

Actionreport



February
2024

www.metroouthchamber.com

Leading Businesses
Leading Communities

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ACCREDITED
★★★★★

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.



Housing Secretary Augustus
Speaks at Chamber
Luncheon • Page 7



Mary Ellen Baker,
HR Alternatives talks
"Express Workforce
Training" Grant • Page 7

CONTENTS	
Calendar of Events	3
Good News	4
Member Profile	10
New/Renewing Members	10

Chamber Luncheon to Feature Study Highlighting Nonprofits' Role in Meeting Community Needs; and Brockton Mayor State of the City Address

Thursday, February 15 | 11:45 am - 1:30 pm | Thorny Lea Golf Club | 159 Torrey Street, Brockton

Please join us for a Good Day Metro South luncheon **Thursday, February 15th from 11:45am – 1:30pm at Thorny Lea Golf Club, 159 Torrey Street in Brockton.** Our guest speakers are Dr. Mark Melnik, Director of Economic and Public Policy Research at the UMass Donahue Institute; and Mayor of Brockton, Bob Sullivan.

Dr. Melnik will present on a study of Brockton-area community needs and ways nonprofits can help meet

those needs. Mayor Sullivan will give an update on the progress made and challenges in the City of Brockton.

This event is sponsored by OCES - Old Colony Elder Services, celebrating 50 years of service! All are welcome to attend, please call Naldo to pre-register. Questions? Email NCardoso@metroouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500 x231 for assistance. We look forward to seeing you at this event! *More on page 2.*

Woman & Minority Owned Business "Success Stories" Panel, Free Business Resource Expo, Networking, and More! February 29 in Brockton

Thursday, February 29 | 5:00 - 7:30 pm | Thorny Lea Golf Club | 159 Torrey Street, Brockton

Join us **Thursday, February 29 from 5-7:30pm for the 9th Annual Multicultural Business Forum & Business After Hours!**

This triple feature event includes a business resource expo, woman & minority owned business panel, and after hours networking.

This is a great opportunity for potential and existing entrepreneurs to learn about helpful resources, network with local businesses, and hear from entrepreneurs who have successful

business stories. The business expo is FREE to participate: space is limited and prioritizes business resource organizations, contact Naldo for more information at NCardoso@metroouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500 x231. Register at metroouthchamber.com/events. *Continued on page 5.*

Registered Apprenticeship Tax Credit (RATC)

Apprenticeship programs help job seekers succeed in new careers and help employers build a loyal, skilled workforce.

Sponsors of apprentices in the education sector may be eligible for the Registered Apprenticeship Tax Credit (RATC) starting tax year 2024.

A sponsor refers to an employer or organization that registers its apprenticeship program with the state. Interested in becoming a sponsor? Take the leap and become a sponsor. *Visit Mass.gov/RATC to learn more.*

New State Economic Development Plan "Team Massachusetts: Leading Future Generations"

Read more on page 2.

“Brockton Community Needs Assessment” Analysis at February Chamber Luncheon along with Mayor of Brockton “State of the City” Economic Update - Register Now, Space is Limited!

Thursday, February 15 | 11:45 am - 1:30 pm | Thorny Lea Golf Club | 159 Torrey Street, Brockton | Register online: metrosouthchamber.com/events







Dr. Mark Melnik, Director of Economic and Public Policy Research at the UMass Donahue Institute

UMassAmherst
Donahue Institute

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:
Dr. Mark Melnik specializes in demographic, socio-economic, and labor market issues and leads a 20-person team working on a variety of economic and public policy research projects informing clients in government, private industry, and the non-profit sectors.
In his time at the Institute, Dr. Melnik has served as the principal-in-charge on projects with such clients ranging from the Boston Foundation to the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Boston Private Industry Council to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. In addition, Dr. Melnik serves as the Senior Managing Editor of Mass Benchmarks, the journal of the Massachusetts economy published by the Institute in cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Before joining the Institute, Dr. Melnik worked as Deputy Director for Research at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) where he led research teams on demographic and economic research studies as well as analyses used for public policy advisement and decision making with the BRA and the City of Boston. As a leading expert in demographic and socioeconomic issues in the Commonwealth, Dr. Melnik is quoted extensively in the media and serves on the Massachusetts Economic Development Council Board of Directors.

He holds a doctorate in sociology from Northeastern University. His dissertation explored skill and credential mismatches in the greater Boston labor market. He received his master of arts from Northeastern University and his bachelor of arts from Youngstown State University, both in sociology. Visit umass.edu/seigma/dr-mark-melnik to learn more.



Mayor of Brockton, Bob Sullivan



Robert F. Sullivan was born and raised in Brockton, MA. He is the son of Robert and Susan Sullivan and grew up on Wellington Street in Ward two. He attended Brockton Public Schools (Whitman Elementary School, West Junior High School) and graduated from Brockton High School in 1988. He earned his BA and MBA at Boston College, and his JD at the New England School of Law.

Prior to being elected Mayor in 2019, he has served on the Brockton City Council as a Councilor-At-Large since 2006. In that role, he was elected by his colleagues to serve as the City Council President five times.

He previously served as a volunteer Board Member of the Good Samaritan Medical Center (2009-2019), the St. Joseph Manor Nursing Home, and the Brockton Historical Society.

He is a volunteer youth soccer, baseball, and basketball coach within the City of Brockton. He is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. He is married to Maria (Luizzi) Sullivan, who also grew up in Brockton, and they have three children. Visit brockton.ma.us to learn more.

To register for this event, visit metrosouthchamber.com/events. Season ticket holders please contact Naldo to pre-register. Questions? Email NCardoso@metrosouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500 x231 for assistance. We look forward to seeing you at this event!

Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces New Economic Development Plan “Team Massachusetts”



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIM DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

YVONNE HAO
SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The plan outlines comprehensive strategy to advance an innovative, mission-driven, high-growth economy to boost life sciences, robotics, and climate tech while prioritizing equity, affordability, and competitiveness.

In December 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration unveiled its economic development plan “Team Massachusetts: Leading Future Generations.” Every four years at the start of a new gubernatorial term, the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) is tasked with

developing a statewide plan to guide the state’s economic development activities and investments over the next four years.

