

WELCOME TO THE CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER



*Choose Framingham Newsletter
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**Town of Framingham
Names New Historic**

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Districts

The Town of Framingham continues to honor and protect the Town's history with the establishment of historic districts. A local historic district is defined as "an area officially designated by a municipality that contains one or more parcels or lots of land, or one or more buildings or structures on one or more parcels or lots of land." To date, Framingham has designated five local historic districts, protecting a total of 79 properties.

Most recently, members of the Town's Special Town Meeting designated the H. H. Richardson Framingham Railroad Station and Luggage Building at 417 Waverly Street and the Pike-Haven-Foster House Historic District.

Framingham was built through three centuries of development. What began as an 18th century agricultural community has grown into what it is today: a suburban and commercial center. In order to best preserve the town's rich heritage, Town officials - namely the Historical Commission and Historic District Commission - have adopted a number of preservation tools. As part of these efforts, the Town has restored historic civic buildings that serve as landmarks today.

H. H. Richardson Framingham Railroad Station and Luggage Building

The Historic District is located on the southwest edge of South Framingham's central business district. The H. H. Richardson Framingham Railroad Station and Luggage Building are significant for their history, representing a time when Framingham emerged as a

Transportation, Transit-Oriented Development Improvements

On Wednesday, October 5th, Framingham welcomed special guests - Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack - to Downtown. The reason for the visit was to highlight a new agreement, signed in August, which transferred management and oversight of Framingham's Downtown commuter rail station to the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA).

Framingham's commuter rail station is one of the busiest in the system - more than 1,400 commuters go in and out of the stop every day, making it the Commonwealth's 10th busiest station. The new lease agreement between the MWRTA and the state will allow the agency to collect parking fees, which they plan to reinvest in the area around the station.

On September 30th, State Senator Karen Spilka, MWRTA Administrator Ed Carr, and Arthur Robert, the Town's Director of Community and Economic Development hosted Secretary Pollack on a tour of Downtown Framingham. During that tour, the Town highlighted the progress of the Route 126 project, the efforts the Town is making to encourage transit-oriented development (TOD), and cooperation between the Town and the MBTA.

"It was an honor to host Governor Baker and Secretary Pollack in Downtown Framingham," said Arthur Robert, Director of Framingham's Division of Community and Economic Development. "In September, we were happy to show Secretary Pollack the reinvestment taking place in Downtown. And in October, it was a pleasure to see the Baker administration highlight the new agreement between the state and the MWRTA, which will be an important part of revitalizing Downtown Framingham."



The [MetroWest Daily News](#) highlighted the praise that Secretary Pollack has for the Town's efforts to revitalize Downtown through TOD. In October 2015, the Town voted to rezone the

Downtown area to encourage TOD. "Framingham is really to be commended for the fact that [it] really recognized the value this commuter rail station has for the future of the Town," said Secretary Pollack. "It's really building a lot of its downtown plan and its transit-oriented zoning around this station."

transportation center for the (now) MetroWest region of Massachusetts, in the late 19th Century. Both buildings are the work of renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson, and the H. H. Richardson Framingham Railroad Station is one of the town's most iconic and visually impressive buildings.

In 1975, the Framingham Historical Commission nominated the Framingham Railroad Station property to the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of the building's historic and architectural significance.

The Pike-Haven-Foster House Historic District

The Pike-Haven-Foster House Historic District is located on the north side of Framingham Center, the section of Belknap Road between Edgell Road and Grove Street. Its historic significance stems from its embodiment of three centuries of development and one of its earliest industries, spinning wheels, while also associated with two of Framingham's oldest families: the Pikes and the Belknaps. The area is also significant for its Revolutionary War history and its association with the Henry Knox "Cannon Train," portions of which were sheltered overnight at two houses on Belknap Road.

The Pike-Haven-Foster House Historic District and the H. H. Richardson Depot Historic District will be added to the Town's existing historic district bylaw (General By-laws Article VII, Section 5), which includes the Town's three existing local historic districts: the Centre Common Historic District, established in 1978; the Jonathan Maynard Historic District, established in 1994;

More information on the visit from Governor Baker and Secretary Pollack can be found at the [MetroWest Daily News](#).

