Ictionreport



December 2024

www.metrosouthchamber.com

**Boost Your Brand + Build** 

**Community Connections in** 

2025: Chamber Sponsorship

**Opportunities Available!** 

Partnering

### Leading Businesses Leading Communities

**METRO** 

SOUTH

CHAMBER OF

COM<u>MERCE</u>



### Chamber Mission

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



**ConvenientMD Urgent Care** Brockton · Page 2



Francia Monteiro, Rockland Federal Credit Union New Brockton Branch · Page 5



Dan Evans of EMI Elected Chamber Chairman • Page 9

### CONTENTS

Calendar of Events	3
Good News	4
New Members	10
Renewing Members	10

# Celebrate the Season with Networking, Cybersecurity Insights, and Holiday Fun at Good Day Metro South!

Tuesday, December 10 | 11:45AM - 1:30PM | Thorny Lea Golf Club | 159 Torrey Street, Brockton

Join us for the Good Day Metro South luncheon on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm at Thorny Lea Golf Club in Brockton. Make this your staff holiday outing!

Sponsored bv Cambridge Savings Bank, the event features а cybersecurity panel with Hub Technical Services, networking holiday by Rob Peters games



Entertainment, and a special appearance by Santa Claus. Attendees are encouraged to wear festive attire to celebrate the season. Visit metrosouthchamber.com/event/goodday-metro-south to register and learn more. Continued on page 2.



#### the Chamber of Commerce as sponsor is more than just a marketing opportunity; it's a strategic move that positions your business as a leader and

with

Here's why sponsoring the Chamber is a win-win:

advocate for community growth.

Increased Visibility: Gain premium exposure to business leaders and decision-makers through event promotions and marketing.

Enhanced Credibility: Align your brand with a trusted organization dedicated to local growth.

Networking **Opportunities:** Connect directly with potential clients and influential community members.

Community Impact: Support programs that drive economic and community success.

Invest in your business and your community by sponsoring the Metro South Chamber of Commerce. It's not just an expense - it's a partnership that pays dividends in growth, visibility, and impact. Make your mark as a community leader and watch your business thrive!

Contact Hannah to learn more, email events@ metrosouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500x231.

# Ten Businesses Honored with 400 in Attendance; U.S. Chamber Economist Featured, Provides Insights for New Year - Page 6



Fernandes, Nvidius Consulting.



# Celebrate the Season with Networking, Cybersecurity Insights, and Holiday Fun at Good Day Metro South!

Tuesday, December 10 | 11:45AM - 1:30PM | Thorny Lea Golf Club | 159 Torrey Street, Brockton



### ABOUT THE CYBERSECURITY PANELISTS:

**Dan Lovetere, Vice President of Engineering:** As Vice President of Engineering at HUB Tech, Dan oversees the Engineering divisions, Managed IT Services, and Professional Service Delivery, ensuring consistently excellent client experiences. Dan and the team actively assist clients in transforming their technology to provide a seamless integration experience. Dan's role encompasses business process optimization, automation, data analysis, and business intelligence. He is committed to driving the digital transformation of both HUB Tech company and its clients.

**Chris Daggett, Director of Managed Services and Security**: Chris is a highly skilled technology professional with over 20 years of IT experience. He leads a successful Managed Services and Security program at HUB Tech, which has become one of the top programs in the country. HUB's program focuses on keeping customers Connected, Managed, and Secured. Before joining HUB, Chris spent most of his career in the enterprise space, primarily in the financial sector, where he held various roles from solution architect to technology risk manager.

Ed Zak, Senior Sales Account Executive: Ed is a seasoned Senior Sales Account Executive with over 20 years of experience managing client accounts across various business verticals. His extensive industry knowledge and longterm client relationships make him a trusted partner in driving IT success for every client. Ed collaborates closely with clients, bringing a personal touch that



fosters trust and respect. He understands their unique needs and delivers tailored IT solutions with exceptional service.

Make this your holiday staff outing, scan the QR code to register or contact Hannah McGuire for assistance. Email events@metrosouthchamber.com or call (508) 586-0500 x231.

# **ConvenientMD Urgent Care Opens on Belmont Street**

ConvenientMD has opened a brand new urgent care center with state of the art equipment and improved facade at the site of former Bertucci's at 1285 Belmont Street in Brockton! We were joined by Senator Mike Brady and Mayor of Brockton Bob Sullivan as well as our Chamber Ambassadors and business community members to show support and welcome a new health care provider and employer to the City of Champions.

ConvenientMD offers accessible and affordable care right in your backyard—so you can get the care you need, when you need it (for less than a visit to the ER). They have a full medical team on site for minor emergencies and routine care, ready to treat patients of all ages in a welcoming environment. No appointment needed—just walk in to the new urgent care clinic in Brockton today or register online to save your spot in line.



ConvenientMD of Brockton is open 8AM-8PM, seven days a week. Visit them online at convenientmd.com/locations/ brockton-ma-urgent-care/, call (508) 894-7015 or walk-in at 1285 Belmont Street in Brockton. *Photos courtesy of Rich Morgan Photography, scan the QR code to learn more.* 



A look inside ConvenientMD's Brockton Urgent Care center located at 1285 Belmont Street, sleek design with state of the art equipment and services available to cater to the growing Metro South region.