“Team Massachusetts: Leading Future Generations is drafted with this strong history and record of success in mind, and with an eye towards a vibrant future for our state, its economy and its people. This plan reflects a vision for Massachusetts which is organized around three main priorities, supported by specific initiatives for each:

- 1. Fundamentals:** Investing in the fundamentals to enable economic growth,
- 2. Talent:** Retaining and attracting the world’s best talent across all backgrounds, and
- 3. Sectors:** Supporting businesses that power the state’s economy”

Read the full press release: www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-announces-2023-economic-development-plan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS

Chair of the Board Richard Hynes, Barbour Corporation	Vice Chair Economic Development George Spilios, Crown Uniform & Linen Service
President and CEO Christopher Cooney, CCE, MPA, Metro South Chamber of Commerce	Vice Chair Government Affairs Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
Chair-Elect Dan Evans, Evans Machine Co., Inc.	Vice Chair Community Affairs Jeni Mather, JM Pet Resort
Treasurer Gregory Hart, CPA, Summer St Financial Advisors	Vice Chair Membership Development Mike Lambert, Brockton Area Transit Authority
	Immediate Past Chair Joseph Casey, HarborOne Bank

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, DIRECTORS

Carol Chin - McDonald’s Franchisee	Matthew Osborne - Eastern Bank
Michele Cinquegrano - Verizon	Jay Pike, CPA - Citrin Cooperman
Todd Copeland - Copeland Auto Group	Albert Senesie - Victory Human Services
Ray DiPasquale - Massasoit Community College	Doug Smith - Stonehill College
Donald Donnalson - Beantown Builders, Inc.	Rich Spencer - North Easton Savings Bank
Nelson Fernandes - Toast	Andrew St. Pierre - Brockton Plumbing & Heating Supply
Robert Haffey - Signature Healthcare	David Teixeira- The Mattress Maker of New England
Matthew Hesketh - Good Samaritan Medical Center - Steward Health Care	
Chuck Jones - Harbor Health	
Kelly Mallory - Mallory Headsets, Inc.	

CHAMBER STAFF (508) 586-0500 Front Desk x 221

Christopher Cooney, CCE, IOM, MPA President and CEO x 223	Development & Retention - NOW HIRING! Membership x 229
Emma (Stratton) Penardi VP of Communications & Special Projects x 222	Theresa Lobo-Albin Finance x 230

Naldo Cardoso
Programs & Events Coordinator x 231

Newsletter Written & Designed by Emma Penardi.
Printing Provided by The Enterprise.



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

Metro South Chamber of Commerce
Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087
tel: (508) 586-0500
info@metrosouthchamber.com
www.metroouthchamber.com

ACTION Report **Volume 24 - Issue 2**
(USPS-410630) is published monthly except for combined July/August for \$5.00 per year by the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087. Periodical Postage Paid at Brockton, MA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Action Report, Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087

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

The Chamber wishes to assure our members of our intention to provide universal access to all programs. If you or your employees require assistance in this area, please let us know by calling the Chamber at (508) 586-0500 at least 48 hours in advance.

Calendar Sponsor
SPACE AVAILABLE



CHAMBER Calendar

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

February

02	Chamber Ambassador Meeting <i>Zoom Virtual Meeting</i>	9:00 am
14	Metro South Chamber’s Birthday! <i>111 Years of Supporting Brockton & Metro South Businesses!</i>	
15	Good Day Metro South luncheon <i>Thorny Lea Golf Club: 159 Torrey Street, Brockton</i>	11:45 am
17	Ribbon Cutting: J. Brown Realty <i>567 Pleasant Street, Brockton</i>	2:30 pm
19	Presidents’ Day: Chamber Closed	
29	9th Annual Multicultural Business Forum <i>Thorny Lea Golf Club: 159 Torrey Street, Brockton</i>	5:00 pm

March

02	Chamber Ambassador Meeting <i>Zoom Virtual Meeting</i>	9:00 am
04	Building a Better Business Bootcamp <i>Metro South Chamber: 60 School Street, Brockton</i>	9:00 am
28	Good Day Metro South Luncheon with MA Economic Development Secretary, Yvonne Hao <i>Concord Foods: 10 Minuteman Way, Brockton</i>	12:00 pm



Impact.

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.

Access to the right tools. One more way the Chamber makes an impact.

To join the chamber call 508.586.0500 or visit www.metroouthchamber.com

Note: All meetings are held at the Metro South Chamber Office (via Zoom) or Metro South Business Assistance Center (BAC), Sixty School Street, Brockton unless otherwise indicated.

UP-TO-DATE News

Members - send Good News to
estratton@metrosouthchamber.com

Sponsored by: Good Samaritan Medical Center

MSBDC Online Training Calendar - visit msbdc.org/training to register

- 2/7: Ways to Improve Your Credit Score
- 2/14: How to Start a Business 101: The Basics
- 2/14: Understanding Financials
- 2/15: Canva with Kelsy
- 2/21: Understanding the Business Loan Process
- 2/22: Safer Chemical Use and Alternative to Toxic Chemicals in Food and Beverage Processing Businesses
- 2/28: Managing Your Business: Strategies for Success
- 2/29: Creating & Designing Newsletters in Constant Contact
- 3/28: Waste Reduction in Food and Beverage Processing Businesses

Fuller Craft Museum presents "The Red Dress" February 17 - May 19 @ 455 Oak Street in Brockton



The Red Dress, conceived by British artist Kirstie Macleod, provides an artistic platform for women around the world to tell their personal stories through embroidery. From 2009 to 2022, pieces of the Red Dress traveled the globe, the focus of nearly continuous embroidery work. Constructed out of 84 pieces of burgundy silk dupioni, the garment has been worked on by 336 women and 7 men from 46 countries, with many of the stitchers marginalized and/or living in poverty. Of those, 136 were commissioned artisans that were paid for their work and continue to receive a portion of all ongoing exhibition fees. The remaining embroidery was added by willing participants at various exhibitions & events. This remarkable Fuller Craft exhibition will feature the Red Dress, along with information about the project's history and a robust public program schedule. Fuller Craft Museum is open Tuesday - Sunday, 10AM-5PM, and is located at 455 Oak Street in Brockton. Admission is free for everyone. Visit fullercraft.org to learn more.

