

"The Monthly"



April 2023

NEWSLETTER



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APRIL IS RECOGNIZED AS THE NATIONAL MONTH OF SEVERAL THINGS INCLUDING NATIONAL POETRY MONTH, NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH, NATIONAL GARDEN MONTH, NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH, AND NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH, AMONG OTHERS.





WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR SMALL MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OFFICE. YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AND DEDICATION TO YOUR CRAFT IS TRULY INSPIRING. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS STRENGTHENED BY THE DIVERSITY OF VOICES AND EXPERIENCES REPRESENTED IN OUR NETWORK OF BUSINESSES. WE ENCOURAGE ALL CURRENTLY REGISTERED BUSINESSES TO INVITE OTHER BUSINESS OWNERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO REGISTER WITH US. TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER, MORE INCLUSIVE BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE.

EXCITING NEWS! **ROSE SISTERS CHIPS** HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A TOP 10 FINALIST IN BARCLAYS US CONSUMER BANK'S "SMALL BUSINESS BIG WINS" CONTEST AND STANDS TO BE AWARDED A SHARE OF THE \$255,000 PRIZE POOL. NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR, SMALL BUSINESS BIG WINS WAS CREATED DURING THE PANDEMIC TO PROVIDE A MUCH-NEEDED BOOST TO SMALL BUSINESSES WITH COMPELLING STORIES OF RESILIENCE. THE CONTEST, WHICH LAUNCHED ON JANUARY 11 AND CLOSED FEBRUARY 28, INVITED SMALL BUSINESSES FROM ACROSS THE NATION TO SHARE ACCOUNTS AND CHALLENGES OF BUILDING A BUSINESS AND MAKING THEIR DREAMS A REALITY.

ROSE SISTER CHIPS IS A FANTASTIC **CITY-BASED BUSINESS** THAT PRODUCES DELICIOUS AND UNIQUE POTATO CHIPS. THEY ARE CURRENTLY COMPETING IN A CONTEST AND COULD USE OUR SUPPORT TO HELP THEM WIN.

BY VOTING FOR THEM, WE CAN HELP TO PROMOTE AND UPLIFT A FELLOW **SMBE** BUSINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH APRIL 10, THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE SMALL BUSINESS. ROSE SISTERS CHIPS IS INVITING YOU TO VOTE FOR THIS LOCAL BUSINESS TO HELP THEM WIN BY VISITING [BARCLAYSMALLBIZBIGWINS.COM](https://www.barclays.com/smallbizbigwins) BEFORE APRIL 10.

- ONE GRAND PRIZE OF \$60,000
- ONE 2ND PLACE PRIZE OF \$40,000
- ONE 3RD PLACE PRIZE OF \$20,000
- SEVEN RUNNER-UP PRIZES OF \$5,000 EACH

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTEST WINNERS WILL TAKE PLACE THE WEEK OF MAY 2 TO COINCIDE WITH NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK.



WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO SHARE ANY EVENTS THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION MAY BE HOSTING OR PARTICIPATING IN, SO WE CAN FEATURE THEM IN OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS. WHETHER IT'S A PRODUCT LAUNCH, A FUNDRAISER, OR A COMMUNITY EVENT, WE WANT TO HELP SPREAD THE WORD AND SUPPORT OUR FELLOW MEMBERS. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS AND ENGAGE WITH THE **SMBE** COMMUNITY. PLEASE EMAIL US WITH THE DETAILS OF YOUR EVENT, INCLUDING THE DATE, LOCATION, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

FINANCE/FUNDING

APRIL IS RECOGNIZED AS FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH, DEDICATED TO PROMOTING FINANCIAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS. AS A WAY TO CELEBRATE THIS EVENT, THE SBE OFFICE HAS ORGANIZED A FINANCIAL LITERACY EVENT. THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 28TH FROM 5PM TO 7PM HERE AT THE MARGARET E. MORTON GOVERNMENT CENTER. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE EVENT IS TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ITS IMPORTANCE. ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT BUDGETING, SAVING, AND INVESTING. THE EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE THEIR FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE. IT IS A GREAT CHANCE TO GAIN SOME VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND TIPS FROM FINANCIAL EXPERTS. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE YOUR FINANCIAL LITERACY AND REGISTER FOR THE SBE OFFICE'S FINANCIAL LITERACY EVENT.

