



Friends of Saxonville



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

Winter 2007

Tower Gallery proposes project

The Tower Gallery at Framed In Time (FIT), located in 2 Central Street in the Saxonville Mill, recently held a show featuring the work of Framingham High School students of Rebecca Cauchon's Advanced Photography class. (see page 6 for a sample of student work).

Olga Shmuylovich, Curator of the Tower Gallery at FIT, is developing a project entitled "**New Old Saxonville Mill**" with the aim of fostering a sense of both history and the present community through a greater awareness of the visual culture in which we all participate.

The project proposal will facilitate the development of observation through visual and spoken art, by exploring the Saxonville Mill as a unique resource. Professional and amateur artists and craftspeople will create a variety of projects that reflect the diversity of effects that the Mill has had on its neighbors. Students will often be paired with established community artists.

Shmuylovich envisions the project to be an ongoing work; a string of events resulting in an impressive collection of artistic comment on what occupants and observers of the Mill experience in this 19th century edifice.



The Tower Gallery's next show, ART OF OUR CHILDREN, runs from February 26 through March 31st. The Gallery is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30am to 5pm, Thursday 9:30am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm.

For more information about the Tower Gallery at Framed in Time, or the New Old Saxonville Mill project, contact Curator Olga Shmuylovich at 508-405-1792.

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Fire at the Old Barney Place

Submitted by Cynthia Buscone

From the Framingham Gazette, July 23, 1873

A large barn owned by Mr. M. H. Simpson, was destroyed by fire, with its entire contents about two o'clock Sunday morning. Two valuable cows and two pigs perished in the flames. The barn contained considerable hay together with many farming tools. The fire department was promptly on hand, and did good service in preventing the spread of the flames.

Had it not been for the copious rain we have had, the conflagration might have been more serious, as the wind carried the sparks and burning shingles upon the roofs of the buildings in the vicinity, and had they been as dry as during the last week, the danger would have been great. The origin of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to be the work of an incendiary. The loss is about one thousand dollars. No insurance.

The barn was part of what was formerly known as the "Old Barney Place." Here for many years Mr. Barney carried on the wheelwright business, in a small shop near the house. After the death of Mr. Barney, the estate was purchased by Mr. Simpson. The house and shop were removed and made into tenements and the land laid out and beautified with lanes and rustic work. The pond and grove connected have been laid out in beautiful ... bridges ... paths, lake and cascade, made altogether forming a beautiful park and place of resort where the tired and weary may go and enjoy nature and get refreshed.

Framingham Gazette, July 23, 1873

Editor's Note: "The Barney" was located in the vicinity of the Pinefield Shopping Center.



Simpson's Park, Saxonville, Mass.

Update: The Athenaeum

In the book *Framingham, An American Town*, author and former Town Historian Stephen W. Herring tells us The Athenaeum, "a new 'town hall' was built...in 1847. Intended to serve the village as a school and meeting hall, it soon become known as the Saxonville Athenaeum. The 1846-1847 Town report includes and expense...for a total of \$3557.58. Nathan Stone prepared the plans for this Greek Revival edifice and...was paid for them five dollars. In his 1847 Framingham history William Barry wrote of this building... 'A spacious hall has recently been erected in this village, at the charge of the town, where literary and scientific lectures are well attended'".

One of the Friends of Saxonville's major initiatives is to return The Athenaeum to community use. Within the past two years, significant progress has been made "behind the scenes." Fortunately, the Town has received several grants that have helped us move forward.

Last summer, the first of three grants from the Community Development Block Grant program was used to construct a new handicap-accessible entrance. This included new historically correct doors with an automatic opener. The other two CDBG grants will enable us to construct handicap-accessible bathrooms this coming summer.

In addition, the Town recently received a grant from the Massachusetts Historic Commission for historic preservation of the Athenaeum. Using this grant plus some of the money from the CDBG grant for the bathroom, the Town recently hired Bargmann, Hendrie + Archetype, Inc. to create a historic preservation plan as well as detailed plans for the bathroom(s) and exterior renovation. This plan will be complete by mid May. The Town expects to use the remaining money in the block grants, the Mass Historic funding plus contributions from Friends of Saxonville to construct the bathrooms and renovate the exterior – all of which must be complete by the end of August.

Moving beyond this stage, the professional preservation plan will allow Friends of Saxonville to raise additional funds and better plan for the renovation and occupancy of this historic treasure.



