

WELCOME TO THE  
*CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER*



*Choose Framingham Newsletter  
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Oktoberfest - Photo Credit Itala Keller

**Downtown Framingham, Inc.  
Hosts 2nd Annual Oktoberfest**



## **Qura, Inc.**

### **Medical Technology Company in Framingham**

[Qura, Inc.](#) is a medical technology company based in Framingham at 1 Grant Street. They are also a founding member of the [MetroWest Life Sciences Network](#). Choose Framingham caught up with the company's Co-Founder, Doug Adams, to find out what's in store for Qura and why they chose Framingham.

#### **Tell us a little about Qura, Inc. - what do you do?**

Qura has developed the first active, wireless and continuous eye pressure sensor for glaucoma that collects actionable data in real time, facilitating timely and targeted medical or surgical intervention for the 80MM people throughout the world affected by glaucoma. Qura promotes smarter medicine capitalizing on disease intelligence through a breakthrough in bioengineering and medicine. We call it QSmart™.

QSmart™ consists of a wireless implantable pressure sensor (WIPS) and data management system. After implantation, the devices can be programmed to the physician's specifications to continuously monitor and collect a patient's intraocular pressure (IOP) remotely and autonomously at different times of the day. Data is delivered to a handheld device or tablet allowing physicians to evaluate data in real time, offering insights to proactively treat chronic disease related to pressure changes.

#### **How did you get started in this field?**

I ate a chicken sandwich with a professor at Purdue University. Let me explain. Every company that I have started began with eating a chicken sandwich after reading an article published in an engineering or health technology magazine. I met this professor after reading that he was trying to develop sensors to monitor certain physiological parameters. I thought, why not measure

On Saturday, October 5, [Downtown Framingham, Inc.](#) (DFI) held its 2nd Annual Oktoberfest, which drew a crowd of over 500 people. The event spanned from City Hall Plaza on Concord Street to the [Framingham Station](#) parking lot at 417 Waverly Street, which is scheduled to open later this year. Four areas along the route were activated with street performers, activities, food, drinks, and other activities. On City Hall Plaza, attendees were able to shop vendors for soap, coffee, beauty products, jewelry and more, including [Viva's Flowers](#), which recently opened at 79 Concord Street in Framingham.



Photo Credit Itala Keller

The parking lot next to Framingham Station became a beer garden featuring Framingham's own [Jack's Abby](#) and [Exhibit 'A' Brewing Company](#). Teams from major sponsors [Loga do Marcizio](#), [Wegman's](#), [MutualOne Bank](#), and [TD Bank](#) were on site, while Framingham Station cooked up some samples of what will be on their menu later this year. Around the corner from the beer garden, the Copper Mime entertained crowds of all ages. The event also featured antique cars and fire trucks, courtesy of Framingham's local Rousseau family.

"It was so thrilling to see over 500 people of all ages enjoying and experiencing downtown Framingham," said Courtney Thraen, Executive Director of DFI. "By walking around, people were able to understand and feel the built environment that supported musicians, magicians, fine artists, athletes, and more. Positive sensory experiences create fond memories, compelling people to return again with more friends and family as they continue to explore and support our mixed-use environment of public and private amenities."

The DFI Director noted that this event is only possible with the cooperation and coordination with the business community and the city. DFI thanks supporting sponsors: [Align Credit Union](#), [Solar Five](#), [Mass Cultural Council](#), [St. Mary's Credit Union](#), [Cristina Decoration](#), and [CoreFit](#), as well as [Framingham's Police Department](#) and [Department of Public Works](#), which played major roles in the success of Oktoberfest.



Photo Credit Itala Keller



changes in pressure in the human body since those changes might be able to predict changes in disease progression or changes in overall health. That led to an investment in the research in 2010. The Company was incorporated in 2013.

**StartUp Health Magazine published an article about you recently about your promises for predicting disease progression. Tell us a bit more about what is happening at Qura - what are some next steps?**

Qura will launch our first product in veterinary medicine with a focus on glaucoma in canines. Approximately 1.5M humans are diagnosed with glaucoma in the US. Approximately 5M canines are being treated for glaucoma and there are few tools to monitor disease progression leading to blindness in pets.

Human clinical trials to monitor disease progression in human glaucoma patients will begin in about one year. That will be followed by clinical trials in the heart and then brain. What makes our technology unique is the extreme miniaturization of the device and the fact that the device is totally autonomous requiring no interaction on the part of the patient.

**Why did you choose Framingham? Describe how you benefit from being at 1 Grant Street and what you like best about your location.**

Qura chose Framingham because we liked the city and the building at One Grant Street and Framingham is easily accessible to both current and future employees. We liked being a part of the Metro West community and its support of medical device and data analytics companies. We believe Framingham will become an important center for med tech innovation and we plan to make this our home for at least the next ten years. Qura will be adding an additional 5,000 square feet to our current location in early 2020 and eventually plans to take the entire second floor at One Grant Street.