1. \$2,000 PINK PRINT FUND GRANT FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS
2. \$20,000 ANTARES REACH GRANT
3. \$25,000 DELOITTE FOUNDATION (DUE IN MAY)
4. \$10,000 NAV GRANT
5. \$25,000 IFUNDWOMEN BOTOX COSMETIC GRANT PROGRAM (4/7/23)
6. \$20,000 FEARLESS STRIVERS GRANT CONTEST (8/31/23)
7. \$500 DIVA GRANT
8. \$30,000 LATINAS IN TECH START-UP
9. \$10,000 LADIES WHO LAUNCH
10. 25,000 POWER FORWARD SMALL BUSINESS GRANT
11. MANUFACTURING INNOVATION FUND - CT DEC D
12. USDA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (TRUCKING)
13. 5K-20K LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORP.
14. \$4,000 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED (NASE) GROWTH GRANT
15. CANDID

Open
**GRANTS
OVER \$192K**

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH FORUM



APRIL 28, 2023 5PM-7PM

999 BROAD STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT

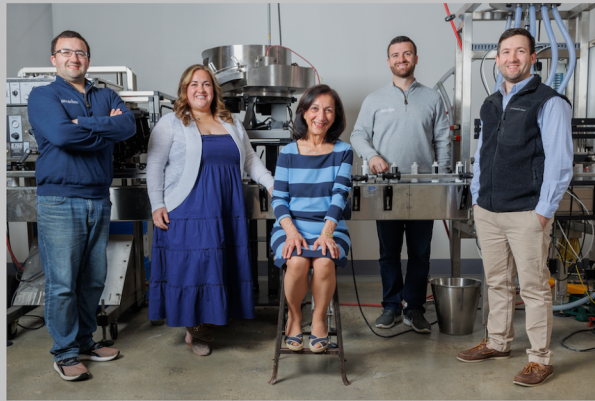
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE SMALL AND MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OFFICE AT 203-576-8473 OR EMAIL
JASON.CHANDERSINGH@BRIDGEPORTCT.GOV



BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

MOVING FORWARD, AT SMBE, WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWCASING A NEW BUSINESS IN OUR NEWSLETTER EVERY MONTH. THIS INITIATIVE WILL NOT ONLY HELP PROMOTE EMERGING BUSINESSES, BUT ALSO PROVIDE OUR READERS WITH FRESH AND EXCITING CONTENT. OUR AIM IS TO SUPPORT AND CELEBRATE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT WHILE KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED AND ENGAGED. WE BELIEVE HIGHLIGHTING A NEW BUSINESS EACH MONTH WILL BENEFIT BOTH OUR READERS AND THE BUSINESSES WE FEATURE, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THEIR STORIES WITH OUR AUDIENCE.

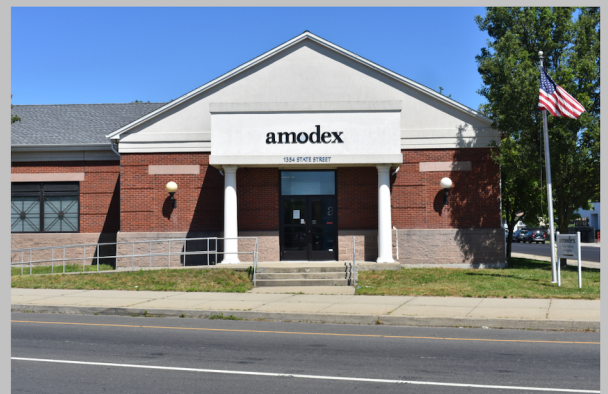
amodex®



IN 1957, OUR GRANDFATHER PETER CREATED A SOLUTION TO REMOVE STUBBORN INK FROM HIS HANDS AT THE END OF LONG DAYS IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY. HE SOON REALIZED THAT HIS FORMULA REMOVED ALL TYPES OF INK AND STAINS FROM CLOTHING, TOO. PETER AND HIS WIFE SYLVIA NAMED THEIR CREATION AMODEX, AND FORMED WHAT IS NOW A MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILY BUSINESS.

IN 2005, OUR MOM, BEVERLEE, TOOK THE HELM TO LEAD THE COMPANY WITH TWO SETS OF TWIN CHILDREN IN TOW. WE'RE VERY PROUD OF AMODEX AND THE LEGACY OF OUR GRANDPARENT'S HARD WORK TO CREATE SUCH AN INNOVATIVE AND VERSATILE PRODUCT.

