

# The Week's News!



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## January 12-16, 2026



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JANUARY 15, 2026



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BY GREG LEVINSKY • SPORTS &  
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### Jonathan Paz champions grassroots issues in his bid to unseat Rep. Katherine Clark

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT •  
JANUARY 11, 2026



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# Vacant Moody Street property owner questioned about traffic plans for proposed hotel

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JANUARY 15, 2026



The City Council at its Monday meeting questioned the owner of several condemned buildings on Moody Street about his plans to build a six-story boutique hotel on the site.

Michael Colomba, the property owner, and Paul Finger, his architectural consultant, presented plans to the council Jan. 12 to transform the riverside property into a combined hotel, restaurant and event space.

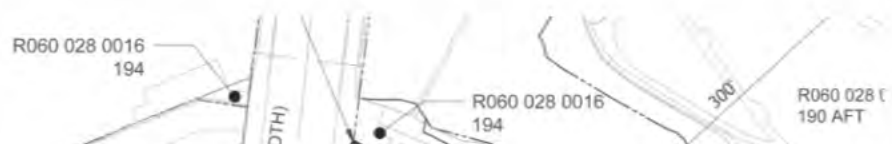
Colomba and Finger walked councilors through the project's architectural design, traffic plan and infrastructure improvements as part of a request for council approval to allow a larger floor plan than normally permitted for the site.



**The condemned structure at the 200 block of Moody Street. Mural by Shawn and Donna Laswell. Photo by Chris Wangler. Courtesy of Waltham News Watch.**

## Structure

Colomba plans to move his restaurant, Brelundi, from the Watch Factory Apartments to



the first floor of the new hotel. The second floor would include a 6,800-square-foot event space for weddings, banquets and theater productions. The remaining four floors would house 42 hotel rooms, with a top-floor apartment for Colomba.

He said the hotel would not be part of a chain and would feature a mix of single rooms, double rooms and suites.



**Plan for the new boutique hotel (shaded area) on the south bank of the Charles River by the Moody Street Bridge.**

Colomba has already obtained multiple variances from the city's Zoning Board of Appeals, including reduced parking requirements, a smaller rear setback, and permission to build in line with the Riverwalk. The board also granted preliminary approval for the building's above-standard floor area.

He plans to reduce existing greenery but maintain the section of the Riverwalk that abuts the hotel, installing lighting and security cameras adjacent to it and the city parking lot.

The buildings currently on the property have stood empty for years. The city condemned some structures following a 2021 fire and subsequent roof collapse. Previous redevelopment attempts over the past 15 years have stalled — most recently when Colomba failed to obtain city permission to construct support beams for a parking garage above the adjacent municipal Embassy parking lot.

Colomba is again seeking an easement to build above the city lot. Finger said the building's second-floor event space would extend 12 feet over the property line. He noted this design would make it easier to host events while avoiding any ground-level construction on city property. The extension would, however, require future City Council approval.

## Infrastructure

Before construction begins, Colomba plans to replace the sewer pipe that carries stormwater from Moody Street into the Charles River. The site will include systems to filter pollutants and slow runoff before discharge into the river. The project received Conservation Commission approval in December 2024.



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Councilors voiced numerous concerns about traffic and parking because the proposed development sits just south of the Charles River Bridge — an area identified among the top 5% of pedestrian crash clusters in the city between 2012 and 2021.

Finger said that, in response to [Traffic Commission feedback](#), the project would direct most guest vehicles through the Pine Street driveways serving the Embassy lot rather than through Moody Street. Cars could enter from Moody Street into a small check-in bay with five temporary parking spaces, and vehicles exiting onto Moody Street would be limited to right turns for safety.

Resident J. Burnsee objected that drivers already ignore turn restrictions near the site and that the design does not provide adequate visibility for pedestrians and cyclists. “I would expect to see an accident there,” she said.

She argued the building would further disrupt an already congested area. “I feel like there’s a lot of people trying to act like ‘everything’s going to work out just fine,’ and I don’t think it is,” Burnsee said.

The site plan includes 29 parking spaces, five of them temporary. Some patrons are expected to use the Embassy lot or nearby commuter rail. Councilors said the number may be insufficient if Colomba holds large events on the second floor.

Colomba said he may purchase public parking permits and transit passes for employees, noting that he expects to hire many within walking distance. He also said he would consider partnering with other local lots for valet parking during large events but has not finalized plans for employee or event parking. He said he would determine specific solutions as needed.

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# Library offers free access to BostonGlobe.com

BY NEWSROOM • ARTS & CULTURE • JANUARY 15, 2026



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# Record Robotics kicks off 2026 competition season in new Waltham home

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • JANUARY 15, 2026



*The Record Robotics 2026 student team. Photo courtesy of Record Robotics.*

Record Robotics, an award-winning student robotics team, kicked off its 2026 competition season with a party and brainstorming session at its new headquarters, 224 Calvary St., on Saturday, Jan. 10. The team moved its operations and design center from rental space in Belmont to the renovated mill last August

Record Robotics got its start in 2016 when a few Belmont High School students spent six weeks in a garage building a robot. The result was a 5-foot-tall, 120-pound machine that could travel up to 10 miles per hour. FRC Team 6731 was born and never looked back.

Times and members have changed. Today, Record Robotics has more than 30 high school

students from local communities including Waltham, Belmont and Arlington. The team also includes more than 15 volunteer mentors and maintains an impressive operating budget.

