



## Leading Businesses Leading Communities



## Chamber Mission

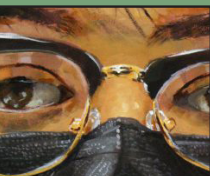
To best serve the unique interests and needs of member businesses and to champion the broader economic vitality of the Metro South region.



Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development, Lauren Jones • Page 7



Beverly Williams, BAMS and Mayor Sullivan, City of Brockton • Page 7



Brockton Youth Creates on view at Fuller Craft Museum Page 6

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## Chamber Calendar Through 2024! Save the Dates, Expand Your Network

Register and learn more about the following events online at [metrosouthchamber.com/events](https://metrosouthchamber.com/events)

### July 10: Business After Hours - Mayor's Summer Concert Series

Heights Crossing | 5-7:30PM | 35 Christy's Place, Brockton



You're invited to an attend evening of networking on Wednesday, July 10 in coordination with Mayor Bob Sullivan's Summer Concert series. Enjoy live music, complimentary refreshments, and hors d'oeuvres, while networking on the outdoor patio at Heights Crossing. Don't miss this great business-building opportunity. As in past years, the **Mandela Washington Fellows** with Bridgewater State University are anticipated to attend this summer networking event! *More on page 2.*

### Oct. 3: 34th Legislative Reception

Thursday, October 3 | 5-7:30PM | Stonehill College | Easton



STONEHILL COLLEGE

As a member of the Metro South Chamber, your organization has a vested interest in helping foster stronger relationships with local officials. The Legislative Reception is an excellent and cost-effective way for you, your key staff, and colleagues to initiate or renew contacts at the state, federal and local level. *More on page 2.*

### Nov. 20: 111th Annual Mtg & Expo

10:30AM- 3:00PM | Adult & Teen Challenge | Brockton

**SAVE THE DATE** for the Metro South Chamber's 111th Annual Meeting. Sponsorship and corporate table reservations available. Keynote speaker, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Chief Economist, Curtis Dubay. *More on page 2.*

### Sept. 27: Good Day Metro South Grow Associates & Rockland Trust

Grow Associates | 11:45-1:30PM | 68 Mazzeo Dr, Randolph



Where Each Relationship Matters®

Join us for a Good Day Metro South luncheon hosted at Grow Associates at 68 Mazzeo Drive in Randolph on Friday, September 27th, 11:45AM - 1:30PM. The premier sponsor of this event is Rockland Trust. More information TBA! *More on page 2.*

### Oct 17: Housing & Transit Summit

8:30AM | Showcase Cinema | 73 Mazzeo Dr, Randolph



Regional leaders participating include Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nutt from MassDOT; Rachel Heller, CEO of Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), and more TBA. *More on page 5.*

### Dec. 4: After Hours with BCU

5-7:15PM | Bridgewater Credit Union | Hanover



Make new connections and refresh existing ones with members of the Metro South community and beyond! Wednesday, December 4th from 5PM-7:15PM at Bridgewater Credit Union's Hanover branch at 1095 Washington Street.

## Metro South Regional Priorities Moving Forward

### LEAD ON ISSUES OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPORTANCE

- *Advocate* – Creation of Regional Water/Sewer Connections
- *Investigate* – Best Use of Underutilized Parcels of Land and Expanded Regional Rail/Transit Service
- *Market* – Creative Economy as a Vehicle for Job Creation and Visitor Attraction
- *Support* – Green/Clean Energy Initiatives for Regional Sustainability
- *Champion* – Regional Bio-Ready Life-Sciences Growth

### ATTRACT, TRAIN AND RETAIN A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

- *Connect* – Competitive Workforce/Technical Training with Economic Development
- *Celebrate* – Workforce Diversity and Capacity
- *Endorse* – Employee Wellness Strategies
- *Support* – Quality Housing, Higher Education and Health Care Worker Skills Development
- *Create* – Pipelines for Career Advancement in Strategic Industries

### COLLABORATE FOR A CLIMATE CONDUCTIVE TO COMPETITIVE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Endorse* – Gateway Cities Incentives for Sustainable Development
- *Advocate* – Attractive Commercial/Industrial Tax Rate Adoption
- *Operate* – Business Assistance Center and Edison Small Business Workshop Series
- *Present* – Educational Series

Targeting  
Entrepreneurs and  
Top Industries  
• *Promote* –  
Regional Brand,  
Assets, and  
Development  
Ready Sites



## Mandela Washington Fellows to Attend After Hours Reception, Mayors Summer Concert Series - July 10

Wednesday, July 10 | 5-7:30PM | Heights Crossing Assisted Living | 35 Christy's Place, Brockton



MANDELA  
WASHINGTON  
FELLOWSHIP  
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS



Rotary  
Club of Brockton



Chamber members and Rotarians are invited to attend an evening of live music and networking on Wednesday, July 10 in coordination with Mayor Robert Sullivan's Summer Concert series. Enjoy live music, complimentary refreshments, and hors d'oeuvres, while networking on the outdoor patio at Heights Crossing, located at 35 Christy's Place, Brockton, MA 02301.

Don't miss this great business-building opportunity hosted by Heights Crossing Assisted Living. Enjoy delicious food and beverages while connecting with potential customers, existing chamber members, and friends in the Metro South community.

*Tickets to this event are complimentary, but please RSVP in advance at [metrosouthchamber.com/events](https://metrosouthchamber.com/events). Questions? Contact Hannah McGuire at [events@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:events@metrosouthchamber.com) or call (508) 586-0500 x 231 for assistance.*

The Chamber is also excited to welcome back, for the eighth year, the Mandela Washington Fellows!

The Mandela Washington Fellowship, the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), empowers young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities, and local community engagement. YALI was created in 2010 and supports young Africans as they spur economic growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. Since 2014, the U.S. Department of State has supported nearly 5,800 Mandela Washington Fellows from across Sub-Saharan Africa to develop their leadership skills and foster connections and collaboration with U.S. professionals. The cohort of Fellows hosted by Bridgewater State University will be part of a group of 700 Mandela Washington Fellows hosted at 28 educational institutions across the United States.

The 2024 Mandela Washington Fellowship program will run at Bridgewater State University from June 19-July 28. Visit [bridgew.edu/the-university/mandela-washington-fellowship](https://bridgew.edu/the-university/mandela-washington-fellowship) to learn more.

