

Dear Lisa,

From the CEO's Desk:

- Many thanks to all who attended today's Legislative Breakfast, held in collaboration with the Community Action Committee of the Cape & Islands, the Falmouth, Sandwich and Mashpee Chambers of Commerce, and the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce. The elected delegation included county and state officials, and a keynote address from the Senate President. (See photos from today's event below).
- Senate President Murray announced there would be a public hearing prior to the Senate taking up the Casino bill. This bill, which included a 1% mitigation fund for tourism councils to offset negative impacts on regional tourism, will now move to the Senate, having passed the House with a veto-proof vote. The Cape Cod Chamber has been opposed to casino gaming and has communicated this to our legislative reps. in Boston.
- Remember, all four lanes on the Sagamore Bridge are open for the Patriots' Day Weekend, but work will resume on Tuesday. The next stage addresses the center travel lane. We are discussing with MA DOT and others the concept of keeping the I- cones available through the peak travel season (even after bridge work is completed.)
- The state House of Representative's budget was released this week and now the budget process moves to filing amendments and debate. The Chamber plans to stay active in this process, advocating for at least \$6 million for marketing the industry that generates significant tax revenue and can be part of our jobs and economic recovery effort.
- While we work diligently to support a local economy, Cape Cod still feels the effects of global events. This week's volcanic eruption in Iceland has delayed travel of several inbound FAM participants that we are hosting this weekend!
- So, while driving through PA, I picked up a Dannon Lite yogurt with a beach house giveaway promo. I saved the lid to check it out at home - and found that the beach house is on Cape Cod! [Click here](#) to see.
- Congratulations to board chair Bill Zammer and board member Rick Angelini, who just opened Star Fish seafood restaurant in South Cape Village, Mashpee.
- The Chamber board will be meeting with officials from NStar to discuss their vegetation control policies and methods.
- We have been working with the state to identify possible resources to reopen the Route 25 Visitor Center. Requests were made via the supplemental budget process, but so far nothing has surfaced.
- The Board of Directors has approved the Business Excellence Awards nominations (see below). These will be recognized at the April 29th Expo, sponsored by the SBA. Please sign up for this event (there is no charge) and come to celebrate the recipients and pick up information to boost your business in the coming year. To register, contact Chris Carter at 617-565-5560 or christine.carter@sba.gov.

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Award Recipients:

Shawn DeLude (Nauset Disposal) - Jack Gay Ambassador Award

Cape & Islands United Way - Business Excellence in non-profit category

Staff of Cape Medical Supply - Business Excellence in health care category

Mac's Seafood - Business Excellence in hospitality category

OpenCape -Chairman of the Board's award for Business Excellence

Photos from today's Legislative Breakfast

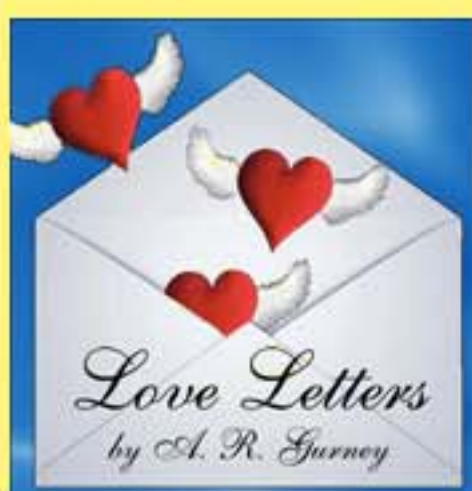


Wendy K. Northcross, IOM, CCE

SBA Cape & Islands Small Business Recovery Expo

The **SBA Cape & Islands Small Business Recovery Expo** will be held **Thursday, April 29th** from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis. Since the Recovery Act, the SBA has provided over \$22 billion in supported lending to over 52,000 small businesses. Meet the people who can help you survive challenging economic conditions! Also learn about low interest rate financing, free small business mentoring procurement, technical and export assistance and more. Registration and networking begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by the presentation of the Cape Cod Chamber's Business Excellence Awards at 8 a.m., an Expert Panel Presentation from 8:30 to 10 a.m., and one-on-one with lenders from 10 to 11:30 a.m. To register for this free event, contact Chris Carter at 617-565-5560 or christine.carter@sba.gov. This event is planned in partnership with Coastal Community Capital and the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce.

Cotuit Center for the Arts presents "Love Letters"



Cotuit Center for the Arts and Director Melinda Gallant will bring to the Center's intimate stage three one-time command performances of the popular play "Love Letters" on April 30th, May 1st and May 2nd as a benefit for the American Cancer Society and the Center. The play will be performed by three different Cape Cod celebrity couples: Cape Cod Chamber CEO Wendy Northcross and Van Northcross, Marketing & Community Relations Director for Cape Cod Healthcare will perform on Friday, April 30th at 8 p.m. On Saturday, May 1st, Maggie Van Sciver, President of the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod, and William Zammer, President of Cape Cod Restaurants, Inc. and local philanthropist, will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 2nd will feature well known NPR celebrity Mindy Todd and Senator Robert O'Leary of the Massachusetts State Senate at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for the show only, or \$50 for the show and a cocktail reception with the stars following each performance. Sponsored by South Cape Village and Cape Cod Five. Call 508-428-0669 for more information.

Exhibitor opportunities at Summer Entertaining Expo

Cape businesses ranging from hospitality to adventure to retail can now register to exhibit in the first annual Cape Cod Summer Entertaining Expo on Saturday May 29th at The Hyannis Youth Community Center, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The one-day event will have the atmosphere of a party - think live music, cooking demos, and entertaining tips