

WELCOME TO THE  
*CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER*



**Choose Framingham Newsletter**  
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**New Businesses for  
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## 2019 Year in Review

As we end 2019, we take a minute to reflect on some of this year's newsletter highlights, a small part of the work that we have accomplished this year. We kicked off 2019 with the completion of the [Golden Triangle Planning Study](#), an ongoing initiative of the City of Framingham since 2016. In February, Framingham was featured on the [OA on Air podcast](#), where interviews took place with Gabriele Brambilla, CEO of [Alira Health](#), Sam Hendler, Co-Founder of [Jack's Abby](#), and Art Robert, former Director of Framingham's Division of Community

Several businesses have recently opened their doors in Framingham. After months of construction, [Dunkin'](#), located at 3 Nicholas Road at the intersection of Nicholas Road and Water Street, recently opened for business. The 22-seat restaurant is open daily from 5am to 10pm, offering free wi-fi to customers.

[D'mar Electronics](#), had their grand opening earlier in December. Originally founded in 2004 by Rosiane Domar Nelson, the store offers the community



new and open box modern technology essentials such as Apple Watch, Chromecast Ultra, GoPro, Fitbit, MacBook Air, and more! You can stop by Monday through Friday from 9AM-7PM, Saturdays between 9AM-6PM and Sundays from 10AM-4PM. Come check out their beautiful modern showroom at 100 Concord Street.

[ConvenientMD](#), a leading provider of urgent care and walk-in medical services, had their grand opening on December 16. The state-of-the-art medical facility is located at 236 Cochituate Road and is open seven days a week from 8am to 8pm. ConvenientMD currently operates more than twenty urgent care clinics in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts.



& Economic Development. When spring rolled in, leaders from local biotech, pharma, healthcare, MedTech and life science-based businesses, municipal offices, and economic and business development organizations launched the MetroWest Life Sciences Network at a [special event](#).



In May, the City announced its partnership with MassDevelopment and Patronicity to build a new [pocket park](#) on the south side of Framingham, a project that had been in the works since late 2018, which will add critical open space to the densest part of the City. In June, the City announced it had not only achieved, but also surpassed its fundraising goal of \$50,000, securing the grant match from MassDevelopment and resulting in a [grand total of \\$105,855](#) for the new park. Additionally in July, Alta Union House, a new 196-unit rental community, opened to new residents. This was the first major project completed after the City of Framingham revamped its downtown zoning in 2015 to encourage transit-oriented development (TOD) and the first major private sector investment in Framingham in decades. [In July](#), 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, after an almost 5-year public process. Throughout the year, the Framingham Brownfields Program provided free environmental assessments to commercial properties throughout the city. In August, we [highlighted](#) several success stories in Framingham, where initial federal funding, including an apartment building at 68 South Street and the new Christa McAuliffe Branch Library at 746 Water Street led to eventual redevelopment that benefited the community. Also in August, the [Village Hall](#) on the Common at 2 Oak Street, opened for business after a major 2-year renovation. Finally, In November, City Council voted to allow businesses in the core of Downtown Framingham to [utilize the sidewalk](#) in front of their businesses to extend their commercial presence.

We look forward to another year of economic success in 2020...Stay tuned!

## December in Downtown

## Framingham is Open for

## Framingham

As usual, it has been a busy month in Downtown Framingham. The City of Framingham hosted its [28th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony](#), where hundreds of families enjoyed music played by local elementary school students, had an opportunity to meet Mayor Yvonne Spicer, have their photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and witness the Memorial Building Plaza Christmas Tree come to life.



Courtney Thraen, Executive Director of [Downtown Framingham, Inc.](#) and her team, continue to bring life to Downtown Framingham year round, but especially at the holidays. On December 7, she kicked off the window contest, encouraging business owners in downtown Framingham to decorate their storefronts. Members of the community can vote through January 4 and stores will win prizes for overall best design, people's choice, most traditional, most creative, and funniest window decorations. If you cannot make it downtown, pictures of the windows can be seen on [Downtown Framingham's website](#). With a grant from the [City's EDIC](#),

Courtney also worked with Framingham Public Works to decorate twenty downtown lampposts for the holiday season. DFI also organized the very successful

Holiday Market held at Springdale Barrel Room, which featured over 20 local artists selling fine art, crafts, and more. For the third year in a row, DFI gathered stakeholders from around the region for its Downtown Celebration at St. Tarcisius Hall. Distinguished Leader Susan Nicholl, former Executive Director of MetroWest Visitors Bureau, gave the keynote



## Business

### Saxonville Mills - 2 Watson Place

[Saxonville Mills](#), a dynamic, former 19th century factory located in northeast Framingham has three spaces coming up for lease now. The complex is managed by Creative Development Company and boast a vibrant mix of creative and small business professionals, including the [Saxonville Studios](#), [Fireseed Arts](#), [Framingham Makerspace](#), and [Red 13 Studios](#), that often work in synergy with each other.



