

FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2013

RiverFest Returns to Saxonville • June 22, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

by David Longden

The Friends of Saxonville is again participating in this year's RiverFest. Please join us at the old Danforth Street Bridge for the following activities:

Nature Walk, 1:00 pm: Have you ever wondered what that plant is, if it were edible or could be used for medicinal purposes? Did you wonder what animal chewed a branch, left behind some food or made a footprint in the ground? Then join the Framingham Conservation Commission on a guided nature trail, led by Commission members with the assistance of Conservation Staff. Meet us at the Sudbury Landing Trail Head in Saxonville. Parking is available off of Hillside Street, Sudbury Landing and other low traffic streets in the area, but vehicles must be parked on the odd numbered side of these roads. Registration is required. Contact the Framingham Conservation Commission at (508) 532-5460 and ask for Maeghan Walters or Katie Messer, or send an email to the Conservation Commission at ConservationCommission@framinghamma.gov.

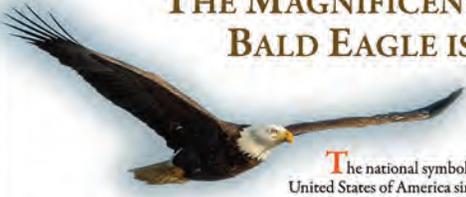
Raptor Panel Unveiling, 2:30 pm: Join OARS and Friends of Saxonville for the unveiling of a beautiful Return of Raptors panel at the Danforth Street Bridge kiosk. We will also dedicate the kiosk to former FOS board member George Dixon. Celebrate with ice cream provided by Friends of Saxonville.

Historic Talk and Tour, 3:00 pm: Join the Friends of Saxonville for a talk and tour of historic Saxonville. Meet on the old Danforth Street Bridge. ❖

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THE MAGNIFICENT BALD EAGLE IS BACK



The national symbol of the United States of America since 1782.

Once common, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) had disappeared from Massachusetts by 1900. The state's successful efforts to restore the population began in 1982 at Quabbin Reservoir. By 2011, 104 Bald Eagles were counted wintering in this state. They have been seen repeatedly in the upper Sudbury and Assabet watersheds.

With 7-foot wingspans, Bald Eagles are the largest bird of prey (or "raptor") in Massachusetts. Other raptors in the state are: Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, kestrels, and several species of hawks and owls.



EATS: Mainly fish, also birds, mammals and carrion.

LIFESPAN: 20-30 years in the wild. Mates for life, but if a mate dies the other will court a new mate.

NEST: Near the top of tall trees, size is up to 12 feet high x 8.5 feet wide, weighs up to one ton.

COURTSHIP: In mid- to late winter, consisting of aerial loops, cartwheels, dives, and ending with the pair locking their talons together and free-falling downward for hundreds of feet while spinning head-over-heels.



Photos © David Griffin



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FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE was founded to educate the public about the special identity of Saxonville, a historic neighborhood of Framingham, and to preserve, enhance and protect its cultural, economic, environmental and historical qualities.
www.saxonville.org



OARS
OARS works to protect and enhance the natural and recreational features of the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers, their tributaries and watersheds. OARS uses science-based advocacy, education and recreation to build sustainable stewardship of our water resources.
www.oarsnet.org



THE SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
works with the National Park Service to coordinate the conservation of the 29-mile Wild and Scenic River segment of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers. The Council provides funds to produce this panel.
www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org

Kiosk graphic to be installed at the historic Danforth Bridge designed by Lisa Breslow Thompson depicts bald eagles and other raptors that inhabit the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers.

Interim Furnishings and *Design Loft* Create the Ultimate First Impression!

by Lisa Breslow Thompson

Did you know that Saxonville Mills is home to an impressive resource for the best in home furnishings and interior design? Interim Furnishings, founded in 2006 by owner Sharon MacDonald, is a 10,000 square foot showroom that stands at the forefront of home design innovation. A former realtor, Sharon saw first-hand how real estate staging helped her clients sell their homes quickly and for a higher profit. She created the business to fill a strong need for exquisite furnishings on a temporary basis.

huge amount of storage made the Saxonville Mills location a perfect fit. The last three years have proved the business idea to be an amazing success, as Interim Furnishings has provided short-term furniture leases and sold fully furnished models throughout New England. Real estate staging is here to stay and Interim Furnishings has become a pioneer in the luxury furniture leasing market. Their services include furniture sales, home staging, interior design, color consulting and both short and long term leasing.



