



WELCOME TO THE *CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER*



*Choose Framingham Newsletter
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Helping Businesses Rebuild

As a Municipality, Framingham Is Open for Business

On April 4th, Framingham residents voted to adopt a new home rule charter that will change the way the municipality is organized. The charter vote means



On March 11th, a fire completely destroyed the Old Path Village Complex at 969 Concord Street. This tragedy caused great disruption for 10 local businesses. The tragedy is forcing all business to

that the community will become a city, electing a Mayor and a City Council to replace the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting. We expect these elections will take place in November 2017, with the city form of government taking hold on January 1, 2018. For more detail, see the Charter Commission's [web page](#).

The voted charter reflects the recommendation of a Charter Commission. Elected by voters in 2016, the Commission completed 64 meetings and public hearings to determine the most inclusive and effective form of government for Framingham. The debate leading up to the charter vote was marked by passionate concern and commitment, reflecting great pride in the community.

There are many businesses, both large and small, who have invested in Framingham, and those entrepreneurs and leaders should continue to feel confident in that investment. The municipality is committed to welcoming the multinational headquarters, start-ups, restaurants, and boutiques that have long made Framingham the economic engine of MetroWest and a uniquely vibrant community. Framingham is changing the way it makes decisions, but its values endure. Toward that end, the community will remain committed to creating a responsive, business-friendly setting in which businesses can thrive.

Change can bring challenges, but the businesses who contribute so much to our community should know that they continue to have committed municipal partners. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Division of Community and Economic Development at 508-532-5455 or by email at chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov.

A Regional Approach to Reinvigorating the Golden Triangle

Last year, Framingham and Natick came together to address a regional challenge: how to reinvigorate the Golden Triangle - the place where Routes 9 and 30 intersect with Speen Street - for future economic growth. The two communities signed a memorandum of agreement in August 2016 so that together, they could develop a plan for this critically important area in MetroWest.

relocate and rebuild, amid loss of records, inventory, and earnings. The local community - together with state support- has rallied around the businesses as they are working to get back on their feet.

On March 17th, Framingham officials joined a meeting convened by local legislators and attended by Jay Ash, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. Each business was able to share their concerns, get information, and begin planning to rebuild their businesses.

In addition to these large group meetings, Arthur Robert, Framingham's Director of Community and Economic Development, reached out to business owners offering support from Framingham wherever possible and committing to help the businesses recover and grow. "We are saddened by this tragic fire and its impact on so many long-standing Framingham businesses," said Robert. "We will do all we can to help these businesses get re-established and contribute to Framingham and our quality of life."

On April 26th, the Town convened a follow-up meeting, inviting the businesses to meet with the Small Business Association, Mass Growth Capital Corporation, and the South Middlesex Opportunity Council - with a focus on identifying financing options for each of the businesses. State partners from the Rapid Response team, Massachusetts Office of Business Development also participated. Staff from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency were also present to discuss data collection that could help the fire be declared a federal disaster - and result in more available resources.

Framingham is committed to supporting each business as they begin to rebuild. If anyone has questions, ideas, or resources to offer, please contact the [Division of Community and Economic Development](#) .

Framingham Celebrates the Sixth Mile Moment at the Boston Marathon



The Golden Triangle has been historically an important commercial center for both communities, 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. Furthermore, to remain competitive, the region must adapt to changing transportation needs and alternatives to automobiles. That adaptation has already begun: MassPort recently expanded its Framingham Logan Express facility, and the Cochituate Rail Trail - which provides a bike trail connection to Framingham's Saxonville neighborhood - and will provide a connection to the Natick Center MBTA Commuter Rail station.

Working with Framingham and Natick, in 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) identified potential traffic solutions in the region. Yet it became clear that the communities need a joint development vision for the area, to help guide MassDOT's efforts and to foster robust, appropriate growth for the Golden Triangle. The joint agreement calls for analyzing current conditions, developing a long-term vision for the area, making planning recommendations supported by public input, and creating an implementation plan.

We are pleased to announce that this process is moving forward. In April, Framingham and Natick selected [Crosby Schlessinger and Smallridge LLC \(CSS\)](#), a Boston-based urban design, planning and landscape architecture firm to support the project. CSS will be teaming with RKG Associates and WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff for this project. We will be sure to keep you informed as this study and the work on the Golden Triangle moves forward.

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.

Marathon Monday is always a big day in Framingham. Framingham marks mile six for Marathon runners - and large crowds always gather to cheer the runners on with Framingham pride on full display. This year was no different. Congratulations to all of the runners!

STAY CONNECTED

