

The Week's News!



keeps our community ticking!

January 5, 2026

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P.O. Box 540109 | Waltham, MA 02454
WalthamTimes.org | info@walthamtimes.org

A Glimpse of Waltham 100 Years Ago

June Kinoshita

December 31, 2025

As 2025 draws to a close, it's fascinating to reflect on what was going on in our city 100 years ago. The Waltham Museum — a rich trove of artifacts and information about city history — shared some fun facts of those bygone times.

In 1925, Waltham's population was 34,926 — just over half its population today — and was a hub for the watch and clock industry centered on the Waltham Watch Company. The company produced many products ranging from high-quality pocket watches to decorative banjo clocks. That year also saw the beginnings of the high-tech industry as Raytheon established a plant here in the late 1920s, working initially with household battery technologies. The company would later play a significant role in other technological advancements such as radar systems.



Groundbreaking for the Waltham City Hall in 1925.

Courtesy of The Waltham Museum.

City Hall groundbreaking

Waltham's current City Hall building broke ground in 1925. Dedicated in 1927, Waltham City Hall was designed by Kilham, Hopkins and Greeing in the colonial revival style and features a limestone façade.

The building stands on the former site of Rumford Hall, constructed in 1827 to house the Rumford Institute, which offered arts and science classes for the city's female mill workers and established Waltham's first circulating library.

The Town of Waltham purchased the building in 1854 for use as its town hall before replacing it with the current structure.

Major companies

The Waltham Watch Company was Waltham's most famous company. It was a world leader in timepiece manufacturing, pioneering the use of mass production and interchangeable parts. During the 1920s, the company began to experience financial troubles that would eventually lead to its closure in 1957.

The Boston Manufacturing Company was a key driver of the industrial revolution in the United States, operating the first factory to perform all steps of cotton textile production under one roof. While still active in 1925, the company was struggling financially and would go out of business just five years later.

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Metz Company was an automobile manufacturing company founded by Charles Metz. The company produced bicycles, motorcycles and automobiles, but ceased production by the mid-1920s.

Grover Cronin, Inc., initially a truck-front tea shop founded in 1885, expanded into a full department store by the early 1930s and served as a prominent local retailer until it closed in 1989.

Other businesses in 1925

The Waltham Museum shared the following list of other local companies. If you have stories or memorabilia about these and other early Waltham businesses, please share in the Comments section.

- Ames Precision Machine Works, a tool and machinery company.
- American Knitting Company, a textile company.
- O'Hara Waltham Dial Company, a satellite company supporting the watch industry.
- W.H. Nichols and Sons, a manufacturing company that built a reputation for precision manufacturing. Their work was vital to the Allied war effort in both world wars.
- Finkenbeiner Glass Shop, a local glass manufacturer.
- G. F. Frost Coal Company, a local supplier of coal.
- Waltham Coal Company, a local supplier of coal.
- Wm. H. Johnson, an insurance provider.
- W.D. McWain, a local grocer.
- Waltham Emery Wheel Company, a manufacturer of emery wheels and emery cloth. It was started by Henry Richardson.
- Several grocery chains with multiple locations in the city, including Economy Grocery Stores, A&P, Co-operative Grocery Stores and Ginter.

New scholarship keeps promising intern at the Charles River Museum

June Kinoshita

December 31, 2025



Gabriel Hurdle standing with Waltham Engine No. 1 1871 Amoskeag Steam Pumper.

Courtesy of Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation.

When 22-year-old Gabriel Hurdle first walked into the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation last year, he was simply looking for experience. A second-year student at Quinsigamond Community College majoring in history, Hurdle knew he needed work experience to pursue a career in the field. He found much more than that — a passion.

“I was astounded by how much stuff there is in the museum,” Hurdle said. “Every time I came in, there was something new to discover. I fell in love with the place.”

Over the past year, Hurdle has volunteered in the museum’s archives, cataloging hundreds of industrial artifacts and historic papers, including World War I and II-era defense contracts from the Waltham Watch Company.

His diligence and curiosity quickly made an impression. “He’s super smart, motivated and has a great eye,” said Steve Guerriero, who

leads the museum’s educational programs. “He has even started training other interns and onboarding them — a real force multiplier for us.”

But when Hurdle began looking for paid internships elsewhere, Guerriero worried the museum might lose him. “Our vision always outpaces our resources,” Guerriero said. The museum relies on volunteers and interns, and Hurdle had become essential.

Then a spark of community generosity changed everything. During a recent [museum lecture and exhibit on the Great Boston Fire](#), Waltham native Tisha Shaughnessy Sullivan took interest in 19th-century firefighting equipment displayed in the program. Her father and uncles had all served in the Waltham Fire Department. Impressed by what she saw, Shaughnessy asked the museum what it needed most. The answer came immediately: support for Hurdle.

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Gabriel Hurdle holds an archival photo of the Great Boston Fire. Behind him are firefighting tools and Waltham Fire Engine 1 which helped fight the fire.

Courtesy of Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation.

“Within weeks, she came back with a check,” Guerriero said. An uncle donated additional funds. Their gift — nearly \$4,000 — ensures that Hurdle can continue his work for at least another year. The internship will be known as the Shaughnessy Family Internship, honoring the three Shaughnessy brothers: Tisha’s father Richard, who died in 2023, and her uncles John and Thomas, both still living. “There are no strings,” said Shaughnessy. “It’s so the museum can continue to do its wonderful work.”

Bringing history to life

For Hurdle, the scholarship makes an enormous difference. “It’s a journey to get from Worcester to Waltham,” he said. “When I heard she was going to fund the scholarship I was over the moon.”

Hurdle’s discoveries advance the museum’s mission to connect contemporary audiences with the region’s industrial legacy. He got emotional speaking about blueprints he has found. “On the back, you can see fingerprints left by the workers,” he said. “It’s like getting a peek behind the curtain of history.”

Among Hurdle’s favorite finds is a 1922 airfoil drawing created by Boeing’s first female engineer. When he shared this news with the Seattle-based aerospace behemoth, “they said they didn’t have much material about her and asked the museum to keep it safe” for posterity.

There are undoubtedly other treasures buried in the museum’s archives waiting for their stories about world-changing innovations to come to light. “From its founding, the museum’s vision has been regional and national in scope,” Guerriero said. Gifts like the Shaughnessy Family Internship help make that vision possible — one inspired student at a time.

St. Mary Parish focuses on the formation of children

Kay Matipa

December 22, 2025



Since its first recorded Mass held in a shed on July 4, 1830, Waltham's St. Mary Parish has grown to be the sixth largest parish in the Boston Archdiocese. Located on School Street, St. Mary's was Waltham's first Catholic church.