1354 STATE STREET~BRIDGEPORT, CT 06605





SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES ARE THE BACKBONE OF ANY CITY, AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. REGISTERED BUSINESSES WITHIN THE SMBE SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO CREATE A POSITIVE IMAGE OF THEIR COMPANY AND PROMOTE GOODWILL. PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE BRBC, DSSD, AND LOCAL NRZ'S CAN HELP BUSINESSES CONNECT WITH THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD AND OTHER ENTITIES IN THE CITY. BY PARTNERING WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES CAN INCREASE THEIR VISIBILITY AND STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR CUSTOMERS.

THE BRBC, DSSD, AND LOCAL NRZ'S ARE EXCELLENT ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN HELP BUSINESSES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE BRBC OFFERS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES, AND EVENTS THAT BRING BUSINESSES TOGETHER TO FOSTER GROWTH AND COLLABORATION. THE DSSD WORKS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVE THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT, WHILE LOCAL NRZ'S AIM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS. BY PARTICIPATING IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES CAN DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CITY'S OVERALL SUCCESS.

THE WEST END ASSOCIATION IS A GROUP OF BUSINESSES LOCATED IN THE WEST END OF BRIDGEPORT AND IS A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT. WE MEET MONTHLY TO ADDRESS A RANGE OF TOPICS, MAINLY POLICING AND SAFETY, GARBAGE AND CLEANUP, ZONING, CITY REGULATIONS, HIRING ASSISTANCE, PUBLIC FUNDING THAT IS AVAILABLE, AND TAXES. WE GENERALLY BRING IN PEOPLE RELATED TO THOSE TOPICS TO ADDRESS HOW THEY ARE OR WILL BE IMPACTING OUR BUSINESSES. THE GOAL IS TO ALLOW US TO HAVE A VOICE IN THESE MATTERS AND TO PROMOTE THE WEST END AS A THRIVING SPACE FOR BUSINESS. FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE EMAIL [NICOLAS DACEY <NDACEY@AMODEXUSA.COM>](mailto:NDACEY@AMODEXUSA.COM)

**Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZ's)
Bridgeport**

NRZ	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting location	President	Email
1 Black Rock	TBD	TBD	TBD	Scott Burns	rsgburns@yahoo.com
2 East End	3rd Tuesdays	6PM	Ralphola Taylor Community Center 790 Central Ave. 06607	Keith Williams	dorie63@aol.com
3 East Side	2nd Mondays	6PM	Crescent Crossing Comm. Rm. 581 Waterview Ave. 06608	Tatiana Urena	tatiana.urena17@yahoo.com
				Kellie Taylor - Vice Pres.	k.t40027@gmail.com
				Bob Dzurenda - Secretary	rdzurenda@hnhonline.org
4 Hollow	4th Mondays	6:30PM	Mt. Aery Baptist Church 73 Frank St. 06604	Sonia Moncrieffe	Symoncrieffe@gmail.com
5 Mill Hill	2nd Wednesdays	6PM	Frankie's Diner 1660 Barnum Ave	Nick Roussas	nikosr77@yahoo.com
6 South End	2nd Thursdays	6PM	University of Bridgeport - Bauer Hall 82 Marina Park Cir. 06604	Kevin Moore	kmoore@habitatcfc.org
				Paul Boucher - Vice Chair	boucherp481@gmail.com
				Greg Breland - Sec	southend.nrz@gmail.com
7 Reservoir					
8 West Side/End	1st Tuesdays	6:30PM-8PM	Zoom	Vanessa Liles	vanessaliles@aol.com

LOOKING FORWARD

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ARE IN FOR A TREAT WITH THE UPCOMING EVENTS THAT SMBE HAS PLANNED! TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES, IT'S IMPORTANT TO PREPARE YOURSELF NOW. WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING TO NETWORK WITH OTHER ENTREPRENEURS, LEARN ABOUT NEW INDUSTRY TRENDS, OR SHOWCASE YOUR OWN PRODUCTS OR SERVICES, THESE EVENTS ARE NOT TO BE MISSED. SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS, GATHER YOUR MARKETING MATERIALS, AND GET READY TO BE PART OF SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL!



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Don't forget to keep an eye on all future work that the City posts. The board here in the City Hall Annex is full of work to be bid on. If you need help on how to bid, call into the office.

Mark your Calendars for May 2, 2023. Plans are in the works for a Bridgeport Business Social. Get your business cards ordered now!! This will be an amazing experience that you can not afford to miss.



THE FUTURE