

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

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The Massachusetts Small Business Center (MSBDC) Network provides one-toone 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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Phone: (508) 673.9783 Fax: (508) 674.1929

www.msbdc.org www.facebook.com/msbdc

Terms to Expire in December 2025:

- Paul Chasse, REALTOR® Association of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Peter Daley, People Incorporated
- Eileen Migliozzi, St. Anne's Credit Union

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Recent Events



Upcoming Job Fair

Register a table at the Job Fair to hire top talent!

DID SOMEBODY SAY "CHOWDER"?

Let's get one thing straight—as proud New Englanders, we don't say chowder. We say CHOWDAH! And as the weather cools and fall rolls in, there's no better way to celebrate the season than with a big, hearty bowl of this creamy, coastal classic.

That's where The Blount Fine Foods New Bedford Seaport Chowderfest comes in! Blount Fine Foods, our incredible title sponsor, has been crafting quality food since 1880 and still calls Fall River home. Their delicious soups and chowders are on store shelves across the country—but they've never forgotten their roots. That's why they're the perfect partner for the tastiest festival on the South Coast.

Chowderfest is not just about chowdah (even though it is the star of the show). Many local restaurants will serve up their signature soups, stuffed quahogs, and more. They're not just here to feed the crowds—they're battling for bragging rights in the "Best Chowder," "Best Soup," and "Best Quahog" competitions, judged by both expert panels and YOU, the people, in the popular "People's Choice" awards. Trophies are up for grabs, and the com-



petition is delicious.

Of course, you'll need something to wash it all down. Lucky for you, Moby Dick and Buzzards Bay Brewery will be pouring their award-winning microbrews, and the Cocktail Guru is back with a brandnew signature cocktail. Prefer something non-alcoholic? No problem—family-friendly drinks and treats will be available all day.

Speaking of family fun, Chowderfest is packed with activities for all ages. From face painting and balloon animals to handson crafts and games in the family zone, there's something for everyone. Be Kind Rewind will be playing all afternoon to keep the good vibes going on **City Pier 3**.

Looking for something extra special? Don't miss our **VIP**

Experience thanks to the awesome team at The Black Whale and the legendary Steve Silverstein. VIPs will enjoy exclusive access to The Black Whale's waterfront deck with a specially curated tasting menu, plus early 11 a.m. access to sample soups and chowders from participating restaurants under the tent. Only 120 VIP tickets will be sold—each one includes a special gift courtesy of The Black Whale!

So mark your calendar—Saturday, October 11 is the day to dig in. Tastings run from 12–3 PM, but the music, dancing, and fun go until 5 PM. Shuttle buses will run from the Whale's Tooth parking lot for easy access.

Whether you call it chowder or chowdah, one thing's for sure: Chowderfest is the perfect way to kick off fall. Grab your tickets now online at onesouthcoast.com.

Sincerely,

Till F. Diffus

Mike O'Sullivan CEO



Join us for our 20th Annual New Bedford Seaport Chowderfest!

presented by





Saturday, October 11



11 AM - 5 PM



City Pier 3 New Bedford



VIP & General Admission pre-sale

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!







good news

Community Connections, Inc. will expand its efforts to prepare adults with disabilities for success in the workforce, thanks to a \$7,500 grant from The TJX Foundation. The funding will support the



organization's Employment Readiness and Inclusion Initiative within its Community-Based Day Supports (CBDS) program in Fall River.

The initiative will provide personalized coaching, interactive workshops, and access to adaptive, sensory-friendly clothing to help at least 15 individuals with autism and other disabilities build self-confidence, develop professional presentation skills, and explore employment opportunities.

Edward Jones Financial Advisor Ron Ellis recently qualified to attend the firm's 2025 Prism Conference, a premier recognition experience that honors individuals whose leadership is creating meaningful impact, change and influence.



Held Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at St. Louis Union Station, the Prism Conference brings together more than 400 financial advisors, client support teammates and home office leaders and associates. The event provides opportunities to connect across roles, hear from senior leaders, sharpen business acumen and strengthen capabilities to create more inclusive and accessible experiences. As Edward Jones aspires to serve millions more clients even more deeply, spaces that challenge its leaders and associates to see new perspectives contribute to being a firm for all.