Brockton Symphony Orchestra presents: "Winter Fairy Tales" March 10 @ 3PM



Escape into fairy-tale fantasy with the spell-binding Swan Lake Suite

alongside artistic works by Nikolai Tchernin and Philip Glass. Our concert features captivating wife and husband duo, violinist Sarita Kwok and cellist Alexandre Lecarme. Nikolai Tchernin – Prelude to La Princesse Lointaine; Philip Glass – Double Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra; Sarita Kwok, violin; Alexandre Lecarme, cello; Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky – Swan Lake Suite. Please call (508) 588-3841 for more information or visit brocktonsymphony.org.

Massasoit To Host Third-Annual Evening of Champions on March 23

This signature fundraiser benefits student scholarships and recognizes "Champions" of the College and our community. This year's honoree is Bob Rivers, CEO and Chair of the Board of Eastern Bank. "Bob Rivers has earned many accolades and honors over the years, not only because he is a true leader in business, but because he and Eastern Bank are avid supporters of the community - we are grateful for the role he plays," said President DiPasquale. The Evening of Champions promises to be a night full of great food, drinks, and company, all for a great cause – supporting students on their educational journey. Sponsorship opportunities available at Massasoit.edu/Champions.

MASSDEVELOPMENT

MassDevelopment Monthly Office Hours at the Chamber

MassDevelopment will host a series of virtual office hours through the Metro South Chamber of Commerce.

MassDevelopment will be available to provide information and answer questions about how the organization can help businesses, financial institutions, and municipalities in southeastern Massachusetts.

For more information, email Jay at jpateakos@massdevelopment.com or call (508) 678-0533 x 1201.

Exclusive Staples Discounts for Chamber Members
 Members of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce have access to special partner discounts, 10% off in-store regularly priced purchases and 20% off Printing and Marketing Services, every time they shop in store. They can save on an assortment of products, from signage, to PPE, to business essentials, and more! Visit www.metroouthchamber.com/membership/savings/ to learn more.

Health Care Matters

Sponsored by: Good Samaritan Medical Center

235 North Pearl Street, Brockton, MA 02301

508-427-3000

www.goodsamaritanmedical.org

Did you know that February is National Heart Month? Embrace a heart-healthy lifestyle by eating a balanced diet, exercising daily, and prioritizing your mental health and self-care. Steward is working to spread awareness of heart health and the best steps to take to avoid cardiac disease.

Good Samaritan Medical Center and Steward Medical Group are pleased to welcome Benjamin Horn, MD, Cardiology to the medical staff.

Dr. Horn received his medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, and then completed his residency in Internal Medicine through Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Horn is Board Certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Horn is accepting new patients at SMG Easton Cardiology, 15 Roche Bros Way, Suite 110, North Easton, MA. To make an appointment call 781-792-6500.

Good Samaritan Medical Center is an acute-care, 267-bed hospital providing comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, and Level III Trauma emergency services to Brockton and 22 neighboring communities. The hospital offers Centers of Excellence care in orthopedics, oncology, and cardiology, specialized care in surgery, family-centered obstetrics with Level II nursery, and advanced diagnostic imaging. Good Samaritan Medical Center has the Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. Good Samaritan Medical Center is part of Steward Health Care System. To learn more visit www.goodsamaritanmedical.org.

Benjamin Horn, DO
 Cardiology

Steward
 MEDICAL GROUP



About the Speakers: Feb 29, Multicultural Biz Forum

Thursday, February 29 | 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm | Thorny Lea Golf Club | 159 Torrey Street, Brockton

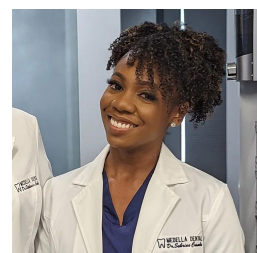


Rosângela Tavares, Porton di Nô Ilha Restaurant



Business" program, where they received additional business counseling.

"We chose Metro South because of all the amazing things that all small and startup businesses in Brockton have access to, and also we are part of the Brockton Community." Visit portondinosilha.net, call (508) 857-5042 to learn more.



Dr. Sabrina Coombs, Medella Dental



General dentist **Dr. Sabrina Coombs** grew up on the beautiful Island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Bethune Cookman University in 2007. After graduation, she worked as a middle and high school science teacher while conducting biomedical science research at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Coombs later graduated summa cum laude from Barry University with her Masters in Biomedical Science degree in 2011 and then Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2015. Following graduation, she has been practicing dentistry in Massachusetts.

Dr. Coombs believes that dentistry provides her the opportunity to creatively pursue her passion of service to underrepresented communities through her day-to-day work. Her experience as a full-time teacher working with middle and high school age students in high-needs high-risk schools further exposed her to the challenges of helping individuals who need extra attention and patience, ultimately giving her the opportunity to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds, and she has carried these skills into her approach to dental care.

Medella Dental is located at 1034 N Main Street in Brockton. Call (508) 588-6964 or visit medelladental.com to learn more.



homevestors.com

Rosângela Tavares is a mother of two from Cape Verde who now lives and operates a Cape Verdean themed restaurant in Brockton. Her and her husband, Paulo Semedo, opened their restaurant Porton di Nô Ilha located at 820 Washington Street in Brockton, 16 months ago. "Two years ago we decided to start the adventure to fulfill a great dream of ours, a restaurant with a museum concept whose main feature is Cidade Velha which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site."

They had some experience, but needed assistance to get their business off the ground. With the help of a SCORE Business Mentor, they did just that. The couple also participated in Santander Bank's "Cultivate Small

Dr. Coombs believes that dentistry provides her the opportunity to creatively pursue her passion of service to underrepresented communities through her day-to-day work. Her experience as a full-time teacher working with middle and high school age students in high-needs high-risk schools further exposed her to the challenges of helping individuals who need extra attention and patience, ultimately giving her the opportunity to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds, and she has carried these skills into her approach to dental care.

David and Detra Offutt are proud, but humble owners of a HomeVestors ("We Buy Ugly Houses") franchise. The franchise helps homeowners escape ugly real estate situations. Located in the great City of Brockton, Mass. Prior to purchasing the franchise 6 years ago. David & Detra owned a Century 21 franchise, also ran and operated here in the City of Brockton. With close to 30 years of experience in the Real Estate business one of our goals has been to consistently give back in the area of our time and resources to the underserved.

David currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Old Colony YMCA and is a Trustee on the board of at Signature Hospital. To learn more, please visit

J. Brown Realty Ribbon Cutting February 17, Brockton

Saturday, February 17 | 2:30pm - 4:30pm | J. Brown Realty | 567 Pleasant Street, Brockton



Please join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony **Saturday, February 17th** from 2:30-4:30pm at **J. Brown Realty**, located at 567 Pleasant Street in Brockton.

About J. Brown Realty: The VJB Team

specializes in assisting first time home buyers, investors and clients relocating in and out of the state of Massachusetts. Our mission is not only to give our clients the best customer service and experience when it comes to achieving their real estate goals but we pride ourselves as a company to help our agents do the same. Forging and building long lasting relationships professionally and personally. Please visit metrosouthchamber.com/events to register. Contact Naldo for assistance, email NCardoso@metrosouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500 x231.

March 28 Good Day Metro South to feature Guest Speaker Secretary Hao, Office of Economic Development

Thursday, March 28 | 12:00 pm - 1:45 pm | Concord Foods | 10 Minuteman Way, Brockton



Please join us for a Good Day Metro South luncheon **Thursday, March 28th from 12:00-1:45pm at Concord Foods, 10 Minuteman Way in Brockton.** Our guest speaker is Secretary Yvonne Hao, Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development. This event is sponsored by South Shore Bank.



Secretary Yvonne Hao, Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development



Yvonne Hao is the Secretary of the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOHD).

She has had more than 25 years of executive business experience as a senior executive,

including as Co-founder, Advisor, and Managing Director at investment firm Cove Hill Partners and as an Operating Partner at Pillar Ventures. Previously, she was the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of PillPack, an online pharmacy that was acquired by Amazon in 2018. She is also a former Operating Partner at Bain Capital. In addition, Hao has been a Board Director of companies such as CarGurus, Flywire, Gentherm, ZipRecruiter, and Bose. She also has been involved in the community, is the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Beth Israel Lahey Health, and a Trustee Emeriti of her alma mater, Williams College. She lives in Williamstown and Cambridge, and is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Cambridge.

Learn more about the Executive Office of Economic Development at www.mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-economic-development Please visit metrosouthchamber.com/events to pre-register, space is limited and this event is expected to sell out. Contact Naldo for assistance: email NCardoso@metrosouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500 x231.

Job & Internship Fairs - Connecting with the Workforce



Thursday, April 4 | 12:00 am – 3:00 pm

Tinsley Athletic Center Gym | 131 Summer St., Bridgewater

The Job & Internship Fair is a great way for employers to meet a large number of potential candidates looking for full-time, professional-level positions as well as internships.

Career Services provides a comprehensive marketing effort for the event so that employers can expect to see hundreds of candidates. This event is open to all Bridgewater State University students, alumni and the community providing over 100 employers with the opportunity to meet with 500+ candidates from a variety of majors at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Employers attending must have open/anticipated full-time, degree required jobs and/or academic internships. This event is invite only. Please contact Laurent Troland at: ltroland@bridgew.edu



Wednesday, May 1 | 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Rondileau Student Union Ballroom | 19 Park Avenue, Bridgewater

https://bridgew.joinhandshake.com/edu/career_fairs/38462

The Education Career Fair is a recruiting opportunity for educational organizations including public school districts, charter schools, private and independent schools, and education focused non-profits. This fair allows school hiring personnel to network with top-caliber teacher, counselor, and administrator candidates from Bridgewater State University and other area colleges. With over 60 school districts and 100+ students and alumni in attendance, this is a can't miss recruiting event! This event is invite only. Please contact Katie Vagen at: kvagen@bridgew.edu



Tuesday, March 19 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Business, Engineering & Technology Career Fair | (508) 999-8658 | UMD Marketplace

app.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/46594/student_preview
Opportunity to connect with students and recent graduates for internships, part-time and full-time jobs.



Wednesday, March 20 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Business, Engineering & Technology Career Fair | (508) 999-8658 | UMD Marketplace

app.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/46846/student_preview
Opportunity to connect with students and recent graduates for internships, part-time and full-time jobs.

ATHENA Award - Honoring & Empowering Women Leaders: Call for Nominations

This June, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and Eastern Bank will present the 26th Annual ATHENA Award to an exceptional individual who has achieved excellence in their business or profession, has served the community in a meaningful way, and has assisted women in reaching their full leadership potential.

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

expertise of women into the leadership of our businesses, communities, and government.

To nominate an individual for an ATHENA Award, or for more information please contact Naldo Cardoso at (508) 586-0500 x 231 or email NCardoso@metrosouthchamber.com. Nomination deadline: May 10th. Learn more online at metrosouthchamber.com/event/athena-leadership-award-luncheon-2024

Sponsored by:



The Enterprise

Call for 2024 Small Biz Award Nominations



The Metro South Chamber and Bank of America recognize the achievements and contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in creating new jobs and economic opportunities in the Metro South region. We welcome you to nominate businesses for the *2024 Small Business of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year awards*.

You may nominate your own business or any other business you deem worthy. For nomination forms, call Naldo at (508) 586-0500 x 231. You may include any additional documentation that will help illustrate why the business is deserving of the award. Nominees do not need to be members of the Chamber.

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

Entrepreneur of the Year Criteria:
10 or less full-time employees (or equivalent); in business less than 3 years; a for-profit business.

Companies will be rated on their creativity and imagination in the development of their business, demonstration of growth, and a reflection on internal and external social responsibility.

Nominations are due to the Chamber by April 12, 2024. Recipients will be announced at the Small Business and Entrepreneur Lunch in May.

Sponsored by:



The Enterprise

Prior Small Business of the Year Recipients

2023 Healthier You Wellness Partners
2022 New England Tortilla / Mi Niña
2021 Mallory Headsets, Inc.
2020 South Shore SoftWash, LLC
2019 Immerse Agency
2018 Just Desserts Bakery & Cafe
2017 Wood Palace Kitchens
2016 Strange Planet Printing
2015 Maguire's Bar & Grill
2014 JM Pet Resort
2013 Solex Payroll Systems, Inc.