The property at 2 Watson Place is conveniently located off Route 126, near the Massachusetts Turnpike, at the center of the historic Saxonville commercial district, which boasts numerous restaurants and shops. It is also within walking distance of the trailhead for the Cochituate Rail Trail which currently extends to Route 30 and Speen Street in the Golden Triangle and which will extend all the way to Natick Center in the next 3 years.

The three available spaces within the Mills include: 1) 2,500-3,000 SQFT, 2) 5,000-13,500 SQFT, and 3) 27,000 SQFT. All spaces have cement floors, large windows, and high ceilings. Build to suit is available and prices range from \$8.00 NNN to \$15.00 NNN.

For more information on the property, contact [Charlotte Maynard](#) at Creative Development Company.



## Economic Development Influencers in Framingham

Kevin J. Shea joined the [Planning and Community Development Division](#) with the City of Framingham at the end of December as Director. Mayor Yvonne Spicer appointed Shea in November and said, "Kevin Shea has spent the last 14 years as the Executive Director of Economic Community Development in Taunton, MA where he headed up all development activities for the City. His vast experience and demonstrated success in leading economic and community efforts with several municipalities make him the right fit for Framingham." Per the

address. There were prizes, a silent auction, live music by local musicians and members of the Downtown community were recognized for their contributions to Downtown's ongoing success in 2019. What's going on in Downtown Framingham this Spring? Our friends at Downtown Framingham Inc. are making sure to keep us updated and below is a list of events for 2020. For more information on Downtown Framingham events, please visit the [Downtown Framingham website](#) or find them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) to keep current. Contact them to get involved as a volunteer or find out about sponsorship and vendor applications.

3/14 - Shamrock Stroll  
4/20 - Celebrate 5 MarathonFest  
4/26 - Taste of Downtown Framingham  
4/26-5/2 - Spring Restaurant Week  
5/3 - Spirit of Downtown Framingham  
8/23 - Café Crawl with History and Architecture Tour  
10/3 - Downtown Oktoberfest  
11/2-11/7 - Fall Restaurant Week  
11/1-11/28 - Small Business November Campaign  
12/6-1/2 - Holiday Storefront Window Decorating Contest  
12/13 - Holiday Artisan Market  
12/14 - Downtown Celebration



Framingham Home Rule Charter (Article V, Section 4, page 36), the Director will be responsible for the coordination of all the planning and community development-related functions of the municipality. Shea received an undergraduate degree in Urban Studies and Political Science from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, and a Master's degree in Urban Affairs from Boston University. Prior to his experience in Taunton, he served as director of community and economic development in Barnstable, executive director of the Pawtucket, R.I., Redevelopment Agency; principal city planner in Quincy; housing and economic development planner in Chelsea; and community development coordinator in New Bedford.

Shea will work with the Framingham Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) which consists of seven Framingham residents voted in by City Council. The EDIC was established in 1995 to stimulate economic development and expand employment opportunities in the City of Framingham in accordance with the City's approved economic development plans. The current EDIC members include a deep bench of individuals with strong business and development experience that they bring to benefit Framingham. The members include Doug Lawrence (Chair), Dan Rao (Vice Chair), Ronda Andrews, Andrew D'Amico, Anthony James, George Matook, and Angela Randolph. Lawrence is a former town meeting member who served on the Standing Committee and Planning and Zoning. He has a background as S&P 200 Medical devices industry executive. Rao was also a former town meeting member who served as a Member of the Moderator appointed Capital Budget Committee and on the Standing Committee on Planning and Zoning. He is the President and CEO of EGI, Opt Now Real Estate and WHY.com. Andrews, a third former town meeting member, represents the south side of Framingham. She is an activist for environmental properties including General Chemical, Mary Dennison Park and 350 Irving Street. D'Amico is a lawyer with experience in community development and redevelopment. James currently works for Marriott and served on an EDIC in his previous town. Matook is currently working as the Program Manager for the US Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center and has experience working with MassDev Military Task Force. Randolph is an Assistant Professor at Babson College in Entrepreneurship Department with expertise in finance.

This new EDIC has taken on the task of reviewing their enabling legislation and charting a strategic direction that actively promotes positive economic development for the community. For more information on the EDIC's initiatives and activities, contact Deputy Director, [Erika Oliver Jerram](#).

Framingham EDIC

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