

FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2016

Made In Saxonville

by Gina Offenstine

Today, Saxonville Mills is a thriving commercial and artistic community. Creative Development's Charlotte Maynard and staff manage to keep the handsome historical industrial buildings functional while making steady improvements to the infrastructure and exteriors.

Many readers know much about the history of Saxonville, but for those catching up, a brief summary: Saxonville is named after the Saxon Factory Company, a woolen mill established here in 1824 by Abner, Benjamin, and Eliphalet Wheeler with several Boston partners. Later owners Michael Simpson and Nathaniel Francis changed the factory's name to the Saxonville Mills. Saxonville Mills merged with the Roxbury Carpet Company in 1919 and assumed the name of the latter. As it is called today, the name Saxonville Mills best captures the history and the current activity.

Excerpt below is taken from *Images of America, Framingham* by Laurie Evans-Daly and David C. Gordon:

"In the Framingham town vital statistics for 1874, we find that the mills paid the highest taxes in town, \$3,679.39, indicating that Saxonville was the industrial center of all of Framingham. Framingham had a popula-

tion of 5,167 in 1875, [and] fully ten percent of the whole population was employed by the mills."

In these changing economic times, Americans need to remember and recapture the integrity, innovation, and creativity that have made our country great. Purchasing more American made products will help our country grow and allow us "as consumers" to feel proud of what we are able to accomplish together. As a new board member of The Friends of Saxonville, I take great pride to introduce some unique and interesting companies right here in our back yard.



All mill photos © Herb Everett

• **Onehundred** is a unique product brand that seeks out interesting manufacturing talent within a 100-mile radius of Saxonville. "We get to know their skills, experience and their equipment, then design clever, well-made products that make the most of them. Everything we design is then launched internationally on the crowdfunding platform, Kickstarter. While we don't produce our products here at the mill, they are certainly 'Designed in Saxonville!'" www.onehundred.com

• **Mousespecifics** Tens of millions of mice are used in biomedical research each year. Mouse Specifics designs non-invasive instrumentation to study laboratory mice to advance better understanding and treatment of human diseases. DigiGait describes how animals walk, to ask interesting questions about strength, mobility,

(Continued on pages 4 and 5)

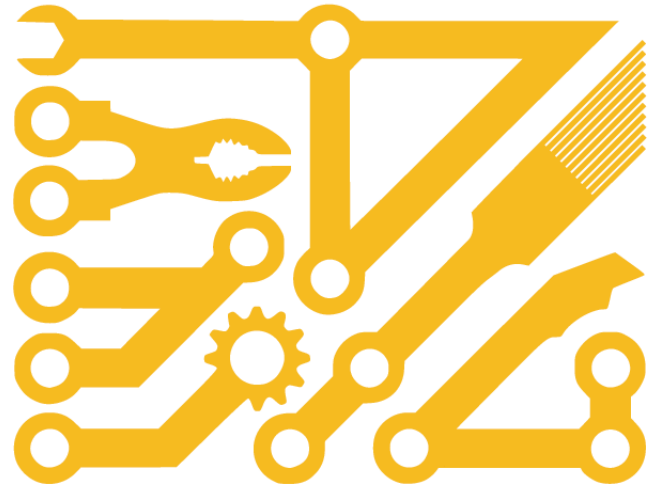
There's a Makerspace in Saxonville!

By Dave Kent

Located in building 5C, 1st floor at Saxonville Mills, Framingham MakerSpace (FMS) is part of a growing international movement of creatives that integrates art with technology and shares its passion with the larger community. More than a place for just Do It Yourself, it is a place to Do It Together; members help each other with projects and ideas.

A non-profit, FMS contains woodworking, metalworking and welding shops in addition to a multipurpose room in its 2500 square foot space. The multipurpose room is used for assorted crafts like stained glass, sewing, electronics and 3D printing (funded in part by a grant from the Framingham Cultural Council).