Prior Entrepreneur of the Year Recipients

2023 Brockton Beer Company
2022 Grand Flourish Collective
2021 Fusion Dolls
2020 Empower Nutrition
2019 LAUNCH Web Marketing
2018 Shovel Town Brewery
2017 Epicure Wine & Jazz Bar
2016 Elvera's Cafe
2015 The Sound Lab
2014 JJ's Caffe
2013 James Tran, Sky8 Shrimp Farm, LLC

"We develop, support and honor women leaders from the classroom to the boardroom."

- ATHENA International



Chamber and Stonehill host Sold Out Good Day Metro South Luncheon with MA Housing Secretary Ed Augustus, Time's Up LLC, and Blue Cross Blue Shield

METRO SOUTH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In January, the Chamber hosted a Good Day Metro South luncheon at the Martin Institute at Stonehill College in Easton with guest speakers Secretary Edward Augustus, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC); plus Chris Bond from Time's Up LLC. Thank you to our Program Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; and Host Sponsor: Stonehill College. Photos courtesy of Ben Ross Photography, visit our flickr page to view more: flickr.com/metrosouthchamber.



Doug Smith, Vice President for Advancement, Stonehill College



Jen Carey, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts interviewed by Mahsa Khanbabai, Immigration Law



Chris Bond, Time's Up LLC presented a segment on business valuation



Secretary Ed Augustus, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC)



Secretary Augustus interviewed by Chamber Board Chair, Rich Hynes, Barbour Corporation.



Sold out luncheon at the Martin Institute @ Stonehill College in Easton! Thank you for joining us.



(L-R) Chris Cooney, Metro South Chamber President; Geoffrey Anatole, South Shore Property Management LLC; Tom Thibeault, Brockton Housing Authority; Jack Lally, Ward 6 Brockton City Councilor; Senator Mike Brady; Senator John Keenan; Mahsa Khanbabai, Khanbabai Immigration Law; Rich Hynes, Barbour Corporation; Senator Walter Timilty; Jonathan Brahmer, Trinity Development; Bill Callahan, William M. Callahan Realty Group / Keller Williams; Shirley Asack, Ward 7 Brockton City Councilor; John Merian, Merian Brothers; Doug Smith, Stonehill College; Mark Pilotte, Dakota Partners; and Darrin Decoste, Stoneridge Mutual Properties.

Take Advantage of the Massachusetts Express Workforce Training Grant; HR Alternatives Can Help

Employers with 100 or fewer Massachusetts employees may want to take advantage of the "express grant program" offered through the Commonwealth Corporation. The Express Program provides employers fast, simple access to grant-funded training. Employers can be reimbursed up to \$20,000 per year upon completion of an approved course. Information that you will need to provide during the application process is:

- A certificate of good standing dated within the past 6 months
- The Course Name, for example "C-7116 Customer Service & Negotiation"
- Application must be submitted 21 days prior to the training start date.

Visit commcorp.org/subprogram/wtfp-express-program to get started. If you provide training, I encourage you to become an approved Training Provider.



HR Alternatives is a Human Resources Consulting, Management Coaching and Training practice helping people enjoy their work and succeed since 1994. We currently have three pre-approved workshops available for full reimbursement through the Express Grant Fund.

- 7116: Customer Service & Negotiation,
- 7138: Internal Customer Service – Cultivating the Customer/Supplier Relationship at Work, and
- 7139: Supervisory Skills & Leadership Development.

We can also develop a training program to meet your needs and submit it for funding approval. I'll be happy to help you with the application process and may be reached at (508) 742-7251. Mary Ellen Baker, HR Alternatives, mary@yourHRalternatives.com, yourHRAlternatives.com

Drive smarter local marketing with insights and solutions from the USA TODAY NETWORK.

The power of knowing you are doing things right.

LOCALiQ
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

localiq.com

SEED Corp Basic Entrepreneurial Workshop Series



South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation is a regional nonprofit economic development corporation with the mission of empowering entrepreneurs, strengthening local economies, and creating jobs by financing all types of small businesses in Massachusetts

and Rhode Island. With loan programs ranging from \$1,000 micro loans to \$5.5 million SBA 504 loans and a long history of assisting small business owners, SEED is a one-stop shop for anyone looking to start-up, grow, or streamline their business.

Throughout the year, SEED holds and participates in events geared toward educating, preparing, and empowering small business owners as well as all those who serve budding and seasoned entrepreneurs.

Learn more and register for any of the below workshops online at seedcorp.com

Title: Basic Entrepreneurial Workshop: Business Fundamentals

Date: 3/12/2024

Time: 10:00AM

Fee: Free

Location: Bristol County Savings Bank, 70 N Water Street, New Bedford, MA

SEED Corporation and Bristol County Savings Bank in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Massachusetts Small Business Development Center, & SCORE provide this free, virtual entrepreneurial workshop in which participants will learn the fundamentals of planning, preparing for and financing a small business. The workshop is open to anyone currently in business, starting a business, or thinking about someday owning a business, as well as business assistance professionals who would like to learn more about SEED's technical assistance programming. Attendees will be provided with a free business plan guide and other materials and will be introduced to free and confidential business assistance resources available to them locally and regionally.

Title: Basic Entrepreneurial Workshop: Business Financials

Date: 3/14/2024

Time: 10:00AM

Fee: Free

Location: Bristol County Savings Bank, 70 N Water Street, New Bedford, MA

SEED Corporation and Bristol County Savings Bank in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Massachusetts Small Business Development Center, & SCORE provide this free, in-person entrepreneurial workshop in which participants will learn how to read and a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, and keep on top of their business finances. The workshop also explains how a small business owner can anticipate financial needs in order to operate the business more efficiently through a deeper understanding of their financial picture. The workshop is open to anyone currently in business, starting a business, or thinking about someday owning a business, as well as business assistance professionals who would like to learn more about SEED's technical assistance programming.

Title: Basic Entrepreneurial Workshop: Business Fundamentals

Date: 3/26/2024

Time: 10:00AM

Fee: Free

Location: Online

Title: Basic Entrepreneurial Workshop: Business Financials

Date: 3/28/2024

Time: 10:00AM

Fee: Free

Location: Online

State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment: Worth & Wealth Series "Short Term Planning for Retirement"



In this workshop, attendees will learn how to save for retirement in the short-term. They will learn what type of accounts to use, how much to save, and will have a better understanding of what saving for retirement looks like for them. It is never too late to save for retirement, and this workshop will encourage attendees to start saving when they can.

