

MARCH 2025

**One SouthCoast**

# NAVIGATOR



**TOURNAMENT TIME**

**UPCOMING *NETWORKING*  
*OPPORTUNITIES* YOU WON'T  
WANT TO MISS**

One SouthCoast Navigator is the official news publication of One SouthCoast Chamber

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Executive Director, Southeastern Massachusetts Visitors Bureau, Chrisane Tyrell

Executive Director, Viva Fall River, Patti Rego

Executive Director, Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition (FRACC), Ashley Occhino

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- Vice Chair-One SouthCoast Chamber Foundation: Carl Sawejko, Sawejko Communications
- Vice Chair-Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Gail Fortes
- At Large: William Burns, Southcoast Health System
- At Large: Kim Perry, Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home

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- Paul Chasse, REALTOR® Association of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Peter Daley, People Incorporated

- Eileen Migliozi, St. Anne's Credit Union
- Monte Ferris, Venus de Milo
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- Gary P. Howayeck, Law Office of Gary Howayeck, PC
- Anthony Medeiros, Mechanics Cooperative Bank
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The Massachusetts Small Business Center (MSBDC) Network provides one-to-one free comprehensive and confidential services focusing on, business growth and strategies, financing and loan assistance as well as strategic, marketing and operational analysis. In addition, low cost educational training programs are offered across the state targeted to the needs of small business.

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[www.msdbc.org](http://www.msdbc.org)

[www.facebook.com/msbdc](https://www.facebook.com/msbdc)

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## Annual Chamber Invitational

We're just about a month away!



## Johnny Damon!

Your opportunity to meet the Red Sox legend and World Series Champion is coming soon!

# THE VALUE OF ONE SOUTHCOAST CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Joining One SouthCoast Chamber, which covers a region of 19 cities and towns along the South Coast, brings a wealth of opportunities and benefits for businesses, professionals, and the community at large. The Chamber serves as a vital bridge between businesses, government, and residents, ensuring sustainable economic growth and a thriving commercial environment. Below are some of the key values of Chamber membership:

## 1. Business Networking and Collaboration

- Members gain access to a robust network of local business owners, professionals, and potential clients.
- Networking events, mixers, and industry-specific meetings provide valuable opportunities to establish partnerships.
- Encourages collaboration among businesses, fostering local supply chains and cooperative initiatives.

## 2. Economic Growth and Business Advocacy

- The Chamber represents business interests at the local, state, and federal levels, advocating for policies that benefit commerce.
- Supports business-friendly initiatives, infrastructure projects, and legislation that enhance economic development.
- Works closely with government agencies to streamline regulations and foster a business-friendly climate.

## 3. Community Engagement and Visibility

- Membership increases business credibility and visibility within the local community.
- Chamber events and sponsorship opportunities allow businesses to gain exposure and demonstrate community support.



- Participation in community service initiatives strengthens relationships with local residents and enhances a company's reputation.

## 4. Educational and Professional Development

- Offers workshops, seminars, and training programs on topics such as marketing, finance, leadership, and technology.
- Provides access to mentorship and peer advisory groups for professional growth.
- Keeps members informed about industry trends, regulatory changes, and market opportunities.

## 5. Marketing and Promotional Benefits

- Members receive promotional opportunities through Chamber website, directory, e-newsletters, and social media and more.
- Increased credibility through Chamber membership helps attract more customers and clients.

## 6. Access to Exclusive Resources and Discounts

- Your Chamber offers member-only discounts on business services, insurance programs,
- Members can leverage Chamber affiliations for cost-saving partnerships

and financial incentives.

- Access to business grants, funding resources, and workforce development programs to strengthen operations.

## 7. Tourism and Hospitality Growth

- The Chamber plays a key role in promoting local tourism by highlighting attractions, events, and hospitality businesses.
- Encourages economic diversification by supporting restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues.
- Assists in marketing the region as a destination for visitors, boosting local revenue.

## 8. Strengthening the Local Economy

- The Chamber drives local business patronage, encouraging residents and businesses to support one another.
- By fostering entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses, the Chamber enhances job creation and economic sustainability.
- Helps attract new businesses and investments to the region, strengthening the economic foundation of each city.

Membership in One SouthCoast Chamber is a strategic investment for any business or professional looking to thrive in this dynamic and interconnected marketplace. By leveraging networking opportunities, advocacy, education, and promotional support, Chamber members contribute to a vibrant and prosperous local economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike O'Sullivan".