## The “Super Bowl” of robotics

The team is now preparing for the [FIRST Robotics Competition \(FRC\)](#) championship, known as the “Super Bowl” of high school robotics because it combines the excitement of sports with the rigor of science and technology. The national event draws teams from across the country, including more than 200 competitors from New England alone.

The rules are strict. Teams have eight weeks to design, build and code an industrial-size robot before competing in 12 preliminary matches over two days. They earn points by completing as many tasks as possible in a race against the clock.

“We get a kit of parts from FIRST. It’s then up to the students to assemble and program a robot that can handle the challenge,” said team leader Glenn Wong.

## In it to win it

Record Robotics has a strong record of success, taking first place in its rookie year and reaching the district finals three times. The team also earned a creativity award for an innovative lift design.

Over the next two months, Record Robotics students will meet several days a week to design and build their new robot with guidance from their mentors.

“As a team parent and mentor, I see how hard the students work,” said Melinda Hallisey of Waltham. “They put a lot of effort into building and improving the robot, designing team clothing and promo materials, and asking for donations. It can be pretty intense, especially during competition season, but they have fun doing it. My son has learned so much and met great kids. It’s been a really positive experience.”

Throughout the season, students gain real-world experience in engineering, programming and marketing. They’re responsible for creating team gear, signage, newsletters and swag to share with other teams at competitions.

*Continued on next page.*

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The team currently includes four members from Waltham High School — Reid, Clem, Cody and Jeremy — some of whom also participate in the Waltham High robotics team that competes in the [FIRST Tech Challenge](#).

Record Robotics raises its own funds to cover expenses ranging from robot parts and special carpeting to competition fees and power tools. Membership dues, donors, grants, corporate sponsorships and student fundraising all contribute to the team's budget.

Both Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and City Council President and Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan attended the kickoff to meet students and tour the new headquarters.

“Record Robotics is a great program for our local youth,” Logan said. “I was fascinated touring the space and hearing all that is planned for the coming year, but what struck me most was the enthusiasm of the participants. I wish them well in the tournament.”

Record Robotics is open to new student members, mentors and donors. To learn more about the team or how to join, visit [recordrobotics.org](http://recordrobotics.org).

# Winter Street development enters final permit stage amid traffic concerns

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JANUARY 15, 2026



***Architect's rendering of the Alexan Winter Street project.***

Plans to build a 323-unit apartment building on Winter Street are moving forward after developer Maple Multi-Family Land East Coast received city approval to begin drafting a comprehensive special permit.

The proposed project at 245–265 Winter St., called the Alexan Winter Street, requires a special permit for residential construction in a nonresidential zone under Chapter 40B of Massachusetts General Law.

The Waltham Zoning Board of Appeals on Tuesday gave the developer the OK to start drafting the permit. The board has been overseeing the project's special permit hearing since July.

The approval came as neighbors continue to raise concerns about traffic.

For example, resident George Watchko questioned why traffic consultants did not study the project's impact on nearby intersections leading to Interstate 95.

Bob Michaud of traffic engineering firm MDM, which the board hired to conduct a third-party review of the project, wrote in a letter that the intersections already experience heavy traffic and that the development would not cause a significant percentage increase.

ZBA members questioned the traffic team's calculations and expressed skepticism that the project would have no effect on those intersections.

The board requested that Michaud attend the project's Feb. 3 hearing to explain the traffic study's methodology in more detail.

Also on Tuesday, board members discussed new concerns from City Engineer Robert Winn about the capacity of two nearby sewer lines in light of this and another proposed development at 455 Totten Pond Road. Winn said the two projects would push the lines to more than 80% of capacity.

Carlton Quinn of Alan & Major Associates, the developer's civil engineer, said Winn's concerns appeared to be based on substantial overestimates in the project plans. He asked to meet with Winn and the 455 Totten Pond Road team before the next ZBA session.

The board requested that Winn also attend the Feb. 3 meeting, along with Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned, who has previously [handled direct negotiations](#) between the city and Chapter 40B developers.

## The road so far

At the meeting, project representative Mark Baranski said the developer had responded to most of the reviews required for the permit and agreed to comply with recent Fire Department safety requests.

The Alexan Winter Street proposal has previously faced pushback from neighbors over

infrastructure and privacy concerns. Although it [garnered support from abutters](#) on its east and north sides after design changes, it continues to face opposition from residents of the Barrington Place condominiums to the south.

Baranski said the development team had met three times with Barrington Place residents since the [last ZBA hearing in November](#) and made several adjustments based on those meetings. Changes include shifting the placement of a retaining wall and some garages, surveying nearby homes to safeguard against blasting damage, and retaining previous plant barriers. Baranski said further changes would not be feasible.

# Probable cause hearing rescheduled for Waltham man arraigned on multiple large-capacity firearm and assault charges

BY ISABELLA LAPRIORE • PUBLIC SAFETY • JANUARY 15, 2026



District Court Judge Ellen M. Caulo has rescheduled a probable cause hearing for Derek McIver, 34, of 98 Milner St., Waltham.

Caulo also ordered that McIver remain held without bail at the Middlesex Jail in Billerica.

He is now scheduled to appear via Zoom at Waltham District Court for a probable cause hearing on Feb. 17.



*Waltham District Court. Photo by Isabella Lapriore.*

McIver on July 25 pleaded not guilty to four counts of assault and battery on a family or household member, four counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and one count of strangulation or suffocation. On July 31, he pleaded not guilty to two counts of possession of a large-capacity firearm, possession of ammunition without a firearm identification card, violation of an abuse prevention order, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

All those charges stem from three pending cases in Waltham District Court.

