

# "The Monthly"

**Celebrating Juneteenth**



**M a r g a r e t E . M o r t o n G o v e r n m e n t C e n t e r**  
**9 9 9 B r o a d S t r e e t**  
**B r i d g e p o r t , C T 0 6 6 0 4**  
**2 0 3 - 5 7 6 - 8 4 7 3**

**J u n e 2 0 2 3 N e w s l e t t e r**



Small & Minority  
Business Enterprise



SMBE



@smbeofbpt



Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. It marks the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that all enslaved people were to be freed. Although the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed two and a half years earlier, it was not enforced in Texas until this day. Juneteenth is celebrated with parades, picnics, and community gatherings, and is an important day to recognize the struggles and achievements of African Americans. It is now recognized as a federal holiday in the United States.



Bridgeport will celebrate Juneteenth on June 10th, 2023, from 11 am to 5 pm at Seaside Park. The event will feature entertainment, vendors, art, ethnic food, food trucks, an urban farmer's market, and demonstrations. For More Info Contact 203-545-8146 or email: [JUNETEENTHOFFFLDCO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JUNETEENTHOFFFLDCO@GMAIL.COM)



# Finance & Funding

Small business funding can be accomplished through various methods. One option is to seek out a traditional bank loan, which usually requires a good credit score and a solid business plan. Another option is to pursue venture capital or angel investors, which involves pitching your business to potential investors and giving up a percentage of ownership in exchange for funding. Crowdfunding has also become a popular way to raise money for small businesses, allowing them to reach a larger audience and offer incentives to backers. Additionally, grants and government programs are available for certain types of businesses or industries. Overall, there are many methods of small business funding, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

For More Information on Business Lending Contact any of our Partners Below:



FWELK@CEDF.COM



DWIGHT.THOMASJACKSON@CITI.COM



EVEGA2@MTB.COM



TGRANT@NUTMEGSTATEFCU.ORG

## Grants

INC FILE'S FRESH START BUS. GRANT - \$2.5K

NASE GROWTH GRANT - \$4K

EBAY UP & RUNNING GRANT - \$10K

HERSHEY FOODS GIVING GRANT - \$10-25K

CYBER SECURITY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT - \$100K

GETTY IMAGES GRANT PROGRAM \$5-25K

FEARLESS STRIVERS GRANT - \$20K

CARTIER - WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FUNDING/MENTORSHIP

GALAXY OF STARS GRANT \$3-7K

PROGRESSIVE DRIVING SMALL BUS.GRANT

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE GRANT FOR BLACK BUS. OWNERS -\$25K

Being a minority small business owner comes with many unique benefits. These include contract opportunities, **funding availability**, a diverse network, supplier diversity programs, and access to extra training.



## Minority Business Certifications

There are several types of minority-owned certifications, including:

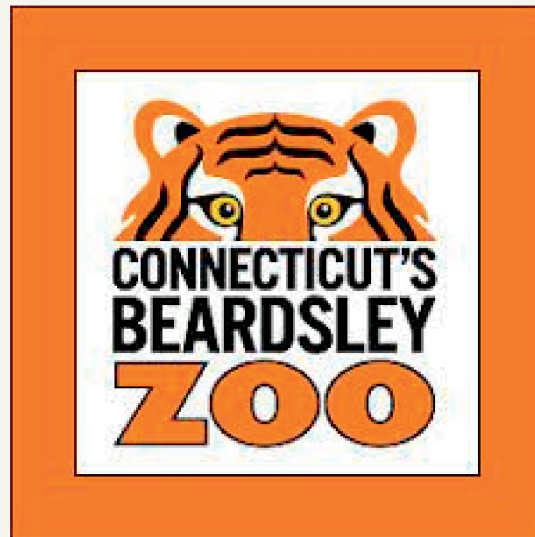
1. Minority Business Enterprise (**MBE**) Certification: This certification is issued by the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) and provides access to corporate and government contract opportunities, networking events and business development resources.
2. Women's Business Enterprise (**WBE**) Certification: This certification is issued by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) and provides access to corporate and government contract opportunities, networking events, and business development resources.
3. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (**DBE**) Certification: This certification is issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation and provides access to federal transportation contracts.
4. Small Business Administration (**SBA**) 8(a) Business Development Certification: This certification provides access to federal contracts, specialized business training, and mentoring opportunities.