**What do your employees like best about being located in Framingham?**

- Central location near center of the City
- Transportation via commuter rail
- New apartments being built nearby
- No need to be on Mass Pike or Route 128 to get to Framingham. Our

Vendors included:

[A Simple Twist](#), [Alpha Lodge Masons](#), [Ann Newberry Pictures and Pottery](#), [Atlantis Dental](#), [Avon](#), Bath Works, [BeHappy Fitness](#), [BenchMark Quality Senior Living](#), [Bolivia Canta](#), [Brenda Hedden's Kaleidoscope Sculptures](#), [Cait Shelton Aerial & Poi](#), Capoeira, [Cariatures by Matt Bernson](#), Charlie Rousseau's Antique Car Show, [Congress Insurance Co](#), Copper Mime, Corefit Zumba & Hiit, [Discovering Hidden Gems](#), [Eastleigh Farm Moo Bus](#), [Exhibit 'A' Brewing](#), [Framingham Station](#), Frank Sampson Hip Hop, [International Strings](#), [Jack's Abby](#), [Jackie's Photos and Knits](#), John Copeland, Josh Skelly, Kaia Kcreates Personal Gifts, Maurice's, [Paparazzi Accessories](#), [Pure Haven](#), [Robert Clarke Comedy/Juggling Show](#), Sea Glass Beach Memories, [Shining Stars Pre-School](#), [Stella & Dot](#), Sweet Suds, [Viva's Flowers](#), [Voxx Life](#)

## Sanofi Genzyme Opens New Facility in Framingham

On October 15, [Sanofi Genzyme](#) celebrated the grand opening of a new \$320 million digital manufacturing facility at 8 New York Avenue in Framingham. Governor Charlie Baker attended the ribbon cutting ceremony as Sanofi Genzyme opened one of the world's first digital facilities to use intensified, continuous biologics production technology. Sanofi hopes their new production process will improve commercialization of new medicines for patients by reducing the time it takes products to move from development to manufacturing.

"We have been investing for some years to prepare for Sanofi's future. Our Framingham facility leads the way in delivering the next generation of biologics manufacturing, leveraging intensified, continuous processing in a fully integrated digitally powered facility," remarked Philippe Luscan, Executive Vice President of Global Industrial Affairs for Sanofi, in a report on Contract Pharma's website. "This opening demonstrates we are at the leading edge of innovation and manufacturing



Photo Credit Sanofi

excellence, helping us to shape the future of both our company and the industry." According to the company's [press release](#), the Framingham digital bio-manufacturing facility is part of Sanofi Genzyme's integrated, cross-functional biologics hub in Framingham, Massachusetts. A critical global hub for more

average employee commute time is  
30 minutes or less

### Anything you'd like to add?

We like receiving attention and support from City officials and we plan to keep Framingham as our corporate home.

## Vacant Storefront Program

On September 19, 2019, the [State's Economic Assistance Coordinating Council](#) (EACC) voted to approve the City of Framingham's application to create a Certified Vacant Storefront District. This designation applies to the City's Central Business District and is a new economic development tool to advance revitalization efforts in the Downtown. Though vacancy is low and there have been significant changes in the downtown in recent years, most notably the new [Alta Union House apartments](#) which opened in late July 2019, there are several chronically vacant storefronts that could benefit from this extra incentive.

The program allows businesses to apply to the state for refundable tax credits to reduce their tax credits to reduce their tax liability to the Commonwealth. Interested Business and Property owners can learn more about the program and access the applications for state certification on the [Mass Office of Business Development website](#).

The program requires support from the municipality so interested applicants should contact the [City's Division of Community and Economic Development at the City of Framingham](#). Recipients are also encouraged to attend one of the [Massachusetts Department of Revenue](#) (DOR) free [Small Business Workshops](#) (SBW). SBWs are designed for new business owners who are unfamiliar with business tax requirements.

## More New Businesses for Downtown Framingham

Making our downtown a

than 30 years, the campus offers co-location of all the infrastructure and activities required to speed the delivery of innovative new therapies to patients, from early stage research and process development, through clinical and commercial manufacturing, including the key enabling functions of quality control and compliance, regulatory, engineering, supply chain, and learning and development.

Life sciences and related fields such as bio tech and medical technology have been a strong and growing sector of the MetroWest region's diverse economy with Framingham as the anchor in the region. Find out more about life sciences and bio tech in the region from the [MetroWest Life Sciences Network](#).