A bedroom transformed by the Design Loft team. Inset photo at right depicts the "before," while the "after" is shown above. © Daniel Webber

Sharon saw first-hand how real estate staging helped her clients sell their homes quickly and for a higher profit.

Interim Furnishings started out in a Victorian style building in Natick and moved to its current location at 2 Central Street in March of 2007. Sharon recalls frequently driving past Saxonville Mills, and having an epiphany that the building had potential to be the perfect location for her growing business. After leasing agent Charlotte Finley Maynard showed her several spaces, Sharon decided on a first floor space that faces 1650 Concord Street. Access to the loading dock, natural light from the large bank of windows, as well as the

Shop at *Design Loft* showroom, now open to the public!

Design Loft is a destination interior design showroom where you can seek inspiration for a new look for your home. The public can now experience designer services and sales and have the opportunity to shop for a creative mix of home furnishings and accessories. A variety of styles are offered in the most current colors and finishes to complement any interior. Their skilled design team takes care of every detail, providing excellent customer service, either online, on the phone, or in the *Design Loft* showroom. Visit the showroom Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Appointments can be made with designers during this time by calling ahead.

Experience *Reveal*

If you ever fantasize about having your home transformed by interior design professionals with amazing taste, then the *Reveal* experience is for you. *Reveal* allows clients to have the dream room they have always wanted in an easy, 1-2-3 step process. Design staff makes it simple by visiting your home to better understand your needs and wants when it comes to style, color and function and budget. They provide samples of key pieces to be used in your room makeover, and once they have your approval, all furnishings and décor are delivered and installed, including painting, flooring and lighting. After everything is in place, staff can videotape the “reveal.” Just like on television, *Reveal* clients trust the experience and design knowledge of staff to create the room they have always dreamed of. DLux Interior Design and Color Plan are additional design services provided that streamline the way homeowners design their homes.

To schedule a design consultation, contact the *Design Loft* team at (508) 405-0219. For more information about Interim Furnishings and *Design Loft*, visit www.interimfurnishings.com or call (508) 405-2765. ❖

***Reveal* allows clients to have the dream room they have always wanted in an easy, 1-2-3 step process.**

After a house fire destroyed everything they owned, Sharon’s team was called in to help a local family start over to furnish and decorate their newly rebuilt home. Prior to the move-in, the family met with designer Allison Ducharme to discuss their lifestyle, vision, needs and wants for their new abode. Allison created schematics for every room in the house. After four months, the family walked into their newly decorated home. Similar to many well-known television shows, video cameras were used to capture the family’s reactions of delight to the big “reveal.” Sharon’s team will continue to use videotape to record their clients’ reactions, and post them to social media sights such as YouTube, as part of a successful marketing strategy.

TD Bank's Affinity Program Helps Friends of Saxonville

by Paula Longden

If you currently have an existing account at TD Bank, would you like to help the Friends of Saxonville raise funds for the Athenaeum? It is as easy as visiting or calling one of the TB Bank’s locations and asking to have your account linked with the Affinity Program for Friends of Saxonville.

In doing so, TD Bank will make an annual contribution of \$10 per account to the Friends of Saxonville, which will be used to help restore the Athenaeum.

Eligible accounts include:

- **Checking – Business & Consumer**
- **Savings**
- **Money Market**
- **Certificate of Deposit**
- **Retirement**

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Longden, Treasurer of Friends of Saxonville, at paula.longden@verizon.net. ❖

Athenaeum Hall Déjà Vu

Town Meeting Approves Initial Phase of Athenaeum Restoration

by John Stasik

Nearly 170 years ago, Athenaeum Hall was on the minds and agenda of our town leaders. At the Framingham Town Meeting of July 7, 1845, Article 6 requested the following: "To see if the town will build a Town Hall in the east part of the Town." After some debate, Town Meeting approved the article. The Town Hall was constructed in 1846; the second floor auditorium was completed in 1847.

For the next 140 years the Town Hall, today known as the Athenaeum, served as a center of community activity for a wide variety of public uses: an elementary and a high school, an infirmary, a "lock up," and a newspaper publishing office. Lectures, dances, festivals, meetings, recitals and children's events were held there. It was the home for the veterans' organizations in Framingham for over 70 years. Unfortunately, due to aging and deferred maintenance the Athenaeum was officially closed in 1990.