The Rotary Club of Brockton will also join us for the occasion. Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad. For more than 110 years, Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects.

## Save the Date! September 27 "Good Day Metro South" Luncheon, Hosted at Grow Associates in Randolph

Friday, September 27 | 11:45AM - 1:30PM | Grow Associates | 68 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph

Premier Sponsor:



Where Each Relationship Matters®



Join us for a Good Day Metro South luncheon hosted at Grow Associates at 68 Mazzeo Drive in Randolph on Friday, September 27th, 11:45AM - 1:30PM. The premier sponsor of this event is Rockland Trust. More information TBA!

Register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/events](https://metrosouthchamber.com/events), contact Hannah McGuire for assistance at [events@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:events@metrosouthchamber.com) or call (508) 586-0500 x231.

## 34th Annual Legislative Reception to be held October 3 at Stonehill College in Easton - You're Invited!

Thursday, October 3 | 5-7:30PM | Donahue Hall, Stonehill College | 320 Washington St., Easton



Program Sponsor:



Host Sponsor:



STONEHILL COLLEGE

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce cordially invites members of the business community, candidates for public office, and state, federal and local elected officials to gather on **Thursday, October 3rd for the 34th Annual Legislative and Candidates Reception. The reception will be held at Donahue Hall, on the campus of Stonehill College in Easton from 5:00 - 7:30PM.**

The reception is a casual event at which business leaders, elected officials, and candidates for public office can renew contacts and discuss issues of importance to them and the business community while enjoying complimentary refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Legislative actions at municipal offices, on Beacon Hill and in Washington are having far greater impact on Metro South area businesses than ever before. As a result, there is a greater need for our business community to speak out and be heard on regulations affecting commerce and industry.

As a member of the Metro South Chamber, your organization has a vested interest in helping foster stronger relationships with local officials. The Legislative Reception is an excellent and cost-effective way for you, your key staff, and colleagues to initiate or renew contacts at the state, federal and local level.

*Tickets to this event are complimentary, but please RSVP in advance at [metrosouthchamber.com/events](https://metrosouthchamber.com/events). Questions? Contact Hannah McGuire at [events@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:events@metrosouthchamber.com) or call (508) 586-0500 x 231 for assistance.*

## 111th Annual Meeting, Save the Date! November 20

Wednesday, November 20 | 10:30AM - 3:00PM | Adult & Teen Challenge Center | Brockton



**SAVE THE DATE** for the Metro South Chamber's 111th Annual Meeting. Sponsorship opportunities and corporate table reservations available.

This event will sell out, register now. For more info, email Hannah McGuire at [events@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:events@metrosouthchamber.com) or call (508) 586-0500 x 231. Register online at [metrosouthchamber.com/events](https://metrosouthchamber.com/events).

Curtis Dubay, chief economist in the Economic Policy Division at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, tracks the condition of the economy, analyzes the impact of public policy on economic growth, and runs the Chamber's Chief Economists Committee. The committee consists of chief economists from member businesses. It helps the

Chamber formulate economic policies and provides analysis to policymakers in Washington, D.C.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Keynote Speaker: Curtis Dubay, Chief Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chuck Jones - Harbor Health	
Kelly Mallory - Mallory Headsets, Inc.	
Matthew Osborne - Eastern Bank	

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

Hannah McGuire Programs & Events Coordinator x 231

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



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  
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info@metrosouthchamber.com  
www.metroouthchamber.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 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!

July

10 Business After Hours: 5:30 pm  
Mandela Washington Fellows and Mayor's Summer Concert Series  
Heights Crossing: 35 Christy's Place, Brockton

August

28 Chamber Board Meeting 12:30 pm  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

September

04 Chamber Ambassador Meeting 9:00 am  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

27 Good Day Metro South 11:45 am  
Grow Associates: 68 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph

October

03 34th Annual Legislative & Candidates Reception 5:00 pm  
Donahue Hall, Stonehill College: 320 Washington Street, Easton

17 5th Annual Housing & Transit Summit w NEREJ 8:30 am  
Showcase Cinema: 73 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph

The Ambassador Team meets on a monthly basis to serve fellow members by providing information, resources, member-to-member support, increasing awareness and promoting active participation in Chamber programs and services. To learn more, please email events@metrosouthchamber.com



METRO SOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Leading Businesses.  
Leading Communities.

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

## Brockton Unveils New Marvelous Marvin Hagler Statue, Homage to Champion City



The bronze statue now stands at the former location of the Petronelli Brothers’ Gym, where Hagler, a middleweight whose 1985 defeat of Tommy Hearns capped a dominant career, trained during his boxing career. “I will say one thing about Marvelous Marvin, he never forgot where he came from,” Mayor Robert Sullivan told the crowd. “So today he is not here physically, but he is here in spirit.”

## MSBDC Online Training Calendar - visit [msbdc.org/training](https://msbdc.org/training) to register

- 7/9: Energy Audit for Your Business
- 7/30: How to Start a Business 101
- 8/7: Tech Talks with Rob
- 8/21: Money, Budgeting, Saving & Debt Reduction



**OCES Falmouth Road Race Team Seeks Partner Support - August 18**  
Join OCES in commemoration of their 50th Anniversary to celebrate

Members - send Good News to [estratton@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:estratton@metrosouthchamber.com)  
Sponsored by: Good Samaritan Medical Center

the many years of Caring for and Collaborating with greater Plymouth County. All funds support OCES’ Behavioral Health and Wellness Programs including FREE in-home counseling supports for older adults in Plymouth County.



QR Code will direct you to the OCES Team and Runners to donate!

**Cultural Affairs and Tourism Meeting - July 11**  
The next Cultural Affairs and Tourism meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2024 beginning at 6 p.m. at North Baptist Church, 899 North Main Street in Brockton. Come learn about what is happening and share your organizations activities, too. The meeting is taped and also on ZOOM if you call Anne at 774-297-4939 or email her at [ambeauregard@outlook.com](mailto:ambeauregard@outlook.com) for instructions.