With a simple red-brick exterior, St. Mary's was meant to appear nonthreatening, as parishioners in earlier years faced anti-Catholic sentiment, said its current pastor, the Rev. Michael Nolan. Built in the mid-19th century with a design mimicking Boston's Old South Meeting House, the church is plain and unassuming on the outside. Inside, St. Mary's is vibrant with stained glass murals, detailed mosaics, arched ceilings and glowing colors of blue, red, white, bronze and gold.



What began as a gathering of Irish mill workers has become a spiritual home for more than 1,000 area residents, with services in English, Spanish and Luganda (one of the major languages spoken in Uganda).

"I believe St. Mary's is one of the most important institutions in Waltham," said Nolan, "because we're the most united and diverse at the same time."

Outside of services and church celebrations, parish ministries specifically focus on the formation of children.

This was historically done through a high school and grammar school established by the church in the late 1800s before closing in 1973. Today the church's investment in the community's children happens primarily through its after-school program.

The program sprouted from tragedy. Franco Garcia was baptized at St. Mary's and grew up in the parish. In 2012, while a student at Boston College, Garcia went missing. His body was found 50 days later in the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. Nolan, who became very close to Garcia's family in the weeks that followed, found himself hoping the young man remembered God during his final moments.

"And it made me think: I can't keep just hoping that kids remember the Lord and know him," he said. "So I said, we're just going to start. So we started this program."

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Nurturing the whole child

The St. Mary's after-school program focuses on the holistic formation of children five days a week, from 3 to 6 p.m. Participants are not required to pay a fee and are not required to be Catholic. One hour is spent in play, one hour is set aside for reading or homework, and the third hour is used for spiritual formation: praying the rosary, singing, catechesis and Holy Mass.

Up to 70 of the 120 children registered in the program participate on any given day. Thursdays connect students preparing for their first Holy Communion and those in confirmation classes with the program, bumping attendance to 150. "The point is, by the end of the day, no matter how they came to us, they go home different, because their physical needs have been met, cared for, tended to," Nolan said. "Their intellectual needs have been broadened and expanded, and their souls have been also at work."

The program's library is named for Garcia, whose parents are part of the program's volunteer team. Other volunteers include local university students, parishioners, retirees and on occasion Eagle Scouts.

Children are also encouraged to participate in clubs tied to the program, where they sing in the children's choir or learn skills such as knitting, gardening and establishing bug hotels (a more recent development).

Connecting through music

When Maria Schellinger became director of the after-school program five years ago, there was no children's choir. So, having cantored for St. Mary's since the sixth grade and having pursued a degree in music education, she chose to begin one.

"It's something wonderful to be a part of," said Schellinger. "We just got together, sang some hymns." The choir has since outgrown hymn-sings and taken on more challenging pieces. Schellinger said they joined a festival for the first time last year, rehearsing every day for five weeks to prepare. They plan to enter again this year.

Both choir participation and program participation, she said, have been driven by the kids themselves. "They just want to stay connected in some way. We get kids that are in college now that will come to visit when they come home for Christmas break," said Schellinger. "So, definitely, [the program's] been a really important piece of their lives."

For Schellinger, St. Mary Parish has played an equally important role. "Coming here to pray, to sing, to teach the kids, to direct them and guide them in their faith, it's been more than I could have asked for when I was pursuing music education," she said.

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A good neighbor

Outside of the after-school program, St. Mary's has an active presence in the community.

Nolan gathers young adults in the area for trips to Israel, Italy and Jordan; an upcoming trip in January will include more than 65 participants. The parish's Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers rental housing and furniture assistance as well as access to basic necessities such as heat and food. The society also partners with Waltham High School to distribute Christmas gifts. An annual [nativity contest](#) encourages community members to make a nativity scene out of whatever they can find. After the community chooses a favorite, St. Mary's delivers the scenes to storefronts around the city.



The Rev. Michael Nolan admires one of the nativity scenes submitted for the annual contest.

Photo by Kay Matipa.

Daughter parishes St. Jude and Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted originated with St. Mary's, as did an apartment building for low-income senior citizens located next to the church. When St. Mary's former schools closed, the parish converted the high school building into 70 one-bedroom apartments.

"It's more than just coming to work," said Schellinger about St. Mary's community. "It's part of my foundation, who I am, my faith."

Recognitions of service presented to School Committee members and Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services

Isabella Lapriore

December 19, 2025



Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy presented recognition of service awards to Waltham school committee members Liz AlJammal and John Frassica and district Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, Nadine Stein, at the committee's Dec. 17 meeting.

Frassica and Stein have retired from their positions, while AlJammal did not win her bid for reelection in November.

At the meeting, the last for both AlJammal and Frassica, members of the committee, district and greater Waltham community shared memories and gave thanks to both members for their work on the committee.

Additionally, Stein was thanked and recognized for her dedication to Waltham students and work alongside the committee during her time in the district.

The committee also unanimously approved the six-month appointment of interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, Lisa Kingsley, whose contract is set to begin on Jan. 1, to supplement Stein's retirement.

Incoming members Tammy Wong-Bigelow and Sabrina DeJoannis are set to be inaugurated into the committee's two open seats on Jan. 4

As customary in the committee, according to McCarthy, Frassica held the position of school committee chairperson for the meeting's duration, taking the spot of the mayor.

The committee will hold its first meeting with Wong-Bigelow and DeJoannis on Jan. 7.

School Committee tables contested policy on emotional support dogs

Isabella Lapriore

December 19, 2025



School Committee members tabled a proposed districtwide policy on emotional support dogs at its Wednesday meeting.

Julia Norman, a digital learning teacher at MacArthur Elementary School, addressed the committee, asking members to pause the policy’s approval process, speak with Toni Mecionates, teacher and handler of the school’s former emotional support dog, and update the policy’s language.

Norman requested the committee remove language in the policy that prohibits teachers from serving as handlers. She had expressed concern about that language in a statement she shared on behalf of the school’s staff at a Dec. 3 School Committee meeting.

She reiterated her concerns this week as she asked committee members to reconsider the prohibition. “Working hard means more than drafting language; it means listening, observing, collaborating and adapting policy to real students in real schools,” Norman told them. “That is the work our educators do every day, and we are asking for the same level of care in the policy.”

Committee member Edmund Tarallo expressed his approval of the existing policy, citing the role of a teacher as a dog’s handler could potentially distract students. “I think the idea of an emotional support animal is phenomenal. I want to see them as many places as we can in our district. However, I don’t think that in the classroom is where they are going to be most effective for our teacher if they have to handle that animal at all times,” Tarallo said. The policy, according to Tarallo, was designed to ensure equity and protect students and staff in the future.

Committee member James Zanghi said he wants the committee to rework the policy’s language in the new year and align it to National Institutes of Health research regarding the mental health benefits of emotional support animals.

After a recommendation from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy to allow input from educators, committee member Liz AlJammal withdrew an initial motion that had been seconded by Tarallo to approve the policy.