## Halstead Framingham

Residents of the [Halstead Framingham](#), located at 1610 Worcester Road in Framingham, celebrated the rebranding of the apartment complex at an event on October 24th. The Halstead, formerly Jefferson Hills, kicked off its rebrand in style at the newly opened Halstead Town Center. The Halstead Town Center includes a bocce ball court, pickle ball court, horseshoe pit, new hardscape patio area with six grilling stations, pergola, seating, and landscaping. In addition to the newly introduced amenities, upgrades were made to the basketball court, tennis court, and the dog park was enlarged and enhanced with new agility features. As part of the rebrand, new owners, The DSF Group, repainted the building exteriors with bold accent colors and new awnings at the entrances of all the buildings. "We are excited to launch Halstead Framingham and the delivery of our 'Town Center' in the first phase of our renovation. We look forward to delivering the next phase of our renovation - a Halstead Club and fitness center - in the spring 2020", stated DSF Group President, Josh Solomon.

The next phase of improvements will begin just around New Year's when Halstead Framingham's clubhouse will get an interior face lift including an enhanced and enlarged fitness center with brand new equipment and dedicated rooms for cardio, strength, core, and mind. Halstead will also be introducing a new sports lounge and separate study pods.

To schedule a tour of the facility, visit their [website](#).



Downtown Framingham has recently welcomed several new businesses to the area. The newest, [BeHappy Fitness](#), which is located at 185 Concord Street, celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 19. BeHappy Fitness owners Rhay Freitas and Shalana Borba look forward to guiding their clients to achieve their fitness goals. Clients are able to follow them on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date on their class schedule and other special events.



[Concord Dental](#) is also new to downtown Framingham, located at 32 Concord Street. This is Concord Dental's second location, with their first being in Cambridge. Dr. Mason Evaydov and his team offer a family and senior friendly environment and a full range of dental services. Patients can visit their website for more information and book an appointment right online!



[Union Travel](#) also recently opened their doors at 18 Union Avenue. Owners Aquila Ramos and Camila Silva are happy to help anyone who walks in their door. All are encouraged to call, or follow them on Facebook, to find their next destination.



## 2019 Manufacturer of the Year

### Dulce D Leche & Ian's Natural Foods

Framingham's own [Dulce D Leche](#) and [Ian's Natural Foods](#) were both recently recognized as 2019 Manufacturers of the Year by the Massachusetts Legislative Manufacturers Caucus. The Massachusetts Legislative Manufacturing Caucus held its 4th annual Manufacturing Award Ceremony at the State House on October 22nd. [State Rep. Maria Robinson](#) awarded Samantha Stavar and Jules Remenar, owners of Dulce D Leche, their Manufacturing Award. Rep. Robinson said, "I am delighted to honor Dulce D Leche as the 6th Middlesex District's Manufacturer of the Year. Dulce D Leche's founders and owners Sam and Jules' sweet treats bring so much joy and economic development to our community." Samantha Stavar from Dulce D Leche stated, "We are incredibly grateful to representatives Maria Robinson and Jack Patrick Lewis for this award. It took us completely by surprise! We really appreciate the recognition and encourages us to keep providing Framingham with high quality products. With our new kitchens in Ashland we'll be able to widen the variety of products we offer in both stores providing a better service to our neighbors and friends." [State Rep. Jack Patrick Lewis](#) awarded Ian's Natural Foods their Manufacturing Award. Rep. Lewis stated, "It was a great honor to nominate Ian's Natural Foods for this recognition. Ian's Natural Foods has become a household favorite for families across North America, and we



Courtney Thraen, Executive Director, [Downtown Framingham, Inc.](#) stated "It's extremely inspiring to see new businesses continue to make downtown Framingham a first-stop priority. With the increase in residential housing, it is easy to value first-level storefront marketing in our densely populated and cultural downtown. New businesses bring new jobs, increasing local community wealth and driving a higher quality of life in our urban core."

Additional new business ventures expected in downtown soon include Framingham Station, a Brazilian style steakhouse located at 417 Waverly Street and dBar Electronics, an electronics store located at 100 Concord Street.



are excited to have their frozen production facility in Framingham."



Seventy-seven manufacturers were recognized for truly "making it" in Massachusetts. The ceremony honored the manufacturers and showcased their innovative and revolutionary manufacturing capabilities and products. The event included companies who make specialty and custom tools, decorative glass, baby products, marine robotics, gaskets, vacuum and cryogenic equipment, headwear apparel, custom scoliosis and spinal orthotic fabrication, medical devices, plant-based bioplastic products, and even chicken nuggets and fresh milled flour.

Dulce D Leche is located at 5 Edgell Road, manufactures gourmet food, including gelato, lactose-free gelato, artisan chocolates, pastries, and custom cakes. Ian's Natural Foods, located at 190 Fountain Street, manufactures high quality and allergy-friendly foods which can be purchased in stores across the country.

Framingham EDIC

[chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov](mailto:chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov)

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.