**Brockton Farmers Market Returns for the 2024 Summer Season**  
Visit the Brockton Farmers Market now through October 25 at their

**NEW LOCATION** City Hall VFW Parkway in downtown Brockton, Fridays 10AM-2PM. Activities include Cooking Demos, Summer Eats Program, UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program, Children’s Entertainment sponsored by the Brockton Public Library, and more. SNAP/EBT accepted. Vendors include: Freitas Farm, Barbosa Family Farm, Souza Family Farm, LaFleur’s Wildflower Honey, Roxanne’s Garden Center, Mai Asia Vegetables, Mig’s Dogs, Glorify Glow, and more. Visit [brocktonfarmersmarket.com](https://brocktonfarmersmarket.com).

## New “Neponset Valley Metro South Magazine” sister publication to “South Shore Magazine” to spotlight local businesses!



Neponset Valley / Metro South

Magazine is the latest publication from the well-established publishers Black Rock Group INC. Publishers of South Shore Magazine since 2000, Black Rock Group is bringing their highly successful direct mail model to select towns and cities in the Neponset Valley/Metro South Region.

The new Neponset Valley Metro South Magazine will specialize in business and organization profile articles featuring area businesses and non-profit community organizations. The articles fall into the following

sections: HOUSE & HOME, HEALTH & WELLNESS, OUR COMMUNITY (which is where Non-Profit organizations in the region will be profiled), BUSINESS, LIFE & STYLE and lastly GREAT TASTES, which encompasses the restaurant scene, craft beers, wine, spirits and the local music scene. The first issue is scheduled to be out in print and digitaly in the summer of 2024, followed by a late autumn edition.

Chamber members are eligible for a 15% off discount of any ad or article in the first issue, deadline July 31.



QR Code will direct you to chamber member discount info.

## Mayor’s Summer Concert Series Schedule

City of Brockton Mayor Robert Sullivan Summer Concert Series 2024	
July 10	The After Hours
July 17	The Mutha Funk
July 24	The Corvairs
July 31	Professor Harp
August 7	J Street Blues Band with special Guest Lois Lane
August 14	Annie and the Furtrappers
August 21	Bag Full of Blues
August 28	The Smackdads
6:00-8:00 pm The Patio at Heights Crossing 35 Christy's Place, Brockton	

The series returns this year Wednesdays, July 10th through August 28th 6:00-8:00pm with an excellent line-up, kicked off by Brockton favorite The After Hours on Wednesday, July 10th. Patio at Heights Crossing, 35 Christy’s Place.

# Health Care Matters

Sponsored by: Good Samaritan Medical Center 235 North Pearl Street, Brockton, MA 02301 508-427-3000 www.goodsamaritanmedical.org

## Tips to Stay Safe in the Heat of the Summer

The summer months are finally here! As you make plans for you and your family members to spend more time outdoors, do not forget the dangers prolonged time in the sun can cause.

When you step outside, don’t just remember to grab your phone, wallet, and keys! Make sure you’re applying sunscreen and bringing a water bottle to stay hydrated on those warm sunny days. Read more tips on how to stay safe this summer: [https://www.stewardtoday.com/tips-to-stay-](https://www.stewardtoday.com/tips-to-stay-safe-in-the-heat-of-the-summer/)

[safe-in-the-heat-of-the-summer/](#)  
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](https://www.goodsamaritanmedical.org).  
Steward Health Care is the largest private, physician-led health care network in the U.S., operating 37 hospitals and employing 42,000 health care professionals.





# 5th Annual Metro South Summit with New England Real Estate Journal to highlight “Transit Housing on the Rail” - featuring Massachusetts Transportation Secretary, CHAPA, and more 10/17 in Randolph

Thursday, October 17 | 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Showcase Cinema de Lux | 73 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph | [metrosouthchamber.com/events](https://metrosouthchamber.com/events)



Please join us on Thursday, October 17th at Showcase Cinema de Lux, 73 Mazzeo Drive in Randolph for a Metro South of Boston Summit with the New England Real Estate Journal.

The Metro South Chamber is partnering with NEREJ to bring you an engaging event discussing topics such as Opportunity Zones, new housing and redevelopment, transportation, improving infrastructure, and building the future of the Metro South region. Regional leaders participating include Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt from MassDOT; Rachel Heller, CEO of Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), and more TBA. *This event is sponsored by Trinity Development and Management.*

Registration is required for this event. In-person attendance is \$99 and includes breakfast plus time for networking. Register now, this event will sell out. REGISTER ONLINE at [metrosouthchamber.com/events](https://metrosouthchamber.com/events).

Questions? Contact Hannah McGuire at [events@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:events@metrosouthchamber.com) or call (508) 586-0500 x231 for assistance. We hope to see you there!



Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, Monica Tibbits- Nutt



Planning and Policy. Tibbits-Nutt previously served on both the MassDOT Board of Directors and as the Vice-Chair of the Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB) that oversaw the MBTA from 2015-2021.

Prior to joining the Governor’s Cabinet, she was Executive Director of 128 Business Council, a transportation management association and regional

service provider that builds privately funded, cooperative public transportation routes throughout the Route 128 West Corridor.

Areas of specialty include regional and transportation planning, urban design, and transit equity. In both her work and research, she is particularly interested in capitalizing upon every opportunity to better educate transportation stakeholders and the public about all aspects of the planning process. As part of this focus on education, she serves as the Vice President of the non-profit Youth Engagement Planning (YEP!), which brings urban planning and community advocacy into K-12 environments.

Secretary Tibbits-Nutt is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design & Construction with the U.S. Green Building Council. Originally hailing from the rural Midwest, she is a first-generation college graduate. Visit [www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-transportation](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-transportation) to learn more.



Rachel Heller, CEO, CHAPA (Citizens’

**Rachel Heller** became CHAPA’s CEO in 2016, after joining the agency as the Director of Public Policy in 2012. Rachel is responsible for providing strategic leadership and overseeing all activities of the organization. She works in partnership with the Board of Directors to articulate and execute CHAPA’s mission. Rachel previously worked as the Director of Public Policy at the Alliance for Business Leadership, served as Chief of Staff to Massachusetts State Senator Susan Tucker, and was the Senior Policy Advocate at Homes for Families, a nonprofit advocacy organization working to end family homelessness. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Peace Studies from the University of Connecticut.