New England Patriots honor Waltham volunteer for mobilizing community support for homeless adults

Andrew Law

December 31, 2025



Pat Murphy is a volunteer and board member at the Community Day Center of Waltham.

Courtesy of Pat Murphy.

On a cold, blustery day last week, Pat Murphy moved easily among dozens of visitors seeking warmth and a meal at the [Community Day Center of Waltham](#), a nonprofit that provides day shelter and support services to adults who experience homelessness.

She hugged guests, offered words of encouragement and asked questions: “Do you need anything?” and “Are you warm enough?”

“I hug them, fist bump, shake hands,” said Murphy, a volunteer and board member at the organization.

“I acknowledge each of them as a person.”

The center sees hundreds of guests annually, distributing more than 120 hygiene items daily and offering free clothing through seasonal events and a year-round store. Murphy has played a vital role in building systems that connect community donations with the needs of homeless adults.

As a result of her community impact, the New England Patriots have recognized Murphy as a [Difference Maker of the Week](#). Part of the team’s Celebrate Volunteerism initiative, she is one of 16 honorees across New England. The Patriots will award Murphy with the honor during the team’s home game this Sunday, Jan. 4. The team will also provide a \$10,000 grant to CDCW in recognition of her work. “I’m only successful because of the community,” said Murphy. “It’s a truly kind and giving community.”

A citywide effort

To meet the ongoing needs, Murphy regularly turns to local Facebook groups such as [Waltham, MA Residents](#), [posting](#) calls for donations that mobilize neighbors across the city.

“She set up the entire supply distribution system for hygiene and clothing,” said Chloe-Rose Crouch, executive director of CDCW. “Almost more important is how we get those items. She’s built a network of people who can get them to us for free. She’s rallied the community around homelessness.” Reinforcing that “it takes a village,” Murphy described her role as being a “conduit” for people who want to help but don’t know how.

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Pat Murphy (left) and Chloe-Rose Crouch in the year-round shop at CDCW.

Photo by Andrew Law.

Her efforts helped expand the center’s impact, enabling annual seasonal clothing drives and night programs. About five years ago Murphy organized the first Winter Coat Day, collecting and preparing jackets from the community. She fondly recalled, “They all left warm on the same day.”

Building on that success, she helped establish recurring clothing drives for other seasonal essentials and created an Amazon Wish List so

donors could contribute toiletries and supplies for backpacks, an item the homeless community identified as a critical need.

Collecting and distributing donations

To make donating easier for residents who cannot reach the center during daytime hours, Murphy picks up donations throughout Waltham and accepts them at her home.

“Pat’s front steps are always full with donations for the day center,” said Crouch. “Every day or every other day, she drops off donations at the center.”

“I have the most famous front porch in Waltham,” Murphy said.

Many of those donations go to the center’s dedicated shop, which opened in June 2024 and provides clothes and hygiene products at no cost. The space is organized so guests can choose items that fit their needs and preferences.

“They typically don’t have a choice,” said Murphy. “This gives them the dignity to pick their size and style.”

Providing choice is central to the nonprofit’s approach. “They haven’t been able to shop in years or have the ability to choose what to wear,” added Crouch.

In addition to her work at the center, Murphy delivers supplies directly to individuals throughout the city, from hot coffee in the winter to water bottles in the summer.

“Pat will drive around on weekends. She knows where everyone stays and puts eyes on everyone,” said Crouch.

“They’re invisible to so many,” said Murphy. “They’re not to me.”

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Fostering relationships

Building trust with the center's guests has taken time. "At first I was hesitant and they were too," said Murphy. "As time goes by, there's more familiarity and trust." She said guests now refer to her affectionately as "Momma" or "Auntie Pat."

Developing that level of rapport is especially important for people experiencing chronic homelessness, according to Crouch. While the reasons people experience homelessness vary, such as substance use disorders and mental health conditions, most have experienced significant trauma.

"Our goal is to not retraumatize them, and this can happen if they're seen as a number. We build long-term relationships that we hope end in housing."

A couple of guests recently shared their appreciation for Murphy's support. "It's kindness you can't find anywhere," said one guest.

"If it wasn't for Pat Murphy, I wouldn't be able to warm up, eat, be fed and have hygiene," said another.

Delivering years of community impact

Murphy has volunteered with CDCW for about seven years, helping hundreds of individuals during that time.

"I've lived in Waltham for more than 40 years, and I'm more a part of this community now than I have been in the past," said Murphy. "When I lay in bed at night and think their feet are not as cold, they have a winter coat and gloves, it's priceless.

"This is the most important thing I've done in my whole life," she added.

Murphy hopes her experience encourages others to get involved in ways that fit their capacity.

"You can dip your toes in or dive face first," said Murphy. "You throw a stone and the ripples keep going."

Located at 16 Felton St., the Community Day Center of Waltham is a drop-in center providing support services for adults experiencing or at risk for homelessness. Learn more at <https://www.communitydaycenter.org/>.

Through April 15, local residents can make dinner donations for night program guests at [Sign Up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DACAE29A6FD0-59610518-2025#/) https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DACAE29A6FD0-59610518-2025#.

Linden Street Bridge now open

Cyd Abnet

December 24, 2025



View of the Linden Street railroad bridge in December 2025. Photo: Wikipedia.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation announced that the Linden Street Bridge portion of the Mass Central Rail Trail is now open.

The bridge has been closed since an access ramp leading to the bridge collapsed in 2023 and the renovation was slated to be completed by the end of this year.

The 3-mile stretch of the rail trail between Route 117 and Beaver Street in Waltham is now completely usable for those who wish to walk, run, bike and commute to work.

Waltham Council on Aging has resources available for seniors this winter

Steve Milmore

December 29, 2025



To make winter living in Waltham a bit easier on seniors (60+), the Waltham Council on Aging has several resources available to keep residents mobile and safe:

- A volunteer handyman is available free of charge to handle small home repairs such as installing safety railings to help prevent falls. For more information, call 781-314-3499.
- Free transportation to medical appointments within Waltham is available year-round Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 781-314-3499.
- For a medical ride outside of Waltham, seniors can contact Springwell, the area agency for Waltham, at 617-926-4100.

The Meals on Wheels program provides meals to Waltham’s senior citizens who are unable to prepare food for themselves or who are homebound. Volunteers deliver meals to seniors in neighborhoods across Waltham from Monday through Friday between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The packing and distribution is free; recipients pay only for the food. For more information, call 781-314-3300.

The COA has a bus that’s available on Tuesdays and Fridays to take residents to Market Basket at 110 Market Place Drive and on Fridays to Target in the Watertown Mall. For more information on this service, call 781-314-3499.