Kaitlyn Hall, Practice Manager; Doug Smith, Stonehill College; Donna, Brockton Library Foundation; Marcy Venezia, Chamber Ambassador, GleeWorks Holistic Coaching



Ambassador, Eastern Bank; David

Cooney, Metro South Chamber

and Detra Offutt, HomeVestors; Chris

Senator Mike Brady, Mayor of Brockton Bob Sullivan, Stephen Munier, ConvenientMD; Chris Cooney, Metro South Chamber



# SAVE THE DATE! Chamber Luncheon Recognizing Easton Tricentennial, January 30 at Stonehill College Martin Institute

Thursday, January 30 | 11:45AM - 1:30PM | Martin Institute at Stonehill College | 320 Washington Street, Easton

Save the date! The Chamber will hold a luncheon at the Martin Institute on the beautiful historic campus of Stonehill College on Thursday, January 30th, 2025 featuring a guest speaker to be announced. This event is sponsored by Stonehill College. Visit easton300.org to learn more about the history of Easton and upcoming celebrations for the tricentennial.







STONEHILL COLLEGE

#### 3

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS**

Chair of the Board Dan Evans, Evans Machine Co., Inc.

President and CEO Christopher Cooney, CCE, IOM, MPA Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Chair-Elect George Spilios, Crown Uniform & Linen Service

Treasurer Gregory Hart, CPA, Summer St Financial Advisors

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

y Pike, CPA - Citrin Cooperman	
ott Sanborn - HarborOne Bank	
bert Senesie - Victory Human Services	
ch Spencer - North Easton Savings Bank	
<b>Andrew St. Pierre</b> - Brockton Plumbing & Heating Supply	

### **CHAMBER STAFF**

Christopher Cooney, CCE, IOM, MPA President and CEO x 223

Emma (Stratton) Penardi VP of Communications & Special Projects x 222

Hannah McGuire Programs & Events Coordinator x 231



ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**CHAMBER MISSION:** To best serve the unique interests and needs of member businesses and to champion the broader vitality of the Metro South region. **Metro South Chamber of Commerce** Sixty School Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4087 tel: (508) 586-0500 info@metrosouthchamber.com www.metrosouthchamber.com

Vice Chair Economic Development Fred Clark, Bridgewater State University

Vice Chair Government Affairs Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Vice Chair Community Affairs Doug Smith, Stonehill College

Vice Chair Membership Development Mike Lambert, Brockton Area Transit Authority

**Immediate Past Chair Richard Hynes, Barbour Corporation** 

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uto Group	Scott Sanborn - HarborOne Bank
ealthcare	Albert Senesie - Victory Human Services
lsets, Inc <b>.</b>	Rich Spencer - North Easton Savings Bank
1munity College	Andrew St. Pierre - Brockton Plumbing &

(508) 586-0500

Membership x 229

Theresa Lobo-Albin

Finance x 230

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

**Development & Retention - NOW HIRING!** 

Front Desk x 221

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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.

#### CHAMBER Calendar Calendar Sponsor SPACE AVAILABLE

#### THE GREATER BROCKTON R Community Navigator ŚВŅ

ACTION Report December 2024

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

### December

Ja

10	<b>Good Day Metro South</b> <i>Thorny Lea Golf Club: 159 Torrey Street, Brockton</i>	11:45am
18	<b>Chamber Board Meeting</b> <i>Virtual meeting via Zoom</i>	12:30pm
25	Christmas Day: Chamber Closed	
nuary	2025	
01	New Year's Day: Chamber Closed	
08	<b>Chamber Ambassador Meeting</b> <i>Virtual meeting via Zoom</i>	9:00am
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Chamber Closed	

- 29 **Chamber Board Meeting** 12:00pm Metro South Chamber of Commerce: 60 School Street, Brockton
- 30 Good Day Metro South 11:45am Martin Institute @ Stonehill College: 320 Washington St., Easton

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





### 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.metrosouthchamber.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

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

• 12/11: How to Determine Landed Cost and Price Your Products for Export and Import

• 1/23: Small Business Lending: Are you Really Ready for a Loan?

• 1/30-31: Export Expo

Fuller Craft Museum presents - "Waste Not, Want Not: Craft in the Anthropocene" Opening Dec. 21



Waste Not, Want Not: Craft in the Anthropocene brings together contemporary artworks created from previously existent materials to reimagine craft in the shadow of the twenty-first century. Utilizing second-hand discards or industrially manufactured materials, artists transform refuse into highly crafted forms. Exhibited objects speak to the unique and impending challenges of the current age, simultaneously blurring the distinctions between industrially made commodities and

#### Members - send Good News to estratton@metrosouthchamber.com Sponsored by: Good Samaritan Medical Center

the traditional realm of handcraft. Together, the works reveal how artists are employing craft techniques and knowledge to reimagine the role of the artist in the twenty-first century and how reuse is just one facet of a desperately needed response to our current era. The Fuller Craft Museum is FREE to visit and located at 455 Oak Street in Brockton, Tuesday - Sunday 10AM-5PM. Visit fullercraft.org to learn more.

Fuller Craft Museum HolidayHandmade Market Open Through January 5



Join The Shop at Fuller Craft Museum or a festive event to kickoff the Holiday Shop opening! We will have music, surprises, and more. HolidayHandmade offers an expansive variety of handmade and unique items, truly something for everyone on your shopping list.