**About CHAPA:** Born out of a small group of community leaders who understood that housing was a critical issue of the civil rights movement in 1967, Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is

to encourage the production and preservation of housing that is affordable to low and moderate-income families and individuals and to foster diverse and sustainable communities through planning and community development.

CHAPA helped create the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Law (Chapter 40B), which was developed so that families and individuals with low and moderate incomes could find safe and affordable homes in every city and town in the Commonwealth. CHAPA also helped create our own state rental subsidy programs, the state’s Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and the strongest expiring use law in the nation (Chapter 40T).

Throughout CHAPA’s history, we have successfully advocated for the passage of numerous Housing Bond Bills and legislative priorities to fund affordable housing development and programs throughout Massachusetts.

At the core of our work, we believe that every person in Massachusetts should have a safe, healthy, and affordable place to call home. CHAPA achieves this by advocating for opportunity, expanding access to housing, and developing the field. Visit [www.chapa.org](https://www.chapa.org) to learn more.





## New Labor Laws Went into Effect July 1: Overtime



Starting July 1, 2024, significant changes to U.S. overtime rules will take effect. The Department of Labor (DOL) is increasing the salary thresholds for overtime exemptions under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The standard salary threshold will rise from \$684 per week (\$35,568 per year) to \$844 per week (\$43,888 per year). For highly compensated employees, the threshold will increase from \$107,432 per year to \$132,964 per year.

[oai\_citation:1,Biden-Harris administration finalizes rule to increase compensation thresholds for overtime eligibility, expanding protections for millions of workers | U.S. Department of Labor] (<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20240423-0>) [oai\_citation:2, DOL Final Overtime Rule to Take Effect July 1 | HR Policy] ([https://www.hrpolity.org/insight-and-research/resources/2024/hr\\_workforce/public/04/dol-final-overtime-rule-to-take-effect-july-1/](https://www.hrpolity.org/insight-and-research/resources/2024/hr_workforce/public/04/dol-final-overtime-rule-to-take-effect-july-1/)).

Furthermore, on January 1, 2025, these thresholds will rise again. The standard salary threshold will go up to \$1,128 per week (\$58,656 per year), and for highly compensated employees, it will increase to \$151,164 per year. [oai\_citation:3,Overtime Changes Coming July 1, 2024 - Cranfill Sumner LLP](<https://www.cshlaw.com/resources/overtime-changes-coming-july-1-2024/>) [oai\_citation:4,MDOL: News & Events]([https://www.maine.gov/labor/news\\_events/article.shtml?id=12713261](https://www.maine.gov/labor/news_events/article.shtml?id=12713261)).

Additionally, starting July 1, 2027, and every three years thereafter, the salary thresholds will be automatically updated based on current wage data. [oai\_citation:5, Biden-Harris administration finalizes rule to increase compensation thresholds for overtime eligibility, expanding protections for millions of workers | U.S. Department of Labor] (<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20240423-0>) [oai\_citation:6,Overtime Changes Coming July 1, 2024 - Cranfill Sumner LLP] (<https://www.cshlaw.com/resources/overtime-changes-coming-july-1-2024/>).

Employers will need to review their compensation practices to ensure compliance. Options include adjusting employee hours to avoid overtime, increasing salaries to maintain exempt status, converting salaried employees to hourly, or continuing to pay salaries while tracking hours and paying overtime as needed. [oai\_citation:7,Overtime Changes Coming July 1, 2024 - Cranfill Sumner LLP] (<https://www.cshlaw.com/resources/overtime-changes-coming-july-1-2024/>).

These changes aim to ensure that more lower-paid salaried workers receive overtime pay for hours worked beyond the standard 40-hour workweek. [oai\_citation:8,DOL Final Overtime Rule to Take Effect July 1 | HR Policy] ([https://www.hrpolity.org/insight-and-research/resources/2024/hr\\_workforce/public/04/dol-final-overtime-rule-to-take-effect-july-1/](https://www.hrpolity.org/insight-and-research/resources/2024/hr_workforce/public/04/dol-final-overtime-rule-to-take-effect-july-1/)).

## Partners in Success: Top Social Media Trends of 2024

METRO SOUTH  
Regional Economic Development  
20th Anniversary

SCORE  
FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

METRO SOUTH  
BAC  
Business Assistance Center

To find out this year's trends and expectations for social media, HubSpot surveyed over 1,500 brand social media marketers. The survey revealed that the content that gets the most engagement is authentic and elicits an emotional response. In a time when content is more accessible to create with AI, the most original, personalized, valuable posts are winning.

The survey also shows that a quarter of marketers are currently leveraging the strategy of selling products directly via social media apps, and 50% of marketers plan to increase their investment in social selling in 2024. Consider the social media platforms used by marketers: As social platforms gain and lose favor, brands need to be agile when it comes to social media, particularly for channels that they depend on for revenue. Click the QR code to view the full report, including platforms by B2C and B2B, engagement levels, trends, and more.



## This Summer at Fuller Craft Museum, Free Admission!

The 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](http://fullercraft.org) to learn more.

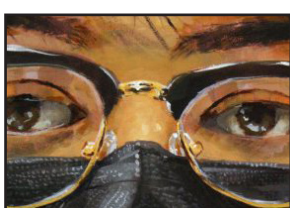


Michael C. Thorpe: Homeowners Ins.

Homeowners Insurance presents the quilt-based work of American conceptual artist Michael C. Thorpe. The fifteen forms on view illustrate Thorpe's distinct visual language known for its geometric shapes, colorful textures, and energetic stitching. A true storyteller, Thorpe shares his world through his expressions—his friends and family, inspirational figures, daily surroundings, athletic endeavors, even painterly abstractions and meaningful texts. By depicting harmonious narratives, Thorpe aims to inspire connection between people from all walks of life.



Small Wonders: Beauty, Alchemy, and the Art of Enameling



Brockton Youth Creates 2024

Creates exhibition on display July 13 through October 13, 2024.