GoGo Grandparent is a phone-based concierge service that helps seniors without smartphones access rides, groceries, meals, prescriptions and home service. No app or internet is needed to access the service, which improves the reliability and usability of Uber, DoorDash and Lyft for older adults who want to live independently in their homes. For more information, call 1-855-464-6872. (Note — dialing the “1” is necessary on landlines.)

These are just some services offered now and throughout the year. To get the full picture, along with monthly program updates, seniors can pick up the free Senior Connection Monthly Newsletter at the Stanley Senior Center, City Hall and Waltham Public Library as well as at various supermarkets and pharmacies throughout the city. Or subscribe to the newsletter by sending a \$7 payment made out to the City of Waltham to the William Stanley Senior Center, 488 Main St., Waltham, MA, 02452. The payment covers the cost of postage for one year.

Individuals interested in assisting seniors with tasks such as snow shoveling and clearing off cars can sign up at the volunteer board located in the game room of the city’s Stanley Senior Center at 488 Main St.

Scrapped dog park plan further limits off-leash options for dogs in Waltham

Cyd Abnet

December 29, 2025



The Waltham Dog Ranch
Photo by Cyd Abnet.

The Planning Department has scrapped a proposal for a new off-leash dog park at the Koutoujian Playground due to concerns over land use. According to Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris, the possibility of dogs digging on the capped environmental waste area poses such a risk that a dog park isn't possible.

This development means that the Waltham Dog Ranch on Metropolitan Parkway is the only official off-leash area for dogs in the city. It features two rectangular fenced-in areas with agility obstacles and open space for dogs and their owners to socialize.

While dogs are often off-leash in Waltham locations such as baseball fields, the Beaver Brook Reservation or the Woods at Stonehurst, this constitutes illegal off-leash activity.

Waltham's city [website](#) provides suggestions for nearby off-leash areas such as Cat Rock Park in Weston, Howe Park in Watertown and Danehy Dog Park in Cambridge.

Dog owners shared their dismay over the limited options for their pets to play off-leash.

"We went to the Waltham Dog Park near the old hospital and we did not even get out of the car," said Waltham resident Jill Iluliano in an email to The Waltham Times. Iluliano said she was concerned that the space wasn't big enough to properly stimulate her dog, adding that the park's proximity to the old Metropolitan State Hospital administration building made her concerned about asbestos contamination in the soil.

Tak Yamashita, another Waltham dog owner, expressed similar frustration. Yamashita participated in an initiative put forward by residents to advocate for a dog park at Nipper Maher Park which, much to his disappointment, did not pan out.

"Waltham has many lots that are completely underutilized," he said. "Dog parks can be compact and still provide a wonderful area for dogs as well as community building."

While there are no current plans for additional dog parks in Waltham, there is still public interest in the idea. "I would love to work on a committee to look into a new dog park and see it to fruition," said Iluliano.

Health department updates board on Waltham's rat mitigation strategy

Artie Kronenfeld

December 19, 2025

Waltham's Board of Health is the latest city entity to bring up the issue of rat mitigation. At its Wednesday meeting, Michelle Feeley, the city's public health director, answered questions about the City Council's recent resolution about rat mitigation.

Feeley said the City Clerk's Office asked her to compile rodent-related information, including the Health Department's current rat and dumpster control measures, the money it has spent on rodent mitigation, the number of complaints it receives and ideas for future rat control measures. The City Clerk's Office is seeking the information in advance of a City Council meeting in January, she added.

She said some trash control measures, such as installing rubbish bins and responding to trash violations on city streets and sidewalks, fall into the mandate of the Department of Consolidated Public Works, so she cannot make determinations on them.



Board chair Dr. Henry Merola asked if the Health Department saw less trash compliance at larger developments because of a "lessened sense of responsibility." Feeley said that wasn't the case; residents at large developments often follow designated trash protocols, and some of the most frequent offenders are small multifamily units with absentee landlords.

Feeley said that the department hasn't received as many complaints this year as in previous years. However, she said rat complaints dominate the health inspectors' time in some months, making it more difficult for them to cover other core responsibilities. "Unfortunately, the city has rats. But we're not the only city. Our neighboring cities have rats. They're here. They've been here, they're here now, they're going to continue to be here when we're all long gone," she said. Feeley added that the city and residents have to play equal roles in pest control.

"It's not necessarily a rat problem, it's a people problem. And the people problem is how people keep things in their yard," she said. "We work really well with the restaurants, have them clean up their trash and [keep] their dumpsters a certain way, which is what we're now trying to do with the public. But we have a public that says, 'Oh, no, it's not my problem. It's your problem.'"

Waltham man arraigned in superior court on charges connected to October armed robbery

Isabella Lapriore

December 29, 2025



Mobil station at 1335 Main St.

William Patrick Ford, 44, homeless, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty to armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying a dangerous weapon and threat to commit a crime at an arraignment at Middlesex Superior Court in Woburn on Dec. 23.

Ford was arraigned on the same charges as well as two counts of possession of a class B drug [at Waltham District Court on Oct. 7](#). He was indicted on the four charges by a superior court grand jury on Nov. 13.

Ford was arrested by Waltham police following an armed robbery outside the Mobil gas station at 1335 Main St. on Oct. 6.

According to a police report, officers responded to a report of customers fighting outside the gas station and upon arrival spoke with the alleged victim and two additional witnesses who said Ford threatened the victim verbally and with a knife.

Additionally, the report said Ford held the knife to the victim's neck and ordered him to give him his wallet.

Middlesex Superior Court Judge Patrick Haggan ordered Ford remain held on dangerousness at the Middlesex Jail in Billerica pending a dangerousness hearing at Middlesex Superior Court scheduled for Dec. 29.

Ford is scheduled to appear via Zoom for a status review hearing at Waltham District Court on Jan. 20.

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Additional court actions

Waltham District Court Judge Ellen M. Caulo scheduled discovery compliance and jury election hearings for Thomas James Verdini, 19, of 25 Crescent St., Waltham, and Christian Jose Alvarado, 22, of 31 Middlesex Circle, Waltham, on Dec. 22. Verdini and Alvarado both pleaded not guilty at their arraignments on Oct. 27 to various drug- and alcohol-related charges [in relation to a traffic stop on Oct. 26](#). Verdini is charged with five counts of possession with intent to distribute a class B drug, two charges of possession with intent to distribute a class C drug, charges of possession with intent to distribute class D and E drugs, and underage possession of liquor. Alvarado is charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. Both defendants are scheduled to appear at Waltham District Court on Jan. 26.

Caulo scheduled a discovery compliance and jury election hearing for Breyson Eduardo Barrera Pineda, 24, of 24 Lexington Terrace, Waltham, at a pretrial hearing at Waltham District Court on Dec. 22. Pineda was [initially arraigned on a charge](#) of trafficking 200 grams or more of cocaine on Oct. 2, which [was amended to a possession](#) with intent to distribute a class B substance charge on Nov. 26. He is scheduled to appear at Waltham District Court on Feb. 10.