The benefits of each certification vary, but generally include increased access to business opportunities, networking events, and business development resources. These certifications can also enhance a business's reputation and credibility, and may provide a competitive advantage when bidding on contracts.

# Monthly Business Highlight

June is  
National Zoo  
and Aquarium  
Month

This observance is celebrated annually in June to honor the role that zoos and aquariums play in the conservation and research of animal and fish species. People are encouraged to visit zoos and aquariums to learn about animals and marine life.



THE ONLY ZOO  
IN THE STATE  
OF CT!!

Founded 1922

## UPCOMING DATES

May 10, Be Bear Aware Panel,  
7:00-8:30 pm., Carousel Building

May 17, Evening Lecture Series:  
The Bear Reality, Felicia Ortnier,  
CT Master Wildlife  
Conservationist 7 p.m.

May 20, Grand Opening  
Andean Bear Habitat, 11:00  
a.m.

July 15, Teddy Bear Clinic

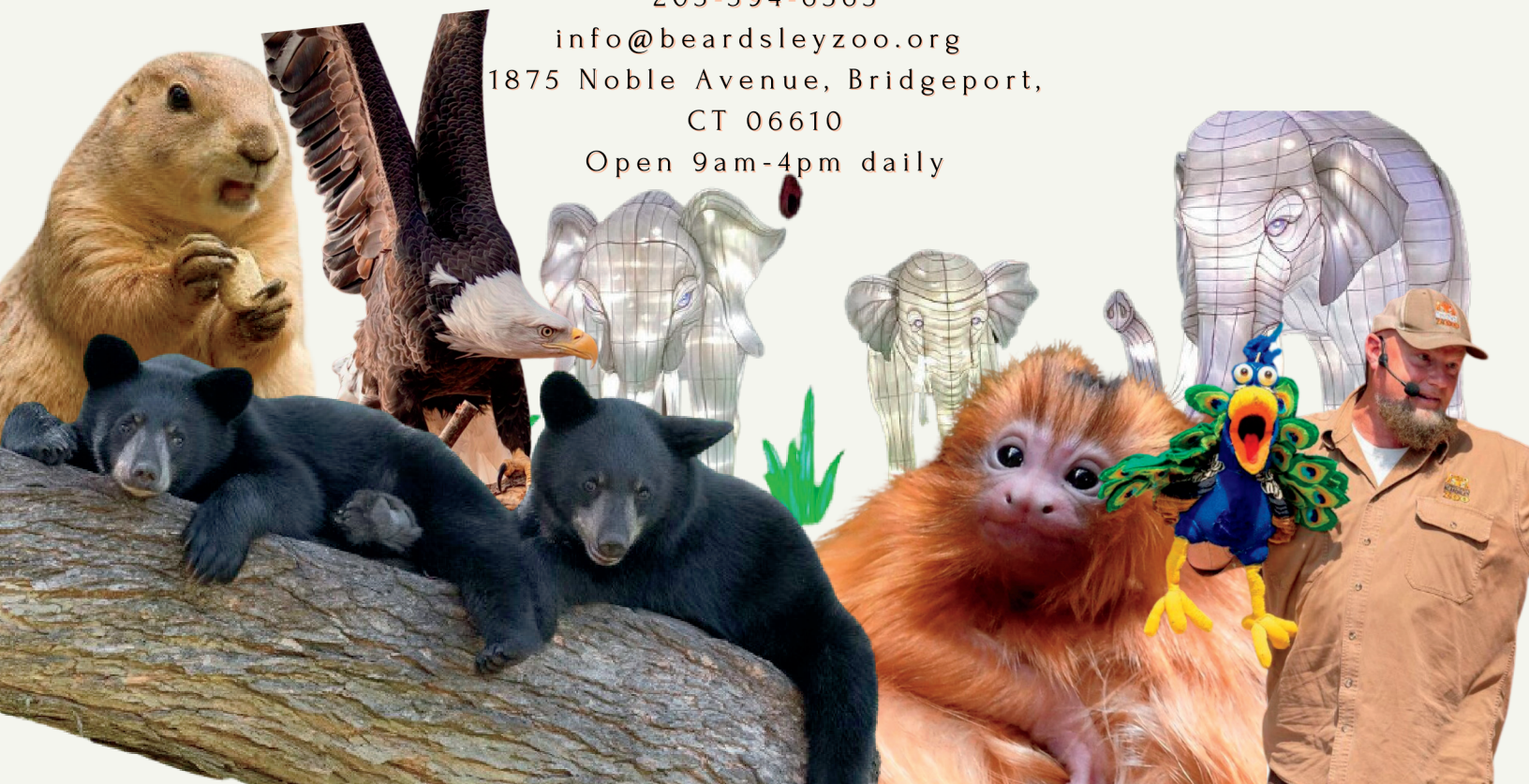
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo has a proud history of over 100 years as Connecticut's only Zoo. As an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and participant in its Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs, we are committed to the preservation of endangered animals and are actively developing strategies that will protect species and preserve their wild habitats.