#### "Christmas at the Movies" - Brockton Symphony Orchestra Dec. 15 @ Oliver Ames HS Auditorium

<section-header><text><text><text>

Celebrate the holidays together with your family and friends! John Masko has chosen music from your favorite movies, sprinkled with festive seasonal favorites, and featuring a Brockton middle school chorus. Our family film music extravaganza combines Winter and Holiday classics (It's a Wonderful Life, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and Frozen) with year-round soundtracks from Black Panther Suite, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Pirates of the Caribbean, and much more! www.etix.com/ticket/p/68197405

#### Santa's Mailbox at Westgate Mall through Dec. 24



Now through December 24, 2024, Santa is waiting to hear from you! Visit Santa's Mailbox to write a special note to Santa and put

it in his mailbox for delivery straight to the North Pole! Find Santa's mailbox located by Burlington. Save time and write your letter to Santa before you visit Westgate Mall, visit ShopatWestgateMall.com for more information.

Belmont McDonald's Owners Chin Management Supports Brockton High School Athletics





# **Health Care Matters**

Good Samaritan Medical Center

### 235 North Pearl Street, Brockton, MA 02301

our health system."

508-427-3000

Boston Medical Center Health System Welcomes Good Samaritan Medical Center and St. Elizabeth's Medical Center into Health System

Boston Medical Center Health System has announced that Good Samaritan Medical Center and St. Elizabeth's Medical Center are officially operating as part of its health system, stabilizing compassionate and equitable care at both hospitals.

"Good Samaritan Medical Center and St. Elizabeth's Medical Center are invaluable resources in their communities," said Alastair Bell, Health System. "We are proud today to welcome the patients and communities served by both hospitals into our health system. Together, with the highly skilled clinicians and staff at each hospital, we will work to ensure stability and as seamless a transition as possible for patients, with a longterm focus on sustainability across

MD, President & CEO of BMC

Over the past several weeks, BMC Health System has been meeting with the leadership of Good Samaritan and St. Elizabeth's, preparing employees to join the health system, and putting plans in place to minimize disruption to patient care during the transition. Patients at Good Samaritan and St. Elizabeth's can continue receiving care in their communities with their trusted providers.

The integration of the two hospitals with BMC Health System builds on Boston Medical Center's existing clinical relationship with St. Elizabeth's and deep presence in Brockton through the Brockton Behavioral Health Center. The integration also maintains access

www.bmchealthsystem.org/patients/good-samaritan-medical-center

and continuity of care for the many members of the health system's WellSense Health Plan, who are patients at Good Samaritan and St. Elizabeth's.

Visit www.bmchealthsystem.org/ patients/good-samaritan-medicalcenter to learn more.



Compassionate Care in Your Community

# Welcome to Brockton, Rockland Federal Credit Union!

Rockland Federal Credit Union (RFCU), a trusted financial institution serving southeastern Massachusetts, celebrated the opening of its newest branch in Brockton! The expansion marked a significant step in RFCU's mission to provide accessible, member-focused banking services to the region. Known as the "City of Champions," Brockton offers an ideal setting for RFCU to extend its reach and enhance its commitment to local residents and businesses.

Located at 200 Westgate Drive, the Brockton branch offers a comprehensive suite of financial products and services, including high-interest checking accounts, savings accounts, mortgages, and business lines of credit. The branch features a 24-hour walk-up ATM and a coin-counting machine, ensuring convenient access for members.

Kris VanBeek, CEO of Rockland Federal Credit Union, expressed enthusiasm about the new location, stating, "This expansion reflects our ongoing commitment to providing convenient, personalized banking services



to our members. We look forward to serving the Brockton community and helping our members achieve their financial goals." For more information about Rockland Federal Credit Union and its services, visit www.rfcu.com or call (781) 878-0232. Photos courtesy of Rich Morgan Photography, scan the QR code to learn more.



Rockland Federal Credit Union, Westgate Mall, 200 Westgate Drive Brockton



Mayor Sullivan; Kris VanBeek, RFCU CEO. Paul Lane. RFCU Treasurer of the Board; Chris Cooney, Metro South





Francia Monteiro, Rockland Federal Credit Union, Brockton Branch Manager



State Rep. Rita Mendes: Samantha Apostolakes and Christy Faidell, RFCU



Official Citation presented by State Rep. Rita Mendes and Office of Senator Mike Brady





Brockton Historical Society 216 North Pearl Street/Route 27

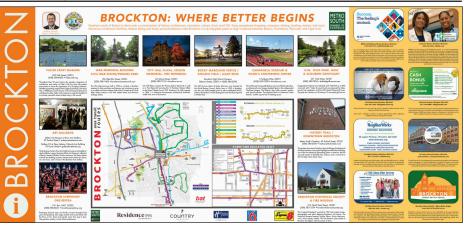


Fuller Craft Museum 455 Oak Street



BAT Intermodal Centre (2 Boards). Corner of Commercial & Centre Street

# Gain Exposure with Information Boards, Space Limited



Gain business exposure while supporting the revitalization of the city of Brockton by sponsoring a space on the Brockton Information Boards!