Caulo rescheduled a probable cause hearing for Justo Murillo Sanchez, 38, of 83 Lexington St., Waltham, on Dec. 22. Murillo Sanchez was arraigned on 12 charges related [to a July shooting](#) at Waltham District Court on Jul. 26. Caulo ordered he remain held at Middlesex

Jail on \$15,000 bail. He is scheduled to appear via Zoom at Waltham District Court on Jan. 6.

Caulo dismissed charges of withholding evidence from a criminal proceeding, extortion by threat of injury and felony possession of a firearm for [Gaby Sandoval-Matute](#), 31, of 83 Lexington St., Waltham, a co-defendant of Justo Murillo Sanchez, at a status review hearing on Dec. 23. Caulo ordered Sandoval-Matute remain held at Middlesex Correctional Institute in Framingham on \$1,000 bail. She is scheduled to appear for a pretrial hearing at Waltham District Court on Jan. 28.

All information for this story was gathered from court proceedings and official court documents at Waltham District Court and case information from masscourts.org.

Public safety report: Jogger misidentified as Brown University shooting suspect

Cyd Abnet

December 29, 2025

Waltham Police investigated a reported sighting of someone resembling a suspect in the recent shooting at Brown University in what later proved to be a case of misidentification.

On Dec. 17 at 8:35 a.m., police responded to the intersection of Farwell and River streets. A reporting party had seen a male in a puffy coat and believed him to be the suspect from the Brown University shooting. When the reporting party tried to get a better look, the person ran down the Riverwalk. Officers investigated and determined that the man, who was dressed in running attire, was jogging on the Riverwalk. He did not match the photos released by authorities of the shooting suspect.

A summary of police activity from Dec. 17 to 22 is as follows:

- Dec. 17 at 8:37 a.m., police responded to a residence on Grove Street after receiving reports of a package theft. The package had been mistakenly dropped off at a neighboring house and was located.
- On Dec. 17 at 12:20 p.m., police responded to a Clocktower Drive residence after receiving reports of identity theft. The reporting party had received an email purportedly sent by Best Buy that stated that the reporting party owed \$499. The reporting party called a phone number in the email and was instructed to purchase gift cards to pay back the debt. The party purchased \$2,600 of gift cards and read the codes to the scammer over the phone but realized afterward that it was a scam. This matter is under investigation.
- On Dec. 19 at 6:26 p.m., police responded to Cowboy Supermarket at 769 Main St. after receiving reports of a larceny that had occurred two hours prior. A man had reached into a tip jar on the counter, taken out cash and pocketed it. In total the man stole \$15. This matter is under investigation.
- On Dec. 20 at 3:36 p.m., the Fire Department responded to a section of the Mass Central Rail Trail near Market Basket after receiving reports of a small campfire. The fire was extinguished, and the individuals who had been tending the fire were moved along.
- On Dec. 20 at 5:38 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Dartmouth and South streets after receiving reports of a pedestrian struck by a motor vehicle. According to a witness, the pedestrian was struck by the motor vehicle while in a crosswalk on South Street. The operator of the motor vehicle reportedly stated not seeing the pedestrian crossing the street. The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital with a leg injury. The operator of the motor vehicle was cited for failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
- On Dec. 22 at 11:03 a.m., police responded to La Chapincinta at 424 Moody St. after receiving reports of a larceny. An employee had been scammed into giving a woman \$2,100 in cash through what's known as a quick-change scam. This scam involves the scammer making a series of rapid transactions or requests for change. The scam is designed to confuse and distract the cashier into dispensing more money than the customer is owed.

This matter is under investigation.

All information was obtained from spokespeople with the Waltham Police Department, the publicly available police blotter and police reports available at Waltham District Court.

Middlesex Sheriff's Office warns residents about scams involving fake judicial documents and more

Waltham News Team

December 29, 2025



The Middlesex Sheriff's Office has received numerous notifications in December from area residents reporting calls from criminals posing as law enforcement agents. In each case the callers alleged residents had warrants for their arrest for failing to appear in court. In at least three of those instances, the callers sent residents texts of what appeared to be arrest warrants for failure to appear and contempt of court. The warrants, however, were fake.

In all the instances, including those involving the fake warrants, scammers tried to convince residents to pay fines of up to \$5,000.

In one case involving a fake federal warrant, the scammer also sent the resident a document indicating that the resident could post "preemptive bail," which would allow the individual to "avert apprehension and secure timely release." The document also indicated that bail involving cash deposits "can be made at locally available kiosks, such as those found at grocery stores and fuel stations."

Another document indicated that the "White House Administration has approved Digital Currency as a method for posting eligible appearance bonds" and included directions on how to pay at an "Authorized Self Service Bonding Terminal."

"We want to be clear: no legitimate court or law enforcement agency will ever carry out its responsibilities this way," said Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. "There is no such thing as preemptive bail, we will never ask you to pay a fine at a gas station or grocery store, and the courts do not accept digital currency. These are all tell-tale signs of a scam."

Koutoujian's office advises any resident who has been targeted, or knows someone who receives a suspicious text to contact local law enforcement or the agency that the alleged warrant is from to report the incident. In cases where callers claim to be from the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, call either 781-960-2800 or 978-667-1711 and ask to speak with an investigator in the Inner Perimeter Security Unit.

Waltham fire crews help battle Lexington fire

Joseph Sharkey

December 29, 2025



Waltham Fire Department crews were among the agencies responding to a working fire late Friday night at 75 Fottler Ave. in Lexington, according to fire officials and scanner reports.

Engine companies were dispatched to the scene after fire was reported in a two-and-a-half-story residential structure, with initial reports indicating fire in the eaves. Upon arrival, the Lexington Fire Department confirmed a working fire and checked to determine if the fire had spread into other parts of the dwelling.



Mutual aid departments, including the Waltham Fire Department, responded to assist with operations. Firefighters were observed operating ladders and conducting exterior and interior checks as crews worked to contain the fire and prevent further spread.

No injuries were immediately reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation by fire officials.

Restaurant inspections: Department of Health finds significant health code violations at 16 establishments

Artie Kronenfeld

December 24, 2025

The Department of Health found that 16 restaurants it inspected between Dec. 5 and 17 did not comply with Waltham’s health codes. The department did not conduct any routine inspections of group living facilities or schools at this time.



Also during this period, the department responded to five new health complaints. Inspectors resolved two of them — one dumpster and one trash complaint — and are still resolving another trash complaint, a housing complaint from a renter about a faulty heating system, and a housing complaint from a renter about pest control.

The city’s health department conducts regular inspections of living and eating establishments to ensure compliance with the city’s safety codes. Twice a year, it inspects each of the city’s restaurants, schools, lodging houses, nursing homes, and any other businesses that serve food or are regulated by specific health codes in Waltham to make sure they comply with the city’s safety regulations.

