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## Choose Framingham A Newsletter of the EDIC



Welcome to the Choose Framingham Newsletter

### Town Meeting Approves Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement with Jack's Abby Brewing, LLC

On April 28th, Framingham Town Meeting members overwhelmingly voted to approve a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement between the Town and the award winning [Jack's Abby Brewing, LLC](#). Under the terms of the agreement, the company has committed to investing \$6 million over a seven year period for an expanded craft brewing facility, located at 100 Clinton Street. The company has also committed to creating 35 additional permanent, full time jobs and retaining its corporate headquarters in Framingham. In return, the Town has agreed to exempt a portion of the increase in property taxes resulting from the company's investment.

"The highly positive vote shows leadership commitment to supporting a dynamic Downtown, a great place to live and work," said Economic Development Director Art Robert. "The expansion will drive new economic activity into Downtown while creating an attractive amenity supporting employers and residents, while attracting out of town visitors, too."

The company is also planning to create an accessory restaurant/tap room at the site, which is not supported by the TIF agreement.

Framingham began working with the company during the Summer of 2014, providing site

selection and permitting assistance. This engagement, along with the TIF agreement, helped the company "Choose Framingham" for its expansion.

### Town Meeting Approves Beautification Funds

Last year, the Division of Community and Economic Development instituted a new pilot program to issue beautification funds to area businesses. The purpose was to encourage visual improvements that serve as a catalyst for further investment in the Town of Framingham.

The program, which elicited a lot of interest from establishments around town, was a success. Ten businesses in highly visible areas around Framingham received a \$3,500 grant to help upgrade designs, facades, surface parking lots, planters, and to improve landscaping.

Businesses that utilized the program included

Pho Dakao, Tedeschi's, the Stonegate Group, AV's Market II, and Centre Music. The \$33,000 the Town provided leveraged an additional \$49,000 in private investment.



So we are very pleased that Town Meeting approved an additional \$35,000 in beautification funds in the 2016 budget. Businesses interested in applying for these resources should visit our [Web page](#) to see if they are eligible and to learn more about the application process. The grant maximum is \$3,500, and will reimburse 50

percent of the total cost of a project.

And thank you to Town Meeting members for this vote of confidence in our community!

### Improving Your Home? Choose Framingham and Check Out These Framingham Businesses

Summer has finally arrived in Framingham, and for many, that means it's time to make improvements to their home. Whether that means installing a new deck, upgrading a kitchen, or putting a fresh coat of paint on your home, summer is the time to get those important projects done.

Luckily, the Town of Framingham has a strong cluster of businesses that can assist residents and small businesses with their improvement projects. To help connect homeowners and others with those establishments, the Division of Community and Economic Development has put together a list of home improvement businesses around town. You can find that list at the [Choose Framingham](#) Web site.

From shops selling paint to interior design establishments to hardware stores, homeowners and renters need never leave Framingham to touch up and refresh their homes. The list includes information on the businesses, links to their Web sites, and contact information. So when you're starting your home improvement projects this summer, please make sure to Choose Framingham!

## Town of Framingham Investing in Southeast Framingham Visit by Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash Highlights Planning Effort

On Tuesday, May 19th, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash visited Framingham to kick off a new Neighborhood Master Plan project to revitalize Southeast Framingham. At the event, Secretary Ash announced a \$50,000 grant of state funds, to be administered through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), for Southeast Framingham.

The project will focus on bringing a new set of development opportunities to an area of town that is in need of coordinated, up to date planning and zoning. It will be led by Framingham's Community and Economic Development Division and supported by MAPC's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program, a state fund that helps to promote regional collaboration, economic development, better land use and zoning, and environmental protection.

At the event, Framingham Town Manager Bob Halpin said, "This is an exciting step forward for south Framingham." Secretary Ash echoed that sentiment, saying, "There's a great deal of hope here for the possibilities that exist for this portion of Framingham." Representatives Tom Sannicandro and Chris Walsh were also on hand at the event to lend their support to the project.

To read more about the kick off and the project to reinvigorate Southeast Framingham, please see coverage in the [MetroWest Daily News](#), [the Boston Globe](#), and [the Framingham Patch](#).

## The Villages Planning Continues

Over the past several months, the Town of Framingham's [Economic Development and Industrial Corporation \(EDIC\)](#) has undertaken a planning and market analysis for the village commercial centers of Saxonville and Nobscot in North Framingham. Residents of those neighborhoods have turned out to offer their ideas at a number of community meetings throughout the winter and spring, and we are looking forward to hearing more from them at the final meetings in June.

Saxonville and Nobscot have great potential to leverage their assets to become vital commercial centers for the Town of Framingham. Some preliminary observations and ideas have emerged through this planning analysis: the need to transform underperforming properties, expand the neighborhoods' walkability, connect to recreational resources, and make sure the services and new uses for the commercial centers meet the needs of the surrounding residences.

We know that residents in those neighborhoods are eager to see those commercial centers meet their needs while retaining the unique character that attracted them to Saxonville or Nobscot in the first place. This process has allowed everyone an opportunity to outline their hopes for the community while also allowing the Town to evaluate feasible ways to improve and revitalize these centers.

The final community meeting for Nobscot will be held on Monday, June 8th at 7:00 pm at Heritage at Framingham Senior Living. The final meeting for Saxonville will be held on Thursday, June 11th at 7:00 pm at Stapleton Elementary School. To learn more about those meetings and the Villages Planning project, please visit our Web site: [www.framinghamma.gov/Villages2015](http://www.framinghamma.gov/Villages2015)



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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.

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