Kevin Swope presented The Athenaeum History at the Friends of Saxonville's 16th Annual Meeting. Swope serves as historian and researcher at the Framingham History Center and Museum.

Now, 168 years later, town leaders' agenda once again included the Athenaeum. Article 18 of the Framingham Town Meeting of 2013 requested funding for the very same "... Town Hall in the east part of Town." The article, proposed by the Board of Selectmen, is part of the Town's Capital Budget Article and is intended to

return the benefits of a public meeting hall to the residents of Framingham.

The Athenaeum was a highly valued and frequently used cultural and historic resource. However, the building has been vacant for more than twenty years. The interior is in deplorable condition, although the exterior has been maintained to withstand the ravages of weather and time by the cooperative efforts of the Town, the Friends of Saxonville and a volunteer work crew from the Mill next door.

In recent years the need for public community meeting space has been growing. Nonprofit organizations, theater, art, private and civic groups have made requests to use space in the Athenaeum. Because the building is officially closed, the response to these requests has been NO. Since Town Meeting approved the initial phase of funding for the Athenaeum Restoration on May 8, 2013, the process of changing that answer to YES begins!

The Town will take the lead in executing steps to place the Athenaeum Hall on a secure financial path for future generations. The Friends of Saxonville is pledged to partner with the Town to provide cost effective assistance in promoting and managing the programs at a restored Athenaeum Community Hall. We will continue to raise funds and seek grants to help offset future operating costs. The partnership between the Town and the Friends of Saxonville offers an excellent opportunity to collaborate as we work toward returning the historic Athenaeum to public use for our community. ❖

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FOS Business Members – Please Support our Local Business Members! Visit saxonville.org for Business Bulletin Board Specials

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HiLightStudioSpa@gmail.com

Interim Furnishings
2 Central Street, (508) 405-2765
interimfurnishings.com

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LandoZHometowneGrille.com

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Lisa Thompson Graphic Design
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1575 Concord Street
(508) 877-2663

Zēta Pizzeria & Kitchen
1645 Concord Street, (508) 788-1611
<http://e-georgios.com>

Our Annual Meeting – April 9, 2013 at Edwards Church

by Jan Harrington, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm with a welcome and introductions from President David Longden.

John Stasik provided a PowerPoint presentation on plans for the interior restoration of Athenaeum Community Hall. Kevin Swope's sharing of historical background of the Hall added to the presentation. Comments and questions from members followed.

Reports were given. Included were December's Jingle Bell Day, Cochituate Rail Trail, Danforth Bridge and Kiosk, June's Riverfest, Carol Getchell Nature Trail, Friends of Saxonville's newsletter, and business membership.

Betty M. Schroepel was given an "Award of Thanks" for her generous contribution in assisting with Newsletter mailings.

It was stated that due to sewer work, Concord Street would be closed on the Northbound side this summer. Minutes of the 2012 were read and approved. A Recognition Certificate was presented to Edwards Church for their continued generosity over the years. Paula Longden gave the Treasurer's Report, and she spoke of TD Bank's new fundraising Affinity program for local non-profits.

Election of officers took place. John Stasik, Laura Melegos, and Paula Longden were elected unanimously for three-year terms.

Members were invited to participate in Framingham's House Tour on Sunday, May 19th, which this year, includes three Saxonville homes. A potential Planned Unit Development in Saxonville was also discussed.

Business Members Mediterranean Turkish Food and Zeta's Pizzeria & Kitchen, along with various FOS Board Members, donated refreshments. ❖

FOS Business Roundtable Meeting

by Laura Melegos

The Friends of Saxonville held its quarterly business meeting on February 28 at LandoZ Hometowne Grille. The primary focus of this meeting was to recap the Jingle Bell Day event and get feedback from the participating businesses. The overall consensus was that Jingle Bell Day was very successful and a positive community event. Jeff Underwood of Robinsons Hardware expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Friends of Saxonville organization for their role in Jingle Bell Day 2012. There will be a need for more business participation and involvement to make Jingle Bell Day a growing Saxonville tradition. Please consider volunteering to be a part of this annual event and the



community. Mark your calendar for the first Saturday in December. We anticipate the next FOS Business Roundtable to be held in June; come and offer your suggestions and ideas to connect commerce and community in Saxonville.