Its inspectors also investigate complaints about pests, trash management on private properties and other environmental hazards.

Below is a summary of the violations found at each of the 16 restaurants that inspectors evaluated as unsatisfactory during this two-week period. Violations that inspectors designated to be critical are marked with an asterisk. It’s common for restaurants to have

minor violations during inspections, and when a restaurant is found to be unsatisfactory, the department sets a deadline for the restaurant to correct any violations.

Karibu Restaurant, 10 Crescent St., on Dec. 9

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham’s safety regulations:

- Food that was stored uncovered in a freezer.
- Food that was stored less than six inches off the ground in a walk-in fridge.
- The kitchen’s fume hood was due for a professional cleaning.
- The sides of a grill and fryolater required cleaning.

The restaurant was given 10 days to correct these issues.

Continued on next page

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Shanghai Cuisine, 11 Pine St., on Dec 9

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham’s safety regulations:

- A handwashing sink that required repair. *
- A freezer that was disorganized, with insufficiently labelled food.
- Food that was stored on the floor of a freezer.
- Knives that were stored in crevices.
- The basement floor had broken tiles.

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

Feng Shui Kitchen, 1019 Trapelo Road, on Dec. 10

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham’s safety regulations:

- The kitchen’s fume hood was due for a professional cleaning.
- A refrigerator’s door runners and glass required cleaning.
- The bottom shelf in a condiment refrigerator required cleaning.

The restaurant was given 10 days to correct these issues.

Salgueros Market, 139 Felton St., on Dec. 10

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham’s safety regulations:

- A grease barrel outside that needed to be emptied and removed
- The restaurant did not have someone on-site with sufficient knowledge of anti-choking measures
- The kitchen’s fume hood needed its panels cleaned of grease.
- The restaurant had rats that required extermination. *

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

In a Pickle Restaurant, 265 Moody St., on Dec. 15

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham’s safety regulations:

- A cutting board that required repair or replacement.
- Knives and utensils that were stored between food preparation tables.

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

B&F House of Pizza, 227 Lake St., on Dec. 15

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham’s safety regulations:

- The restaurant’s dumpster required a plug.
- The restaurant’s dumpster was not kept closed.

Continued on next page

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Banh Mi Oi, 1097 Lexington St., on Dec. 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- A handwashing station which was not accessible and free of clutter. *
- The floor area between a grill and fryolater required cleaning.
- The bottom shelf of a refrigerator required cleaning.

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

Bonfire Indian Grill, 1091 Lexington St., on Dec. 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- Uncovered food in a condiment fridge (a repeat offense).
- The floor area around a mixer required cleaning (a repeat offense).
- The floor area around a food prep station had onion peels on it.

Jake n Joes Sports Grille, 70 Market Place Drive, on Dec. 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- Insufficient fruit fly pest control at the bar area.
- The kitchen's fume hood was due for a professional cleaning.
- The back of a conveyer grill required cleaning.

The restaurant was given 10 days to correct these issues.

Not Your Average Joe's, 56 Market Place Drive, on Dec. 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- Rice stored uncovered in a walk-in fridge.
- The area behind a grill and fryolater required cleaning.
- The ceiling exhaust above a pizza oven required cleaning.

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

Paisanos Restaurant and Bar, 223 High St., on Dec. 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- Food stored in take-out bags.
- Bowls stacked on top of food.
- Fans from the back of a walk-in fridge required cleaning.

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

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Tita's Kitchen, 198 High St., on Dec. 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant did not meet safety criteria for having a person in charge sufficiently familiar with food safety.
- The restaurant did not have someone on-site with sufficient knowledge of anti-choking measures.
- The kitchen's fume hood was due for a professional cleaning.
- The kitchen's fume hood needed its panels cleaned of grease.
- The walls and floors by the restaurant's microwaves required cleaning.
- The walk-in fridge had a broken gasket.
- The restaurant had rats that required extermination. *

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

New York Taco & Pizza, 47 Lexington St., on Dec. 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The walk-in fridge's racks required cleaning.
- Kitchen vents that required cleaning.
- The kitchen's fume hood needed its panels cleaned of grease.
- The restaurant had mice that required extermination. *

Solea Restaurant and Tapas Bar, 388 Moody St., on Dec. 17

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The soda guns at the bar area required cleaning. *
- A grease barrel outside required cleaning.
- The restaurant did not have someone on-site with sufficient knowledge of anti-choking measures.

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

El Sabor Salvadoreño, 139 Prospect St., on Dec. 17

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The fire suppression system needed to be cleaned of grease. *
- The wall next to a grill needed to be cleaned of grease.
- The restaurant had cockroaches that required extermination. *

The restaurant was given five days to correct these issues.

Café on the Common, 677 Main St., on Dec. 18

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant did not meet safety criteria for having a person in charge sufficiently familiar with food safety.
- The restaurant did not have someone on-site with sufficient knowledge of anti-choking measures.
- An area of the restaurant required cleaning.

The restaurant was given 24 hours to correct these issues.

** Violations that inspectors designated as critical.*

All information was obtained from public records requests to the Waltham Health Department.

Recent Milestones - Honoring our community

Full profiles available on The Waltham Times website

Waltham News Team

Helen Claire Lennon, 1932–2025

Was 'jovial, clever' and 'wonderfully funny'



Helen Claire Lennon (Mitchell), of Waltham, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025. She was 93.

Born and raised in Arlington, MA, on Apr. 24, 1932, Helen was the cherished daughter of the late John and Helen Mitchell and one of seven children. She was predeceased by her parents and all six of her siblings.

Jovial, clever, creative and wonderfully funny, Helen brought warmth, wit and laughter into every room she entered.

Helen received her education at Saint Agnes School, Saint Clement School and Regis College, where she studied English Literature—a lifelong passion that shaped her love of poetry and fine writing. Before marriage, she dedicated herself to teaching as an elementary school teacher in Roxbury, MA, nurturing young minds with patience and care.

A woman of many talents and interests, Helen loved painting and sketching, reading poetry and traveling. One of her greatest joys was taking long drives with her beloved husband, John, listening to WJIB—simple moments that became treasured memories. Her favorite song was “Lucille” and she especially loved poetry and the works of Flannery O’Connor.

Helen found her deepest happiness in her faith, her family and raising her children. She most enjoyed attending church, spending time with loved ones and being surrounded by the family she so devotedly cared for. Her favorite places included the family cottage in Green Harbor, peaceful countryside drives, Castle Island, Ireland and snowbird winters spent in Florida.

Helen lived a life rich in love, faith, creativity and devotion to family. Her gentle spirit, sharp wit and joyful presence will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who were blessed to know her.