On February 12th, John Harvard's Brew House and the Framingham Cochituate Rail Trail Committee hosted a reception to celebrate the success of last fall's "Rail Trail Ale" fundraiser.

John Harvard's Brew House in Framingham has been an ongoing supporter of the Cochituate Rail Trail. Initially they sponsored the printing and distribution of the project's brochures. In the fall of 2006, the managers and brew master came up with a creative way to continue their support.

John Harvard's created "Rail Trail Ale" to raise awareness of the Cochituate Rail Trail. This special brew was offered to the public for several months at the end of 2006 with a portion of profits from every pint, pitcher, and growler sold to be donated to the rail trail project.

This was the first time John Harvard's created a beer to promote a community project and Rail Trail Ale proved to be very popular. The public truly enjoyed the beverage and the opportunity to contribute to the rail trail. The Framingham Cochituate Rail Trail Committee has been very appreciative of the support John Harvard's has provided.

A check for \$2416 was presented at the reception – Thank you John Harvard's Brew House!



On a warm evening in January jazz players and fans alike arrived at the Amazing Things Arts Center in Saxonville to delight in the creative energy of Tim Ray, piano David Clark, bass and Bob Savine, drums... A quartet of talented high school jazz musicians opened the evening. On a cold evening in February three hundred and twenty eight members and friends of Amazing Things Arts Center gathered to hear the warm and melodic voice of Richie Havens. This concert was off site because the current location will not hold such a large audience. Throughout January the walls of Amazing Things were alive with the color and creativity of a quilt exhibition curated by Nancy Halpern. These are but a few of the many performances, jams, plays, exhibitions and family programs that keep the volunteers at Amazing Things hopping.

Director, Michael Moran and the Board of Directors raised funds from foundations, a successful auction and individuals to purchase a new Ticketing system which will make it easier for ticket buyers, staff and volunteers to keep track of the performances. It will also enable the center to target market activities to appropriate audiences.

Amazing Things is off to a good start at its current location but it continues to look for a larger venue. They have submitted a proposal to the Town of Framingham to occupy a town owned fire station on Hollis St. in downtown Framingham. With this site we would play an important role in the downtown renaissance and the larger venue would increase the number and quality of performing groups interested in playing in Framingham.

They invite all Friends of Saxonville to participate in the activities of The Center. Our mission is to build community through the arts. They invite any and all to join their great team of volunteers.

Carol Getchell Nature Trail

Submitted by Scott Stirling

The leafy south entrance to the Carol Getchell Nature Trail welcomes you to walk down along the slow Sudbury River. And it helped me decide to buy a townhouse in Saxonville. My realtor asked me if I'd be interested in seeing a townhouse with a nature trail and river across the road. Of course, I said, game but skeptical. We were well into the process of marketing and selling my house in northwest Framingham and she was helping me find a scaled down place for myself. She knew the town like the back of her hand. She knew I liked the outdoors, wildlife and birds and was keeping an eye out for a location with access to those things. I fully expected to move a couple towns west or north. I had no idea that a wide, partially board-walked nature trail ran a mile's length of slow, wide river in a quiet corner just across town.