A Middlesex Superior Court grand jury also indicted McIver on Dec. 18 on six counts of assault and battery on a family or household member, five counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, two counts of possession of a large-capacity feeding device, as well as strangulation or suffocation, and violation of an abuse prevention order.

McIver is scheduled to be arraigned on the charges in Middlesex Superior Court in Woburn on Jan. 29.

According to a [press release from the Middlesex District Attorney's office](#), McIver was previously indicted in 2016 by a Superior Court grand jury on assault with a dangerous weapon and masked armed robbery charges in connection with a 2013 robbery at the Lake View Convenience Store at 225 Lake St. in Waltham. He pleaded guilty to those charges on June 23, 2017.

## Additional court actions

A first hearing to review status for Khansee Chalernsouk, 32, of 15 Mount Vernon Ave., was held Jan. 9. Chalernsouk [pleaded not guilty](#) on Sept. 5 to possession of an untraceable firearm, receiving an untraceable firearm, possession of a Class B drug, carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, and destruction of property under \$1,200. He is scheduled to appear at Waltham District Court for a second status hearing on Feb. 4.

Judge Sharon M. Lalli ordered that William Childs, 41, of 211 College Farm Road, Waltham, remain held at the Middlesex Jail in Billerica on \$1,000 bail following a discovery compliance and jury election hearing on Jan. 14. [Childs pleaded not guilty in August](#) to breaking and entering into a motor vehicle, trespassing, and two counts of receiving a stolen credit card. He is scheduled to appear via Zoom for a probable disposition hearing on Feb. 11.

Lalli also rescheduled a hearing to review status for Joseph Keane Jr., 36, homeless, of Waltham, at a hearing on Jan. 14. [Keane pleaded not guilty](#) on July 28 to four counts of possession with intent to distribute a Class B drug, three counts of possession with intent to distribute a Class E drug, two motorized scooter violations, carrying a dangerous weapon, disorderly conduct, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Middlesex Superior Court issued a warrant for Keane's arrest after he failed to appear for an arraignment on Jan. 6. He had been indicted on charges related to the Waltham case on Dec. 11. Keane is scheduled to appear via Zoom at Waltham District Court for the rescheduled hearing 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](http://masscourts.org).*

# Former Waltham Market Basket employee facing Superior Court charges related to stalking and extortion of former coworker

BY ISABELLA LAPRIORE • PUBLIC SAFETY • JANUARY 13, 2026



William Anthony Macmillan, 55, homeless, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty to stalking as a subsequent offense, extortion by threat of injury and violation of a harassment prevention order at an arraignment at Middlesex Superior Court in Woburn on Jan. 12. He was indicted on the charges by a superior court grand jury on Dec. 16.



Macmillan was [arrested on eight warrant charges](#) by Waltham police after officers responded to a report from a witness that a homeless male was harassing the victim at Market Basket at 110 Market Place Drive on Sept. 7. The victim also called 911 to report the incident while officers were en route.

According to the prosecution, the victim was a former coworker of the defendant and was helping him by paying for his phone bill. Over the summer, Macmillan began harassing the victim for money via text because the phone had been shut off.

The police report said Macmillan texted the victim on multiple occasions threatening to kill her. One specific text included her address and a threat to blow up her home with her family inside.

The report also stated that at the time of his arrest, Macmillan had three active warrants from Waltham District Court for assault charges and one from Quincy District Court for violation of an abuse prevention order.

Additionally, the prosecution said Macmillan has open cases in Waltham and Lexington district courts and has been convicted on multiple domestic violence cases including violation of restraining orders in both Middlesex and Norfolk counties.

Macmillan's lawyer, Anthony Rozzi, said the defendant was on probation at the time of his arrest and was found in violation due to his arrest. Waltham District Court Judge Ellen M. Caulo sentenced Macmillan to serve a one-year sentence in the Middlesex House of Corrections in Billerica for the probation violation on Dec. 23.

Goldenberg placed Macmillan's superior court case under advisement for dangerousness and ordered him held without bail at the arraignment on Jan. 12. He is scheduled to appear at Waltham District Court for a hearing to review status on Jan. 15.

*All information for this story was gathered from court proceedings and official court documents at Middlesex Superior Court, Waltham District Court and case information from [masscourts.org](https://masscourts.org).*

# Dorchester man held on \$5,000 bail in connection with September Waltham restaurant burglaries

BY ISABELLA LAPRIORE • PUBLIC SAFETY • JANUARY 13, 2026



Shawn Michael Broxton, 47, of Rosseter Street, Dorchester, pleaded not guilty to ten charges related to the September burglaries of Sakura Japanese Restaurant at 5 Pine St. and Rhino Restaurant and Lounge at 11 Cooper St. at an arraignment on Jan. 5. The burglaries resulted in a loss of approximately \$3,900.



Waltham District Court issued a warrant for Broxton's arrest on Nov. 19 and he was arrested by Lynn police on Nov. 20.

Broxton is charged with two counts of burglary, two counts of larceny from a building, two counts of possession of a burglarious instrument, two counts of malicious destruction of property over \$1,200, breaking into a depository, and designation of common and notorious thief for the two burglaries on Sept. 14.

According to the prosecution, a vehicle registered to Broxton was caught on surveillance footage connecting him to the crimes.

Additionally, the defendant has committed similar crimes in Lynn, Medford and Easton that resulted in a total loss of approximately \$26,000, including the theft of a safe in Easton containing money he later used to gamble at the Encore Boston Harbor casino, the prosecution said.

Waltham District Court Judge Amanda Ward ordered Broxton remain held at Middlesex Jail in Billerica on \$5,000 bail at a hearing to review status on Jan. 13.