The Brockton Information Boards (BIBs) feature local attractions such as the Fuller Craft Museum, Campanelli Stadium, Brockton Historical Society and History Trail, Fairgrounds, City Hall Plaza, and important monuments within the city. At the center of the boards is a map of Brockton containing major

### **BOARD LOCATIONS** \*2 NEW BOARDS ADDED!



Campanelli Stadium Home of the Brockton Rox & New England Knockouts



Metro South Chamber & City Hall School Street



Downtown Parking Garage Corner of Main & Crescent Street



Downtown Commuter Rail, Commercial Street, Police Station

routes, transportation services, schools, and train stations.

The BIBS were created to provide an appealing and practical way to assist people in their navigation of Brockton showcasing while local businesses, promoting tourism, and helping current residents realize the "hidden gems".

The BIBs support the revitalization of the "City of Champions" by promoting area businesses and locales, thereby retaining dollars and fostering growth in Brockton.

All participating sponsors will be highlighted with a photo/ logo, contact information, and description of their business. Your sponsor space will be displayed on each of the 9 boards across 8 locations. (See locations on left!)

With increased visitors in Downtown Brockton due to recent and continuing developments such as the Enterprise Block, and City Hall Plaza, the Boards are sure to receive increased attention.

For more information, contact Emma Penardi (508) 586-0500 x 222, estratton@ MFTRO





Congratulations, Rockland Federal Credit Union! Thank you for choosing Brockton for your newest branch addition.

### Chamber Celebrates 111 Years of Economic Growth & 10 Businesses Making in Impact in Brockton, Metro South





Rich Hynes, Barbour Corporation, Past Chair of the Chamber Board; Scott Ripatrazone, Air Energy Group; Stephen Egan, Egan Realty Group; Mariana Pereira, Giana Restaurant + Bar; Kelley Joyce, Kids & Company; Bill Mitchell, Massasoit Community College; and Chris Cooney, Metro South Chamber President & CEO.



The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to honor ten local businesses whose economic contributions have significantly benefited the area. These businesses have impacted Metro South by creating jobs and adding to the rich business culture by providing valuable products, resources, and services to help our region thrive. Whether small entrepreneurs or large institutions, the following businesses are recognized for their impressive accomplishments. Congratulations to Air Energy Group, Egan Development, Giana Restaurant + Bar, Kids & Company, Massasoit Community College, Natural Agricultural Products, New England Knockouts, Salo Bar & Grill, Signature Healthcare, and Stoneridge Mutual Properties. We wish them continued success in the region!

#### (L-R) Rich Hynes, Barbour Corporation; Salo Afonesca, Salo Bar & Grill; Gary E. Leonard, Natural Agricultural

Products; Nick Giaquinto, Old Colony Planning Council, accepting on behalf of New England Knockouts; Robert Haffey, Signature Healthcare; Darrin DeCoste, Stoneridge Mutual Properties; and Chris Cooney, Metro South Chamber.



Thank You to our Corporate Table Contributors:

Abington Bank, Bank of America, Barbour Corporation, Bluestone Bank, Bridgewater State University, Brockton Area Transit Authority, Brockton Housing Authority, Copeland Toyota, Crown Uniform and Linen Service, Dedham Savings, Eastern Bank, The Enterprise, Father Bill's & MainSpring, HarborOne Bank, Hub Technical Services, JM Pet Resort, Massasoit Community College, MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board, National Grid, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office, North Easton Savings Bank, OCES - Old Colony Elder Services, Old Colony YMCA, Rockland Federal Credit Union, Rockland Trust Company, SCU Credit Union, South Shore Bank, and UMass Donahue Institute.

1. Air Energy Group | 105 Industrial Blvd, Brockton, MA 02301 (508) 230-9445 | www.airenergy.com



Founded in 1985, Air Energy fabricates and services compressed air and vacuum systems for respected customers such as Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University, Takada, Moderna, and others. Air

Energy is among the most recognized and demanded names in the industrial and life science spaces. The company has consolidated its three current locations in South Easton, Pembroke, and Lincoln, Rhode Island, into a newly constructed 75,000 sq ft building on a property owned by GFI Partners in Brockton. The new facility will allow for the expansion of sales operations and new fabrication operations for their Global Vac & Air integrated skid-packaged systems and container builds which are used in medical/lab, industrial and remediation applications. Air Energy has invested \$3.2M into the new Brockton facility, retaining 52 jobs and 80 expected new jobs over the next ten years.

### 2. Egan Development - "Hanson Crossing"





Hanson Crossing is a two-building mixed-use project situated on 3.5 acres and within walking distance of the Hanson MBTA Commuter Rail Station on the Kingston Line. In accordance with the Commonwealth's new Chapter 40R Mixed-Use Overlay District Zoning requirements, Hanson

EGAN A" REALTY S

Station consists of two buildings with a total of 5 ground-level retail stores and 49 one- and two-bedroom apartments. The first

building, 999 Main Street, is 32,110 sq ft and fully occupied as of July 2024! Part two, 965 Main Street, will be 36,000 sq ft when completed in the spring of 2025. With a total investment of \$12M, these two buildings combined bring 40-50 jobs to the site, 49 units of housing, 5 commercial spaces, and 100 construction jobs for the duration of the project. Egan Development and its founders have been developing "for sale and rental real estate" projects in the Metro South area for the last three decades. Stephen Egan and his brother Todd were both raised in Whitman and have focused their efforts in the Metro South and South Shore areas.