Date: (English track) February 7,

(Spanish track) February 6

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (EST)

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events/workshops

Fee: No Fee

Own A Small Biz? Thinking of Starting One? Call SCORE!



To succeed, you have to stay ahead of the competition; whether you're looking for a business direction sheet or working to tap into value creation, connect with a SCORE mentor to help you! If you're just starting a business, SCORE mentors can provide the practical action plan, education and tools you need to open your doors and establish a customer base.

Already own a business? Our volunteer mentors can help identify ways to increase profit, improve employee and customer satisfaction, and achieve work/life balance. With SCORE, you can have the honest, confidential and sometimes tough conversations about raising money, motivating your team, marketing your business, and other topics.

Take advantage of their **free** live webinar series! Learn more by visiting www.score.org, www.sema.score.org, www.boston.score.org, or by calling (508) 587-2673. Ahead for the month and beyond...

February 6: Loans, Grants and Other Funding Options for Small Businesses

February 6: Habilidades para el Liderazgo Empresarial (en español)

February 7: Como Obtener y Operar una Franquicia (en español)

February 8: How to Start Your Online Business for Next to No Money

February 10: Excel Avanzado (en español)

February 13: Mastering Small Business Taxes - A Startup Guide to Taxes

February 13: Cómo validar tu modelo de negocio (en español)

February 15: How to Use AI to Streamline Your Marketing

February 20: Learn the SEO Basics and Boost Your Website Traffic

February 22: Simple Tips for Managing Your Finances

February 27: Business Insurance Basics - What You Need to Know

March 7: How to Create a Budget That Works for You

March 12: Social Media Marketing Strategies for Your Small Business

Now Hiring: Chamber Development & Retention

WE ARE HIRING

OPEN POSITIONS

- Development & Retention

JOIN OUR TEAM (:

Are you positive, organized, committed to business & community development, and have a love for the greater Brockton area?

Please send resume with cover letter and references to: info@metrosouthchamber.com

Metro South Chamber of Commerce • 60 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301
www.metroouthchamber.com • info@metrosouthchamber.com

Are you positive, organized, committed to business & community development, and have a love for the greater Brockton area? Join our team! Please send resume, cover letter, and salary expectations to info@metrosouthchamber.com

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce strives to be the region's qualified leader for attracting and harnessing the energies, capabilities, and ambitions of businesses; catalyzing critical public discussion on key issues and mobilizing political support; protecting a positive image of the region and bolstering awareness of its many advantages; and position the region to seize the variety of emerging economic opportunities.

This is an excellent opportunity to invite businesses to join and engage in the chamber community by strengthening local ties in Brockton and beyond, while gaining a deep understanding of regional economic progress and the competitive developing future of the Metro South region.

Member News: Rockland Trust Named Top SBA 504 Third Party Lender in Massachusetts



Where Each Relationship Matters®



Bob Nelson, Massachusetts District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration; Jeff Hansel, SBA Market Executive, Rockland Trust; Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Kim Driscoll.

we serve. Working alongside the SBA, we're honored to continue investing in small businesses, thereby creating opportunities for our local economies to grow."

Rockland Trust earned the highest recognition among banks in Massachusetts for the number of loans originated through the SBA's 504 program during the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. In that time period, the Bank provided over \$21.8 million in 504 loans across Massachusetts. To learn more, visit rocklandtrust.com/about-us/explore/top-sba-504-third-party-lender-

Rockland Trust was recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Massachusetts District Office as the number one 504 Third Party Lender in 2023.

The SBA 504 program provides businesses with fixed-rate financing to assist with the purchases of large assets including land, buildings, or long-term machinery and equipment.

"As a bank built by business owners, we remain steadfast in our commitment to provide local business owners with the resources and advice they need to flourish," said Jeffrey Hansel, First Vice President and SBA Market Executive at Rockland Trust. "This recognition is a testament to the meaningful relationships that our colleagues build within the communities

"Building a Better Business" Bootcamp: March 4



NeighborWorks Housing Solutions was tasked with managing a \$1M Venture Loan Fund for the City of Brockton. Created by five financial entities, HarborOne Bank, Eastern Bank, SCU Credit Union, Rockland Trust and

North Easton Savings Bank, this fund is for small businesses who want to start, grow and/or relocate in Brockton.

Each new or growing business helps to fuel the city's economic engine by creating jobs and stimulating the need for housing. Through the banking partnership, opportunities can be envisioned in the local business community.

This is a full day session of the 3-part "Building a Better Business Program". Monday, March 4th from 9 AM to 3 PM at Metro South Chamber of Commerce, 60 School Street, Brockton, MA. This event is being sponsored by the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and the Brockton Redevelopment Authority. This is a FREE event. Listed below are the session that will be taught in our business bootcamp:

Building a Better Business 101 – Starting and Growing

In this section, we will discuss being and/or becoming a business owner and asking basic questions that will help define your business.

- Micro Moments
- Being an Entrepreneur
- Personal Credit
- Business Types & Tax Responsibilities
- Funding
- Your Idea
- Your Product and Customer

Building a Better Business 102 – Marketing Tools that Work

In this section, we will discuss the importance of marketing and it's many useful tools. The least funded, yet most important, marketing can ultimately make or break your business.

- Living through 2022
- SMB Marketing Challenges
- The Marketing Wheel
- Your Website
- Integrating the Tools
- Trends

Building a Better Business 103 – Working through Your Concept

In this interactive section, we will walk through the research and development of your product or services. We will search for information that will help to understand your financial projections and give you solid results on starting and/or growing your business.

- Industry Experience
- Executive Summary – Your Story
- Team Approach
- Start-Up Cost & Monthly Expenses
- Pricing & Breakeven
- Cash Flow & Projections
- Loans
- Accountants & Accounting Software

Register online: metrosouthchamber.com/event/building-a-better-business-bootcamp-2024

Member Profile - Fernandes Paint & Decorating



Fernandes Paint & Decorating
165 Westgate Drive
Brockton, MA 02301
(774) 517-4100
www.fernandespaint.com

Year Established: 2020

Products or Services: Fernandes Paint & Decorating is an authorized Benjamin Moore Retailer specializing in interior and exterior paint and stain supplies. Fernandes Paint & Decorating is your local choice to find inspiration and support for your paint and stain product choices and color selections. We are dedicated to serving our local community of Brockton and surrounding areas. Whether you need interior or exterior, high-end or commercial-grade coatings, we are ready to serve you and answer all of your questions.

