time and one-half.

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

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

**Work permits for "Blue Law" holidays**

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

**Other Holiday Facts**

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

**For further information**

- The information contained in this calendar is based on current state 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.

## Local MLK Celebrations Planned



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

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

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 18, 2016

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

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

## New Year "To Do's" for Employers

From [aimnet.org](http://aimnet.org), Associated Industries of Massachusetts

The end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016 brings with it several important additions to employer "to-do" lists. Here is trio of quick reminders for employers on sick time, safety and I-9 forms as the calendar turns.

### EARNED SICK TIME

The attorney general's office recently updated its Earned Sick Time Frequently Asked Question Web site. Employers should bookmark the AG's sick leave site (<http://www.mass.gov/ago/doing-business-in-massachusetts/labor-laws-and-public-construction/earned-sick-time>) to view new developments in the implementation of the law.

The AG's office has made it clear that all updates to its interpretation of the law will be done in the FAQ section. Unfortunately, the office has not highlighted which sections have been updated. AIM is reviewing the section to determine what may have changed.

### OSHA

As we head into January employers should begin to prepare for the annual posting of their Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 300A form effective February 1 through April 30, 2016. The posting requirement covers all employers subject to OSHA. The information from the 300A posting comes from the OSHA 300 form (the log of work-related injuries), that employers keep throughout the year. If an employer has had no reportable injuries, it must enter "0" and still post the form.

Consult OSHA's website at <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/>.

### FORM I-9

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) released in late November a draft version of a new Form I-9, the employment eligibility verification form employers are required to prepare for every newly hired employee. The current form has an expiration date of March 31, 2016 and federal law requires the USCIS to prepare a new form every three years, so the process is right on schedule.

The USCIS is soliciting comments on the draft document during a 60-day period that began Thanksgiving week. The USICS will release a new version of the Form I-9 in time for its implementation in March.



# WELCOME *New Members*

## Making an Investment in Our Community

### Four Seasons Hair Salon

Mr. Peter Boyden  
3 Chestnut Square  
Sharon, MA 02067  
(781) 784-7006  
www.fourseasonshair.com  
*Beauty Salons/Supplies*

### Trinity Security Solutions

Mr. James O'Connell  
208 South Sea Avenue  
West Yarmouth, MA 02673  
(781) 816-RISK  
www.trinitysecuritysolutions.com  
*Security*

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

## Chamber Affiliation News & Events

To become an affiliate organization of the Chamber, contact Christopher Cooney at 508.586.0500 x 223 or email [chris@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:chris@metrosouthchamber.com).



The **Bridgewater Business Association (BBA)** is a non-profit corporation, originally formed in 1984, devoted to the interests of the business community and the people they serve, in the Towns around Bridgewater, MA. The BBA is committed to promoting goodwill among business owners, interacting with Town government, and encouraging growth of member businesses. Learn more at [bridgewaterbiz.biz](http://bridgewaterbiz.biz)

The **Stoughton Chamber of Commerce** recently held their Annual Meeting at Chateau Restaurant in Stoughton, where they honored Stop & Shop Supermarket as "Business of the Year," Gary Pelissier of Orange Leaf as "Business Person of the Year," and Dori Frankel as "Volunteer of the Year." Special Recognition awards were also presented to Bob's Famous Foodmart and Town Spa Pizza. Visit [stoughtonma.com](http://stoughtonma.com) for more information.



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

The **East Bridgewater Business Association (EBBA)** exists to promote a healthy and ethical business environment in East Bridgewater and to provide services to assist its members including education, networking, and fellowship. Please visit [www.eastbridgewaterbiz.com](http://www.eastbridgewaterbiz.com) for more information.



The **Avon Industrial Park Association** is a non-profit group seeking to advance the advocacy and business of its members in public and private affairs. Membership is open to all companies who operate within the confines of Avon Industrial Park, Avon, MA. For more information, call Bob Costa at 508-586-0900. Visit [avonindustrialpark.org](http://avonindustrialpark.org).

The **Randolph Chamber of Commerce** is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1986 representing businesses in Randolph and the surrounding communities. The chamber provides leadership in fostering business success, growth and development. Visit [www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org](http://www.randolphchamberofcommerce.org).