Helen was predeceased by her beloved husband, John P. Lennon; her son, Larry; her daughter, Colleen; and her granddaughter, Katie. Helen is survived by her four loving and devoted children and their spouses: Shawn and Cindy Lennon; Maura Lennon; Kerry and Kim Lennon; and Marty Lennon. She also leaves her cherished grandchildren and their spouses: Daniel and Kelly Lennon; Devin and Becky Richer; Cameron Richer; Aidan Richer; Brandon Lennon; and Jared Lennon. Helen was a proud great-grandmother to Connor, Jacob, Hannah, and Brady Lennon and Lili Richer. She is also survived by her son-in-law Steven Richer and her former daughter-in-law Laura Lennon, and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Family and friends gathered and celebrated Helen’s life on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026 for a mass of Christian burial at St. Agnes Church, Arlington. Interment followed at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Arlington.

Sheila Gillen, 1930–2025

Loving mother and grandmother



Sheila D. (Wood) Gillen, of Waltham, died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025 at Life Care Center of Nashoba Valley in Littleton. She was 95.

Sheila was born in Weymouth on Nov. 22, 1930, a daughter of the late James and Dorothy (Rice) Wood. Raised and educated in Weymouth, she graduated from Weymouth High School and attended nursing school.

She met her high school sweetheart, Robert M. Gillen, while roller skating at Paragon Park on Nantasket Beach. They married in 1951 and lived briefly in Belmont before making Waltham their home, sharing fifty-one beautiful years together until Bob's passing in 2002.

The couple were longtime active members of Christ Church Episcopal in Waltham. Sheila loved traveling, from family summer vacations on Cape Cod to trips with Bob to Bermuda and Europe. She enjoyed quilting and gardening, and she had a real gift for cooking and baking; her creations were hard to resist. More than anything, she loved her family; she was a wonderful wife, the best mom, and nothing made her happier than time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her sister, Arlene P. Moreschi.

Sheila is survived by Linda C. Ballenthin (John) of Lexington, Massachusetts and Albuquerque, New Mexico, Pamela S. Manning (David) of Falmouth, Maine and Robert M. Gillen, Jr. (Pamela Vaughan) of Stow, Massachusetts; her grandchildren, Jennifer (David), Heather (Ryan), Kyle (Kaitlin), Willi (Sarah), Robert, Thomas, Cori and Rylee; her great-grandchildren, Sierra, Mason, Sage, Chloe, Lucy, Julian, Wesley, Adeline and Walter; her siblings, Kenneth and Barry Wood, both of Florida.

Services for Sheila were held privately.

Rosemarie Restagno, 1943–2025

Former instructor at Moody Street beauty salon academy



Rosemarie (Esposito) Restagno, of Waltham, died on Christmas Day at Lowell General Hospital. She was 82.

Rosemarie was born in Cambridge on Feb. 27, 1943, a daughter of late Alphonse and Anne (Russo) Esposito. Raised in Watertown, she was a graduate of Watertown High School. A talented hair stylist and cosmetologist, she worked at the Robert and Richard Hair Salon in Belmont for many years. Rosemarie passed on her experience to hundreds of students as an instructor at the salon's beauty academy on Moody Street.

In her later years, Rosemarie enjoyed making nursing home residents look and feel their best working in the salons of Brookline and Newton nursing homes. Social by nature she loved getting to know the residents and always looked forward to appointments with her longtime clients.

In 1965 she married her husband Dominic V. Restagno in Saint Patrick's Church and the pair lived for a time in Watertown before making Waltham their lifelong home in 1972. The pair shared 57 wonderful years together until his death on Feb. 10, 2023.

She leaves her children, Julie Bonavita (Carmine) of Tewksbury and Dominic Restagno (Jill) of Millbury; her grandson, Nicolino Bonavita; her brothers and sister, David Esposito (Lauri) of West Boylston, John Esposito (Jean) of Ashland and Cheryl Anastasi (Peter) of Waltham; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

Family and friends honored and remembered Rosemarie's life by gathering for a wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, Waltham, on Monday, Jan. 5 and again on Tuesday morning before leaving in procession to Saint Patrick's Church, Watertown, where her funeral mass was celebrated. Burial was in Grove Hill Cemetery, Waltham.

Alberta A. (Ferguson) Sullivan, 1947–2025

Was switchboard operator for the city



Alberta A. (Ferguson) Sullivan of Waltham died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, at her loving and devoted daughter’s home in Framingham following a period of declining health. She was 78.

Alberta was born in Malden on Nov. 24, 1947, the daughter of the late Albert and Anna (Avedian) Ferguson. Raised and educated in Malden, she attended Bentley University in Waltham.

She worked for many years as a bookkeeper for Gasoline Merchants in Waltham and for local financial advisors. Most recently, she was a switchboard operator for the city of Waltham, a job she enjoyed immensely. She was also a lifelong member of the Woburn Sportsmen’s Association of Bedford.

She loved traveling with her longtime companion, Eleanor “Ellie” Boucher-Fedele, visiting Paris multiple times, along with Italy, Ireland, Canada, Belgium, and Provincetown. The two often day-tripped to Palmer for antiquing and to visit the graves of loved ones. She enjoyed taking the train to Maine with her grandchildren for Pier Fries and Lisa’s Pizza.

At home, Alberta tended her flowers and shrubs, listened to Connie Francis, WBZ radio, and Lisa Marie Presley, and watched favorites including *All in the Family*, *I Love Lucy*, *The Love Boat*, *Chronicle* and *ABC World News Tonight with David Muir*. She never missed reality shows, especially *The Golden Bachelor*, often texting her friend Karen about the latest episodes. An avid reader and card-sender, she kept a supply of Hallmark cards for every occasion. Casinos were a fun escape for her as well.

In her short time with Good Shepherd Hospice, the family is grateful to aide Blanche, nurse Katie, and social worker Breanna for their compassionate care and for treating their mother with dignity and respect. One evening, after being settled comfortably in bed, Alberta remarked, “I feel like Cinderella,” in appreciation of the care she received.

She was the beloved mother of David Frazier Jr. of Watertown; Susan Monette and her husband, John Monette Jr., of Framingham; Kenneth Sullivan Jr. and his wife, Katrina, of Haverhill; and Jennifer Perry (the late Tim Perry) of Waltham. She was the cherished grandmother of Zachary, Gregory, and Michael Mason, all of Framingham, and Shealeigh, Scarlett, and Ian Sullivan, all of Haverhill. She leaves many cousins and close friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, Albert and Anna Ferguson; former husband, Kenneth Sullivan Sr.; her two Yorkshire terriers, Lassie and Aria; and her longtime traveling companion, Eleanor “Ellie” Boucher-Fedele.

Family and friends honored and remembered Alberta’s life by gathering Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at Saint Mary’s Church, 133 School St., Waltham, where her funeral Mass was celebrated. Burial was private.

