

Have a bite at the first Taste of MetroWest

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Food enthusiasts and residents are invited to the first Taste of MetroWest on Tuesday, March 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Sheraton Framingham to show support for local food and beverage businesses and nonprofit partners.

The event, sponsored by MetroWest Medical Center, will feature live entertainment and offer products from more than 30 vendors as well as a ballot for attendees to choose the top foods and beverages.

"This is not meant to be a charitable fundraiser," said Bonnie Biocchi, president and CEO of the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce in Framingham. "It's a way to connect restaurants and give people in the region a chance to sample foods that are right here in your backyard."

Framingham's Double Dipped is one of the taste exhibitors that will be at the Taste of MetroWest.

"I've done events like this in other towns before, and it's great to support the community and expose my business," owner Linda Rosenberg said.

Rosenburg makes handmade kosher chocolate treats. She said she's excited to display many of her popular pieces at the event, including wedding favors and chocolate-covered cookies and pretzels.

Heritage at Framingham, an assisted living facility, will also be there. Chet Olson, Heritage's director of marketing, said he's looking forward to spreading the word about the nonprofit, and especially its food. "We've been in MetroWest for almost 16 years," Olson said. "A lot of people don't know about us, and we rely on word-of-mouth. It's a way to show support and at the same time get known in the community."

Around 12 nonprofits have already signed up, Biocchi said, who expects about 16 organizations to come.

"This gives nonprofits an opportunity to talk to local residents about what each organization does," she said. "It gives people a sense of how many great things are going on in this region."

People can purchase tickets in advance for \$25, or \$30 at the door. A portion of the proceeds will go to the MetroWest Chamber's Educational Foundation, which helps provide scholarships for local students.

For information about Taste of MetroWest and to buy tickets, visit tasteofmetrowest.org.

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