Hand in Hand: Works from the Fleur S. Bresler Collection

Hand in Hand: Works from the Fleur S. Bresler Collection presents the recent donation of craft objects gifted to Fuller Craft Museum by philanthropist Fleur S. Bresler. Bresler, an avid and longtime collector of contemporary craft, has assembled one of the most notable collections in the US while supporting countless artists at all stages of their careers. Her 2023 donation to Fuller Craft Museum includes significant works in multiple media by renowned artists Mary Jackson, Anne Lemanski, Judy McKie, Richard Marquis, Merryll Saylan, Kay Sekimachi, Bob Stocksdaile, and more. The dynamic works in this exhibition represent achievement in making and the impact passion and generosity can have on the field of contemporary craft.



Tiny Pricks Project: Desperate Times, Creative Measures

resistance it inspired.

Michael C. Thorpe: Homeowners Insurance presents the quilt-based work of American conceptual artist Michael C. Thorpe. The fifteen forms on view illustrate Thorpe's distinct visual language known for its geometric shapes, colorful textures, and energetic stitching. A true storyteller, Thorpe shares his world through his expressions—his friends and family, inspirational figures, daily surroundings, athletic endeavors, even painterly abstractions and meaningful texts. By depicting harmonious narratives, Thorpe aims to inspire connection between people from all walks of life. Small Wonders will include work by some of the leading figures in late 20th-century American enameling such as June Schwarcz, Harold B. Helwig, Joseph Trippetti, Barbara Minor, Kate Berl, and Sarah Perkins. The exhibition will also display works from emerging leaders in the field, namely Martha Banyas, Jessica Calderwood, and Zachery Lechtenberg. What's more, the inclusion of New England artists Lilyan Bachrach, Marion Lang, Rick McMullen, and Barbara Seidenath engages artists living and working in the region.

Brockton Youth Creates 2024: View the creativity and artistic excellence of Brockton High School students as part of the Fuller Craft Museum's biennial. With pieces representing all grade levels, this group of work highlights the power of young voices, celebrating their individuality and reflecting on the wider world. From whimsical teapots to dystopian illustrations, this exhibition offers insight into the joys, anxieties, and goals of the next generation of makers. Brockton Youth Creates exhibition on display July 13 through October 13, 2024.

Hand in Hand: Works from the Fleur S. Bresler Collection presents the recent donation of craft objects gifted to Fuller Craft Museum by philanthropist Fleur S. Bresler. Bresler, an avid and longtime collector of contemporary craft, has assembled one of the most notable collections in the US while supporting countless artists at all stages of their careers. Her 2023 donation to Fuller Craft Museum includes significant works in multiple media by renowned artists Mary Jackson, Anne Lemanski, Judy McKie, Richard Marquis, Merryll Saylan, Kay Sekimachi, Bob Stocksdaile, and more. The dynamic works in this exhibition represent achievement in making and the impact passion and generosity can have on the field of contemporary craft.

Tiny Pricks Project: Desperate Times, Creative Measures celebrates the remarkable global public art project initiated and curated by artist Diana Weymar. In 2018, Weymar embarked on a transformative journey by stitching the infamous words of former President Donald Trump, "I am a stable genius," onto her grandmother's embroidery. What began as a solitary act soon blossomed into a vibrant international movement, with thousands of contributors collectively crafting a tangible archive of Trump's presidency and the spirited



## 26th Annual ATHENA Award Recognizes Support & Development; Honors Women Leaders



On Thursday, June 13th at Massasoit Community College in Brockton, the Metro South Chamber and Eastern Bank presented the 26th Annual ATHENA Leadership Award during a special luncheon 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.

Our 26th ATHENA Award recipient is Beverly Williams, BAMSI; our guest speaker was Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Lauren Jones.

To learn more, visit [metrosouthchamber.com/2024/06/26th-annual-athena-womens-leadership-award-luncheon](https://metrosouthchamber.com/2024/06/26th-annual-athena-womens-leadership-award-luncheon). Photos courtesy of Ben Ross Photography. Visit [flickr.com/photos/metrosouthchamber](https://www.flickr.com/photos/metrosouthchamber) to see more photos from this event.



Premier Sponsor, SVP of Business Banking, Adriana Moschella interviewed by emcee Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Ctr.



ATHENA Award Recipient Beverly Williams, BAMSI receives Official Citation from the City of Brockton and Mayor Bob Sullivan.



Dr. Lydia Dodson, Executive Director of the Entrepreneurial Center and Women's Leadership Initiative, Massasoit Community College.



ATHENA Guest Speaker, Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Lauren Jones.



Brockton Area Multi-Services, inc. (BAMSI) team - thank you!



Supporting Sponsor, MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board (Masshire GBWB) team - thank you!



Secretary Lauren Jones, Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development; ATHENA Award recipient Beverly Williams, Executive Vice President of Behavioral Health & Community Services, BAMSI; Bob Sullivan, Mayor of City of Brockton; Sue Joss, CEO, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center; and Chris Cooney, President & CEO, Metro South Chamber.

## Chamber Hosts Business Entities and Tax Liabilities Workshop with Chanise Anderson and NeighborWorks



Attorney Chanise Anderson instructs workshop goers during "Business Entities and Tax Liabilities" session in partnership with NeighborWorks Housing Solutions Small Business Development Officer, Tricia White.

In June, the Chamber hosted NeighborWorks Housing Solutions' workshop "Business Entities and Tax Liabilities" with business attorney Chanise Anderson.

The journey of starting and running a business can be a roller coaster. The truth is that every business, no matter what kind, should be using a lawyer's services from the very beginning. While it may seem cheaper or easier to do everything yourself, it can end up costing you a lot of time and money in the long run. This conversation with MarkSetGo Law business attorney Chanise Anderson focused on business entities, tax liabilities, and more with trademark and more. Chanise assists with navigating the legal issues that can impact your business, both good and bad.

*Want to host a workshop of your own at the Chamber? The conference room 60 School Street in Brockton is available for room rental. Contact Hannah McGuire at*

*[events@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:events@metrosouthchamber.com) or call (508) 586-0500 x231.*



The point is not saying everything, but everything that matters.





## SCORE Empowers All Entrepreneurs to Succeed



The path to small business success is different for every entrepreneur. For some, access to small business funding and key resources is challenging. For others, increasing business knowledge is the key to success. Whatever the needs, SCORE offers free mentoring, education, and resources to make the path to success easier and more direct.