Broxton is scheduled to appear via Zoom at Waltham District Court for a pretrial hearing on March 10.

*All information for this story was gathered from court proceedings and official court documents at Waltham District Court and case information from [masscourts.org](https://www.masscourts.org).*

<https://walthamtimes.org/2026/01/13/dorchester-man-held-on-5000-bail-in-connection-with-september-waltham-restaurant-burglaries/>

January 17, 2026

# City Council questions prospective new sub shop's owner on effects of online ordering

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JANUARY 13, 2026



The City Council at its Monday meeting discussed the ins and outs of operating [a potential new Jersey Mike's location](#) in the Wal-Lex Shopping Center at 864 Lexington St.



**Jersey Mike's will take the place of Wal-lex Cleaners location, pictured here in Aug. 2022. Photo: Google Maps.**

Tyler Tombs, the sub shop's franchisee went in front of the City Council to request a special permit for a fast-food establishment.

The project's lawyer, Michael Connors, explained that the sub shop would take the place of the former Wal-Lex Cleaners, which closed in July. He said the owner does not plan to change the exterior of the building aside from signage, although the development team will install new kitchen facilities inside the building. Connors added the restaurant would be open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The council had many questions about how online delivery services have affected the fast-food business model and how that might increase traffic volume.

Tombs already operates nine Jersey Mike's locations around Greater Boston. He said about half of his business comes from online orders, over half of which come directly through the Jersey Mike's app.

Connors said the development team is not concerned about parking and traffic from online ordering. As stated in the project's traffic mitigation plan, which the Traffic Commission approved in October, the plaza parking lot is currently used at less than half capacity.

In response to a question from Ward 4 Councillor John McLaughlin, Connors said the building plan does not include a specific pickup spot for delivery drivers. He said the building would likely not be able to accommodate a pickup location in the back because that could block a fire lane. Connors also told the council that the location was not seeking a drive-thru permit.

The council also questioned the development team about rodent and pest mitigation. Connors said the owners are willing to abide by all dumpster ordinances. Tombs added that his other Jersey Mike's locations have monthly pest control contracts, and Jersey Mike's implements its own health inspections in addition to Waltham's municipal inspections.

Resident Zachary Bourque spoke in favor of the new restaurant, although he asked the City Council to look into potential traffic issues in the area, including illegal left turns from the parking lot. In response to questions from Ward 2 Councilor Caren Dunn, the project development team agreed to work with the city's Engineering Department to manage traffic in the parking lot area.

This permit will go before the council's Ordinances and Rules Committee next week.

# City Council in brief: Affordable housing requirements, new committees and more

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JANUARY 13, 2026



The City Council considered a resolution at its Monday meeting to update the city's affordable housing requirements according to guidelines from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.



City Council in session on Jan. 12, 2026. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.

Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris told the council that during the council's 2024 and 2025 discussions about [compliance with the state's MBTA Communities Act](#), the city Law Department started working with the MAPC to propose changes to Waltham's ordinances around housing.

She said these changes would set new affordability requirements for new development and

incentivize production. “We can actually build affordable housing at a percentage that keeps us in safe harbor in the state, which is critical,” Harris said.

“We need to change policy, and we need to change policy aggressively this year,” she added.

The resolution proposed that the council work with the Law Development and Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy to strengthen “inclusionary zoning ordinances” based on these MAPC recommendations.

The council referred the resolution to its Ordinances and Rules Committee.

**New committees**

This also marked the first City Council meeting of the new year, which means the council reassigned councilors to subcommittees for 2026.

Here’s a breakdown of the committee assignments:

<b>Finance</b>	<b>Public Works and Public Safety</b>	<b>Licenses and Franchises</b>
This committee discusses financial matters, including salaries, grants and donations to the city and new spending from city departments. Its chair also runs the council’s annual budget hearing.	This committee discusses items involving city roadways and traffic, resident services like snowplowing and trash collection, water and drainage systems, public land and emergency services.	This committee discusses utility poles and underground wiring, license grants and renewals for businesses and some types of non-zoning special permits.
Sean T. Durkee (Ward 6) Paul S. Katz (Ward 7) Tim King Anthony LaFauci (Ward 1) Randall J. LeBlanc	Caren Dunn (Ward 2) Paul S. Katz (Ward 7) Tim King Anthony LaFauci (Ward 1) Emma Tzioumis	Paul J. Brasco Paul S. Katz (Ward 7) Robert G. Logan (Ward 9) Emma Tzioumis Carlos A. Vidal
<b>Ordinances and Rules</b>	<b>Economic and Community Development</b>	<b>Long-term Debt and Capital Planning</b>
This committee discusses changes to the city’s regulations, ordinances and zoning plans, as well as items related to land use and many special permits.	This committee discusses a variety of items including programs funded by the federal Community Block Grant, Waltham Housing Authority projects and programs for public health, public spaces, and transit.	This committee discusses loan requests from city departments and large capital projects.