### 3. Giana Restaurant + Bar | 3 Roosevelt Circle, South Easton, MA 02375 (508) 219-2045 | gianaeaston.com



As seen on Phantom Gourmet, "whether you come for something sweet, or for the scene, or for the sushi, you'll be impressed with your experience at Giana in South Easton." With an investment of a few million dollars, newly constructed Giana Restaurant & Bar brings an elegant Boston feel with a unique

atmosphere and modern American menu to South Easton. Current partner of "Novara" and "Abby Park" in Milton, owner and chef Tony DeRienzo, drawing from his experience, was inspired to take the next steps in his culinary journey by bringing the "city to the suburbs". You can find captivating design elements everywhere in the restaurant, from the 44-seat bar to the 40-seat outdoor patio, to the imported Italian pizza oven and open kitchen, to the video wall and hand-painted mural. The modern menu offers an array of options with something for everyone; whether you're in the mood for a dish with an Asian flare, something with more of a Portuguese vibe, traditional Italian flavors, fresh seafood, steak tips smothered in chimichurri sauce, or just looking to grab a martini (or a flight of martinis) and some fun desserts!

### Chamber Celebrates 111 Years of Economic Growth & 10 Businesses Making in Impact in Brockton, Metro South

kidsandcompany.com



Kids & Company has invested \$2.5M into their brand new state-of-the-art childcare center in Randolph; boasting 11 classrooms that can accommodate 109 children, two outdoor playgrounds, new equipment and toys, plus

plenty of on-site parking with two different street entrances. They also have additional locations in Abington and Canton. The center employs an emergent is certainly not new to the area — with the Brockton Rox getting their start curriculum and learn-through-play philosophy, ensuring that each child receives personalized learning experiences tailored to their interests and skills. At Kids & Company, children are immersed in experiences that enhance language, literacy, a sense of music and rhythm, and socialization so that they may develop independence, confidence, and a positive sense of self and the world around them. Children will be provided with a hot lunch and 3 snacks each day, catered by the in-house Kidco Kitchen. The Kidco Kitchen is founded on a fresh-from-scratch philosophy and serves food which contains no additives, preservatives, artificial flavors or colors.

#### 5. Massasoit Community College | 230 Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301 (508) 588-9100 | massasoit.edu



Massasoit Community College has officially opened a new 3,750 sq ft location in downtown Brockton. The first floor of the redeveloped three-story C. Gerald Lucey Building includes three classrooms, offices, and communal space with interactive screens and flexible furniture that allows Massasoit to stage a wide range

of programs and classes in the heart of the City of Champions. The building is also home to the Department of Unemployment Assistance. With Massasoit right next door, it's an excellent combination when trying to match people to jobs and employers in the area. Massasoit is a leader in job training and career preparation. Now, tuition is free, making a true economic impact on the state and region. The Massasoit Community College Future of Work Institute goal is centered around increasing the pipeline for women, racially marginalized groups, and justice involved individuals. Their focus for 2025 is meeting the clean energy center and Massachusetts' climate tech initiatives in construction; expansion and development of technical and trade programs; apprenticeships in the diesel industry; and restorative justice.

### 6. Natural Agricultural Products | 1437 Bedford Street, Abington, MA 02351 (781) 312-6510 | naturalagriculturalproducts.org



Natural Agricultural Products has opened its doors for business, becoming the town's second retail cannabis shop and it's first manufacturing and cultivation operation. The 27,000 sq ft shop and warehouse is located in the front corner

of a longtime commercial building at 1437 Bedford Street, and employes 20 in the region. Thanks to a \$1.2M investment, the renovated interior features multiple display cases of cannabis flowers, shelves of products, and digital customer service screens. Gary Leonard, a longtime area entrepreneur, said the shop has more than 400 varieties of products, including flowers, vape cartridges, pre-rolls, and edibles. He asked suppliers for brands and products not already found at other dispensaries in order to give customers different options. While the front of the building is a retail shop, the rest of the building is permitted to grow cannabis and eventually make cannabis-infused products. Leonard said he hopes to start growing across 10,000 square feet by 2026.

4. Kids & Company | 647 Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368 | (781) 807-8017 7. New England Knockouts | 1 Feinberg Way, Campanelli Stadium, Brockton, MA 02301 | (508) 559-7000 | knockoutsbaseball.com



Professional baseball returns to Brockton! As the newest addition to the MLB-partnered Frontier League, the New England Knockouts' inaugural 2024 season has offered fans 48 games featuring different promotional themes and experiences, revitalizing professional baseball in Brockton. While baseball

in 2005 as a member of the Canadian-American Association of Professional Baseball — the Knockouts are the first professional team in Brockton since the Rox's discontinued participation in the Can-Am League in 2011. The Knockouts owner also holds ownership of the Frontier League's Windy City ThunderBolts, purchased the Brockton Rox in 2022 and always envisioned bringing pro ball back to the city of Brockton. Shortly after his acquisition of the Rox, his vision was presented to the Frontier League, and membership was awarded to the now New England Knockouts in 2023. The Knockouts consist of 29 players from across the continental U.S. and five players from as far away as the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Venezuela.