Christopher M. Hodgson, founder of **Coastal Financial**, has been named a Forbes/SHOOK Top Financial Security Professional Best-In-State for Massachusetts for the third consecutive year. This honor comes as part of the fourth annual Forbes/SHOOK list.

The Forbes/SHOOK list is a prestigious ranking created through a partnership between Forbes and SHOOK Research.

SHOOK Research evaluates professionals based on quantitative metrics and qualitative insights, including the critical question: "Would we recommend these professionals to a family member or friend?"

Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB), headquartered in Taunton, Massachusetts, announces the appointment of Genesis Galan to the position of Community Relations Officer. In this capacity, Galan will be responsible for the administrative and reporting functions of the Bristol County Savings



Charitable Foundation, coordinating the Bank's community involvement efforts and outreach to community leaders, centers of influence and community agencies to strengthen relationships, identify community needs and seek out opportunities for investment and support.



Fall River Municipal Credit Union is pleased to announce the hiring of Giovanni Pabon as the new Loan Services Manager. With over seven years of advanced experience in consumer lending, operations management, and team leadership in

the credit union industry, Mr. Pabon brings a proven record of innovation, and member service excellence to his new role.





LUNCHEON WITH GOVERNOR MAURA HEALEY

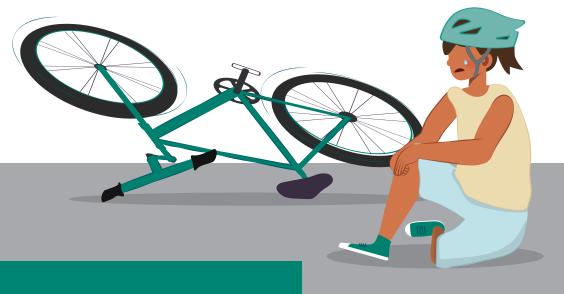
Governor Maura Healey joined One SouthCoast Chamber to reflect on her administration's first two years in office, highlighting progress in education, transportation, health care, housing, economic development, and climate leadership.











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RECENT EVENTS

- 1. Staff from United Way of Greater New Bedford enjoying their time during the Sip & Sail Business After Hours, Cuttyhunk Ferry
- 2. Ribbon Cutting celebrating the grand opening of Wise Mouth's manufacturing facility, Fall River
- 3. One SouthCoast CEO Mike O'Sullivan and Senator Mark Montigny during a Government Affairs meeting, One SouthCoast Chamber's New Bedford Office
- 4. It was a beautiful day to enjoy the scenery of New Bedford while networking, Cuttyhunk Ferry
- 5. Ribbon cutting celebrating the 50th anniversary of LifeStream, New Bedford













RECENT EVENTS

- 6. Child & Family Services, Inc. held Ribbon Cuttings in both New Bedford and Fall River for their Mobile Crisis Intervention Vans
- 7. Business After Hours is a great opportunity to network and meet new people, New Bedford Whaling Museum
- 8. Business After Hours attendees have an opportunity to win prizes when entering their business card into the raffle, New Bedford Whaling Museum
- 9. Smiling faces at our most recent Business After Hours, New Bedford Whaling Museum
- 10. Senator Mike Rodrigues attending our Government Affairs meeting about Unemployment Insurance, UMass Dartmouth School of Law
- 11. A brand new Raising Cane's recently opened and celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting, Fall River







JOIN US IN HONORING ANTHONY R. SAPIENZA AS AN OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

One SouthCoast Chamber is proud to announce that Anthony R. Sapienza will be honored at the annual Roger Valcourt Outstanding Citizen Award Dinner, to be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at Century House in Acushnet.

A respected leader in the men's apparel industry, Anthony "Tony" Sapienza brings over four decades of executive experience to the table, most recently serving as President and CEO of JA Apparel Corp. Under his leadership, the iconic Joseph Abboud brand experienced significant growth, ultimately leading to its \$95 million acquisition by The Men's Wearhouse in 2013. His deep industry knowledge also stems from key roles with Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corp. in New Bedford, as well as leadership positions with Southwick/Grieco Bros., GFT USA Corp, and Joseph J. Pietrafesa Corp., where he managed operations for high-profile labels such as Brooks Brothers, Calvin Klein, Giorgio Armani, and Polo.

Beyond his remarkable business career, Mr. Sapienza has remained deeply committed to the South Coast community through decades of civic engagement. He currently serves as President of the Board of the New Bedford Economic Development Council and has held influential positions on numerous nonprofit and educational boards, including the New Bedford Whaling Museum, Bristol Community College, and the New Bedford Light. A champion

of workforce development, he has led both the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board and the Mass Jobs Council.

