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*Grants Have Focused on Economic Development,
Open Space Preservation, Transportation, Historic
Preservation*

On October 17th, Framingham's Town Meeting members voted to waive the Town's right of first refusal to buy the Jonathan Maynard Building, which houses the [Danforth Art Museum](#) and school. This will allow [Framingham State University](#) (FSU) to purchase the building and complete its merger with this important Framingham cultural institution.

FSU plans on investing \$4.5 million into the building, for renovations and improvements. The Danforth Art Center at FSU will include both the art museum and the Danforth Art School. FSU plans on reopening both in 2019.

"This was an institution that was born of the community, founded by Framingham residents that wanted an art museum in town, and the [art] school grew from that. What's been really important since then is that for more than four decades, that tie to the community has continued. And it's something we want to continue doing, and that's only going to be possible through this relationship with FSU," Danforth Executive Director Debra Petke said to the [MetroWest Daily News](#).

The Danforth Art Museum and studio art school was established in 1975 as a grassroots organization by community activists, business owners, educators, artists and art-enthusiasts. According to the museum, its permanent collection includes an estimated 3,000 objects in all media from the early nineteenth century to the present day. The permanent collection will be gifted to the FSU Foundation as part of the merger agreement.

In 2013, Danforth Art purchased the Jonathan Maynard building from the Town of Framingham and under the terms of the mortgage, Framingham had the right of first refusal for sale of the Maynard Building. Additionally, the Town had 120 days to purchase the building for 2/3 of the cost of a viable offer. The Town's decision on October 17th will allow the Massachusetts State College Building Authority to move forward in purchasing the property on FSU's behalf.

An analysis by Framingham's [Community and Economic Development Division](#) (C&ED) shows that Framingham has secured more than \$2.5 million in funding from state and federal sources over the past five years. The grants have promoted economic development, helped Framingham preserve open space and historic buildings, and encouraged alternative transportation methods and sustainable projects, among other concerns.

Framingham's Community and Economic Development Division promotes the town's economic development and enhances the quality of life for Framingham residents. The Division works to improve residential neighborhoods, support existing businesses, encourage appropriate economic development, and promote Framingham as a desirable place to live, shop, work and invest. One of the C&ED's responsibilities is to pursue and administer federal and state grants to advance Framingham's objectives.

"The C&ED team has worked closely with the Town Manager's office, the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, the Department of Public Works, and with other key stakeholders to pursue these grant opportunities," said Arthur Robert, Framingham's Director of Community and Economic Development. "The results help maintain Framingham as a lively, thriving community - and a great place to live, work, and build a business."

Examples of the public grants include:

- **Brownfields, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - since 2012, Framingham has secured \$1.1 million in funds from the EPA to assess the community's Brownfields projects. EPA most recently awarded Framingham a three-year, \$300,000 community-wide assessment grant in June 2017.
- **Complete Streets Funding, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MASSDOT)** - over the past two years, Framingham has secured almost \$800,000 in funding from MASSDOT to help complete construction of a pedestrian and bike path along Dudley Street. This "Complete Streets" funding will help promote alternative forms of transportation in the community.
- **Open Space Preservation, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)** - since 2014, Framingham has acquired more than \$700,000 from DCR to help preserve the community's open space. This includes a grant of \$400,000 in 2014 to acquire the Snow Property, which became a part of Wittenborg Woods in 2015.

"It's encouraging to see Framingham take advantage of these opportunities for funding to help improve our neighborhoods," said Mike Gatlin, chair of the Framingham's [Economic Development and Industrial Corporation](#) (EDIC). "As we enter the next phase of Framingham's long and rich history, we are reminded that the community has a strong foundation on which to build."

For more information, please visit the Framingham Community and Economic Development website (<http://www.framinghamma.gov/103/Community-Economic-Development>) or contact the Division of Community and Economic Development at (508) 532-5455.

Business Profile: Volturmo Pizza Opens Framingham Location



Framingham has a new restaurant serving up Neapolitan-style pizza! [Volturmo](#), a Worcester-based restaurant, expanded to Framingham, officially opening in September with the belief that Framingham

residents wanted a new and different dining experience. When asked why they chose Framingham as their second location, Volturmo's General Manager, Thomas Arsenault said, "Framingham is a beautiful town with infinite potential, particularly in regards to growth...We just wanted to offer a great experience to people that care as much as we do." Arsenault noted that they believe Framingham residents wanted a new and different dining experience like theirs that offers "farm to table food, craft cocktails, and a staff that loves making people happy."