Jane Bowman, Ren Cato, Nikki

Corbo, South Shore Bank



Jeff Cahill, Ken LeBlond, Andrea Kingman, UMass Donahue Institute

Christy Faidell, Kevin Brower, Samantha Apostolakes, Rockland **Federal Credit Union** 

The point is not saying everything but everything that matters

> USA TODAY | To the point

### Chamber Celebrates 111 Years of Economic Growth & 10 Businesses Making in Impact in Brockton, Metro South

8. Salo Bar & Grill | 810 Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301 | (774) 428-2041 facebook.com/p/Salo-Bar-Grill-100091902740568

### **Business-2-Business Expo Participants:** The Arc of Greater Brockton, Better Business Bureau, Brewster Ambulance

Service, Bridgewater State University, BSU Graduate Studies, Brockton Area

Transit Authority, Brockton Visiting Nurse Association, Brookmeadow at Cobb

Corner Senior Living, Burgess Pest Management, Cruise Planners Journeys by

Jojo, Eastern Bank, Father Bill's & MainSpring, Focus Technology, HarborOne

Bank, House of Possibilities, Hub Technical Services, Hutcheon's Flowers &

Holmes-McDuffy Florists, JM Pet Resort, Luke Jackson Beneift & HR Solutions,

Massasoit Community College, MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board,

Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane LLP, New Heights Charter School Brockton,

Norfolk County Sheriff's Office, North Easton Savings Bank, OCES - Old

Colony Elder Services, Rockland Federal Credit Union, Rockland Trust, SCORE

Business Mentors, SCU Credit Union, Sign Design, South Shore Bank, UMass

Donahue Institute, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Scan the QR code for additional photos and video, courtesy of Rich



Salo Bar and Grill is a modern restaurant and bar, providing customers with diverse menu options and a vibrant dining experience. Recently winning the spot of "Best Cape Verdean Restaurant in Brockton", Salo offers dazzling dishes of grilled octopus, lobster smothered in butter, grilled steak with whipped garlic potatoes, fresh wild-caught seafood platters that

serve four, roasted lamb, and pastels stuffed with tuna. The interior sports elegant decor, marble floors, and soothing earth tones with gold accents. If the food isn't what draws you in, it will be the cocktails and the ambiance of the restaurant. One signature drink is the Sexy Criola, a classic lemon drop martini blended with tropical flavors creating a passionate harmony, a unique drink worth trying. Salo is family-owned, investing 150K into the operation and employing twenty-five in addition to independent contractors like local DJs, musicians, and entertainers.

### 9. Signature Healthcare | 680 Centre Street, Brockton, MA 02302 (508) 941-7000 | MySignatureCare.org



After a dramatic fire caused extensive damage to Signature Healthcare Hospital in Brockton, the hospital leadership and the community came together to reconstruct this regional asset. With

close to one hundred million dollars in renovations, the facility has reopened and is well positioned to serve the health care needs of the Metro South Region. Through extensive expansion and rebuilding, Signature Healthcare now employs more than 2,700 people at their facilities throughout the region in eleven locations featuring new additions including an Ambulatory Surgery Pavilion, an updated Emergency Room Department, and new Cardiac Catheterization units along with many other improvements. Signature Healthcare has served the city and the region for more than 125 years and is well positioned to continue this service well into the future.

### 10. Stoneridge Mutual Properties - "Centre Station" 127 Centre Street, Brockton, MA 02301 | (508) 318-8469 | centrestation.com



Centre Station is a brand new addition to Brockton's Downtown landscape, featuring a newly constructed five-story building that houses 40 high-end apartment units and five ground-level retail spaces. This modern development offers a sophisticated blend of one and two-bedroom marketrate apartments, catering to the needs of young professionals and families seeking

STONERIDGE contemporary living experiences. The site is home to what MUTUAL PROPERTIES was once Central Glass, which operated from 1962-2017 when

the business relocated to West Bridgewater. Since then, the vacant property has been transformed by Darrin DeCoste and Stoneridge Mutual Properties. The building abuts the downtown's MBTA Commuter Rail station, offering quick and easy access to Boston, and soon to be extended down to Fall River and New Bedford with the additions to South Coast Rail. Centre Station is next to Stoneridge's recently completed Commercial Station which offers an additional 24-units of housing in the downtown area.





Joe Lovetere, Richard Fritz, Hub Tech





Gregg Capasso, SCU Credit Union



Bridgewater State Graduate Studies





Thea Chronopoulos, Better Business Bureau





Peter Smith, SCORE Business Mentors



Brenda Carrens, Old Colony Elder Services (OCES); Felicita Sepulveda **Cape Verdean Association Brockton** 



Chris Coooney, Metro South Chamber and Arc of Greater Brockton

Jim Dunphy, South Shore Bank; Vinnie Marturano, YMCA; Rich Hynes, Barbour Corporation



JoAnne Fernandes, Hutcheon's Flowers



Lourdes Pires, Dr. Nicole Jones, Pierre Wadner New Heights Charter School of Brockton



Kendall Folan and Olivia, Boys & Girls Club of Metro South







### Sue Joss Presented Charles A. Fuller Chamber / Celebrating Business Success, 111 Years! **Community Service Award**



Sue Joss, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

We are pleased to present the Charles A. Fuller Memorial Chamber Service Award to a true champion of business and the community, Sue Joss - in recognition of leadership performance, personal example, and good influence to advance the welfare of the Metro South community.