SCORE has developed these resource hubs to speak to the needs of different entrepreneurs. If you don't see the specific resources you need, you are encouraged to connect with a mentor who can provide personalized expertise based on your unique needs and challenges. Visit [www.score.org/score-for-all](http://www.score.org/score-for-all) for an extended list of resources.

**Resources for Rural Entrepreneurs:** Small businesses with fewer than 50 employees provide 42% of all jobs in rural America. Although rural entrepreneurs face challenges, rural communities are becoming more diverse and innovative, which is good news for small business owners.

**Resources for Asian America, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Entrepreneurs:** Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) own one in 10 American businesses. Highly reliant on self and community, their work ethic produces the highest average small business receipts of any ethnic group.

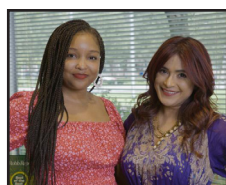
**Resources for Black Entrepreneurs:** Black entrepreneurs have a rich history as successful small business owners. Resources for black entrepreneurs range from start-up materials to finance and funding resources.

**Resources for Women Entrepreneurs:** Women entrepreneurs are a growing part of the U.S. economy. SCORE offers women entrepreneurs key resources to build on their strengths and provide new avenues to success.

**Resources for LGBTQIA+ Entrepreneurs:** LGBTQIA+ entrepreneurs are making significant strides in the business world, embracing diversity and inclusion, these trailblazers foster innovative environments and vibrant community connections. These businesses create over 33,000 jobs and demonstrate a higher likelihood of being innovators in their industries.

**Resources for Veteran Entrepreneurs:** Military veterans find successful second or third careers through small business ownership. SCORE resources help veterans capitalize on their military experience with complementary small business resources.

**Resources for Hispanic Entrepreneurs:** Hispanic small businesses are an integral part of the U.S. small business economy. Find resources in both English and Spanish to support current Hispanic business owners and further Hispanic entrepreneurs.



## SEED Corp. Offers Micro and Small Loan Programs



- **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

Call (508) 822-1020 x 312 or visit [www.seedcorp.com](http://www.seedcorp.com)



### FAST TRACK LOANS

Up to \$25,000 for start-up and existing businesses at 7% fixed

[MORE INFO](#)



### MICRO AND SMALL LOANS

Micro Loans up to \$50,000 and Small Loans up to \$350,000 at 6-7% fixed with flexible terms

[MORE INFO](#)



### SBA 504 LOANS

Real Estate or Machinery and Equipment Loans up to \$5.5 million at low, fixed rates

[MORE INFO](#)

## 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](http://www.score.org), [www.sema.score.org](http://www.sema.score.org), [www.boston.score.org](http://www.boston.score.org), or by calling (508) 587-2673. Ahead for the month and beyond...

**July 9:** *How to Scale Your Business - 5 Steps to Business Growth*

**July 11:** *Small Business Risk Exposure*

**July 11:** *Boost Your Business with AI - Simple Tools for Success*

**July 16:** *Mistakes to Avoid When Starting a Business*

**July 18:** *How to Protect Your Biz / Invention Using Trademarks, Patents, Copyrights*

**July 30:** *Protecting and Growing Your Small to Medium-Sized Business*

**August 28:** *Marketing Plan 101 - Create Your Roadmap to Success*





## BAT Bus Increases Service, Expands Hours, and Extends Fare Free Program through end of 2024

# bat

This month, Brockton Mayor Robert F. Sullivan and Brockton Area Transit Administrator Michael Lambert jointly announced an increase in bus service starting on July 1st, as well as a MassDOT grant award that will extend BAT's current fare free program through 2024. Additionally, BAT received a \$430,000 grant to expand its existing microtransit service and offer new subsidized late night/early morning employment trips via taxi, Uber or Lyft. "Sincere thanks are in order to Mayor Sullivan and the entire BAT Board of Directors for their leadership, as well as to the Governor and State Legislature for their strong commitment to expanding regional transit options across the Commonwealth," stated BAT Administrator Lambert.

• **Increased service** – Starting on July 1st, half hour bus frequencies will be expanded to run throughout BAT's weekday city service from 6:40 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.

"As Mayor, I am thrilled that BAT will increase services during the summer months," said Brockton Mayor and BAT Board Chair Sullivan. "This enhanced amenity will benefit Brockton residents and business owners. It will also benefit visitors to the 'City of Champions' and assist neighboring municipalities and communities."

• **Extended fare free program** – The new MassDOT grant in the amount of \$261,000 combined with previous state grant funding will allow all of BAT's fixed route and paratransit services to run without fare collection through December 31, 2024.

"Old Colony Planning Council applauds BAT in their recent grant awards that will extend the fare free service to December 31, 2024, and also expand its existing microtransit service," added OCPC Executive Director Mary Waldron. "Brockton Area Transit continues to be a leader in innovation and responding to the evolving customer needs and ridership trends."

• **Late night/early morning workforce transportation** – Funding from MassDOT's competitive Regional Transit Innovation Grant Program will allow BAT to pilot expanded transit service in the region to better serve 2nd and 3rd shift workers.

"The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is delighted to promote expanded BAT regional transit service options funded from the MassDOT Innovation Grant Program. This new type of transit in the region takes advantage of existing taxi and ridesharing services to efficiently provide off-hour trips for workers seeking to access jobs within the region, said Chris Cooney, Chamber President and CEO.

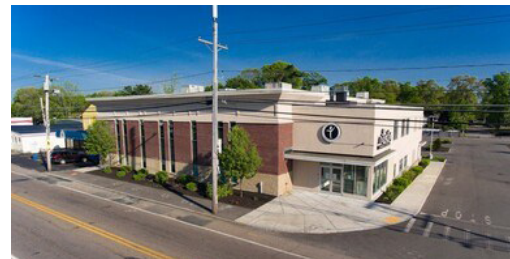
## Affordable, Flexible Health Coverage for Small Biz



Health Connector for Business is a one-stop shopping solution for small businesses and brokers looking for affordable, high-quality health and dental insurance. Through the Health Connector, you can compare plans from leading insurance carriers side by side.

Their new online tools make it easier for employers, brokers, and employees to apply, compare options for health and dental insurance, and enroll. Visit [www.mahealthconnector.org/business](http://www.mahealthconnector.org/business) to learn more.