The Space opened in July 2015 after 11 months of permitting and build-out. A member run organization, it is supported through dues and class fees. There are two membership tiers: basic (\$30/month) and premium (\$100/month), which includes a key for 24/7 access and use of all equipment. The basic membership includes only the multipurpose room and no key, so access is when a key holding member is present. Premium



Framingham MakerSpace

View images of some of these on www.FraminghamMakerspace.org or www.facebook.com/Framingham-Makerspace-193223204165086



members are encouraged to provide schedules of when they plan to be in the Space.

Current members include a video animator, artists, musicians, ceramicists, lampworkers and a maker of digital instruments as well as assorted engineers and programmers. Several are working on art projects to take to the Burning Man festival in August. Past activities include: projects with LEDs controlled by Arduino or pixel pusher; raspberry pi projects; welding a DJ table; building a raku pottery kiln and making tiles; making drums from propane tanks; building a mobius chess "board", costume design.

Tours open to the public are held every Wednesday from 7-9 pm. The 3D printer is usually running and available for demonstrations. Current classes and workshops, taught both by members and others, include Building Hexayurts, Making Boffer Weapons and Digital Luminescence. A great way to get acquainted, classes are open to non-members. Check out the web site (classes tab) or call (508) 834-7855 for more information.

David Kent is the founder of FMS, a Federal 501(c)(3) non-profit fiscal sponsorship through www.SchoolFactory.org. ❖



Dan Pogue (middle) with attendees of his Digital Luminescence workshop currently being held every other Monday. Photos © Dave Kent.

Christa McAuliffe Branch Library on the Move

By Jan Harrington

In January, the materials collection at the library's Saxonville location on Nicholas Road was prepared and packed for the move down the road to a new home in Nobscot on Water Street, across from the Hemenway School (a trip of only one and a half miles).

The new branch building covers approximately 17,000 square feet, tripling the size of the current McAuliffe building. The Boston architectural firm Finegold Alexander designed our valuable community resource with expansive open floor space – allowing for flexibility to adapt to future trends in library usage.



In February, a public 'soft opening' included general tours of the building by staff, trustees, foundation members, and volunteers. Just a few days later, all services were accessible to library patrons.

The Grand Opening will be held on Sunday, May 15 in the afternoon. An artistic commemoration of Christa McAuliffe's life is planned to be unveiled. State and local dignitaries, as well as members of the McAuliffe Family will participate in the celebration. A variety of refreshments will enhance these festivities.

Jan is a FOS Board Member and Library Trustee. ❖

New Christa McAuliffe Library © Jan Harrington

VIBES from the Village

FOS Annual Meeting

Monday evening, March 28, 2016
Save the date! Details to come.

Sudbury River Neighborhood Meeting

Saturday, April 9, 2016 – 10:00 am
Ron Chick Residence, 133 Central Street

Jim Straub from the MA DEP will discuss the invasive water chestnuts that are choking the Sudbury river in Saxonville. RSVP to ronchick@comcast.net.

Discover Saxonville – CRT Grand Opening!

Saturday, May 14, 2016
School Street entrance to the Cochituate Rail Trail (CRT).
Details to come.

RiverFest

June 17-19, 2016. Details to come.
www.oars3rivers.org

Framingham's PUD

Framingham's only PUD (Planned Unit Development) consists of Montage (homes for purchase) and Avalon (residences to lease). Most Avalon units are completed, with many occupied. The following was provided by Avalon, and is not intended as a recommendation:

At 40 Riverpath Drive, Avalon is comprised of 180 smoke-free apartment and townhomes with a fitness center and resident lounge. Outdoor swimming pool,

cucina with fireplace and children's play area. Residents have a 24-hour maintenance emergency service guarantee. Immediate move-ins are available. This pet-friendly community participates in the WAG (Welcome, Appreciate, Give) Program, with charitable efforts contributed to the Humane Society. Common areas include a WAG Dog Park and green spaces.
www.AvalonFramingham.com. ❖



Water Chestnuts clogging the Sudbury River just west of the Saxonville Dam in Summer 2015 © Ron Chick.

