



# CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

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## **City of Framingham Breaks Ground On New 6-Court Tennis Facility For Framingham Flyers & The Community**

**FRAMINGHAM** – When Charlie Sisitsky went to the Winch tennis courts to watch his granddaughter compete, he was worried and embarrassed.

“I felt terrible because the courts were in such miserable condition,” said Mayor Sisitsky Wednesday afternoon. “First of all, I was afraid people would get hurt, tripping on the cracks in the courts. Then, I was embarrassed for the City, because we had people coming from other communities to play tennis here. ... Eventually they had to close the tennis courts down, as they became unsafe.”

Wednesday, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Winch Park tennis courts, within walking distance to Framingham High School.

“We are replacing the 6 asphalt courts and associated equipment with 6 post-tension concrete courts, new tennis nets and posts, new court fencing, and new LED court lighting, said Framingham Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation James Duane.

“The tennis courts project has been a priority of the Mayor,” said Framingham Parks & Recreation Director James Snyder. “I am happy to be here today to celebrate the groundbreaking for this desperately-needed project with you and our high school tennis teams.”

Mayor Sisitsky told the large crowd assembled Wednesday, that when he campaigned for Mayor he made a commitment to replace these tennis courts, that were constructed in 1993.

“The court surface was failing, and it was unsafe,” said Snyder.

The ownership of these tennis courts is split evenly between the Framingham Public Schools and Framingham Parks & Recreation, said Snyder.

“The location of these courts is important, as they will be the only lighted tennis courts in North Framingham,” said Snyder.

Mayor Sisitsky said he was glad to see the members of the Framingham High boys and girl’s tennis teams at the groundbreaking, as they are the “most important people here.”

“We are going to have a perfect tennis court for you, and future generations,” the Mayor told the crowd.



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"The boy's tennis team is thrilled that the Parks Department, city government, and school system have come together to plan an amazing tennis facility at Framingham High School. The students deserve facilities that they can be proud of, and I know all the communities that compete at FHS will be grateful to be playing on a safe surface," said Framingham High boys tennis head coach Christopher Strader. "Being able to play at FHS and not have to travel will make our afternoons much less stressful and will allow more flexibility with scheduling. Having six courts will also allow more students to participate on match days, and I hope that having an excellent facility on site will help grow the program!"

"On behalf of the girls' tennis team, I just want to say thank you so much. We are so grateful to Mayor Sisitsky, Superintendent (Bob) Tremblay and (athletic director) Mr. (Paul) Spear," said girls tennis senior captain Talia Goldvasser. "I played on these courts for the first time 3 years ago. I know the girls are excited to have access to courts without having to travel next year."

"Three years ago, I came to these courts during quarantine to try to play tennis with my mom. As we were leaving the courts, I saw one of my classmates sitting with his dad. I went over to say hi to him and we exchanged numbers, and then we played almost every day together for the rest of the summer. We were thrilled to make the team together the following spring and now we are co-captains of the team with Jordan Cohen," said Framingham High boys tri-captain Jake Kahn. "We want to thank the administration, Dr. Tremblay and Mayor Sisitsky, who have made this tennis court reconstruction possible. I know that my teammates look forward to playing on the new courts next season."

"We have been looking for new courts for the past several years. We have played at Bowditch for the past two years but did not play on all of the high school courts the two years before we went to Bowditch because of the court conditions," said Framingham High girls tennis coach Lawrence Wilbur. "It not only will be an enormous win for the girl's tennis team to have quality courts to play on but also for all of the avid tennis players in the city of Framingham who use the courts as well. We appreciate the city, high school and parks department efforts to get us new courts."

"These are the kind of projects that make the difference in a community," said City Councilor George P. King Jr. "I hope we are able to continue to approve these quality of life projects that make a true difference to our students, our resident taxpayers and to people visiting and enjoying our city. There is much to be done, but this is a great milestone!"

"Today was a great day showing how partnerships and team get things done," said City Councilor Chair Phil Ottaviani. "Mayor Sisitsky, School Department, Parks & Recreation, the City Council all working together for a new tennis court project that will benefit our student athletes and all the folks in our community."

"I remember playing on these courts as a kid, and they have been in rough shape for as long as I can remember. I'm thrilled to see the Mayor and his team make this a priority for the kids, and the future generations to come," said City Councilor Janet Leombruno.

City Councilor Michael Cannon and School Committee member Adam Freudberg, both who represent District 4, attended the groundbreaking.

Framingham Superintendent of Schools Bob Tremblay said he played tennis in high school and he knew the imperfections on the courts were not great for the Framingham High tennis teams.

"The ball would hit a crack and take a left when it wasn't supposed to," said Tremblay. "I'm sorry we have not been able to provide you with the type of courts you deserve in your tennis careers, but for those of you who will be here in the fall and for the generations beyond, we are doing right by our students."

Kathy Hauck, chair of the Framingham Parks & Recreation Commission said that providing this new first-class facility will not only benefit the student athletes at Framingham High but the community.

"These courts are not just for the young," she said. "This is where people of all ages can come here to play, compete and build a sense of community. These courts represent a major investment in recreation."



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There were four bidders for the project. Classic Turf at \$1.375 million was the low bidder. The Framingham City Council approved funding for the project, including some additional money for contingency.

“This project symbolizes the change in attitude and the change in culture that we as city officials and city employees feel about our assets,” said Mayor Sisitsky, who said his administration is committed to maintaining the City’s parks and increasing recreation facilities for its residents.

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