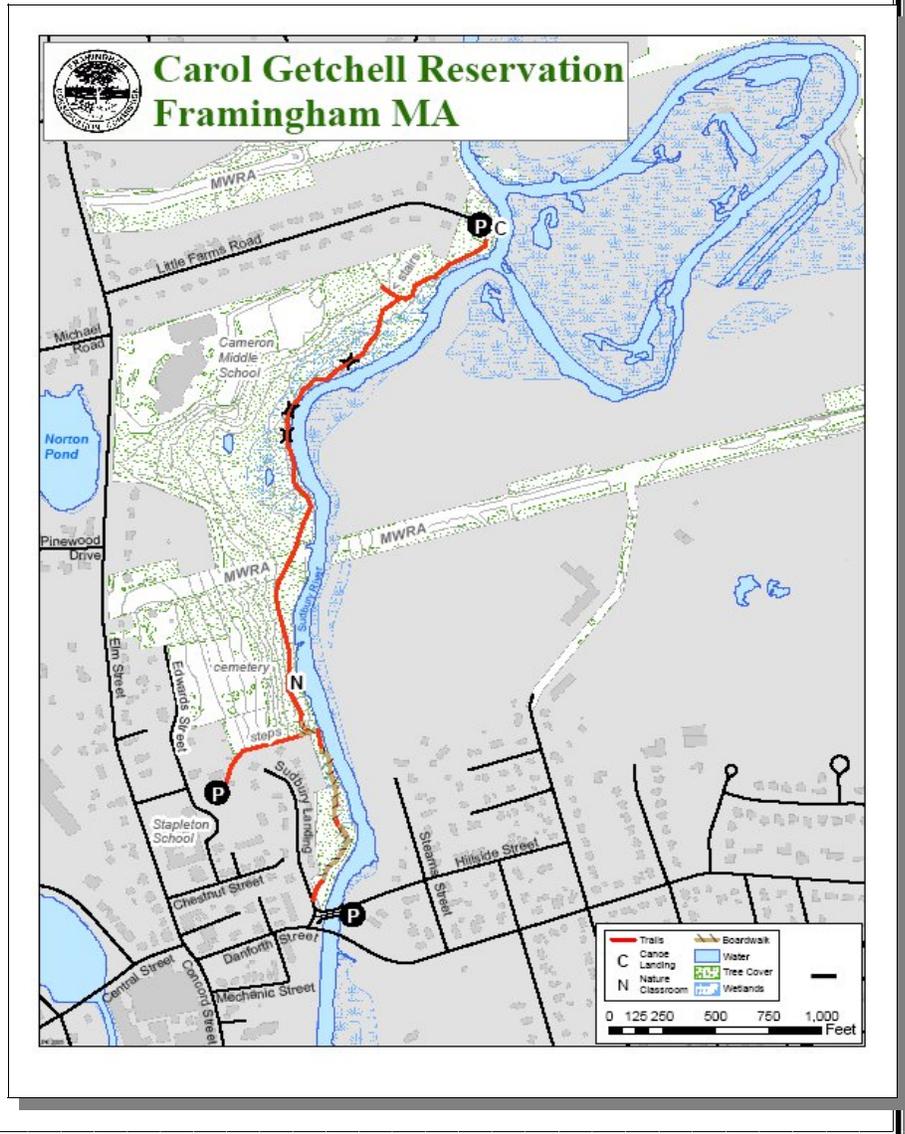
Now the south end of the trail is across the road from my front door, marked with a green wooden sign in the grass by Sudbury Landing. On summer nights you can hear a screech owl in the trees by the river. I've seen deer standing in the river and looking back at me on a fall morning. I looked down from the Old Danforth St Bridge one evening and a Great Blue Heron was standing in the river directly below looking up at me. Right there at the edge of the underbrush where the boardwalk is interrupted for a few paces near the south end I had my first encounter with small, tattered pink flowers aptly named Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*).

The Carol Getchell Nature Trail needs volunteers to take care of it; clearing overgrown brush and trees downed by beavers, staining and repairing the boardwalk, picking up litter. The Friends of Saxonville has an Adopt-A-Trail program open to any person or group willing to adopt maintenance of the trail for 2-4 weeks at a time. Volunteers help by picking up trash, keeping the trail path clear and reporting vandalism, graffiti, flooding or other issues to the Adopt-A-Trail Manager.

My name is Scott Stirling and I am the Adopt-A-Trail Manager. Contact me if you have questions or suggestions about the trail, want to report a problem related to the trail or its features, or want to help maintain it. We are very glad to hear from you. I look forward to seeing you out there.

Scott Stirling
scottstirling@gmail.com 508-333-7476

Map courtesy of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Framingham



FEATURING A SPECIAL
"Street Smarts" Program!!



Annual Meeting

Friends of Saxonville

- Refreshments served
- Report on progress of Friends of Saxonville's five initiatives
- Volunteer Appreciation Awards
- Treasurer's Report
- Purchase Saxonville-related items
- Elect Members to Board of Directors - nominations open to all!
- Bring us a copy of your Saxonville-memory recipe for inclusion in our upcoming cookbook!
- Visit us online at www.saxonville.org

Tuesday May 1st

**6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting/Program
FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**Stapleton Elementary School
Elm Street, Saxonville**

**Feature Program:
Street Smarts - What's in a Name?**

Cynthia Buscone and Roni Cronin bring you this fascinating talk and powerpoint presentation as they look at the history of Saxonville village through its street names. When did Stone's End become known as Saxonville? What are the three oldest roads in Saxonville? Which streets honor the important residents of Saxonville's yesterday?

Calling All Cooks!

Please forward your taste treat recipe – sweets, meats, meals, drinks or appetizers for our cook book in progress. Here’s a very basic sample of one for an easy summer supper, c.1950.