Giovanna (Torcasio) Frenna, 1969–2025

Long-time volunteer at Our Lady's Academy



Giovanna (Torcasio) Frenna of Waltham died unexpectedly Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, surrounded by her loving family at Lahey Clinic Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington, following complications from surgery. She was 56.

Born May 9, 1969, in Sambiasse, Lamezia Terme, Italy, Giovanna was the beloved daughter of Luciana (Rizzo) Torcasio of Waltham and the late Vincenzo Torcasio. She was born, raised and educated in Italy before immigrating to the United States in 1990 at age 21.

Giovanna initially lived with family in West Newton for 10 years before moving to Waltham, where she settled. She later met Giuseppe, got married, bought a house, raised her family, and lived in Waltham for the rest of her life. Upon arriving in the United States, she worked as a house cleaner alongside her best friend, Maria. After having children and dedicating herself to raising them, Giovanna's love and talent for caring for others led her to volunteer at Our Lady's Academy in Waltham as a cafeteria worker while her children attended school there—a role she held for more than 15 years. She recently became a part-time after-school leader this past September, working with both kindergarteners and children of all ages.

Giovanna's kind, caring nature and deep love for children made her a natural in her work. She was adored by the children she cared for, and she adored them in return. She was well loved and respected by colleagues, families, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Above all, Giovanna was devoted to her family. Her husband and children were her world, and she cherished every moment with them. She was extremely proud of her Italian heritage, especially her Calabrian roots. Always on the go, Giovanna found joy in caring for others through cooking, cleaning, sewing and crocheting. She married the love of her life, Giuseppe "Joe" Frenna, at Sacred Heart Church on July 10, 2005. Together, they raised their family in Waltham.

Giovanna is survived by her loving husband of 20 years, Giuseppe "Joe" Frenna; her devoted children, Maria T., Francesco C. and Giancarlo Frenna, all of Waltham; her beloved mother, Luciana (Rizzo) Torcasio of Waltham; and her dear siblings, Antonio Torcasio and his wife, Lydia; Pasquale "Pat" Torcasio and his wife, Sharon; Salvatore Torcasio and his wife, Gina; and Angela Torcasio. She also leaves her brother-in-law, Frank Frenna, and his wife, Maria; and cherished nieces and nephews Vincenzo and Luciana; Rebecca and her husband, Kevin; Joey and Freddy; Alessandro, Luca and Nico; Valentina; and Matthew and Julia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Giovanna's memory to the GoFundMe campaign established for the benefit of her children: gofundme.com/f/help-support-the-children-of-giovanna.

Loretta (LeBlanc) O'Connor, 1936–2025



Loretta T. (LeBlanc) ‘Lorette’ O’Connor, of Waltham, died at home on Christmas Day. She was 89.

She was the wife of Vincent R. O’Connor.

Family and friends honored and remembered Lorette’s life by gathering for a Morning Wake in The Joyce Funeral Home before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, Waltham where her Funeral Mass was celebrated. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Waltham.

Karl F. Ebner, 1957–2025



Karl F. Ebner, of Waltham, died on November 30 after a short illness. Born November 30, 1957, Karl is survived by two brothers, John Ebner and partner Cindy Farrar (Portland, Oregon), Merrill Ebner and wife Kathy Decker (Bar Harbor, ME), and a sister, Martha Ebner and husband Benjamin Spencer (Northampton, MA). Karl was formerly married to Aichu Li. He leaves six nieces and nephews and extended family and is predeceased by his parents Merrill Lee Ebner and June Florence Ebner.

Karl grew up in Arlington, MA, and attended Arlington High School (class of 1975). He earned a M.S./B.S. in Software Engineering, 1980, from Boston University. After college, Karl worked at Bolt, Beranek and Newman (BBN) and Digital Equipment Corporation where he became an expert in high reliability computer systems. Subsequently, he had an active consulting practice.

Playing piano brought him joy as did his appreciation of the arts. He established a close-knit community of friends during his 40 years in Waltham and will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him.

A celebration of life will be arranged at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to MSPC-Angell in Boston or to a non-profit of your choice.

Waltham Home Sales - Dec. 22-23, 2025

Waltham News Team

December 28, 2025

| | Sale Date | Address | Sale Price | BR/Baths | Size |
|--|------------|----------------------|-------------|----------|---------|
|  | 12/22/2025 | 34 CEDAR HILL LN | \$965,000 | 2/1.5 | 1760 sf |
|  | 12/22/2025 | 47 ALDER ST UNIT 6 | \$600,000 | 2/1.5 | 1248 sf |
|  | 12/22/2025 | 463 LINCOLN ST | \$715,000 | 2/1 | 2020 sf |
|  | 12/23/2025 | 312 NEWTON ST UNIT 2 | \$1,380,000 | 4/3.5 | 3002 sf |

January Events Calendar

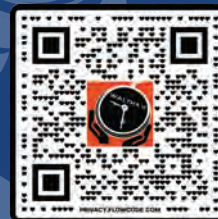
Waltham News Team

January 5, 2026

| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm New Year's Day hikes at Prospect Hill Park | 2 | 3 | 4 9:00 am - 10:00 am Con sabor y café: Charla entre Latinos 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Inauguration Day |
| 5 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Introduction to the Jewish Bookshelf — Turning to the Talmud | 6 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Zoning Board of Appeals meeting | 7 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Bookbinding workshop 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm School Committee meeting | 8 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Conservation Commission meeting | 9 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Alexander Children's Theatre School presents Disney's "Newsies" | 10 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm Alexander Children's Theatre School presents Disney's "Newsies" | 11 10:00 am - 11:30 am Family Access of Newton — Open house 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Alexander Children's Theatre School presents Disney's "Newsies" |
| 12 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Historical Commission meeting 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council meeting | 13 9:00 am - 10:30 am Chapel Hill- Chauncy Hall School info session 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Coffee Cuppings: Coffee tasting with Rob Fitzgibbon 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Zoning Board of Appeals meeting | 14 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Friends Beyond Boston: Trivia night at Joe Sent Me | 15 10:00 am - 11:00 am Traffic Commission meeting 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Fiber arts night 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm First time homebuyer class at Tempo | 16 | 17 | 18 9:00 am - 10:00 am Bi+ Coffee Social (LGBTQIA+ Inclusive) |
| 19 | 20 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council committee meetings | 21 10:00 am - 11:00 am Living well with Parkinson's disease 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Know your pelvic floor 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Board of Health meeting + 1 More | 22 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Family Access of Newton — Open house 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Conservation Commission meeting | 23 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice" | 24 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice" | 25 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice" |
| 26 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council meeting | 27 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Zoning Board of Appeals meeting | 28 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Family Access of Newton — Open house 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm License Commission meeting | 29 | 30 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham Rotary Club presents Music Bingo 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice" | 31 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice" | 1 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice" |



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