

**From:** MassEcon <coordinator+massecon.com@ccsend.com>  
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January 2023



## IN BRIEF

MAKING MOVES IN MASSACHUSETTS



### Notes on the economy

On **January 10th**, MassEcon hosted its **Annual Economic Outlook** featuring Dr. Mary Burke, a leading economist. Over 100 MassEcon members joined the conversation to hear Dr. Burke speak about the Massachusetts economy amidst broader national and global economic trends. Following Dr. Burke's presentation were presentations from Jeff Myers, Research Director at Colliers and Adam Sell, Managing Director at Syndicated Finance. View the [slides](#) and the [presentation](#).

After a bounce back in November, **Massachusetts employers' confidence slid back down** again in December, according to the state's largest business association. [Read more here.](#)

**The Life Sciences Industry has seen incredible growth the last decade**, and Massachusetts has become a worldwide leader with the expectation of continued industry growth and expansion. **The Central MA Life**

**Sciences Forum** will lead a forum discussion on the many benefits of growing the industry in the region on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023** at the DCU Center in Worcester. [Read more here.](#)

**Holyoke looks to 150th anniversary to burnish image, spur economic development.** The city will look to marketing to boost the image of the Paper City, attract visitors and help spur future economic development. [Read more here.](#)

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts** is touting itself as the first in the state, and one of the first in the country, to create a **financial payment model rewarding health systems and physicians for eliminating racial and ethnic inequities** in care. Four of the state's largest healthcare systems have signed the agreements. [Read more here.](#)

**While the region's Life Sciences real estate market experienced a cooldown in 2022, Boston and Cambridge held the majority of the largest life sciences leases.** A few suburban locations made the top 10 list. [Read more here.](#)

**Federal Pandemic SNAP Benefits are set to end in February.** Massachusetts has set up a new website to help households prepare as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Emergency Allotments are coming to a close next month. [Read more here.](#)

## Expanding in MASS

**Wynn Resorts has filed plans for the expansion of its Everett casino.** The gambling giant is looking to build an entertainment complex across the street where its Boston Encore Harbor casino is located. **The 1.8 million square foot project**

includes two hotels with ballrooms, three parking garages, a theater, restaurants and clubs, a poker room, and a retail sportsbook. [Read more here.](#)

**Benderson Development has purchased a 53,400-square-foot retail center located at 340 River St. in Cambridge.** Anchored by a 40,000-square-foot Whole Foods Market and a 13,000-square-foot Walgreens, the property is approximately one mile from both Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [Read more here.](#)

**GE's energy businesses are expected to be split off into an independent company (GE Vernova) in early 2024, which will be headquartered in Cambridge's Kendall Square.** GE itself is still on the hunt for a new corporate office in Boston. [Read more here.](#)

**OpenCape CEO, Steve Johnston, spoke with the Sunday Journal about broadband expansion realities.** He discusses the challenges that are still ahead for expanding broadband for the entire Cape Cod region and what it would take—from local leaders, state lawmakers, and federal officials—to improve make broadband accessibility. [Read more here.](#)

## NEW Products & funding



**The Massachusetts Council for Economic Education (CEE), Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF), and the State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE) announced a collaboration aimed at increasing access to**

financial education professional development for K-12 teachers throughout the state. The Massachusetts Professional Development Grant for Educators launched on January 5, 2023. [Read more here.](#)

**Three area communities were awarded state Housing Choice grants to help each address the statewide housing shortage.** North Andover, Methuen and Merrimac share in the State Housing Choice Grants ranging from \$50,000 - \$123,500. [Read more here.](#)

**The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)'s DTA Works Internship Program** launched two new career tracks in healthcare and education. This work supports recipients of **Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)** on their pathway to economic mobility. These public private partnership internship opportunities lead to employment in high demand labor markets. [Read more here.](#)

**A six-story affordable housing development on the former site of the Table Talk Pies factory in Worcester's Canal District has received nearly \$20 million in funding from the state.** Construction on the project began in October and is expected to be complete in February 2024. [Read more here.](#)

**Inmates and formerly incarcerated people will have a chance to get involved in food production while building entrepreneurial skills** at the Franklin County Community Development Corporation (CDC), thanks to a \$94,000 state grant. The grant is expected to bolster existing partnerships while also

fostering new partnerships with Stone Soup Cafe's Culinary Institute, Working Fields and Community Action Pioneer Valley. [Read more here.](#)

## Partners @work



**The Pinnacle Awards - the premier event for women in business - are being hosted on Friday, January 27, 2023.** The ceremony honors Greater Boston's dynamic leading women for their contributions to the workplace and their commitment to every community.

**Greater Boston's women in business are leading the region and world forward** – with their influence and impact, they are building the industries and places that fortify the pillars of commerce. Every year, more than 1,200 attendees, including elected officials, business innovators, and next-gen leaders, convene to recognize and celebrate the achievements of our honorees. [Read more here.](#)



**The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce has created an initiative to address child care and early education.**

The Early Education and Child Care Taskforce will investigate shortcomings in quality educational and care resources across the region for kids through the age of twelve. [Read more here.](#)



**The Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council (EDC) discusses the optimism for and challenges facing the region in the years ahead.**

“That’s part of what gives me some optimism for the economy of our region — to see this growth in entrepreneurship,” Charlie D’Amour, EDC executive committee member, remarked. “This is an interesting group of young entrepreneurs, and it’s a diverse group, and that speaks to where our future is going to be.” [Read more here.](#)



**The North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce lead the effort to construct and install a new welcome sign at the Leominster Connector.**

The new sign is part of a project to construct welcome signs at key gateways in communities in the region to boost civic pride and serve as a positive first impression for visitors. The project was partially funded by a grant secured by the chamber. [Read more here.](#)

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