

WELCOME TO THE *CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER*



Choose Framingham Newsletter
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L-R: City Council President George King, State Rep. Carmine Gentile, State Senate President Karen Spilka, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy, and Framingham Mayor Yvonne Spicer.

Photo credit: Daily News & Wicked Local Staff: Art Illman

Framingham Centre Common Cultural District

On January 28th, in a meeting held in the recently renovated historic Village Hall, the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC)

MassWorks Infrastructure Grant **Changes coming to Nobscot Village**

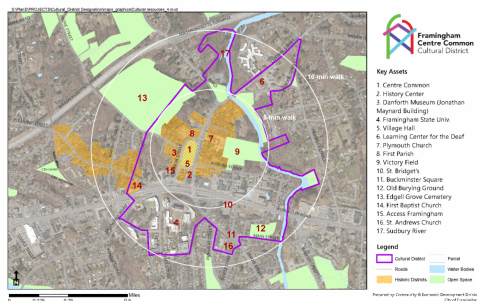
The City of Framingham was awarded a \$3.4 million [MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant](#) in early January to overhaul the intersection of Edgell Road, Edmands Road, and Water Street, in the Nobscot Village area in northwest Framingham. Over the next two years, the intersection will be reconstructed to simplify congestion and enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety. The

approved Framingham Centre as the 49th Common Cultural District in Massachusetts. In October 2018, the City of Framingham partnered with key local institutions in Framingham Centre to craft an application to the State to designate the [Framingham Centre Common Cultural District](#) (FCCCD). A formal application was submitted in February 2019 to the MCC.

The FCCCD is located in the area of our historic Centre



Common, which is anchored by several of the City's most significant cultural organizations. In addition to the City, founding partner organizations include the [Framingham History Center](#), [Framingham State University](#), and the [Danforth Art Museum](#), along with several historic churches, and a robust business community including the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce. The goals of this designation include attracting artists and cultural enterprises, encouraging business and job development, establishing the district as a tourist destination, preserving and reusing historic buildings, enhancing property values, and fostering local cultural development.



The key benefit will be a focused effort to coordinate programs, events, and outreach for the district and the constituent institutions. We hope to create a space in and around the Centre Common where arts, culture, and history are elevated and celebrated and serve to draw visitors from around the region. The new FCCCD organization will leverage the hundreds of activities and events already occurring in the district every year.

The district boundaries according to Mass Cultural Council guidelines, correspond roughly to a walkable district in which

intersection will include new crosswalks, brick accent strips, ornamental street lighting, new traffic signals and left-turn only lanes. "City leaders and I have been focusing on this project for several years, and I'm thrilled to have received this grant to begin Nobscot's transformation," said Mayor Yvonne Spicer. "We will continue to keep the public informed about the construction process as Nobscot becomes a vibrant village." In conjunction to the intersection updates, the Nobscot Chapel, a landmark of local historical significance, will be relocated from 780 Water Street to 881 Edgell Road. The upcoming intersection improvements could not be made unless the Nobscot Chapel was moved.



In 2013, Town Meeting authorized the Board of Selectmen to petition for special legislation that would allow Framingham officials to offer the 1,798 square foot chapel, a tax foreclosed property, by using a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The RFP did not result in any successful bidders. In 2015 the City's Economic Development Industrial Corporation ([EDIC](#)) completed a planning and market analysis study focused on a strategic economic development plan for the village commercial centers of Saxonville and Nobscot.

In summer 2018 the second RFP for the sale of Nobscot Chapel yielded one bidder. In February 2019, counsel for Nobscot Center LLC was informed in writing that the offer to purchase the Nobscot Chapel land was accepted. In July 2019, the City Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed [Nobscot Village \(B-4\) Zoning](#) that was recommended by both the Planning Board and the Subcommittee on Planning and Zoning. The unanimous endorsement came after an almost 5-year public process, beginning with the EDIC's "Strategic Economic Development Plan for Nobscot and Saxonville" that laid out an action Plan for change in these critical neighborhood centers.

In October 2019, an [application](#) for Village at Nobscot was submitted to The Planning Board for 770/780 Water Street. In November, the application was approved for phase I of the redevelopment of the property, which will include the construction of a new CVS Pharmacy and reuse of a historic structure for commercial purposes, off-street parking, landscaping, storm water management, and associated site improvements. The application includes a mixed-use space for retail shops and residential rental units.

everything is within 10 minutes away on foot. This district includes over 100 businesses that will benefit from the collaboration and increased visitors to the area. Click [here](#) for more information.



Framingham is Open for Business

The historic "Comm Gas Building" located in downtown Framingham at 105 Irving Street is for sale. The 25,345 SF office/warehouse building is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Framingham, within walking distance of the MBTA commuter rail station. The 1925 building is located on 35,567 SF of land in an opportunity zone with desirable mixed use CB zoning. The property is also located in one of Framingham's two [opportunity zones](#).

The property is an ideal location for growing companies in a very walkable community. For more information on the property, contact [Todd Glaskin](#) at Coldwell Banker.

Downtown Framingham Calendar of Events

What's going on in Downtown Framingham this year? Check out the list of events below and see what the folks at Downtown Framingham Inc. have been planning. For more information on Downtown Framingham events, visit the Downtown Framingham [website](#), follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or contact DFI's executive director [Courtney Thraen](#).

Saturday, March 14
Shamrock Stroll



The Buckley 480 Franklin Street

The Buckley is a 210-unit rental community featuring a mix of studio, one, two, and three bedroom apartment homes. The property, located at 480 Franklin Street in Framingham, has easy access to recreation, dining, shopping, and a short bike ride to the [Framingham Commuter Rail station](#). [Farm Pond](#) is right next door, along with [Cushing Memorial Park](#) being a short walk away. The 6.7-acre property on the corner of Franklin Street and Mount Wayte Avenue, also houses a clubhouse, pool, fitness center, business center, and outdoor grill areas. The complex also has a bus shelter designed to serve commuters who use the [MetroWest Regional Transit Authority](#), along with a standalone restaurant along Franklin Street, which will be open to all members of the Framingham community.

Ray MacDowell, Jr. with [Baystone Development](#) received approvals from the Zoning Board in September 2017 to turn the vacant strip mall into the upscale apartment complex. The apartments feature stainless steel appliances, plank flooring, glass shower surrounds, window coverings, quartz countertops, and convenient in-home washers and dryers. Select units have vaulted ceilings and views of Farm Pond.



Monday, April 20
Celebrate 6 MarathonFest
Sunday, April 26
Taste of Downtown Framingham
April 26 - May 2
Spring Restaurant Week

Sunday, May 3
Spirit of Downtown DFI

May 30, June 13, June 27
Bands, Beer, and Birch Trees

Sunday, August 23
Café Crawl with History and
Architecture Tour

Saturday, October 3
Downtown Oktoberfest

November 1- November 7
Fall Restaurant Week

November 1 - November 28
Small Business November

Monday, December 14
Downtown Celebration

December 6 - January 2
Holiday Storefront Window
Decorating Contest



Construction is near completion with the first units coming online in early March. The residential portion is scheduled to be complete in May. If interested in learning more information about The Buckley, please visit [their website](#) or call 508-499-8100.



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.