Made In Saxonville

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balance, and coordination [for example, research in Parkinson's disease & Lou Gehrig's disease]. The ECGenie non-invasively monitors the heart of awake lab animals to better understand and treat heart problems. www.mousespecifics.com

• **Fireseed Arts** is a creative enterprise founded as an incubator for profitable, sustainable, environmental art projects and businesses, including Johnny Fireseed & the Junkyard Dogs, I Seed Change, Moby Disc, and No Wood Left Behind.

"One of our flagship projects, MAS, (Music, Art, Seeds), is developing recycled instrument kits for underserved schools, supporting independent farmers, musicians, and artists through a member driven programs. Our 2,400 sf. studio is an event space unlike any other, and a perfect space for workshops, concerts, events, and parties."

www.fireseedarts.com

• **The Potting Shed** dedicates its efforts to preserving the Dedham Pottery tradition of designs originated by Hugh Robertson in 1896 in Dedham during the American Arts And Crafts movement, the most popular now known as "the Dedham Rabbit".

In 1977, Chotsie Starr with sons Chris and Rob, Kathie Rosko, and several local artisans founded The Potting Shed, Inc. focused primarily on Chotsie's original intent to continue the Dedham Pottery tradition. Each item is produced with painstaking craftsmanship to ensure faithfulness to the original Dedham Pottery. Each year, new pieces and new patterns are introduced to respond to customers' interests and to entice their imagination. Because Dedham Pottery patterns are timeless and broad-based, Rob and Kathie enthusiastically continue Chotsie's endeavor to reinvigorate the Dedham Pottery tradition! www.harelooms.com

• **Ever DesignWorks**, a design and build shop in the Mills, makes custom furniture and commercial installations primarily from reclaimed materials found locally. Herb Everett employs sustainable methods in his architectural practice and woodworking projects. He carefully studies each project with 3D computer modeling, and coordinates with the client before the building starts. Working with partner Gina Offenstine,

the shop offers a line of pallet furniture and home décor which they sell from their showroom Building 5C as well as online. www.everdesignworks.com

• **Makkas Drapery** offers precise, custom window treatments and fabrication services for commercial and residential clients. "We are known for our ability to transform design sketches into elegant, exquisitely detailed interior décor—no project is too complex. We make custom window treatments including draperies, panels, cornices, valances, top treatments, Roman shades, Austrian shades, balloon shades, and blinds. Custom bedding includes pillows, cushions, headboards, and specialty items."

www.makkadrapery.com

• **B.C. Ames** When a small machine shop opened on Ash Street in Waltham, MA in 1896, nobody could

have known it would grow into a leading force in the manufacture of precision measuring instruments used around the world. Through the genius of founder Bliss Charles Ames, the first "dial gage heads" were built in 1906, thus laying the groundwork for today's highly sophisticated gaging systems. Now located at 1644 Concord Street, B.C. Ames offers solutions to specialized gaging needs across a wide range of industries. www.bcames.com





• **Howard Precision Products**, at 1602 Concord Street, is a contract manufacturer of small precision components and multipart assemblies for the medical, dental, aerospace and precision tool industries. Specializing in turned products with or without secondary operations, they work in a wide range of materials with diameters ranging from 0.010" to 1.75", holes down to 0.020", slots as thin as 0.010" and tolerances to +/- .0003". President Steve Abrams and a team of industry-leading technical specialists are committed to finding innovative, cost-effective, reliable solutions for particular needs. See a video of their work in process, produced by fellow Saxonville Mills tenant, Dave Laituri of One-hundred.com at https://youtu.be/AaAour_Q3KA. www.howprecise.com

• **Lost Treasures**, a radio music show by DJ "Les More," is Karl Hermanns's life passion. Even though the broadcast is not a physical "product", Les "Makes People Smile". It is all produced right here in the Mills. Les More plays unique collections, mostly vinyl, of Rock and Roll from the 50's and 60's. Expect a different theme each week. Listen on public station WVVY (part of the Pacifica Radio Network) Thursdays 9-11 pm (live on Martha's Vineyard at 96.7 LPFM) or Mondays 2-4 pm (rebroadcast of Thursday's show). Download the link from www.WVVY.org