MA Supplier Diversity Regional Series Recap: Framingham



Choose Framingham @ChooseFram Oct 13
Speed networking in full swing at the @Mass_OSD supplier diversity networking event. @ArtPRobert @MWCoC #framingham

On a beautiful New England fall day, Statewide Contract vendors, certified diverse businesses, and resource organizations convened at Nevins Hall in Framingham's Memorial Building for the [Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Regional Series](#),

a morning of networking and best practice sharing. Nearly 120 people were in attendance at the October 13th event, and the general consensus from all attendees was that it was a great success.

Developed through a collaborative effort by Governor Baker's Office of Access and Opportunity, the Massachusetts Office of Business Development, the Operational Services Division (OSD), and the OSD Supplier Diversity Office, The Series aims to develop a partnership between the Commonwealth, local municipalities, and private buyers that will assist small and diverse businesses. In 2015, five events were held across the State, and the 2016 season kicked off in Framingham.

"Our contacts in the Town of Framingham, especially Sandi Hughey and Art Robert, were fantastic," raved Danielle Frizzi, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Events at the OSD. "Everyone was very supportive of our efforts and were instrumental in the success of this event. Framingham is a hub of business in the Commonwealth, and we're thrilled with the turnout."

Building on lessons learned from the 2015 events, this iteration of The Series featured a Speed Networking component that was popular with Statewide Contractors and diverse businesses alike, ensuring all attendees had time to meet one another and exchange contact information. As a part of Statewide Contract participation, vendors have spending benchmarks to meet with Minority-, Women-, Veteran-, Disability- and LGBT-Owned firms. The goal of The Series is to facilitate opportunities for meaningful business partnerships under the Supplier Diversity

and the Sarah Claves House Historic District, established in 2008. Local historic districts protect properties and neighborhoods that are historically and architecturally significant to Framingham. The bylaw allows the Historic District Commission to review any proposed changes to the exterior of a building visible from a public way, to ensure that the changes are in keeping with the historic character of the district.

Framingham Businesses in the News

- ["TJX looks to expand MetroWest presence with conference center, parking garage,"](#) *MetroWest Daily News*, September 22, 2016
- ["Disruptor Beam Is Making a Mobile Game for 'The Walking Dead,'"](#) *BostInno*, October 6, 2016
- ["Rep. Chris Walsh, Sen. Karen Spilka tour local breweries,"](#) *MetroWest Daily News*, October 6, 2016
- Framingham Downtown Renaissance's ["Framingham Festival Fun For All,"](#) *MetroWest Daily News*, October 16, 2016
- ["Jack's Abby to be awarded for innovation,"](#) *MetroWest Daily News*, October 25, 2016

Framingham EDIC

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The Framingham Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) was established in 1995 to stimulate economic development and expand employment opportunities in the Town of Framingham in accordance with the town's approved economic development plans.

Program.

"Framingham makes an ideal location for this kind of event, since we are diverse, centrally located, and the economic center of a growing Metrowest region," said Arthur Robert, the Director of the Town's Division of Community and Economic Development. "We were pleased to welcome Statewide Contractors, businesses, and OSD staff to Framingham for this important event."

Early Voting in Framingham

On Monday, October 24th, Massachusetts launched its first ever early voting program. The program requires each municipality to offer at least one voting location, on the week days between October 24th and November 4th. Framingham is taking it one step further, both by expanding its offering to include Saturday, October 29th and by offering two locations for voters to choose from.

Town residents can get their votes in early at Town Hall in Nevins Hall, Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and at the McAuliffe Library, Monday - Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In her announcement to residents about the Town's early voting offerings, Town Clerk Valerie Mulvey said, "Framingham is a large community with over 38,000 voters. I think it is very important to provide voting convenience for our residents. These days people work more hours, have longer commutes, and other stressors that make getting to the polls between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on a single day more and more difficult. It's our obligation as public servants to meet their needs."

To find out more about Framingham's early voting options, please contact the [Town Clerk's Office](#).

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