Mike O'Sullivan  
CEO

JOHNNY DAMON



ONE SOUTH COAST  
CHAMBER

**Celebrity Dinner and  
Scholarship Awards**

**MAY 20, 2025**

*Sponsored by*

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**Dinner: 6 pm**

**Venus de Milo, Swansea, MA**

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**[onesouthcoast.com/celebritydinner](https://onesouthcoast.com/celebritydinner)**



# good news

To submit your good news, contact Hunter Tackett  
[htackett@onesouthcoast.com](mailto:htackett@onesouthcoast.com)

**Bristol County Savings Bank**, through its Foundation, has committed a grant totaling \$250,000 to support the ongoing restoration and renovation of the historic Zeiterion Performing Arts Center in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Presenting touring shows and artists while being home to the New Bedford Festival Theatre and New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, the “Z” has served as a cultural hub for the city for more than 100 years. Since the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation was formed in 1996, more than \$33.6 million has been committed to hundreds of different non-profits in the communities the Bank serves.

The restoration of the 10,900 square-foot theatre will include an expanded lobby and ticket area, speakeasy lounge, a new historically appropriate marquee, new seats and improved sound system and lighting, as well as additional spaces for education initiatives and community connection.



**BayCoast Insurance** has promoted three key leaders within its team.

Jocelyn M. Oliveira is now First Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, overseeing operational strategies across all offices.

Devin M. Stein has been named First Vice President, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, leading teams in Personal Lines, Commercial Lines, and Marketing.

Eileen Manchester has been promoted to Vice President, Personal Lines Production.

These promotions reflect BayCoast Insurance’s commitment to strong leadership, client service, and community engagement.

## Fall River Municipal Credit Union Serving The Community Since 1930

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CHAMBER

**FALL RIVER**  
**STATE OF**  
**BUSINESS**  
with **MAYOR PAUL COOGAN**

Wednesday, April 2, 2025  
11:30 am - 1 pm  
Fall River Country Club



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## RECENT EVENTS

1. Smiling faces at the HealthFirst Business After Hours, Fall River
2. Mike and Lisa welcoming everyone to the HealthFirst Business After Hours, Fall River
3. A great mix of professionals enjoying HealthFirst's Business After Hours, Fall River
4. Guests enjoying themselves at the HealthFirst Business After Hours, Fall River
5. Paul Chasse speaking at the Regeneration Edition of the Government Affairs Committee, Wamsutta Club
6. Regeneration Edition of the Government Affairs Committee, Wamsutta Club







## RECENT EVENTS

1. Ambassadors Cindy and Lisa with attendees Nikia and Julie at the Waring-Sullivan Funeral & Cremation Service Business Builders Breakfast, Dartmouth
2. Enjoying a wonderful breakfast catered by Christian's Catering at the recent Business Builders Breakfast at Waring-Sullivan, Dartmouth
3. The Chamber's ambassadors and staff recently gathered at T.A. Restaurant for their monthly ambassador lunch, Fall River
4. All smiles at the Women's Forum, Rachel's Lakeside
5. Women's Forum attendees waiting eagerly to hear from Cait Donovan, Rachel's Lakeside
6. Cait Donovan giving her presentation on Dismantling Burnout at the recent Women's Forum, Rachel's Lakeside



# Welcome NEW MEMBERS

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## **American Arbitration Association**

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[www.icdr.org](http://www.icdr.org)

## **Joseph Lomastro: New York Life**

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Bridgewater, MA 02324  
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[www.newyorklife.com/agent/jalomastro](http://www.newyorklife.com/agent/jalomastro)

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# Here when you need us

- + Visit [southcoast.org/urgentcare](https://southcoast.org/urgentcare) to check wait times, skip the line, and save your spot online.
- + Our 6 locations are open 7 days a week – 8am to 8pm Monday through Friday, and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.
- + Walk-ins are welcome and having a Southcoast Health physician is not required.



Scan to make an appointment

## Urgent Care Locations:

### Dartmouth, MA

435 State Road

### Fairhaven, MA

208 Mill Road

### Fall River, MA

450 William S Canning Blvd

### Lakeville, MA

12 Main Street

### Seekonk, MA

39 Commerce Way

### Wareham, MA

Wareham Crossing  
2421 Cranberry Highway

Download the Southcoast Health app today!