## Metro South Commercial Real Estate Spotlight



**661 Centre Street, Brockton**  
Freestanding +20,514 sq ft office building located on Rt 123 (aka Centre St.) across the street from Brockton Hospital Medical Campus. Property is nearby the Brockton/Abington line. The property is available for Sale or Lease. The building

was constructed in 2009 and renovated in 2018, offers a large parking lot with onsite parking spaces and is in excellent condition. Additional features include elevator, built out office space and conference areas. The space can be divided. Perfect for investor or owner operator. Contact Cesar Miranda (508) 326-8306



**155 Crescent Street, Brockton**  
Approx. 10,000 sq. ft. mixed-use development with 6 residential units and 2 commercial units (first floor) in the heart of downtown Brockton. 5 minute walk to the commuter rail. High ceilings with lots of natural light. Project completion expected within 45 days. Great opportunity with

cash flow upwards of \$200k+ per year. Seller may consider partial owner financing on agreed upon terms. Contact Stacy Norrell (855) 722-9222



**51 Libby Street, Brockton**  
Small Medical Office Building on the campus of Brockton Hospital (Signature Healthcare). Great location for a clinician or behavioral health specialist. Two exam rooms, business office, executive office and basement

with exterior entrance. Contact Brian Droukas (508) 458-5000



**566 Forest Ave, Brockton**  
Zoning c2 – drive-in door – city water/city sewer – gas heat – conveyor belt to second floor on side of building – separate 600 sf retail unit with side entrance  
Contact Donahue Associates

(508) 588-1717



**106 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph**  
Hi-Visibility Site at Traffic Light Route 139 @ Route 24  
Retail Site for Lease Hi-Visibility Site at Traffic Light Route 139 @ Route 24  
ABUTTING PROPERTIES INCLUDE MARRIOTT COURTYARD,

OCEAN STATE JOB LOT AND BOB'S STORE Total lot size is 46,544 SF (16,052 SF in Stoughton and 30,492 SF in Randolph). Call (508) 588-1717

## Attend Important Business & Community Programs with Your Chamber Season Tickets! Order Ahead



The new season of Metro South Chamber events is about to begin, and we want you to be there! Reserve your 2024 - 2025 Season Ticket now and get access to events all year long. The season ticket includes:

- Now including the Legislative Reception
  - All Good Morning Metro South Programs (5 Programs, \$195 value)
  - All Business After Hours (12, up to \$60 value)
  - Annual Legislative Luncheon (\$39 value)
  - ATHENA Award Luncheon (\$39 value)
  - Small Business Awards Luncheon (\$39 value)
  - 1 Taste of Metro South Ticket (\$35 value)
- All for just \$299 (Savings of 26% +)

### SEASON TICKET AND ADDITIONAL SAVINGS OPTIONS

Season Ticket: # \_\_\_\_\_ Discounted Tickets x \$299 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Hannah McGuire at [events@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:events@metrosouthchamber.com) or call (508) 586-0500 x 231 for more information.

## Comcast Business Offers New Customers Savings on Gig-Speed Internet + Advanced Cybersecurity

# COMCAST BUSINESS

Comcast Business has announced the kickoff of its "5-Year Price Lock Guarantee" event for qualifying, new Business Internet and cybersecurity customers. The 5-Year Price Lock Guarantee is available to Comcast

Business Internet Advanced (800 Mbps), Gigabit Extra (1.25 Gbps), and 2 Gigabit speed tier customers with Comcast Business SecurityEdge™ and a 1-year term agreement. The guarantee lets customers lock in their monthly service charge (excluding equipment, taxes, and fees) for 5 years, and is available to new customers starting today June 24, 2024, through August 21, 2024.

In today's competitive environment, cost savings and predictability are critical to customers. Business owners require fast, reliable, secure connectivity to empower workforces, help sustain pace with competition, and keep customers happy. Comcast Business's new price lock guarantee offer is designed to provide financial reassurance as well as reliability and security to customers.

"For the first time ever, new customers can get the peace of mind and transparency of a 5-Year Price Lock Guarantee on our best Internet and security packages. It's the complete connectivity package for businesses with 99.9% reliable gig speeds, security and a price that won't change for five years," said Eileen Diskin, Chief Marketing Officer, Comcast Business. "We're proud to extend this exciting offer to new qualifying customers and reinforce our commitment to delivering unmatched reliability, speed, security, and value to businesses." Visit [business.comcast.com](http://business.comcast.com) to learn more.

## RENEWING Members!

*Thank you!*

A.J. Roberto Mechanical Company  
ADT Commercial  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox  
Church of Brockton, Inc.  
Bayside Financial Insurance  
Bethel Family Medicine  
BizChecks Payroll Service  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
of Massachusetts  
Brack's Grille & Tap  
Brockton Day Nursery  
Brockton Parking Authority  
Brockton Public Library  
Brophy & Phillips Co., Inc.  
C.M. Petti Market & Deli  
Cambridge Savings Bank  
Canton Modern Dentistry  
Concord Square Planning &

Development, Inc.  
Cromwell Consulting, Inc.  
Hackwell-Boone Insurance Agency, Inc.  
HR Alternatives  
John Corcoran & Company  
Lynch Cleaning Contractors  
National Grid  
OCES - Old Colony Elder Services  
Old Colony Planning Council  
Pop Tops Sportswear  
Porter & Chester Institute  
Precision Installations Inc.  
Premier Diagnostic Services, Inc.  
Raising Multicultural Kids  
Residence Inn by Marriott Boston/  
Bridgewater  
Stonebridge Homes Inc.  
U.S. Small Business Administration

## WELCOME New Members!

*Reinvesting in Our Community*

### Comcast Business

Clayton Cianelli  
35 Resnik Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
(617) 780-0905  
[business.comcast.com](http://business.comcast.com)  
*Telecommunications*

### Randolph Automotive Servicer

Alexandra Alexopoulos  
1241 North Main Street  
Randolph, MA 02368  
(781) 963-9886  
[randolphautomotive.com](http://randolphautomotive.com)  
*Automotive Repairs*

### Grandmothers' Village Project

Dr. Sandy Range  
75 North Main Street, #271  
Randolph, MA 02368  
(781) 483-7608  
[grandmothersvillageproject.org](http://grandmothersvillageproject.org)  
*Non-Profit*

**For membership, contact:**

(508) 586-0500 x 229

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

## Now Hiring: Membership Development & Retention

**WE ARE HIRING**

**OPEN POSITIONS**

**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](mailto:info@metrosouthchamber.com)

• Development & Retention

Metro South Chamber of Commerce • 60 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301  
[www.metroouthchamber.com](http://www.metroouthchamber.com) • [info@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:info@metrosouthchamber.com)

Are you positive, organized, committed to business & community development, and have a love for the greater Brockton area? Join our team as Membership Development Specialist! Email resume and cover letter to [info@metrosouthchamber.com](mailto:info@metrosouthchamber.com).



