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Choose Framingham A Newsletter of the EDIC



Welcome to the Choose Framingham Newsletter

As we prepare to welcome in 2016, we wanted to recap the highlights of this year's Choose Framingham initiative. 2015 was an important year for economic development in Framingham, and both the [Economic Development and Industrial Corporation](#) (EDIC) and staff at the [Division of Community and Economic Development](#) are looking forward to an equally successful new year!

Growing Businesses Expand in Framingham

2015 saw continued expansion of businesses in the Town of Framingham, but over the past year, we highlighted two in particular – Boston Heart Diagnostics and Jack's Abby Brewing.

[Boston Heart Diagnostics](#) In March, we announced that Boston Heart Diagnostics is expanding its national headquarters to include an additional 35,000 square feet of space at 200 Crossing Boulevard in Framingham. The company focuses on the detection, diagnosis, and prevention of cardiovascular disease. They are transforming the treatment of cardiovascular disease by providing healthcare providers and their patients with novel, personalized diagnostics and reports and integrated customized lifestyle programs that have the power to change the way clinicians and patients communicate about disease and improve heart health. The company provides services for clinicians in all 50 states.

Founded in Framingham in 2007, Boston Heart Diagnostics had previously occupied 71,000 square feet of space at two locations in the Town and with the expansion, they will inhabit 111,000 square feet of space. The company has grown from just three employees at its founding to more than 350 employees currently.

[Jack's Abby Brewing](#) In April, Framingham Town Meeting members overwhelmingly voted to approve a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement between the Town and 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.

Jack's Abby Brewing, which opened in Framingham in 2011, makes award winning, hand crafted beer. They are currently in the process of expanding their brewing operations to a 67,000 square foot space at the site of the former Dennison Manufacturing facility. They opened their new beer hall and restaurant at 100 Clinton Street in October.

Are you a growing business in Framingham that wants to be featured in the Choose Framingham newsletter? If you are, please drop us a line at chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov and we'll be in touch!

Choose Framingham Launches Important Resources Guides in 2015

The [Choose Framingham](#) website is an important resource for Framingham residents and businesses alike. This year, Choose Framingham added two resource guides for those who wish to dine in Town and looking to improve their homes or businesses using a local business.

[The Dining Guide](#) To help expedite your dining plans, Choose Framingham launched its online [2015 Dining Guide](#) for the Town of Framingham. The updated guide includes options for searching all of the restaurants, coffee shops, and sandwich stops by location, by price, and by cuisine. So whether you are looking for a bagel in the morning, a slice of pizza for lunch, or a good old fashioned steak for dinner, you can find it in Framingham through the dining guide.

The good news is that the Town of Framingham has plenty of quality dining options of all different kinds of cuisine available for residents and visitors alike. The bad news is having to choose!

[Home Improvement and Design Guide](#) 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 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.

Be on the lookout for more resource guides at the Choose Framingham website in 2016. If you have suggestions for the site, please feel free to contact us at chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov

Framingham Hosts Two Events Focusing on Town's Business Community

Framingham's businesses are an integral part of what makes Framingham a strong, unique community. This year, EDIC and the Division of Community and Economic Development were pleased to host two events that focused on the current needs of the Town's businesses and that looked towards Framingham's economic future.



Downtown Road Work Event On April 7th, members of the [Economic Development Industrial Corporation](#), along with staff from the Division of Community and Economic Development, met with business owners in Downtown Framingham to brief them on the road work plans that began in the summer. The event took place at the [Amazing Things Arts Center](#) and was catered by [Pho Dakao](#).

At the event, Paul Scott and Diane Hays from Framingham's Department of Public Works provided details on the construction projects that are redesigning the critical intersection of Routes 126 and 135. Framingham Town Manager Robert Halpin offered a vision for Downtown Framingham's future that included a revitalized central business district with urban pioneers, while Holli Andrews from [Framingham Downtown Renaissance](#) then recommended some tips from her own experience living in Portland, Maine, which went through a similar revival several years ago. More than 25 businesses from Downtown Framingham were represented at the meeting.



Framingham's Economic Growth Forum The Town of Framingham's economy is diverse, which is "a very good finding," according to Professor Maureen Dunne of Framingham State University's [MetroWest Economic Research Center](#) (MERC). Dunne presented her findings to a packed audience of business and community leaders at an event held on June 25th at the Sheraton Framingham

that looked at the Town's economic and employment trends. The forum, sponsored by Framingham's Economic Development and Industrial Corp. (EDIC), also included a panel discussion featuring State Senator Karen Spilka (D Ashland), Bob Halpin, Joe Burchill, Chairman of Framingham State University's Board of Trustees, and George Sakellaris, Chief Executive Officer of Framingham-based Ameresco, Inc.

[State Senator Karen Spilka](#), who is the chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, praised the Town for its efforts to streamline the permitting process for businesses seeking to locate in Framingham while Bob Halpin discussed his desire to attract younger workers to live and work in the Town. Joe Burchill, who is Chairman of [Framingham State University](#)'s Board of Trustees and also Director of Product and Technology Finance at Bose Corporation, detailed how the University is encouraging the development of jobs in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. George Sakellaris, chief executive officer of [Ameresco, Inc.](#), advocated for greater infrastructure improvements and for amenities to attract younger workers. All were optimistic about Framingham's prospects for continued economic growth.

EDIC and the Community and Economic Development Division are in the process of planning more business oriented events for 2016. Be on the lookout for more information soon, and if you have any ideas on events, please feel free to drop us a line at chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov

Framingham Votes to Encourage Transit Oriented Development in Downtown Framingham EDIC Begins Planning Process for Nobscot and Saxonville

The Town of Framingham ended the year on a strong note when, on October 21st, members of the Special Town Meeting voted overwhelmingly to approve zoning changes enabling transit oriented development in Downtown Framingham. Two warrant articles – one to approve zoning bylaw changes and the other to expand the downtown zoning district – were approved.



The goal of the zoning changes is to make Downtown Framingham an attractive, vibrant, diverse center that will be a hub of economic activity for the MetroWest region. The new zoning will encourage more density for the neighborhood, while

also lowering the parking requirements and promoting more flexible uses. The zoning changes also encourage investor interest through a streamlined permitting process that simplifies requirements in ways that increase predictability, reduce uncertainty, and encourage investment in the downtown. At the same time, the changes will still protect the unique character of Downtown Framingham through design standards and guidelines and other appropriate controls.

Additionally, members voted to expand the downtown business district to places that are a 10 minute walk from the commuter rail station. The expanded area will join downtown to the Farm Pond region and with the zoning changes, will create a unified development process for this important part of Framingham. Both changes are expected to encourage transit oriented development, which is a development strategy that encourages people to live, work and shop near transit services and decrease their dependence on driving. When located in urban centers, TOD around transit hubs can help spur revitalization.

At the same time, the Town of Framingham EDIC undertook a strategic planning process that is focused on creating a strategic economic development plan for the village commercial centers connected to Saxonville and Nobscot, both of which are located in North Framingham. The plan focused on identifying actions that will lead to appropriate and constructive economic investment in both of these critical neighborhoods. The strategic plan looked to answer three basic questions for Saxonville and Nobscot:

- * What should the village commercial center be?
- * How should it look?
- * How do we get there?

As with Downtown Framingham, the Town was happy to receive ideas and input from residents of these neighborhoods regarding the kind of development they would like to see and hosted a series of public meetings over several months. The action plan that resulted from this process is available at [the Villages](#) website.

If you are interested in speaking with the Town about either Downtown Framingham or the Villages strategic planning process, please feel free to email us at chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov



FraminghamEDIC

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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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