Corn on the Cob: At 4:30 put a big pot of water on to boil. Add a spoon of sugar! Walk along School Street to Costa’s Farm Stand across from St. George’s Rectory. Get a dozen ears of corn – Mr. Costa will always give you a baker’s dozen! Walk back home; sit on the back steps and husk the corn. Drop the ears into boiling pot. Cook for 5 – 6 minutes. Remove with the baby bottle tongs. Serve immediately with lots of butter and salt and pepper.

For a complete meal, add homemade potato salad and some of Mr. Costa’s cukes and tomatoes. Sprinkle a little sugar on the tomatoes and put the cuke slices into some water laced with cider vinegar. Mr. Costa would probably be horrified!! He’d use olive oil and wine vinegar!

Naturally, we want REAL recipes, too!
Would love to hear from you!

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781.269.5525



Student Photography

Framingham High School
Advanced Photography Class
Teacher: Rebecca Cauchon



By Becca Binder



By Matt Noe



By Mike Rafferty

Recap – Saxonville Summit 2007

Approximately 40 people attended Friends of Saxonville's 2007 Summit on February 5th. The event was promoted via Framingham.com, door to door postcard to 3 neighborhoods, MetroWest Daily News, The Tab, Boston Globe, local cable, Stapleton childrens' backpacks, Friends of Saxonville newsletter, and poster/handouts at Saxonville library, Hometown Hotdogs, Amazing Things Arts Center.

Presentation updates on all Friends of Saxonville initiatives were given by Board members.

Ideas, suggestions and offerings from attendees included:

1) a town-wide or regional "clearinghouse" or central organizer for maintaining trails ie. The CRT, Carol Getchell Nature Trail and others

2) Carla Fink of START introduces Olga Shmuylovich, manager of the Tower Gallery at Framed in Time, 2 Central Street. Olga plans a long-term project based on a current exhibit thru 2/17, which now features student work from HS Advanced Photo class. Project entitled "New Old Saxonville Mill" - would use the Mill as subject for many art forms. Needs permanent exhibit space – perhaps the Athenaeum?

3) Andrea Carr Evans of the Framingham Planning Board notes that the PUD and Walgreens Plaza both come before Planning Board this Thursday evening. These are just two 'development' type issues that residents may wish to be aware of. Could saxonville.org post objective info and meeting dates as a resource for residents?

4) Further, Tom Branham suggests that beyond FOS' 5 initiatives, there should be a broader "community vision" for the village, so that when development/redevelopment/ issues arise, the neighborhood would be prepared to argue that it fits or doesn't fit a vision that has been adopted by the community

5) The village proper should be better identified/marked and offer better public parking. Marge Sheetz, who could not be present, called to suggest flags on the flagpoles. Others suggested signage.

6) Summits or community meetings should be held frequently – on a quarterly basis. Should this be something that Town Meeting Members orchestrate and FOS could be one component?

7) Russ Doucette asks where the local businesses are and suggests a Business Groups Board for FOS. Perhaps a lunchtime or 6-7:30 networking?

8) Russ Doucette sees the Amazing Things Arts Center as critical to Saxonville's health and believes that FOS should be doing everything within its power to keep ATAC in Saxonville.

9) Deb Cleveland suggests that this year's Discover Saxonville be held at the high school now that it's completely finished.

All guests were asked to complete an event registration and indicate which Friends of Saxonville initiatives held their interest; Board members will be following up with those who offered assistance.

Board of Directors Friends of Saxonville

Jim Barry, President
Brett Peruzzi, Vice President & Webmaster
George Dixon, Treasurer
Susan Silva, Secretary
Charlene Frary, Newsletter Editor
Jan Harrington
David Longden
John Stasik
Scott Stirling

Meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please contact Charlene Frary at 508-371-4361

www.saxonville.org

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SAXONVILLE.ORG

Friends of Saxonville
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Friends of Saxonville Membership Form

(detach and return to Friends of Saxonville, PO BOX 3236, Framingham, MA 01705)

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, environmental and historical qualities.



Name: _____

Day Phone: _____

Street: _____

Email: _____

Town: _____

Evening Phone: _____

CONTRIBUTION \$ _____ (Minimum annual dues are \$15) I am interested in:
___ATHENAEUM ___NATURE TRAIL ___FUNDRAISING ___RAIL TRAIL ___DANFORTH BRIDGE