Number of Employees: 2

What is unique or special about your firm and the products and services you offer? Benjamin Moore offers over 3,500 unique paint colors that are made with their own colorants and formula so its colors cannot be matched by any other company. They are high quality for application, coverage and durability. We are sincerely interested in helping you discover the color inspiration you need to complete all of your projects.

What is your market area? We serve the towns of Avon, Brockton, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Canton, Stoughton, and Easton

What markets do you serve? Consumers, painting contractors, architects and designers

What is your main business objective concerning your customers and the business community? Our goal is to provide the best customer service and highest quality paint on the market. Customers can shop in store or online at www.fernandespaint.com

Anything additional we should know about your company? Fernandes Paint & Decorating is a division of Fernandes Lumber and Ace Home Center in South Easton, MA. Fernandes Lumber is a small family-owned and operated business that has served the community since 1958.

Annual Labor & Employment Law Update with MHTL

Thursday, April 11 | 8:30am | Granite Links | 100 Quarry Hills Drive, Quincy



MH MURPHY HESSE
TL TOOMEY & LEHANE LLP
Attorneys at Law

Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, & Lehane, LLP in collaboration with the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Neponset River Chamber of Commerce, South Shore Chamber of Commerce, and Quincy Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that we will be hosting our annual **Labor & Employment Law Update on Thursday, April 11th at 8:30 a.m at the Granite Links, at 100 Quarry Hills Drive in Quincy.** Please save the date, more information to be announced.

RENEWING Members!

Thank you!

AGM Industries, Inc.
Anchor an Oldcastle Company
Asaman, Inc.
Baypointe RehabCenter, LLC
Bridgewater Pediatrics, LLC
Brockton Area Transit Authority
Brockton Plumbing & Heating Supply
Brockton VNA
Business Development Strategies, Inc.
Capstone Communities
Chin Management/McDonald's
Concord Foods, LLC
Cushman Insurance Group
Eastern Bank
Energy Conservation, Inc.
Fisher College
Frenette & Associates, P.C.
Fuller Craft Museum
George Washington Toma
Grant's Rental
HarborOne Bank
Home Health Resources, Inc.
House of Possibilities
J. Frank Conley, Inc.
M. Donahue Associates, Inc.

Massasoit Community College
McCaul Land Title Company
Medella Dental, PLLC
Minuteman Press of Canton
North Easton Savings Bank
Pierce Refrigeration, Inc.
Residence Inn by Marriott
Boston/Brockton
South Shore Bank
St. Anne's Credit Union
Stephco Cleaning and Restoration
Stonehill College
Texas Roadhouse
The Point at Sharon
Thorny Lea Golf Club
Trinity Development and Mgmt
Unified Family and Youth Network, Inc.
United Way of Greater
Plymouth County, Inc.
Verizon Communications
Viking Sheet Metal, Inc.
William M. Callahan Realty Group/
Keller Williams Realty
Yamato Japanese Steak House

WELCOME New Members!

Reinvesting in Our Community

Issues Management Group

Conor Yunits
30 Winter Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
(857) 276-8479
issuesgroup.com
Marketing/Public Relations

J. Brown Realty

Valencia Jacobs-Brown
567 Pleasant Street, Suite 201
Brockton, MA 02301
(617) 766-0532
jbrownrealty.com
Real Estate/Residential

New England Pro Baseball, LLC

Nick Desrosiers
1 Feinberg Way, Campanelli Stadium
Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 559-7000
newenglandprobaseball.com
Entertainment

Playa Bowls

Dana Nentin
635 Washington Street
Canton, MA 02021
(781) 615-5009
playabowls.com
Restaurants

School on Wheels of Massachusetts

Mal Stanton McCunney
100 Laurel Street, Suite 121
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
(508) 587-9091
sowma.org
Agencies/Associations

Vitra Health

Ivelisse Minlletty
150 Wood Road, Suite 201
Braintree, MA 02184
(508) 297-2022
vitrahealth.com
Home Health Care

For membership, contact: (508) 586-0500 x 229
membership@metrosouthchamber.com

SEED Corp. Offers Micro and Small Loan Programs

South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation focuses on job creation by financing small business in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Contact: call (508) 822-1020 x 312 or visit www.seedcorp.com



- **Micro & Small Loans** up to \$350,000
- Interest rates: 6-7%
- Loan Term: up to 10 years
- No prepayment penalty

• **Use of funds:** Working capital; leasehold improvements/built-outs; inventory/supplies; real estate acquisitions (owned-occupied); furniture, fixtures, and equipment; refinancing business credit card debt

Chamber Affiliation News & Events

To become an affiliate organization of the Chamber, contact Christopher Cooney at (508) 586-0500 x 223 or e-mail chris@metrosouthchamber.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 in Avon, Massachusetts. For more information please visit avonindustrialpark.org.



The **Bridgewater Business Association (BBA)** promotes unity between local government and the business community and is committed to promoting goodwill among business owners, operating in an ethical manner, and supporting the community they serve. Visit bridgewaterbiz.biz for more information.



The **Connect 24 Business Alliance (C24BA)**, formerly the Randolph & Stoughton Chambers of Commerce, was formed to increase strength and support for our members and provide more opportunities for our local business community to thrive. Visit connect24ba.com to learn more.



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." Please visit www.eastbridgewaterbiz.com for more information.



The **Easton Chamber of Commerce** is a non-profit 501(c)(6) membership organization representing business and professional people. The Easton Chamber of Commerce mission is to unite, guide and support Easton businesses with the goal of increasing economic opportunities and fostering a healthy business climate. Visit easton-chamber.com to learn more.



The **Norwell Chamber of Commerce's** mission is to promote the civic, economic and social welfare of its members and the Town of Norwell. They actively assist the Chamber members with the challenges of business growth, management and entrepreneurship. Visit norwellchamberofcommerce.com for more information.



The **South Shore Women's Business Network (SSWBN)**, established in 1991, was the inspiration of six women who felt that the needs of women in business were not being met by traditional organizations. They further believed there was a need for an organization that would provide networking opportunities to women and business owners on the South Shore. Visit sswbn.org for more information.