Caren Dunn (Ward 2) Bill Hanley (Ward 3) Cathyann Harris (Ward 8) Robert G. Logan (Ward 9) John McLaughlin (Ward 4)	Bill Hanley (Ward 3) Cathyann Harris (Ward 9) Tim King Joey LaCava (Ward 5) Colleen Bradley-MacArthur	Sean T. Durkee (Ward 6) Bill Hanley (Ward 3) Tim King Joey LaCava (Ward 5) Colleen Bradley-MacArthur
<b>Veterans Service</b>	<b>Kevin M Ricey Award</b>	<b>Cable Access Committee</b>
This committee meets to discuss Waltham’s veterans services.	This committee meets occasionally to discuss recipients of the Kevin M Ricey Public Service award.	This committee meets occasionally to discuss funding for the Waltham Community Access Corporation.
Paul J. Brasco Sean T. Durkee (Ward 6) Randall J. LeBlanc John McLaughlin (Ward 4) Carlos A. Vidal	Bill Hanley (Ward 3) Cathyann Harris (Ward 8) John McLaughlin (Ward 4)	Caren Dunn (Ward 2) Sean T. Durkee (Ward 6) Cathyann Harris (Ward 8)

**Additionally, the City Council:**

- At the Mayor’s request, voted 12-2 to go into executive session to discuss updates to a real estate matter. Ward 5 Councilor Joey LaCava and Councilor-at-Large Carlos A. Vidal voted against the request.
- Forwarded [more requests from McCarthy](#) to its committees for discussion next week. The Finance Committee will discuss donations of historic memorabilia and children’s toys, as well as a rebate grant from Eversource Energy for public streetlights. The Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee will examine loan authorization requests of \$5,100,000 for the Koutoujian Playground and of \$771,600 to plan the relocation of the Consolidated Public Works Department.
- Forwarded an application to renew a secondhand vehicle sales license to the Licenses and Franchises Committee.
- Gave final approval for two items the council had preliminarily voted to approve in 2025: a \$6.8 million loan [to redo streets and utilities at the former Fernald State School](#) and [an amendment to the city’s Noise Ordinance](#) to clarify which departments are responsible to enforce it.
- Opened public hearings on two special permits for commercial developments: one to allow a larger-than-permitted floor area ratio for a hotel at 220 Moody St. and a fast-food permit for a Jersey Mike’s at 864 Lexington St. The council forwarded both permits to its Ordinances and Rules Committee.

# House on Cherry Street gets one-year demolition delay

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • JANUARY 13, 2026



**79 Cherry St. is in a neighborhood with historic homes. Image from Google Street View.**

The Historical Commission voted to put a one-year demolition delay in place at 79 Cherry St.

Diane Taylor, owner of the house, came before the commission on Monday with Wes Buscemi, her legal representation. Because the property might be subject to a one-year demolition delay due to its historic nature, Taylor preemptively asked the commission to consider not applying the delay. She is selling the house and thinks having demolition as an option would make it more attractive to buyers. Taylor does not reside in the house, but owns it and rents it out.

Buscemi explained that due to Taylor's failing health, she wants to sell the house and use the proceeds to pay for medical bills. He asserted that due to the amount of updating and work needed, developers may want to buy and demolish the property. He said it was unfair for the commission to deny Taylor that selling option.

Commission member and secretary Marie Daly gave a presentation to the commission outlining how the land was originally owned by the Waltham Watch Company. It was then sold to William Sawtelle, who built a house on the property. After that, the property changed hands several times until it was bought by the late Lawrence D. Maffiola, Jr. and his now-widowed wife Taylor. Commission Chair Mort Isaacson provided additional information by reading reports of surrounding houses that had been inspected by the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System and determined to be historically significant.

In a roll call vote, Daly and Isaacson voted to put the one-year demolition delay in place alongside commissioners Kathleen Duframont and Maria Russo. Commissioners Charles Egrious and Sean Wilson voted no. Commissioner Rebecca Migdal was not present.

Due to the majority of votes being in favor of the motion, the one-year demolition delay was put in place.

# Avian flu case is a timely reminder for Waltham poultry owners to take precautions

BY NEWSROOM • PUBLIC SAFETY • JANUARY 13, 2026



**Backyard chickens are at risk of contracting avian flu. Owners are reminded to take precautions. Canva image.**

A new case of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been [confirmed in a backyard flock in Duke's County](#) (which includes Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands), prompting state officials to remind poultry owners across Massachusetts to step up biosecurity measures.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources [announced on Jan. 6](#) that a flock in Dukes County tested positive for the virus and was safely culled to prevent further spread. No contaminated products appear to have entered the food system, the agency said.

The announcement follows reports of [dead wild waterfowl along the Charles River](#) last year that

were suspected of having HPAI.

MDAR is urging poultry owners in Waltham and throughout the state to keep birds enclosed, eliminate standing water and avoid allowing “free-range” access to wetlands or ponds that attract wild ducks and geese. The virus spreads through contact with droppings, feathers, or contaminated soil, and infections in domestic poultry are often fatal.

While seasonal flu remains widespread in Massachusetts, avian influenza rarely infects humans. No human cases of HPAI have been reported in the state, and public health officials say the risk to the general public remains low unless there is direct contact with infected birds.

Residents can help by:

- Reporting sick or dead poultry at [www.mass.gov/reportpoultry](http://www.mass.gov/reportpoultry).
- Reporting multiple wild bird deaths at [www.mass.gov/reportbirds](http://www.mass.gov/reportbirds).
- Avoiding contact with sick or dead wildlife.
- Keeping cats indoors and dogs leashed, since pets can also become infected.

Health and wildlife agencies continue to track the virus statewide, emphasizing that wild waterfowl — common along the Charles — can carry and spread the disease across regions.

For more information and answers to common questions, visit [www.mass.gov/lists/frequently-asked-questions-about-avian-flu](http://www.mass.gov/lists/frequently-asked-questions-about-avian-flu).