The restaurant regularly receives positive reviews and accolades in Worcester, and its new location has opened to a great reception already. While pizza is their specialty, with an official certification from the Associazione Vera Pizza Napoletana, they have a long list of Italian options to choose from if you are looking for other classic Italian fare, as keeping with Italian tradition is a very important part of their work. They have a full menu of appetizers and entrees - or "Primi" and "Secondi" - as well as desserts, cocktails, and wines.

The restaurant's leadership pride themselves on their strong teamwork and family-style atmosphere when customers visit. Their hand-crafted pizzas are cooked in 100 percent wood burning ovens that reach 900 degrees, their pastas (the Chef's favorite!) are made in-house, based on techniques straight from Italy, and they rely on locally grown, farm fresh produce for their recipes. As a result, the menu rotates seasonally - as do their local beers and spirits from around New England. They take pride in knowing where everything in their kitchen - from the tomatoes to the rum - come from.

If you're thinking of visiting Volturmo, here are some of the staff recommended favorites:

Polpo - Spanish King Octopus tentacles over a bed of smashed fingerling potatoes dressed with an Aleppo pepper aioli and topped with sliced fennel and pickled Fresno peppers.

Tagliatelle - A traditional pasta dish, the Bolognese is made with beef, veal, pork, and buffalo then topped with a lightly hand whipped ricotta, salt, pepper, and extra-virgin olive oil.

Pizzas - The Volturmo, the Pistachio, and The Funghi.

Bella Vita (Cocktail) - Olmeca Altos Blue Tequila, strawberry-pink peppercorn (made in-house), fresh squeezed lime juice, a little balsamico, and topped off with Prosecco Primaterra, and garnished with a fresh strawberry.

Volturno is located at 1 Edgell Road in Framingham. They are currently only serving dinner - the restaurant's operating hours are from 5:00 to 10:00 pm Mondays through Saturdays. You can see their menu at Volturno's [website](#), and you can follow them at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Exit 13/Golden Triangle: Planning for the Future

In [April](#), Framingham and Natick announced an exciting partnership to improve the Exit 13/Golden Triangle area (the area near Exit 13 of the MassPike that straddles both Framingham and Natick). Working together, the communities committed to identifying a shared future development vision for this area. The work coincides with transportation planning at the state level.

The Golden Triangle has been historically an important commercial center for both Framingham and Natick, and remains an economic engine today. Home to Shopper's World and the Natick Mall, the area is also noted for nurturing both start-ups and industry leaders, like the TJX Companies, the MathWorks, and Ameresco. To remain competitive, both communities recognize that the region must adapt to changing development and transportation needs.

"Framingham and Natick are setting an important precedent for the Commonwealth by working to create a shared development vision for a key part of each of our communities," said Arthur Robert, Director of Framingham's Community and Economic Development Division.

The project's [joint team](#) is committed to gaining input and feedback from the community as the plan progresses. As part of these efforts, Co-Urbanize was engaged to create an online platform to support the project and keep the public informed. The interactive page allows for residents, shoppers, and employees to submit ideas, provide feedback, ask questions, and learn about the project as it moves forward.

On October 23rd, the team hosted an Open House to provide residents with project updates and have an open dialogue about key issues of the project.

Representatives from both Framingham and Natick attended the event, well as representatives from the consultant team, Crosby Schlessinger and Smallridge.



Approximately 40 local residents participated in the event, providing additional comments and questions for the team and providing positive support for the project. While a presentation ran in the background, staff invited attendees to visit different stations to discuss specific aspects of the project including transportation, land use, and aesthetics. One station allowed participants to vote for what they wanted to see more of in the

district - a clear favorite was an interest in more entertainment facilities and activities.

In addition to the positive feedback and input, some residents also raised concerns about what growth in this area would mean for traffic and congestion. The project team is working to find the right balance for the area that supports growth and investment but remaining conscious about how to ensure people are not negatively impacted by changes in the area. Anyone interested in learning more about the project, has questions, or ideas is encouraged to visit the [CoUrbanize site](#).

The Framingham-Natick team expects to complete the project in December 2017.

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.