**ProLink Networking Group**, now in its third year, is a unique, category-exclusive business networking group in the Metro South region where members enjoy long-term friendships, referrals, informative presentation, and more. Meetings are held on alternating Tuesdays, 7:30 am at the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. For meeting schedule or more information, visit [www.prolinknetworking.com](http://www.prolinknetworking.com) or contact Craig Pina at 508-279-4194 or email [craigpina@gmail.com](mailto:craigpina@gmail.com).

The **South Shore Women's Business Network (SSWBN)** will hold a 25th Celebration on Thursday, January 7th, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm at the Jones River Trading Co., 42 Elm Street in Kingston. Eat, drink, celebrate, and network. Tickets are \$30 - Visit [www.sswbn.com](http://www.sswbn.com) to learn more and register for the event.



# RENEWING Members *Thank You !*

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Bob's Ski-Doo, Inc.  
Bridgewater Trophy  
Brockton 21st Century Corporation  
Brockton Community Schools  
Brockton Education Association  
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center  
Brockton Visiting Nurse Association  
Busy Bee Jumpers & Tents  
Capstone Communities  
CATAX, Inc./Christos Liapopoulos  
Catholic Charities South  
Commonwealth Financial Group  
Compass Medical  
Concord Foods, LLC  
Country Inn & Suites  
Cushman Insurance Group  
Direct Media  
DJ Dream Fund, Inc.  
Elements Therapeutic Massage  
Fairway Lawn Care  
Four Points Realty  
Four Seasons Hair Salon  
Frenette & Associates, P.C.  
Fuller Craft Museum  
George Washington Toma  
Grant's Rental  
Hampden Technologies

Healing Hearts Holistically  
Health Imperatives, Inc.  
Hilliards Chocolates  
Home Health Resources, Inc.  
Ideal Jewelry & Loan  
Independence Insurance Agency  
J. Frank Conley, Inc.  
Keller Williams Showcase Properties  
Kindred Hospital Northeast - Stoughton  
Leahy Title / Peter & Elaine Leahy  
Legal Sea Foods  
M. Donahue Associates, Inc.  
McCaul Land Title Company  
Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehan, LLP  
Nemo's Carry All Market, Inc.  
Pawtucket Red Sox  
Pierce Refrigeration, Inc.  
Romm Diamonds  
Rose Therese Cap & Gown Company  
Russell & Pica Funeral Home, Inc.  
Shoe City Auto Sales, Inc.  
Signature Healthcare  
South Shore Bank  
Stoughton Motel  
Texas Roadhouse  
United Way of Greater Plymouth County  
Verizon Communications  
W.B. Mason Company, Inc.  
Yamato Japanese Steak House

## MEMBER Profile

### Citizens Bank



Joni Traficante

20 Park Avenue  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
781-584-2038  
[www.citizensbank.com](http://www.citizensbank.com)

*Year Established:* 1828

*Products or Services:* Business Banking and Commercial Lending serving companies with revenue sizes up to \$30,000,000

*What is your market area?*  
Metro South and South Shore of Greater Boston

*What markets do you serve?*  
Commercial and Business Banking Customers

*What is unique or special about your firm and the products and services you offer?* Our vision is to deliver the best possible banking experience for customers. We offer our customers a differentiated customer



experience through the quality of our colleagues, products and services and foster a culture around customer-centricity, commitment to excellence, leadership, teamwork and integrity. Community involvement is one of our principal values. We strive to contribute to a better quality of life by serving the communities across our footprint through volunteerism, sponsorships, and foundation grants.

*What is your main business objective concerning your customers and the business community?* We are Citizens helping citizens Bank Better.

*Please list awards, honors, or special recognition your firm has received:* In 2015 Citizens Bank was named for the consecutive year by Money Magazine as one of the Nation's Best Banks.

In 2014 Joni Traficante was awarded Rookie of The Year by the South Shore Chamber of Commerce for her work on the Ambassador Committee for her work in preparing the educational speaker series and her skill at welcoming new businesses to the chamber and the community. She was honored in the Boston Business Journal as professional on the move.