Sue Joss has been the CEO of Brockton Neighborhood Health Center since its inception in 1994. Sue has led BNHC toward innovations in the healthcare field including healthcare reform, implementing electronic medical records, and BNHC being selected as a pilot for the state's Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative, as well as other innovations. She has also brought in much needed services such as behavioral health

and a full-service eye clinic. BNHC is now a model for other health centers and has contributed to the economic growth in Brockton as one of the largest employers in the city. Sue is active in many community and professional organizations including the MetroSouth Chamber of Commerce, the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Brockton 21st Century Corporation, Brockton's Econ. Dev. Agency, NESB, and Neighborhood Health Plan.

Sue is a true community minded member whose commitment is extraordinary, her contribution of countless hours is appreciated and recognized.

# Dan Evans of EMI Elected Chamber Chairman



Dan Evans is President and CEO of Evan's Machine Company (EMI), a business his family started in their garage at home in Holbrook in 1968. Over the past fifty-seven years, EMI has grown from humble beginnings into an advanced precision-machined manufacturing operation that serves clients across the United States and around the globe. What began as a small family endeavor has become a significant employer and source of opportunity for many skilled workers in the community - a journey that reflects the power of commitment, resilience, and a strong network.

Dan Evans, Evans Machine Company Inc. (EMI)

Evans has also been a community leader in Southeastern

Massachusetts, serving as a board member and executive board member on the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, and on the boards of both the Brockton 21st Century Corporation and MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce board. See the full list of Chamber board members on page 3.

# Chamber Elects New Board Members

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce welcomes three new members its Board of to Directors: Fred Clark, Bridgewater State University; Bill Mitchell, Massasoit Community College;



Fred Clark, Bridgewater State University



Scott Sanborn, HarborOne Bank

and Scott Sanborn, HarborOne Bank. Outgoing Board Members were recognized for their years of service at the 111th Annual Meeting: Joseph Casey, HarborOne Bank; Nelson Fernandes, Nvidius Consulting; and Jeni Mather, JM Pet Resort.

The Metro South Chamber Board of Directors is responsible for helping the Chamber carry out its mission: to best serve the unique interests and needs of member businesses and to champion the broader economic vitality of the Metro South region. The Board of Directors meets regularly to address policy and issues of economic and community concern. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17 at 12:30 pm via Zoom. We are pleased to add these business leaders to our lineup and welcome their input in future meetings.



Hannah McGuire, MSCC and Ambassador Jose Camacho, DedhamSavinas



James Donnelly, MHTL LLP



Ava Hallam, Brockton VNA



Sophie Cherenfant, Father Bill's





Peter & Carol Chin. Chin Management, McDonald's



Bruce Pearson, Gary Oman, U.S. Wealth Management



Rich Hooke, SCU Credit Union and Emma Penardi. Metro South Chamber



Luke Myers, LukeJackson Benefit&HR



Katie Terino, House of Possibilities



Adam Belmore, Arc of Greater Brockton



Christine DiMestico, Sign Design



Rich Spencer, Jeff Charnel, NESB; Kevin Brower, Tim Martin, RFCU



Suzanne Fernandes, NESB; Rich Hynes, Barbour Corp.



**Chamber Ambassadors Felicita** Sepulveda and Mary Jane Anene



George Drugas, HarborOne Bank



New Heights Charter School Ensemble



Norfolk County Sheriff's Office



Mayor Sullivan; Doug Smith, Stonehill



Joyce Holmes, Francia Monteiro, **RFCU; Anne Beauregard, Garden Club** 



Bob Haffey, Chenese Nicholas, Signature Healthcare



# **RENEWING** Members!

### Thank you!

160 Driving Academy Belmont West Associates BinStar Bridgewater Polyvinyl, Inc. Cape Cod Cafe, Inc. CATAX, Inc./Christos Liapopoulos Citrin Cooperman Cruise Planners Journeys by Jojo Douglas A. King Builders, Inc. Easterseals Massachusetts John T. Veale, D.M.D., Peter G. Veale, D.M.D. Inc. Law Office of Mark D. Petti OpenCape Corporation See Plymouth South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corp. Tempus Unlimited, Inc. Town of East Bridgewater TRACEY Environmental U.S. Small Business Administration Willwork Inc., Exhibit & Event Service

# WELCOME New Members!

### Reinvesting in Our Community

Luminosity Behavioral Health Services, Inc. Claire Ruremesha, PMP, MSPPM 157 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301 (781) 344-0102 luminbhs.org Health Care

### Howard Stein Hudson

Ray Hebert One Lakeshore Center Bridgewater, MA 02324 (508) 659-1716 hshassoc.com *Engineering/Consulting*  **Copper Mill** Caitlyn McGarty 66 Long Wharf, Suite 403 Boston, MA 02110 (914) 506-9956 coppermill.com *Real Estate Development* 

To promote your business and support your community, contact New Member Services

(508) 586-0500 x 229

membership@metrosouthchamber.com

# Small Business Help is Here

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. SEED has a long history of assisting small business owners, is a one-stop shop for anyone looking to start-up, grow, or streamline their business.



**Use of funds:** Working capital; leasehold improvements/builtouts; 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

# Your Business: From the Cradle to Elementary School





Virtual Event- Zoom

10:30am-11:45am

**Host:** Mark Gianno, CPA, CGMA, CFP, President of Gianno & Freda, Inc. So, you want to open your own business? Or maybe you have been running your own business for a while. There are important income tax savings, creditor protections and business growth opportunities available to you if you know the "Best Practices" for your business. On the other hand, there are significant traps for the unwary that can hamper your efforts.