## Access to Capital for Massachusetts Businesses



Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) functions as a one-stop resource for debt financing for small businesses. MGCC drives economic growth through access to alternative funding, resources, and individualized services to identify and structure

solutions tailored to each small business in Massachusetts. The purpose of MGCC is to create and preserve jobs at small businesses. MGCC also works to promote economic development throughout the Commonwealth, with special paid attention to business needs in underserved areas and Gateway Cities. Their services include small business lending from \$100,000-\$200,000; microloans from \$5,000-\$100,000; small business technical assistance grant program for non-profit assistance providers; microlending operations support & CDFI lending capital matching funds grant program; and the biz-m-power crowdfunding matching grant program. Visit [empoweringsmallbusiness.org](http://empoweringsmallbusiness.org) to learn more.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://bridgewaterbiz.biz) for more information.

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 [jointheebba.com](http://jointheebba.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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: Berlhey Narcisse  
(617) 532-0225

**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: Kelly Arvidson  
(978) 784-2901

**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: Shelly Gillis  
(617) 565-5590

## Natural Agricultural Products



1437 Bedford Street, Abington  
(781) 312-6510 • [naturalagriculturalproducts.org](http://naturalagriculturalproducts.org)

Our goal is to service the Abington local area with the natural, high-quality cannabis products ranging from flower to edibles, and oils to vaporizers. Natural Agricultural Products is a brand for the people: we provide our community with the best-quality cannabis products for the lowest price possible. We stand behind our product with a 100% guarantee; we want our customers to feel satisfied that they've done business with the best in the area. Although the market is saturated with retailers, we intend to cultivate and manufacture other products in the future; with retail, cultivation, product manufacturing all housed in one building.

## Children Across America



Children  
Across  
America

Fun Factory, 27 Perkins Street, Bridgewater  
(508) 933-8915 • [childrenacrossamerica.org](http://childrenacrossamerica.org)

Our charity foundation, established in 2007 as the Children Across America embarked on a mission to promote STEM, Coding for Girls, equitable educational resources, preventative healthcare education, expand access to health insurance, and foster academic enrichment for children in the underserved community. From launching STEM, Robotics, Girls Love to Code and Math Clubs to initiating car safety programs and providing ongoing support to children in need, our commitment to empowering communities remains steadfast.

## Nvidius Consulting



[www.linkedin.com/in/nellynandes](http://www.linkedin.com/in/nellynandes)

Nelson Fernandes is an accomplished restaurateur with 20 years experience in the hospitality industry. His family-run restaurant JJ's Caffe was featured in The Boston Globe and Yankee Magazine, as well as television programs such as Phantom Gourmet and Chronicle. JJ's Caffe was also recognized by Yelp (5 star rating) as one of the "Top 100 Places to Eat" in the USA and by People Magazine as the "Best Breakfast in Massachusetts." Since moving on to new ventures, now Nelson is transforming restaurants and small businesses with a sprinkle of innovation. Specializing in menu optimization, operational efficiency and staff training and development to create unforgettable experiences.

## Comcast Business

COMCAST  
BUSINESS

35 Resnik Road, Plymouth  
(617) 780-0905 • [business.comcast.com](http://business.comcast.com)

Comcast Business has announced the kickoff of its "5-Year Price Lock Guarantee" event for qualifying, new Business Internet and cybersecurity customers. The 5-Year Price Lock Guarantee is available to Comcast Business Internet Advanced (800 Mbps), Gigabit Extra (1.25 Gbps), and 2 Gigabit speed tier customers with Comcast Business SecurityEdge™ and a 1-year term agreement. The guarantee lets customers lock in their monthly service charge (excluding equipment, taxes, and fees) for 5 years, and is available to new customers starting today June 24, 2024, through August 21, 2024.

See page 10

## 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](http://metrosouthchamber.com/resources/business-assistance).

### Major Sponsors:

AbingtonBank

Bridgewater  
CREDIT UNION  
A Division of Bridgewater Savings Bank

Bluestone  
BANK Let's get there, together

Eastern Bank  
JOIN US FOR GOOD

The Enterprise

HARBORONE  
Bank Find your harbor.

North  
Easton  
Savings Bank

SCU  
CREDIT UNION

SOUTH SHORE  
BANK

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

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

Massachusetts  
It's all here!  
[massvacation.com](http://massvacation.com)



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



# BUSINESS EVENTS *Planner*

**July 10**

**Business After Hours w/Mandela  
Washington Fellows and Mayor's  
Summer Concert Series**  
5:30PM

Heights Crossing  
35 Christy's Place, Brockton

Join us for an evening of networking with live music and special guests, Mandela Washington Fellows

Register: [metrosouthchamber.com/events](http://metrosouthchamber.com/events)

**September 27**

**Good Day Metro South**  
11:45AM  
Grow Associates  
68 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph

More info TBA!

This event is sponsored by Rockland Trust.

Register: [metrosouthchamber.com/events](http://metrosouthchamber.com/events)

**October 3**

**34th Annual Legislative &  
Candidates Reception**  
5:00PM  
Donahue Hall, Stonehill College  
320 Washington Street, Easton

Amplify the voice of the business community - be heard!

Register: [metrosouthchamber.com/events](http://metrosouthchamber.com/events)

**October 17**

**5th Annual NEREJ Summit**  
"Transit Housing on the Rail"  
8:30AM  
Showcase Cinema de Lux  
73 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph

Guest speakers include MassDOT Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt; CHAPA CEO Rachel Heller, and more TBA.

Register: [metrosouthchamber.com/events](http://metrosouthchamber.com/events)