

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Franklin named #10 out of the top 100 places to live and launch a business

The Town of Franklin is happy to announce it has been named number ten out of the top one hundred places to live and launch a business by Fortune Small Business Magazine.

Fortune Small Business Magazine "canvassed the country to find towns with the best mix of business advantages and lifestyle appeal". Framingham has a lot to offer. The Town of Franklin is a growth community with a pro-business environment, a low stable single tax rate, ample industrial land, and a modernized infrastructure.

Manufacturing and Retail Trade are the leading industries in Franklin. Predominately a manufacturing town, Franklin is host to such nationally and regionally known firms as EMC, Putnam Investments, Garelick Farms and Draka USA. Business is continually growing in Franklin. The town's two industrial parks house a substantial number and variety of businesses, including research and development and manufacturing companies. Even though there are many companies within and adjacent to the industrial parks adjacent to I-495 and along a couple of the Town's primary roadways, Franklin is still able to maintain the quintessential New England small-town feel with its old fashioned downtown of locally owned small businesses.

As Director of Planning and Community Development one of my more important responsibilities is to focus on economic development in general, but specifically to attract the right mix of companies to Franklin. Currently we are very interested in attracting new technology companies, including renewable energy firms, to our industrial areas, as well as a variety of small businesses to our historic Downtown.

The Town of Franklin is a member of the I-495/95 South Regional Economic Target Area and as such can offer businesses wishing to locate or expand in Franklin a local tax incentive through tax increment financing.

The Town of Franklin is ideally located at the center of the Tri-Center Cohesive Commercial Statistical Area (CCSA), which includes nine communities within commuting distance of Boston, Worcester, and Providence Rhode Island. Franklin enjoys good transportation networks with Route 140, two exits to Interstate 495, and easy access to major routes such as the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), Route 1 and Interstate 95. In addition to this well integrated roadway system, Franklin is host to two MBTA commuter rail stations, and recently began fixed bus route service through the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA).

The Town's residents have a great quality of life. Franklin is a large family-oriented community with programs and activities for all ages. New and newly renovated schools offer an abundance of extracurricular activities, a new Senior Center provides meals and transportation for the

elderly, and Franklin Public Library offers numerous programs for children and adults and actively supports the school curriculum.

Franklin is host to many annual cultural events such as the 4th of July Celebration on the historic Common, the Harvest Festival, Strawberry Festival, and the Feast of St. Rocco. Franklin prides itself on the wide spectrum of architectural styles preserved in the community, including handsome Greek revival and Italianate buildings, as well as High Victorian Gothic, Second Empire and Queen Ann, among others. Many of these historic structures are home to the offices and dormitories of Dean College. Dean College's School of Professional and Continuing Studies offers a variety of course formats, including traditional classroom, Accelerated 2, 4 and 7-week courses, hybrid online courses, and weekend college courses.

This isn't the first time Franklin received national recognition. Just last year Family Circle named Franklin as one of their "Ten Best Towns for Families" in the United States. This honor was bestowed on Franklin and nine other towns and small cities "that offer what parents and children want most - affordable homes, good jobs, top-rated schools, open spaces and a lot less stress".

Please contact me at 508-520-4907 or btaberner@franklin.ma.us or Town Administrator, Jeff Nutting, at 508-520-4949 if you have questions or require additional information.