If your condition is an emergency, please call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

# 2025 Annual Chamber Invitational Golf Tournament

One SouthCoast Chamber is excited to announce its Annual Chamber Invitational Golf Tournament, scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2025, at the esteemed Fall River Country Club. This event offers a unique blend of competitive golf and valuable networking opportunities for professionals across the SouthCoast region.

Participants will enjoy an 18-hole scramble format tournament, with prizes awarded to the top three teams. The registration fee of \$250 per golfer includes a golf cart, lunch, a golfer's gift bag, and additional surprises. Corporate foursomes are available at \$1,300, which also includes a quarter-page advertisement in the Golf Guide Program.

Proceeds from the tournament will support the Chamber's ongoing mission to advocate for business advancement, economic growth, and job creation in the SouthCoast region.

## Sponsorship Opportunities:

The Chamber offers various sponsorship packages for businesses aiming to gain visibility and demonstrate support for the community. Interested parties can contact Kimberly Coroa-Moniz at [kmoniz@onesouthcoast.com](mailto:kmoniz@onesouthcoast.com) for more information.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a day of golf while supporting initiatives that drive the SouthCoast's economic vitality. Register today to secure your spot in this premier event.



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**ONE SOUTH COAST**  
CHAMBER

*Annual*

# CHAMBER INVITATIONAL

**Monday, April 28, 2025**

**FALL RIVER COUNTRY CLUB**

*Individuals, Foursomes,  
tee signs and sponsorships  
available now*



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*For the last eleven years, Chef Messias Dias has been owner and operator of Atlantic Sports Bar and Restaurant, located at 70 Shove Street in Tiverton. We recently interviewed Chef Messias to discuss what it's like being a small business owner and why being a One SouthCoast Chamber member is important to him.*

I have over 35 years of experience in the food and beverage industry. My journey began as a dishwasher, where I learned about day-to-day operations and customer service. Later, I moved into chef and management roles, gaining valuable insights into inventory control, staff training, and financial management. My entrepreneurial spirit led me to start my own business. This venture honed my skills in menu planning, vendor relations, and event coordination. It also gave me an understanding of local health regulations and licensing requirements. Throughout my career, I've focused on delivering quality dining experiences while maintaining profitability. I believe this blend of operational knowledge and business acumen equips me well for owning a restaurant.

As a business, it's important to be thinking about ways you can give back - and not just during the holidays. No matter what, we support our local community all year round. We donate to local and surrounding area school fundraisers. We try to hire locally. We deal with local suppliers and influencers. Creating a strong local network helps businesses thrive long-term. We hold food drives for veterans and much more.

In a competition held by The Herald News for National French Fry Day (July 12), we won first place with our "Mozambique French Fry Tower" The win was further solidified when the dish was featured in USA Today as the Best Fries in America on July sixteenth. As the owner I am beyond grateful and proud of my team as are they.

Being part of One SouthCoast Chamber has helped in many ways. It definitely helps with credibility. I've made great new contacts and gained repeat customers. Participating in events like Chowderfest has also helped us increase visibility.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone : (401) 816-5996

[www.facebook.com/AtlanticSportsBarRestaurant](https://www.facebook.com/AtlanticSportsBarRestaurant)



*To be featured as a Member Spotlight, contact Hunter at [htackett@onesouthcoast.com](mailto:htackett@onesouthcoast.com).*

# MARCH POLICY PULSE

Competitiveness has been a hot-button topic on Beacon Hill over the past few years. This is a theme that One SouthCoast has been advocating for on a regular basis. Massachusetts ranks among the top five most expensive states in terms of healthcare, energy, childcare, housing, and many taxation metrics, including unemployment. Coming out of COVID, we have seen an increase in outmigration, particularly from young adults, and a decrease in domestic migration. This means fewer Americans are interested in moving and investing here, and more Massachusetts natives are choosing to put down roots in more affordable areas of the country.

As these trends have worsened since the pandemic, leaders on Beacon Hill have expressed an understanding and an effort to address some of the state's competitiveness challenges. The first monumental effort was passing tax cuts in 2023, which both the Governor and the State Legislature deserve a lot of credit for. While this was a step in the right direction, Massachusetts still ranks 41st in the 2025 State Tax Competitiveness Index.