203-394-6565

[info@beardsleyzoo.org](mailto:info@beardsleyzoo.org)

1875 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport,  
CT 06610

Open 9am-4pm daily



# NEWS & EVENTS

## Bridgeport RESTAURANT WEEK

DISCOVER NEW FLAVORS WITH FRESHLY MADE MEALS AT THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT!

SCAN THE QR CODE!



**SATURDAY, JUNE 24 - SATURDAY, JULY 1**  
LUNCH & DINNER | ONE FIXED PRICE

*Dig In!*

FOR PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS AND FULL MENUS, VISIT:  
[BRIDGEPORTCT.GOV/RESTAURANTWEEK](http://BRIDGEPORTCT.GOV/RESTAURANTWEEK)



EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE (NRZ) PRESENTS:

## EAST SIDE DAY

*Street Parade Festival* **2023** *Music*

*History* *Fun*  
*Food* *Celebration*  
*Family* *Culture*

**Saturday July 29, 2023**

Join us for the first ever "East Side Day" street parade and festival! We invite all neighborhood residents and businesses to come out and celebrate with us. The event promises to be a fun-filled day with plenty of music, food, and entertainment for everyone. Let's come together and showcase the vibrancy and diversity of our community. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to connect with your neighbors and make new friends. See you there!

The parade will begin in the parking lot of St. Charles Church at 9:30am (E. Main & Stillman) traveling down E. Main St. and turning onto Barnum Ave into Washington Park.

For more information or to sign up as a vendor or volunteer, call Tatiana Urena .203-309-0103 or email [tatianaurena17@yahoo.com](mailto:tatianaurena17@yahoo.com)

## Feed The People

*Summer Fest*

COME OUT AND BE A PART OF A DAY OF GIVING BACK. THERE WILL BE CLOTHING, FOOD AND CARE PACKAGE GIVEAWAYS, FREE HAIRCUTS, AND MORE!

**Saturday June 17, 2023**  
11 am - 3 pm

McLevy Green  
Downtown Bridgeport

For More Information or to submit a donation, please email [Feedthepeoplect@gmail.com](mailto:Feedthepeoplect@gmail.com) or call 203-828-8910

Feed The People Initiative Organization

Sponsored by:





**JUNE COFFEE & CONNECTIONS**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14  
3:30 - 4:30 PM  
@ SHU IHUB  
POWERED BY VERIZON



Mayor Joe Ganim and the City of Bridgeport invite you to celebrate PRIDE MONTH

## LGBTQ+ PRIDE Flag Raising

Thursday, June 22, 2023  
11 AM  
Margaret E. Morton Government Complex  
999 Broad Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
ALL ARE WELCOME



# GETTING INVOLVED

Businesses can benefit greatly from joining local organizations such as the NRZ, City Council meetings, Downtown Special Service District, and the Bridgeport Regional Business Council. The NRZ, or Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, is a community-driven organization that aims to improve the quality of life in a specific neighborhood. City Council meetings provide a platform for local businesses to voice their concerns and ideas to their elected officials. The Downtown Special Service District works to promote and enhance the downtown area through various initiatives and events. Finally, the Bridgeport Regional Business Council is a membership-based organization that advocates for the interests of businesses in the Greater Bridgeport area and provides networking opportunities. Joining these organizations can help businesses connect with the community, stay informed about local events and issues, and build valuable relationships with other businesses.

