

WELCOME TO THE
CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER



Choose Framingham Newsletter
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Spring is Here! **Let's Get Moving**

Framingham Offers Many
Options for Recreation

Framingham residents are lucky that as the weather warms up, they have so many places to go to hike, swim, skate, and enjoy nature. [Choose](#)

Business Profile: Variantyx

Life Sciences Company Provides Genetic Testing for Rare Diseases

Framingham has quickly become a hub for Life Sciences companies doing interesting work on diagnosing rare diseases. This month, [Choose Framingham](#) spoke to Jennifer Hogan, the Vice President of Marketing at [Variantyx](#), about how their Genomic Intelligence® platform will help the healthcare industry as a whole test for rare diseases and disorders. And she

[Framingham](#) has put together a list of places - both indoor and out - for recreation. According to the City's [Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs department](#), there are 2 running tracks, 3 public beaches, 16 tennis courts, 19 basketball courts, 25 playgrounds, and 64 athletic fields in Framingham, so get out there and explore your city!

City Parks

For more information on the city park closest to you, please visit the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs website.

City Beaches - staffed with lifeguards from mid-June to mid-August

- Learned Pond - 48 Shawmut Terrace (off Prindiville Avenue)
- Saxonville Beach - Lake Road (off Old Connecticut Path near the Wayland line)
- Lake Waushakum - 54 Nipmuc Road (off Route 126 near the Ashland line)

City Conservation Land

- [Arthur Morency Woods](#)
- [Carol Getchell Trail](#)
- [Cochituate Brook Reservation](#)
- [Macomber](#)
- [Wittenborg Woods](#)

Bowditch Field Athletic & Cultural Complex

475 Union Avenue
Framingham, MA

Cushing Memorial Park

80 Dudley Road
Framingham, MA

Keefe Pool

The Keefe Pool is owned and operated by:
J.P. Keefe Technical High School
750 Winter Street
Framingham, MA 01702

Loring Arena

165 Fountain Street
Framingham, MA 01702

State Parks

- [Callahan State Park](#) - 1048 Edmands Road, Framingham, MA
- [Cochituate State Park](#) - Park Entrance: 43 Commonwealth

discusses why they have found Framingham to be the ideal location to grow the company.

Tell us a little about Variantyx - what is the nature of your work?



Nearly 30 million people in the US are affected by a rare disease. The overwhelming majority of these diseases are genetic in origin,

and many of the individuals affected are children. Variantyx is a diagnostic lab that provides genetic testing for diagnosis of these rare inherited disorders. We use whole genome sequencing (WGS) technology to look at a patient's entire DNA in order to identify the molecular change that is responsible for their symptoms.

You've developed your Genomic Intelligence® platform. How is the platform important and what does it mean for the future of diagnostics?

There are lots of home-grown and commercial software platforms that have been developed to analyze, interpret and report sequencing data. The Genomic Intelligence® platform stands out as unique in its class for a number of reasons. First, it was designed from the beginning to work with WGS data, which is the most informative but also the most complex type of sequencing data that can be generated. Where other platforms started with simpler data formats and have had to be incrementally retrofitted in order to handle the increased volume and complexity, Genomic Intelligence® was built and optimized with WGS data in mind from the start. Second, it was built by a clinical diagnostic lab and not by a software company. Our clinical geneticists use the platform daily to process our WGS-based Variantyx Unity™ test for diagnosis of rare inherited disorders. This clinical expertise has been critical to the platform's development and is the cornerstone of our unique ability to additionally enable other labs who are just getting started working with newer sequencing technologies to quickly develop, validate and launch new genetic tests of their own.

Who will benefit most from the platform's development?

Many people throughout the healthcare industry will benefit. Labs that work with the platform will be able to streamline their operations, processing more genetic tests at a lower overall cost. Insurance companies that embrace whole genome testing will benefit from paying fewer individual claims as rare disease patients no longer need to bounce from one negative

test result to another as part of a long diagnostic odyssey. But at the end of the day, its rare disease patients and their families who will benefit the most by having access to affordable, WGS technology that provides the best chance to identify the molecular cause of their symptoms.



Road, Natick, MA

[Garden in the Woods](#) (privately owned)

180 Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA

[Nobscot Scout Reservation Conservation Restriction](#) (privately owned)

1 Nobscot Road
Sudbury, MA

Switching gears, tell us why you chose Framingham to locate the company?

There were many factors that went into the decision, but the most important were space and accessibility. Our office is easily accessible from Routes 9 and 85, I-90, and I-495, which enables us to attract individuals living throughout much of the greater Boston area. As Variantyx grows, we need access to talented personnel with many types of expertise as well as the physical space in which to expand. We found the best balance of both here in Framingham.

What do you like best about Framingham?

We love the convenience of having everything we need as a business close by, and with ample parking! Whether it's a quick run for last minute office supplies or needing to book hotel rooms and a dinner spot for visiting guests, exactly what we need is nearby and accessible.

What's next for Variantyx?

The past couple of years have been a whirlwind of progress as we've extended the capabilities of our Genomic Intelligence® platform and launched our Variantyx Unity™ test for rare disease diagnosis. In addition to continuing our work in these areas we're excited to be on-boarding a number of new labs across the US who are starting to work with the platform. We're also looking forward to bringing whole genome testing to the broader consumer market, providing screening options for healthy individuals who want to learn more about genetic factors that have the potential to affect their future health.

You can learn more about Variantyx at their [website](#) or follow them on [Twitter](#) and at [LinkedIn](#).

Framingham Is Open for Business - 30 Speen Street

Up to 40,000 Square Feet Available Near Retail, Restaurants, and Other Businesses

With over 40,000 square feet and in close proximity to a plethora of retail, restaurant and service options, [30 Speen Street](#) currently has space available for lease for tenants needing between 1,500 to 40,000 square feet of office and work space. Situated directly off Exit 13 on the Massachusetts Turnpike, the five-floor property offers excellent access to the region's major highway systems and three local MBTA Commuter Rail Stations.



Amenities within the building include a "grab & go" micro market with seating and collaboration areas, a common conference room, changing rooms and showers, and a bike storage area. Renovations of the lobby, common areas, and restrooms are

scheduled for 2019. Outside, the building provides 127 parking spaces and an opportunity for prominent and visible building signage.

Within short walking distance to one of the largest, amenity-rich retail districts in New England, 30 Speen Street is flanked by two of the largest malls in the area, Shoppers World and the Natick Mall. Additionally, the site is near a number of businesses, including Lifetime Fitness, IDG, S2 Security Corporation, and Punchbowl, Inc. The vibrant Golden Triangle area is home to a robust mix of 120 restaurants, 26 coffee shops, 20 bars, 29 fitness studios, and nine hotels.

Within its neighborhood, [30 Speen Street](#) is close to a variety of neighbors and businesses, creating a robust and interesting work environment for everyone.

New Downtown Development Taking Shape

54 Union Avenue Will Bring 75 New Housing Units to Framingham





Framingham's Central Business District will soon welcome a new development at 54 Union Avenue. The new, six-story building being built by [VTT Management](#) will boast 30,000 square feet of mixed-use development including 3,906 square feet of retail space, and 75 residential units. The development will also provide off-street parking, bicycle facilities, benches, and sidewalk improvements along Union Avenue.

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.

STAY CONNECTED