This is why, in 2024, less than a year after passing historic tax cuts, we were concerned to see Governor Healey had proposed legislation that would enable tax increases. The Governor's proposal, the Municipal Empowerment Act, provided several flexibilities for cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Many flexibilities were considered commonsense and necessary, such as continued outdoor dining for restaurants coming out of the pandemic. On the other hand, she also included some alarming flexibilities that would allow cities and towns to raise their taxes on meals, hotels/lodging, and motor vehicle excise tax. Reducing taxes at the state level and raising them at the local level is not improving our competitiveness. It is simply shifting the burden. Thanks to immediate pushback from constituents, and business organizations like One South-



Coast, the legislature divided the legislation, passed some important flexibilities, and ignored the local tax option.

Despite failing the previous session, Governor Healey reintroduced her Municipal Empowerment Act to the legislature in January. Once again, she included several new flexibilities that would help cities and towns, such as adjustments to town meeting laws, improved cybersecurity processes, and property tax exemptions for seniors. Along with some of these reasonable adjustments, she included the same "revenue generators," aka tax increases on meals, hotels/lodging, and motor vehicle excise taxes. Her proposal allows municipalities to raise their lodging tax from 6% to 7%, their meals tax from 0.75% to 1%, and up to a 5% surcharge on motor vehicle excise taxes.

One SouthCoast Chamber has formally opposed several sections of Governor Maura Healey's new Municipal Empowerment Act, warning that proposed local tax increases could further strain residents and businesses across Southeastern Massachusetts. In a letter to our entire state delegation, we write, "For most residents on the Southcoast, owning and using a vehicle is not a luxury—it is a necessity," the Chamber emphasized in its letter. "Increasing the excise tax could impact a student's ability to get to school, a parent's ability to get to work, and a family's ability to get groceries."

When a tax on tourism dollars, such as meals and hotel taxes, is reinvested into

tourism efforts through marketing, campaigns, beautification, and more, the tax can result in a significant return on investment that continues to build upon itself. One SouthCoast has been supportive of this type of taxation in the past. Unfortunately, the Governor's proposal does not accomplish this. With her latest proposal, municipalities would have the flexibility to direct this new revenue away from tourism and into the general fund.

Despite being surrounded by world-renowned tourism destinations, including Boston to the north, Cape Cod to the east, Martha's Vineyard to the south, and Providence to the West, the Southcoast punches above its weight. With attractions like Battleship Cove, The Narrows, The Zeiterion Theatre, the Whaling Museum, and miles and miles of beautiful coastline, the Southcoast should focus on being more competitive and reinvesting tourism revenue into our beautiful Southcoast brand.

We are not going to argue that an extra few cents on a burger or an extra few dollars on a hotel is going to make a material difference in someone's wallet. It is the fact that when combined with all of the additional costs that are already overburdening our residents and businesses, this will continue to drive our families and friends out of our state. Once again, it is up to all of us to oppose these measures, which will continue to make Massachusetts less competitive, less affordable, and less desirable. We encourage everyone to contact their State Senator and State Representative to ensure they know Massachusetts does not need more taxes. If you have any questions about who they are or what to say, please reach out to Ian Trombly at [itrombly@onesouthcoast.com](mailto:itrombly@onesouthcoast.com).

Ian Trombly  
Vice President of Public Policy

SPRING 2025

# COMING UP

## March

**MAR 20, 9 AM - 2 PM**

**SOUTHCOAST JOB FAIR**

White's of Westport

**MAR 27, 5-7 PM**

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

Empire Ford

## April

**APR 3, 11:30 AM - 1 PM**

**FALL RIVER STATE OF BUSINESS**

Fall River Country Club

**APR 8, 8:30 - 10 AM**

**BUSINESS BUILDERS BREAKFAST**

Fall River Children's Museum

**APR 8, 4 - 6:30 PM**

**MOSAIC**

Bristol Community College

**APR 11, 12 - 1:30 PM**

**WOMEN'S POWER LUNCH**

Stumpy's Hatchet House

**APR 15, 9 - 10 AM**

**MEMBERSHIP 101**

OSC Fall River Office

**APR 24, 5-7 PM**

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

BankFive

**APR 28, 10 AM**

**CHAMBER INVITATIONAL**

Fall River Country Club

## May

**MAY 20, 6 PM**

**CELEBRITY DINNER**

Venus de Milo







# Women's POWER LUNCH

AT STUMPY'S HATCHET HOUSE

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 | 12 -1:30 PM

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