# Meet Lulu, a senior kitty in search of snuggles and solace

BY THE CAT CONNECTION • COMMUNITY • JANUARY 13, 2026



Lulu is a stunning 13-year-old black cat whose world was recently turned upside down. After spending a decade in a loving home, she was surrendered alongside her sister when a new baby in the home developed severe cat allergies and asthma. Not long after, Lulu's sister and lifelong companion passed away, leaving her alone for the first time in her life. Now, this gentle girl is hoping for a quiet, stable forever home to begin her next chapter.



Despite experiencing so much loss, Lulu has remained the quintessential lady and is doing remarkably well in her foster home. She is healthy, affectionate and lives for snuggles — the kind of cat who makes a house truly feel like a home.

After a lifetime of loyalty, Lulu deserves a soft place to land, where she can be pampered and adored as the queen she is. Could you be the one to help heal her heart and show her that her best days are still ahead?

If you are interested in adopting Lulu, please fill out our [online adoption application](#).

# Bald eagle sighting

BY NEWSROOM • AROUND TOWN • JANUARY 13, 2026



*Photo by Luis Moran.*

Luis Moran was passing through the Crescent Laundromat parking lot at 73 Crescent St. on the afternoon of Jan. 10 when he spotted a bald eagle in a nearby tree. "It was the first time in my life watching our national bird," he said. "Amazing experience."

# Edwin Burke, 1945–2026, decorated veteran and former Middlesex County law enforcement officer

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • JANUARY 13, 2026



Edwin J. “Eddie” Burke Jr., of Waltham, died Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 at Lahey Hospital in Burlington surrounded by his loving family. He was 81.

Eddie was born in Newton on Jan. 5, 1945, a son of the late Edwin J. and Dorothy J. (Doucette) Burke. Raised in Waltham, Eddie graduated from Waltham High School in 1963 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after. He served his country honorably during the Vietnam War, fighting the Viet Cong on Hill 55 southwest of Da Nang, where he earned two Purple Hearts for wounds sustained in combat. Upon returning home, he continued his education, earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Boston State College, now part of UMass Boston.



*Edwin Burke, 1945–2026*

Eddie began his career in law enforcement as a deputy with the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Department, during which time he was selected for and graduated from the FBI National Academy, FBINA 187, in Quantico, Virginia. After fifteen years with the Sheriff’s Department, he joined the U.S. Marshals Service working as a Security Officer at the Moakley Federal Courthouse in Boston where he served for another twelve years before his retirement in 2013.

In addition to his law enforcement roles, Edwin dedicated himself to event security, leading the start line athlete security team for the Boston Athletic Association Marathon for thirty-one years, providing security at the start line for the Falmouth Road Race for forty-one years, and overseeing security at the finish line for the Jimmy Fund Walk, which held a special place in his heart. He was also involved in many road races throughout Massachusetts, offering his

experience and mega-phone wherever needed. If you knew Ed, you were the proud owner of a road race T-shirt.

Cancer touched Eddie's life deeply; he battled malignant melanoma himself, and it struck his family too. He lost his precious daughter, Jessica, at the age of three and he turned that pain into purpose, raising funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund to help children fighting the disease.

He was a life member of the PFC John M. Sullivan VFW Post 10334 in Waltham, a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, and a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

He married Rita (O'Loughlin) Burke, and they built a life together in Waltham, while also enjoying their summer home in Freedom, New Hampshire, for the past twenty years. Ed enjoyed sitting by Ossipee Lake patiently waiting for Rita to return from a kayak ride. A devoted dog lover who would give the shirt off his back to help anyone in need, Eddie found simple pleasures in solving Sudoku puzzles, enjoying a glass of wine with Rita on their deck, keeping up with the news and proudly calling himself a weather aficionado and enthusiast. He was a fierce protector of those he loved, adored his siblings who could often be found around his table and has been described as a Legend, a True Patriot and Hero. He was a lifelong fan of the Red Sox, Patriots and a Hawks Superfan. He was so proud and grateful to Mike & Meeghan for the beautiful family they created. They were his pride and joy. Above all, he cherished time with his family and found his greatest joy in his grandchildren, whom he adored. He was their number one fan. Eddie lived by the simple credo his father passed down: "Politeness is to do and say the kindest thing in the kindest way." He often said he was a blessed man.

Edwin was predeceased by his daughter, Jessica Michelle Burke and his sister, Mary Catherine Burke. Caleigh and Ella no doubt greeted him with wagging tails at the rainbow bridge.

He leaves his beloved wife, Rita (O'Loughlin) Burke; his children, Waltham Police Sergeant Michael P. Burke and his wife Lisa of Waltham, and Meeghan L. Stone and her husband Nashua Police Sergeant James of Waltham; his grandchildren Michael Burke Jr., Caitlyn Burke, Keira Stone and Caroline Stone; his siblings Thomas F. Burke and his wife Marilyn of Waltham, John M. "Jack" Burke and his wife Lois of Glen, NH, Richard B. Burke and his wife Mary of Waltham, Robert Burke and his wife Nancy of Waltham, and Deborah A. Melchiorri and her husband Anthony of Waltham. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor and remember Eddie's life by gathering for an evening wake from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16 at Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham, and again at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning before leaving in procession to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, 880 Trapelo Road, Waltham, where his funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Burial will be in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 10:45 a.m.