His enduring contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including the SouthCoast Chamber's Community Leadership Award and the SouthCoast Media Group's Businessperson of the Year.

Mr. Sapienza holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Urban Affairs from Boston University. A veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves, he continues to serve his community as a volunteer and is an avid golfer, skier, sailor, and reader.

Organizations and people throughout the region can help in honoring Mr. Sapienza and all that he has accomplished by attending the



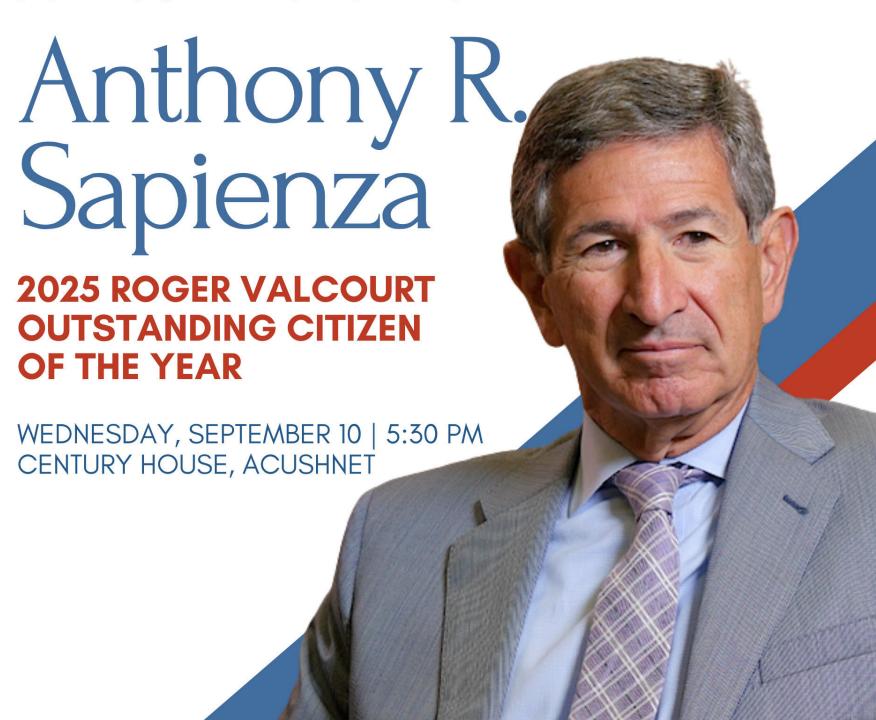
Roger Valcourt Memorial Dinner on September 10. Tickets are \$75 per person and are available at onesouthcoast.com. The event will begin with registration at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the formal program at 6:30 p.m.

One SouthCoast Chamber presents the Outstanding Citizen Award to an exceptional individual within the community in memory of Roger Valcourt. The Outstanding Citizen Award has long been designated as the most prestigious award within the business community. It is bestowed annually upon a citizen who has a long record of volunteerism and leadership that has produced a measurable and lasting contribution to the region. The standard is high because of an outstanding individual named Roger Valcourt.

The Outstanding Citizen Award was named in memory of Roger Valcourt. Mr. Valcourt passed away suddenly in 1979. He was a person who bestowed great character and commitment to community along with a reputation for excellence. The Chamber has since paid tribute to the life and achievements of Roger Valcourt through the annual presentment of the Outstanding Citizen Award.



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COMINGUP

August

August 28, 5 - 7 PM
SERVPRO END OF SUMMER BASH
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
SERVPRO

September

September 10, 5:30 PM
ROGER VALCOURT
OUTSTANDING CITIZEN
AWARD DINNER
CENTURY HOUSE

September 9, 8:30 - 10 AM Business Builders Breakfast BUTTONWOOD PARK 700 September 18, 9 AM - 2 PM SOUTHCOAST JOB FAIR VENUS DE MILO

September 25, 5 - 7 PM BUSINESS AFTER HOURS HATCH STREET STUDIOS

October

October 11, 12 PM - 5 PM 20th ANNUAL BLOUNT FINE FOODS NEW BEDFORD SEAPORT CHOWDER FESTIVAL

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