## Promote Your Business at Taste of Metro South

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 - Sponsorships available below

### Grand Band Sponsor (\$2,500):

- Banner on main stage next to band for full event
- Logo on bottom of all presentation slides during event
- Logo on event program cover
- Logo on Taste & Chamber website
- Logo in Action Report newsletter (2)
- 15 complimentary tickets

### MassPass Book Sponsor (\$1,500):

- Fully designed bookmark inserted inside Boston MassPass Book give away for attendees
- Logo in event PowerPoint presentation and on Taste website
- Logo on event program cover
- Logo in Action Report newsletter (2)
- 8 complimentary tickets

### Supporting Sponsor (\$1,000):

- Logo in PowerPoint presentation and on Taste website
- Logo in event program
- Logo in Action Report newsletter (2)
- E-update side column ad - 2 weeks
- 12 complimentary tickets

### Promotional Items Sponsor (500):

- Opportunity to give away a promotional item with your logo at table near registration (sponsor to provide)
- Logo in PowerPoint presentation
- Logo in event program
- Logo on Taste & Chamber
- Logo in Action Report newsletter (2)
- 10 complimentary tickets

### Corporate Sponsor (\$350):

- Name listed in program as Corporate Sponsor
  - Name listed in Action Report (2)
  - Name listed in event PowerPoint
  - 10 complimentary tickets
- ### Program Sponsor (\$150):
- Name listed in program as Program Sponsor
  - 2 complimentary tickets

To sign up for one of these sponsorship packages, or customize a sponsorship for your business, please contact Athena Lavoie, 508.586.0500 x231, [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com).

## Nominate a Chamber Member for Recognition!



Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

As part of National Small Business Week (May 1-6,

2016), the U.S. Small Business Administration takes the opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others from all 50 states and U.S. territories. Every day, they're working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness.

"Help us identify the job-creators, risk-takers and community-builders who deserve public recognition for being small business champions," - Massachusetts District Director Robert H. Nelson. "This is an opportunity for a banker, a chamber of commerce, a community organization, or an individual to promote a business, a client or even an employee that is having success."

The Massachusetts District Office will recognize honorees in the following categories:

- 2016 National Small Business Person of the Year
- Exporter of the Year
- The Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business Award
- Women-Owned Small Business Award
- Veteran-Owned Small Business Award
- Minority-Owned Small Business Award
- Microenterprise of the Year
- Manufacturer of the Year
- Financial Services Champion

The deadline for submitting nominations is January 11, 2016. The nomination form and eligibility guidelines are available for download at [sba.gov/sites/default/files/articles/NOMINATION\\_FORM\\_2016.pdf](http://sba.gov/sites/default/files/articles/NOMINATION_FORM_2016.pdf).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to: Michele Meade at 617-565-8417, [michele.meade@sba.gov](mailto:michele.meade@sba.gov).

## BOARD Profile - Peter Dello Russo

### Bridgewater Savings Bank

756 Orchard Street  
Raynham, MA 02767  
(508) 884-3300  
[BridgewaterSavings.com](http://BridgewaterSavings.com)

Year Established: 1872

Number of Employees: 120

### Products or services:

Since 1872 we have had the opportunity to watch the Metro South area flourish while serving the financial needs of fellow citizens and local organizations. For years our savings accounts have enabled customers to achieve their financial goals; flexible mortgages have given thousands of people the chance to make their dreams of homeownership come true; and our knack for business and commercial banking has driven area businesses toward prosperity.

### What is your market area?

We serve all of Bristol, Plymouth, and Barnstable counties, as well as parts of Suffolk and Norfolk counties.

### What is your market area?

We serve the banking needs of personal and business consumers.

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

As an independent community bank, we are dedicated to cultivating the financial well-being of our community and are willing to go above and beyond to ensure each and every one of our customers achieves ultimate financial success. This unparalleled devotion may look



Peter Dello Russo,  
President & COO,  
Bridgewater Savings Bank

"Uncommon," but it makes us who we are - Bridgewater Savings Bank.

### What is your main business objective concerning you customers & business community?

Our mission is to proudly serve and be recognized as a sound, progressive, independent, community bank providing for, and responsive to, the financial needs of our customers and our communities in the cities

and towns of Massachusetts.

### How long have you been a Chamber Board member?

Member since 2000

### What are some of the job positions you have held?

President at Mill River Mortgage Company, Inc., Senior Vice President and Senior Credit Officer at PNC Bank, New England, as well as First Vice President at BancBoston Mortgage Corporation among other financial management positions throughout my career.

### How long have you been at your present job? Over 15 years

### What is your educational background?

I am a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking and hold a B.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts.

### Would you please list family and hobbies or interests that you may have:

My wife, Judy, and I live in North Falmouth, and we have two adult children, Jamie and Staci.

## Travel Opportunity to Cuba Offered for March



Are you looking to get away and travel this year? The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Chamber Explorations to offer a once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunity to Cuba, departing March 24, 2016! With authorized travel to Cuba recently expanded, now is a great time to experience Cuba and all it has to offer.