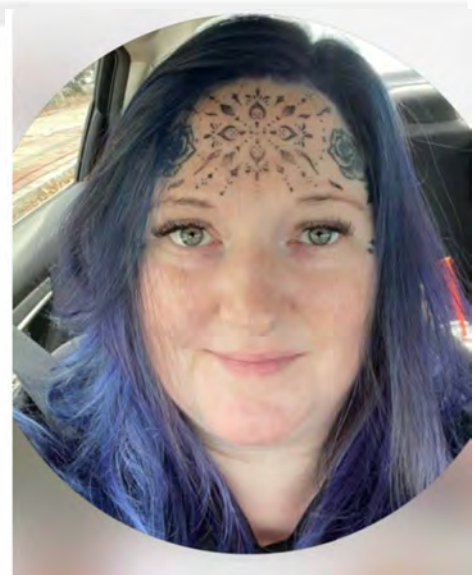
# Erin Rice, 1982–2026, whose ‘greatest gifts’ were ‘empathy and compassion’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • JANUARY 15, 2026



Erin Elizabeth Rice, beloved wife, daughter, sister and aunt, passed away Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, surrounded by loved ones at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She was 43.

Born on Jun. 20, 1982, in Riverside, California, Erin was the oldest daughter of John and Kathy (Hursh) Rice. Growing up in a military family, she got to see more of the world than most kids her age, with the family living in California, Germany and Maine before settling in Massachusetts. By fifth grade, Massachusetts had become home, and it is where she spent her formative years. Erin graduated from Nashoba Regional High School and went on to UMass Amherst, where she earned her undergraduate degree in sociology. She later earned a master’s degree in women’s studies from Suffolk University. Following in the footsteps of her parents, both Air Force veterans, she became a lieutenant in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.



*Erin Rice, 1982–2026*

Erin was a voracious reader who loved animals of all kinds, especially her cats, Annabelle and Jezebel, as well as her parrot Paco. She was a kind and thoughtful wife, daughter, sister and friend, often showing it through her fantastic ability to pick out just the right gift for each person on every occasion. Erin’s greatest gifts to the world were her empathy and compassion, qualities that shaped her life and the way she cared for people and animals equally. In that same spirit of generosity, she was an organ donor, offering hope and life to others even beyond her own.

Erin is survived by her husband, Greg Hanna of Waltham; her parents, John and Kathy Rice; her siblings, Brittany Gamber, Ashley Winters and her husband Chris, and Johnny Rice, all of Whitman; as well as her niece, nephews and countless friends.

Friends and family will honor and remember Erin’s life by gathering at the Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main St., Waltham, on Saturday, Jan. 31 for a celebration of life starting with a visitation from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. and followed by the sharing of memories at 2 p.m.

# Janice Buontempo, 1946–2026, was ‘always ready to offer kindness, support and encouragement’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • JANUARY 13, 2026



Janice R. Buontempo, of Waltham, MA, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026. She was 79.

Born to the late Howard J. Murray and Rita (Grenier) Murray, in Waltham, MA. and a lifelong resident of Waltham Janice was a woman of strong faith, unwavering dedication and a deep love for her family. She was a devoted mother, loving sister, cherished aunt and a loyal friend to many.

Janice was known for her diligent work ethic and took great pride in her career as a housekeeper, a role she faithfully served for over 35 years. Her commitment, reliability and caring nature left a lasting impression on all who knew and worked with her.

Above all else, Janice treasured her family. She found her greatest joy in the simple moments spent with loved ones and was always ready to offer kindness, support and encouragement.

Janice will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all whose lives she touched.

Survived by her beloved daughter Charlene Buontempo and grandson Zachary Coxall. She also leaves her loving sisters, Barbara Negrotti of West Newton, Deborah Murray of Waltham, Shelia Graves of Attleboro, and nieces, nephews and dear friends, all who will cherish her loving memory.

Friends and family are respectfully invited to gather and remember Janice and the love she shared with us all during visiting hours on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in The Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco and Sons Memorial Chapels, located 773 Moody Street Waltham, MA. A funeral Service in celebration of Janice’s life will begin at 12 p.m., followed by interment at Mt. Feake Cemetery, located at 203 Prospect Street.



**Janice Buontempo, 1946–2026**

# Joseph Juppe', 1947–2026, 'had a way of making everyone feel like part of the family'

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • JANUARY 13, 2026



Joseph F. Juppe', of Waltham, MA and Fort Myers, FL, passed away peacefully after a courageous two-year battle with cancer on Friday Jan. 9, 2026 in Maynard, MA, at the home of his daughter surrounded by loving family and friends. He was 78.

Born on Sept. 11, 1947 in Newton, MA, son of the late Albert and Mary (Lupo) Juppe', and the son-in-law of Angelo and Rose (Rando) Marzano. Joe resided in Waltham, MA for many years before moving to Fort Myers, FL.

Joseph met the love of his life and future wife Jeanne in the 9th grade. They were married on Jun. 21, 1969 at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church and began a family, raising their four beautiful daughters in Waltham.



*Joseph Juppe', 1947–2026*

Joe graduated Waltham High School with the class of 1966 and went on to further his education at the Cambridge School of Business and then Graham Junior College. When he was young, he was employed with Fruehauf Trailer Company with his father for many years. After leaving Fruehauf, Joe started working for the City of Newton with the Treasurers office. He then went on to pursue his entrepreneurial dream as a small business owner for 15 years. For more than 25 years, he was the Director of Retirement for the City of Waltham. Joe also worked part-time for many years at Home Depot in Natick.

Every time Joe walked into a room, he filled it with laughter. He brought happiness to each day, even on his most difficult days, and had a way of making everyone feel like part of the family. He loved the time spent with family on their vacations to his favorite place, York Beach, Maine, and every year both Joe and Jeanne looked forward to relaxing and visiting friends in Aruba, their

favorite holiday destination. In his spare time, he enjoyed making homemade tomato sauce, baking pizzelles, puzzling, playing cards every Saturday night and competing against his grandchildren in Wii Games. In later years, Joe would enjoy vacationing and visiting his brother down the Cape.