Small Business Resource; We Speak Portuguese!



Theresa Lobo-Albin, Small Business Assistance



Theresa Lobo-Albin on the chamber staff is fluent in Portuguese. She is available to communicate with businesses that may require help in learning about various business assistance programs serving entrepreneurs, businesses and non-profits throughout the region.

Theresa holds a degree in business and accounting and has worked with many small businesses from numerous industries over her career in accounting.

The Chamber (in partnership with many regional, state, and federal resources) operates the Metro South Business Assistance Center and Thomas Edison Business Incubator in support of business development. Many of the BAC resources can be found online and are being offered remotely, including one-on-one coaching through SCORE

Counselors.

To learn more about business assistance resources in English and Portuguese contact Theresa Lobo-Albin at finance@metrosouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500 x 230. To learn more about the Business Assistance Center (BAC) and available business resources, visit www.metroouthchamber.com/resources/business-assistance. Individual counseling is available by appointment.

Federal, State, and Regional Resources for Businesses



The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to providing support for our business community now more than ever - we're here for you. Below, please find an extensive list of federal, state, and regional resources available to you.

Brockton Redevelopment Authority
Contact: Nathalie Jean
(508) 586-3887

Center for Women & Enterprise
Contact: Carla Akalatian
(617) 532-0244

Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD)
Contact: Susan Whitaker
(617) 620-1005

Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network
Contact: Jill Beresford
(508) 673-9783

Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office (SDO)
Contact: John Fitzpatrick
(617) 720-3300

MassDevelopment
Contact: Jay Pateakos
(508) 678-0533

MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board
Contact: Jason Hunter
(508) 584-3234

MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center
Contact: John Murray
(508) 513-3400

Old Colony Planning Council
Contact: Mary Waldron
(508) 583-1833 ext. 202

SCORE Business Counselors
Contact: Peter Smith
(508) 587-2673

South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation
Contact: Sue Murray
(508) 822-1020

U.S. Small Business Administration
Contact: Susan Lourie
(617) 565-5564

New England Pro Baseball, LLC



1 Feinberg Way, Campanelli Stadium, Brockton
(508) 559-7000 • www.newenglandprobaseball.com

The New England club will play in the Eastern Division of the Frontier League beginning with the upcoming 2024 season and will bring the total number of permanent members of the league to sixteen teams. "We are excited to be adding a tremendous sports market in Brockton and a great facility in Campanelli Stadium to the Frontier League," said deputy commissioner Steve Tahsler. "We are confident that the management and staff in Brockton will provide an amazing atmosphere and service to the Brockton community."

Cruise Planners Journeys by Jojo



(508) 857-8496 • www.journeysbyjojo.com

Jojo excels in the art of matching travelers with tailored tours, cruises, and itineraries that perfectly align with their personalities and passions. Whether you're an art enthusiast, a foodie, an adventurer, or someone with a distinct travel dream, Jojo will meticulously design an experience that feels like it was crafted just for you. With Jojo as your agent, you'll embark on a voyage that's as unique as you are, embracing your interests and budget while exploring the world. Let's transform your travel aspirations into reality, one adventure at a time. Partner with Jojo and unlock the joy of travel personalized to your preferences and passions. Your journey begins here!

Fernandes Paint & Decorating



165 Westgate Drive, Brockton • (774) 517-4100
www.fernandespaint.com

For over 60 years Fernandes Lumber and Home Center has been serving South Easton with pride. We have entered an exciting new chapter with the City of Brockton. Fernandes Paint & Decorating is an authorized Benjamin Moore Retailer specializing in interior and exterior paint and stain supplies. We are your local choice to find inspiration and support for your paint and stain product choices and color selections. We are dedicated to serving our local community of Brockton. Whether you need interior or exterior, high-end or commercial-grade coatings, we are ready to serve you and answer all of your questions.

MPZ Development LLC



499 Adams Street #527, Milton • (617) 645-3534
www.mpzdevelopment.com

MPZ Development LLC works with public agencies, local organizations, and other entities to create smaller-scale mixed-income, multi-family, and mixed-use residential developments across Massachusetts.

The company's Principal, Mathieu Zahler, has more than 19 years of experience in both the design and construction industry and the field of real estate development.



Starting a Business?

Need help starting your business?
Looking for money to start your business?

The Metro South Business Assistance Center Can Help!

COUNSELING: Individual counseling is available by appointment for start-up and existing businesses. Counselors are working or retired professionals, highly experienced and willing to share their knowledge in financing, marketing, management, and more.

REFERENCE MATERIALS: An outstanding collection of reference materials that include hundreds of fully detailed, step-by-step guides for every aspect of starting and maintaining a small business.

ACCESS: To computer and business-related software, including QuickBooks Pro, Business Plan Pro, Loan Builder, Microsoft Office, and more.

EDUCATION: Workshops include QuickBooks, Writing a Business Plan, SEED Commercial, Social Media Series, DCAMM Certification, and more.

(508) 586-0500 metrosouthchamber.com/resources/business-assistance.

Major Sponsors:



When Metro South is Home, Everything's Within Reach

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



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

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

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



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



BUSINESS EVENTS *Planner*

February 15

Good Day Metro South

11:45AM

Thorny Lea Golf Club

159 Torrey Street, Brockton

Guest speaker: Dr. Mark Melnik, UMass Donahue Institute; and Mayor of Brockton, Bob Sullivan

Sponsor: OCES - Old Colony Elder Services

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events

February 17

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

2:30PM

J. Brown Realty

567 Pleasant Street, Suite 201, Brockton

Join us for a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony with new chamber members J. Brown Realty!

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events

February 29

9th Annual Multicultural Business

Forum & Resource Expo

5:00PM

Thorny Lea Golf Club

159 Torrey Street, Brockton

Guest speakers: Rosangela Tavares, Porton di Nôs Ilha; Dr. Sabrina Coombs, Medella Dental; and David Offutt, HomeVestors of America.

Sponsor: North Easton Savings Bank

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events

March 28

Good Day Metro South

12:00PM

Concord Foods

10 Minuteman Way, Brockton

Guest speaker: Massachusetts Secretary of Economic Development, Yvonne Hao

Sponsor: South Shore Bank

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events