• **Greentree Marketing, Inc.** manufactures promotional products including highly informative guide wheels which contain information ranging from health care to environmental issues. They also manufacture custom spiral notebooks for schools and colleges as well as corporations. www.greentreemktg.com

• **Zenith Die Cutting, Inc.**, in Building 3, is a finishing company that services regional printers, primarily, and companies/individuals that would need similar services. Jack Poirier and team process sheet stock from 5.5" x 8.5" to 25" x 35" on their many sheet fed cylinder and platen presses. Services include die cutting, foil stamping, embossing and debossing, perforating, numbering, scoring, folding, gluing and letterpress printing. Some of their converted products become report covers, pocket folders, tax forms, door/mirror hangers, DVD/CD wallets, box wraps, document wallets, coupon sheets, dental x-ray holders, holiday cards, wedding invitations and gift card holders. They offer holographic security and scratch off foils. www.facebook.com/ZenithDieCuttingInc

• **Saxonville Studios** is a group of diverse artists in Building 2 worthy of another significant article. www.SaxonvilleStudios.com

• **Past Prezence** is a retail shop as well as a member of the "Etsy" online shopping organization, producing furniture and various items made of reclaimed materials, especially "Pallet Wood" which is found right here in the Mills. "Our workshop accepts custom orders and ships products all over the world." We continually collect materials of all sorts that would normally end up in landfills and keep them handy in our workshop ready to make something unique and unusual. Contact Gina Offenstine at www.etsy.com/shop/PastPrezence ❖



Friends BOD Creates Village Improvement Committee

by Steve Weisman

Friends of Saxonville's Board of Directors created a new standing Village Improvement Committee at its January monthly meeting that will focus on issues and opportunities related to continued improvements in and around the Village's McGrath Square. Committee members include long-time Board members Susan Silva and Steve Weisman and recently elected Board Members Gina Offenstine, Herb Everett, and Kathy Gagen. Herb and Gina have businesses in the Saxonville Mill complex. Kathy has lived near the Village center for over 30 years.

The Committee is initially focusing on making an assessment of needs and opportunities and identifying specific objectives, goals, and strategies.

Steve Weisman notes that this was how the Town's Athenaeum Working Group got its start before morphing into a Town-recognized group that also includes Town officials and other interested parties. One of the recommendations of the recent Saxonville Village Plan completed for the Framingham Economic Development Investment Corporation (EDIC) is to create such a group for the Village. ❖

Recent Improvements in Saxonville Village

by Steve Weisman

In late January, the MetroWest Daily News published the following letter from the Friends of Saxonville: The Friends of Saxonville organization wants to express our thanks to the Town of Framingham and in particular to the Department of Public Works for the range of recent physical improvements that have been made in and around the Village center at McGrath Square. No one likes the inconvenience of road construction projects, but over the last year, the Town has completed a number of projects that have improved the appearance of Saxonville's historic village area, increased public safety, and moved us closer to the vision of a walkable village center that is the Friends of Saxonville's goal.

Completed projects have included new road alignments, plantings, and signals at Concord and School Streets; recent roadwork, new sidewalks (including one along the Sudbury River), and light standards at Water and Central Streets; the completion of the entrance to the Cochituate Rail Trail with a kiosk at Concord Street; and, most recently, upgrades to fencing and guard rails at the restored Old Danforth Street Bridge. Next to be completed will be the Central Street Bridge project.

Then we look forward to working with the DPW to finalize the design of additional improvements recommended for McGrath Square by the recent Saxonville Village Study commissioned by EDIC.

All these projects, coupled with the pending Athenaeum Community Building restoration, increase our quality of life and make Saxonville and Framingham a better place to live, work and play.