A special thank you to Brenda and Sean Lando for their support and generosity in hosting our meeting and providing some very delicious treats for us to enjoy. We sincerely hope to see you back soon and providing great food again. We appreciate the positive impact LandoZ has made in Saxonville. ❖



(Above) John Stasik discusses Jingle Bell Day
(Below) Brenda and Sean Lando of LandoZ Hometowne Grille
© Damianos Photography



The mission of the Friends of Saxonville is to educate the public about the special identity of Saxonville, an historic neighborhood of Framingham, Massachusetts, and to preserve, enhance, and protect its cultural, economic, environmental and historical qualities.

Membership fees help support our initiatives, newsletter, and our annual Discover Saxonville events.

Please renew your membership or consider joining us for the first time. If you renewed already – Thank you!

If your membership is not up to date, this may be the last newsletter you will receive.

Memberships or Donations:
Pay online at **www.saxonville.org**

Or detach form below and mail your check to:

Friends of Saxonville, P.O. Box 3236
Framingham, MA 01705-3236



Become a Member! Membership year runs May 1 to April 30

- 1 year Individual Membership: \$25
- 1 year Business Membership: \$50
- Connection to this wonderful village: Priceless!

Additional Contribution

- General Fund \$ _____
- Athenaeum Fund \$ _____

I am interested in: Athenaeum Nature Trail Fundraising Rail Trail Danforth Bridge
 Expanding and improving the Historical Walk Volunteering to complete specific tasks

Name: _____

Day Phone: _____

Business Name: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Street: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Town, State & Zip: _____



Trivia Question

Do you remember where the Saxonville Library was before it moved to Nicholas Road?

Look for the answer on the Friends of Saxonville website, **www.saxonville.org**.





FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

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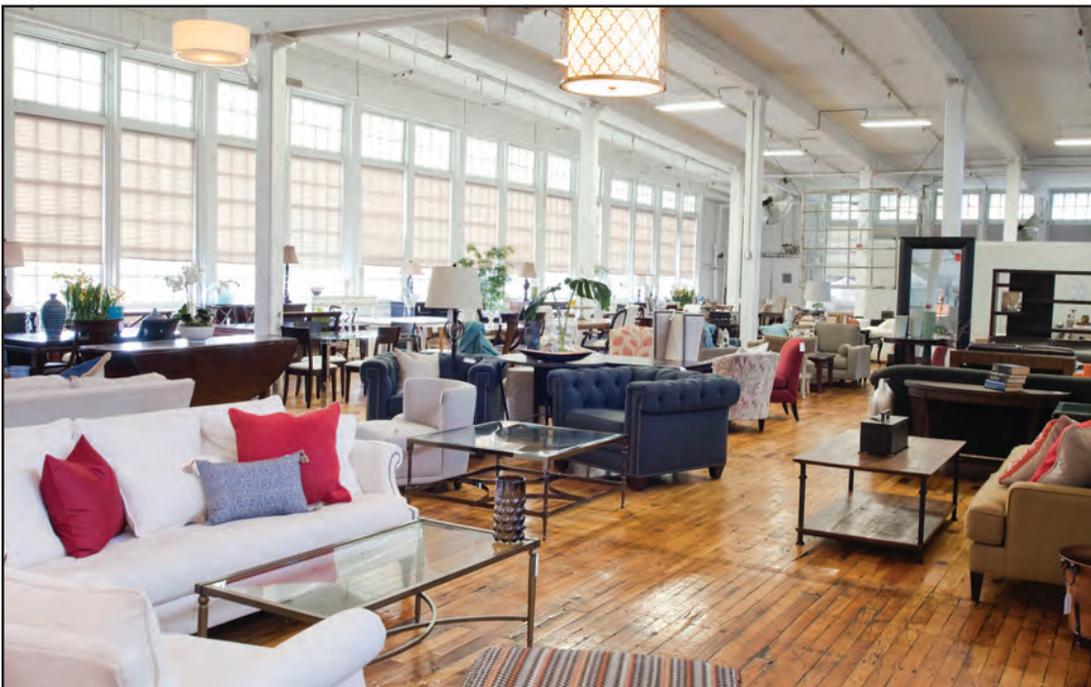
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Interim Furnishings and Design Loft
owner Sharon MacDonald
© Damianos Photography

Interim Furnishings and Design Loft Create the Ultimate First Impression!



The Design Loft showroom is now open to the public. Visit the showroom at 2 Central Street (or 1650 Concord Street) in the Saxonville Mill, Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm or during the week by appointment.

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