In this five-day trip, you will visit the center of Cuban political life, Plaza de Revolution, enjoy a live dance performance by Habana Compas Dance Group and interact with the students & teachers to learn about the Cuban dance culture and history, tour a Cuban cigar factory, explore unique architecture, Hemingway's Farm, Museum of the Revolution, San Jose Craft Market & Art Center, Local Farmers Market, and more!

For more information and full itinerary, please contact Alison van Dam at 508.586.0500 x225, [avandam@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:avandam@metrosouthchamber.com), or visit [metrosouthchamber.com/events/travel](http://metrosouthchamber.com/events/travel).



## Buy Local From These New Chamber of Commerce Members

### Kenworth Northeast Group, Inc.



1150 West Chestnut Street, Suite 3, Brockton  
781-341-0008 • [www.kenworthne.com](http://www.kenworthne.com)

We are an independently owned truck dealership supplying the northeast region with The World's Best® heavy and medium duty trucks, service, and parts. Kenworth Northeast Group, Inc. consists of 5 dealerships in 2 states with locations in Albany, NY, Buffalo, NY, Rochester, NY, Syracuse, NY and Brockton, MA. Kenworth also has a parts only store in Elmira, NY.

### Four Seasons Hair Salon



3 Chestnut Square, Sharon  
781-784-7006 • [www.fourseasonshair.com](http://www.fourseasonshair.com)

When it comes to hair styling you need a salon with a great vibe to make you feel your money is being spent well. Four Seasons Salon is a local hair salon that is perfect for giving you beautiful new look while providing great services for the rest of your family. You will get the most current styles from our well trained staff at a fair price in a convenient location. Make your appointment today to get a new look in a soothing atmosphere.

### Join the Chamber!

## YOUR BUSINESS PROFILE HERE...

...When You Join the Chamber.  
Call Alison at 508.586.0500 x 225,  
or email: [avandam@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:avandam@metrosouthchamber.com)

### Happy New Year!



#### Get Involved This Year!

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

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

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

*Massachusetts*

The Metro South region offers the best of all worlds: cultural and corporate amenities, 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, hiking, and fishing. With over 500 hotel rooms, the Metro South region is a **great place to stay** and corporate housing is available for 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. *Take the road 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](http://www.metroouthchamber.com)

## Metro South Site Finder

**FOR SALE**

[metrosouthsitefinder.com](http://metrosouthsitefinder.com)

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

## BUSINESS EVENTS *Planner*

### January 13

#### Good Morning Metro South

7:30 am - 9:00 am

**The Martin Institute at Stonehill College**  
320 Washington Street, South Easton

This breakfast program will feature Secretary Jay Ash in a talk show style format and allows for networking opportunities. (see page 1)

*Cost: \$25 members, \$35 future-members*

Register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar)

### January 21

#### Business After Hours

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**St. Joseph Manor Health Care**  
215 Thatcher Street, Brockton

Enjoy networking and refreshments courtesy of St. Joseph Manor Health Care (see page 2)

*Cost: Complimentary*

Register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar)

### January 22

#### State Representative Forum

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

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

The Metro South Chamber will host an invite-only forum with candidates for State Representative special election. (see page 2)

*Cost: \$8 members; \$15 future-members*

For more information, call 508.586.0500 x231

### IT'S EASY TO REGISTER!

508-586-0500 x 231 ☎

508-587-1340 📠

E-mail: [alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:alavoie@metrosouthchamber.com) ✉

Online: [www.metroouthchamber.com](http://www.metroouthchamber.com)

Send reservation and payment to:

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



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[issuu.com/metrosouthchamber](https://issuu.com/metrosouthchamber)

### January 27

#### Cyber Liability Lunch & Learn

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

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

Could your company survive a data breach? Learn how you can protect the future of your company in this complimentary workshop (see page 2)

*Complimentary to Attend*

Learn more at [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar)

### January 28

#### SEED Basic Business Workshops

9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

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

*Free to Attend*

For more information, call 508-822-1020

### February 10

#### Good Morning Metro South

7:30 am - 9:00 am

**The Shaw's Center**  
1 Feinberg Way, Brockton

Enjoy breakfast and networking, featuring guest speaker Hank Phillippi Ryan, award winning author and investigative reporter. (see page 2)

*Cost: \$25 members, \$35 future-members*

Register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/calendar](http://metrosouthchamber.com/calendar)