In response, FOS has received the following communications from Town officials:

- From Town Manager Robert Halpin: "We will be doing an update for the Board of Selectmen on the Saxonville Village Plan soon and will be back to you on the date."
- From Erika Jerram, Deputy Director of Planning: "Please let people know that they can use the Villages@framinghamma.gov email to comment on the process or what they'd like to see. The emails come to me and to Art Robert, Planning Director, and we try to respond promptly if people have questions."
- From Peter Sellers, DPW Executive Director: "Lots more work to come!" ❖

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Align Credit Union

969 Concord Street, (978) 275-2761
www.aligncu.com
fyurewicz@aligncu.com

Best Cuts for Men and Women

1508 Concord St., (508) 877-6148

Charlene Frary, Realtor®, Realty Executives Boston West

10 Central Street, Natick
(508) 330-3252, charlenefrary.com

Cosmo Land, Inc.

303 Worcester Road, (508) 620-2299
cosmolandinc@yahoo.com

Damianos Photography & Publishing

59 Fountain Street, (508) 872-4880
DamianosPhotography.com

Edwards Church, United Church of Christ, 39 Edwards Street

(508) 877-2050, edwardschurch.org

Eugene McCarthy & Sons Funeral Home

11 Lincoln Street, (508) 875-4747
mccarthyfh.com

Ever DesignWorks

Saxonville Mills, Bldg 5C
everdesignworks.com

Framed in Time

2 Central Street, (508) 788-8004
framedintime.com

Gene's Trucking

Gene and Betty Matterazzo
5 Costa Circle, (508) 877-2384

Law Offices of Charles F. Rousseau

899 Edgell Road, (508) 877-2966

Liberty's Famous Pizza

1 Nicholas Road, #61, (508) 877-4400
LibertyFamousPizza.com

Lisa Thompson Graphic Design

59 Fountain Street, (508) 930-8444
LisaThompsonGraphicDesign.com

Mediterranean Turkish Food

1609 Concord St., (508) 202-4688
mediterraneanturkishfood.com

Michael P. Cannon & Associates

60 State Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 264-0064
www.mpcandassociates.com

MTechnology, Inc.

2 Central Street, (508) 788-6260
fairfax@mtechnology.com

MutualOne Bank

160 Cochituate Road, (508) 820-4000
www.MutualOne.com

Robinsons Hardware & Rental

1 Nicholas Road, (508) 877-1888
jeff@robinsons1874.com

Roger B. Sturgis & Associates, Inc.

1455 Concord Street, Bldg. 7
(508) 877-6779, RBSturgis.com

S&L Sales – Promotional Products

Steven Lutch, 12 Femia Road
(508) 598-5799, stevespromos.com

St. George Church

Father Rowan
74 School Street, (508) 877-5130
www.churchofstgeorge.org
stgeorges1@verizon.net

Saxon Laundry Mat

64 Water Street, (508) 257-1051
saxonvillelaundrymat@gmail.com

Saxonville Realty Trust

2 Central Street, (508) 877-8001

Saxonville Studios

1602-B Concord St., (508) 877-8001
saxonvillestudios.com

Saxony Barber Shop

3 Central Street, (508) 877-6220

SensationWear

Gina Offenstine
2 Watson Place, Building 5C
(508) 405-1450
www.sensationwear.com
gina@sensationwear.com

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wayne02781@aol.com

Trivia Question

By Susan Silva

Do you remember where the H.H. Richardson designed railroad station was located in Saxonville? ❖





FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

P.O. Box 3236
Framingham, MA 01705-3236

Visit us on the web!
www.Saxonville.org

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CURRENT OCCUPANT OR

Water Chestnuts clogging the Sudbury River just west of the Saxonville Dam in Summer 2015 – Time to act! Join us for a neighborhood meeting on April 9. See page 3 for information. © Ron Chick.

FOS newsletter design: LisaThompsonGraphicDesign.com
FOS webmaster: Cathy Lantigua, webmaster@saxonville.org

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 \$ _____
- Anthenauem 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: _____