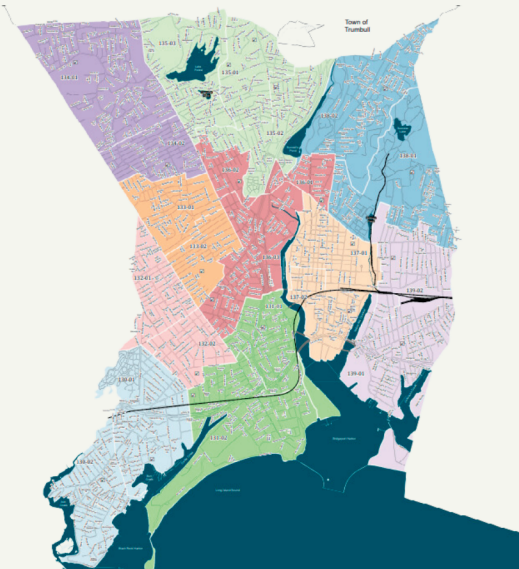
Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZ's)					
Bridgeport					
NRZ	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting location	President	Email
1 Black Rock	TBD	TBD	TBD	Scott Burns	<a href="mailto:rsgburns@yahoo.com">rsgburns@yahoo.com</a>
2 East End	3rd Tuesdays	6PM	Ralphola Taylor Community Center 790 Central Ave. 06607	Keith Williams	<a href="mailto:dorie63@aol.com">dorie63@aol.com</a>
3 East Side	2nd Mondays	6PM	Crescent Crossing Comm. Rm. 581 Waterview Ave. 06608	Tatiana Urena	<a href="mailto:tatianaurena17@yahoo.com">tatianaurena17@yahoo.com</a>
				Kellie Taylor - Vice Pres.	<a href="mailto:kt40027@gmail.com">kt40027@gmail.com</a>
				Bob Dzurenda - Secretary	<a href="mailto:rdzurenda@hnhonline.org">rdzurenda@hnhonline.org</a>
4 Hollow	4th Mondays	6:30PM	Mt. Aery Baptist Church 73 Frank St. 06604	Sonia Moncrieffe	<a href="mailto:Symoncrieffe@gmail.com">Symoncrieffe@gmail.com</a>
5 Mill Hill	2nd Wednesdays	6PM	Frankie's Diner 1660 Barnum Ave	Nick Roussas	<a href="mailto:nikosr77@yahoo.com">nikosr77@yahoo.com</a>
6 South End	2nd Thursdays	6PM	University of Bridgeport - Bauer Hall 82 Marina Park Cir. 06604	Kevin Moore	<a href="mailto:kmoore@habitatcfc.org">kmoore@habitatcfc.org</a>
				Paul Boucher - Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:boucherp481@gmail.com">boucherp481@gmail.com</a>
				Greg Breland - Sec	<a href="mailto:southend.nrz@gmail.com">southend.nrz@gmail.com</a>
7 Reservoir					
8 West Side/End	1st Tuesdays	6:30PM-8PM	Zoom	Vanessa Liles	<a href="mailto:vanessaliles@aol.com">vanessaliles@aol.com</a>



**BRIDGEPORT  
REGIONAL  
BUSINESS COUNCIL**  
BRIDGEPORT | STRATFORD | TRIUMBULL  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Together we are the **BRBC!**

Bridgeport  
Downtown Special  
Services District



## Looking Forward

The SMBE department is gearing up to host a series of exciting events throughout the upcoming summer months. These events will include pop-up gatherings, financial literacy seminars, and several business-related activities that are specifically designed for small businesses within the Bridgeport community. Whether you are an entrepreneur looking to learn more about financial management or a small business owner seeking new opportunities to grow your network, these events are sure to provide valuable insights and connections. So, stay tuned for more information on these upcoming events and get ready to take your business to the next level!

Thank you for all that you do to support our community. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Gee Jr. - Director SMBE

Jason A. Chandersingh - Assistant Special Projects Manager