Wednesday, December 11th

Learn some of the Best Practices that might apply to you and your business!

Mark Gianno, CPA, CGMA, CFP, is the President of Gianno & Freda, Inc. He earned his certification as a Certified Public Accountant in 1986, and recently earned the Chartered Global Management Accountant awarded by the AICPA in 2012. In 1992 he was awarded the license to use the Certified Financial Planner designation after completing the requisite education and testing. He currently holds a FINRA Series 7 and 24 securities license through Osaic, Inc., a registered broker/dealer.

Visit seedcorp.com/events to register and learn more.

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







### FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

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...

**December 10:** Creating a Business Plan That Works - Key Elements Every Entrepreneur Needs

**December 11:** Social Media and More: Digital Marketing Tools and Techniques **December 11:** How To Create A Marketing Plan For Your Small Business

December 12: SIMULIVE: Identifying Your Target Market

**December 17:** *Mastering Time for Operational Excellence* **December 17:** *Loans, Grants and Other Funding Options for Small Businesses* 

**December 19:** *Hiring a New Employee* 

**December 19:** Strategies and Tips for Finding a Retail Space for Your Business

Theresa Lobo-Albin on the chamber staff is

Theresa holds a degree in business and

The Chamber (in partnership with many

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

accounting and has worked with many small

businesses from numerous industries over her career

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

### 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 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.

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 Industrial Park Association 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 bridgewaterbiz.biz for more information. thev serve. Visit



and fellowship."

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 Please visit jointheebba.com for more information.



The Easton Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit 501(c) membership organization representing business and (6) 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!

throughout the region.

in accounting.



Theresa Lobo-Albin, Small Business Assistance



Counselors.

appointment.

can be found online and are being offered remotely, including one-on-one coaching through SCORE 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.metrosouthchamber. com/resources/business-assistance. Individual counseling is available by

### Federal, State, and Regional Resources for Businesses

The Metro South Chamber METRO SOUTH 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 everyone interested in business.

**Brockton Redevelopment Authority** Contact: Rob May (508) 586-3887

Center for Women & Enterprise Contact: Berlhey Narcisse (617) 536-0700

Massachusetts Office of Business **Development (MOBD)** Contact: Alexandra Husted (617) 872-9926

**Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network** Contact: Anne Fenton (508) 673-9783

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

MassDevelopment Contact: Kelly Arvidson (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

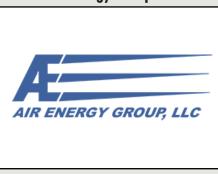
**U.S. Small Business Administration** Contact: Shelly Gillis (617) 565-5590

11

### **Air Energy Group LLC**



### VIP Tires & Service



105 Industrial Blvd Brockton (508) 230-9445 • airenergy.com

Air Energy is a leader in providing premium services in the New England area. Founded in 1985 in South Easton, we have loyally serviced the New England area for over 30 years. Since our start, we have since expanded our business in order to better serve our customers. We pride ourselves in offering expert technical support, superior service, and an extensive product line of vacuum equipment and air compressor solutions. We are unmatched by any competitor in our product offerings, level of expertise, prompt support, and reliability.

APRON ED

redapron2022@gmail.com (860) 965-1306 • redaproncharcuterie.com Red Apron Charcuterie is a proud women-owned and

Latin-owned business inspired by my love for tapas,

charcuterie, and bringing joy through food. I'm Ana

Rojas, originally from Lima, Peru, and my journey has

been one of resilience and reinvention. After 24 years

in international business and facing life's challenges,

I turned my passion for entertaining into a heartfelt

venture. Each charcuterie box reflects my Latin

heritage, creativity, and commitment to quality, using

only products I truly love. Building my business "box by

98 Westgate Drive, Brockton (508) 313-9117 • vipauto.com

Tracing its roots back 98 years under Quirk family ownership, VIP Tires & Service is family-owned and operated with over 70 locations across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Each store is staffed with ASE and TIA Certified Automotive Professionals 7 days a week, dedicated to providing exceptional service to every customer.



Join the Chamber!

... When Your Join the Chamber! Call us at (508) 586-0500 or email info@metrosouthchamber.com

60 School Street, Brockton (508) 586-0500 • metrosouthchamber.com

Join the Chamber and network your business to success! The Chamber hosts informative meetings, networking events, and puts you in touch with your legislators. We also offer marketing and advertising opportunities, referrals, publicity, and exposure.

Call to learn more today!

Visit metrosouthchamber.com/membership/join



**Good Day Metro South** 11:30AM - 1:30PM Thorny Lea Golf Club 159 Torrey Street, Brockton

Cybersecurity panel with Hub Technical Services, holiday networking, and Santa! Sponsored by Cambridge Savings Bank.

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events

Your Business from Cradle to **Elementary School** 10:30AM - 11:45AM Virtual workshop **SEED Corporation** Learn some of the Best Practices that might apply to you and your business!

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events

# **January** 1

New Year's Day - Chamber Closed

**Christmas Day - Chamber Closed** 

### **January 30**

**Good Day Metro South** 11:30AM - 1:30PM Martin Institute @ Stonehill College 320 Washington Street, Easton

More info TBA - SAVE THE DATE!

Register: metrosouthchamber.com/events