Joseph is survived by his four daughters Debra and Anthony Davis of Bedford, MA, Linda Juppe' and Lori Book of Geneseo, NY, Melissa and Nicholas Byrne of Marlborough, MA and Brenda and Christopher Monaco of Maynard, MA; his ten cherished grandchildren, Kayla and Brandon Quaranto, Matthew Legere and his fiancé Kelsie, Brian Legere, Lauren Legere, Adam Legere, Annabelle Davis, Amelia Jean Monaco, Mason Monaco, Shane Monaco and Clara Monaco; and his six adored great-grandchildren, Paige, Jameson, Sierra, Cole, Luke Quaranto and Tallulah. He was a dear brother of Albert "Al" and Margaret "Peggy" Juppe' Jr. of Belmont, MA and Linda and David LaHaise of Vero Beach, FL, and brother-in-law of Thomas and Sharon Marzano of Woburn, MA and Rosemarie and Issac "Irv" Naar of Cromwell CT. In addition, he is survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and numerous close friends.

Those who wish to pay their respects to Joseph and his family can do so at the Brasco & Sons Memorial Funeral Home, 773 Moody Street, Waltham on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Family and friends are welcomed to gather and celebrate Joseph's life and remember the love and friendship he shared with others beginning on Friday morning Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. from the Brasco & Sons Memorial Funeral Home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, 920 Trapelo Road, Waltham at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waltham.

## Calendar Jan. 21–28, 2026

WED  
21

January 21 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Living well with Parkinson's disease

**Waltham YMCA** 725 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

One of the keys to living well with Parkinson's disease is to exercise and to avoid falls. This talk will focus on evidence-based updates and expert recommendations regarding exercise, balance and fall prevention for people with Parkinson's and other movement disorders. Exercise is particularly important as it may help to slow down disease progression, as [...]

Free

WED  
21

January 21 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm


### Know your pelvic floor

**Newton YMCA** 276 Church St, Newton, MA

Unlock the benefits of pelvic floor exercise and healthy bowel and bladder habits with MGH's pelvic floor physical therapist Allison Snyder. Learn why it is important to have healthy bowel and bladder habits. We will also talk about the correct way to perform a pelvic floor contraction (Kegel) to help with urinary and bowel control. [...]

Free

WED  
21

January 21 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm 

### Board of Health meeting

**City of Waltham Government Center** 119 School Street, Waltham, MA

The Board of Health meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. Contact the Health Department to confirm each meeting and for additional information.

WED  
21

January 21 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm


### Art as Resistance in "Fabricated Imaginaries" [Virtual Program]

**Zoom**

Join Rose Art Museum staff members Madeleine Delpha and Yasmine Vera for an engaging conversation that explores how artists harness creativity to confront violence, respond to social unrest, and imagine paths toward change. Centered on works in "Fabricated Imaginaries: Crafting Art," this program highlights how fabricated forms—drawing from craft, performance, and material experimentation—become powerful tools [...]

Free

WED  
21

January 21 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  **School Committee meeting**

### School Committee meeting

**617 Lexington St** 617 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

The School Committee typically meets twice per month (once each in July and August) on Wednesday evenings. Check the School Committee web site to confirm meeting dates and times. Unless specifically noted, all regular meetings of the Waltham School Committee begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the Cannon Lecture Hall at 617 Lexington [...]

THU  
22

January 22 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Family Access of Newton – Open house

Family ACCESS 492 Waltham Street, West Newton

Join Family Access of Newton at our Early Learning Center for a free open house event. Explore our brightly lit classrooms, art room, library and indoor gym, along with our [...]

Free



THU  
22

January 22 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Women In World Jazz concert

Waltham Public Library 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States

Join us for a special concert! The award winning group Women in World Jazz, a 5 piece ensemble, is dedicated to the education and performance of women songwriters and composers [...]

Free

THU  
22

January 22 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

### Conservation Commission meeting

Zoom

The Conservation Commission typically meets twice each month on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Meetings are usually held remotely via Zoom and are open to the public. Visit the commission's web [...]

FRI  
23

January 23 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Who was Rebecca Gore? An evening tour.

Gore Place 52 Gore Street

Join an evening tour of the 1806 mansion at Gore Place in Waltham for "Who Was Rebecca Gore?" This guide-led tour will tell the story of the remarkable woman who [...]

\$21

FRI  
23

January 23 @ 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

### Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice"

Hovey Players 9 Spring Street, Waltham, MA

On the day of her wedding, Eurydice falls victim to a tragic accident that sends her hurtling into the Underworld. Ripped from her beloved Orpheus, the greatest musician in the [...]

\$25



FRI  
23

January 23 @ 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

### Acme Theater presents "Church & State"

Acme Theater of Weston 377 North Avenue, Weston, MA

Acme Theater presents "Church & State" by Jason Odell Williams. Directed by Dave Sheppard. "Church & State" is a sharp, funny, and heartfelt play that asks big questions about faith. [...]

SAT  
24

January 24 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### Charles River Collaboratory public workshops: Embroidery

Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States

Ever wonder how to embroider your initials onto cloth? In this youth-led workshop, participants explore the intersection of textile art and modern technology using the Collaboratory's embroidery machines. In this [...]

Free

SAT  
24

January 24 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### Waltham Open Mic

Christ Church 750 Main St, Waltham

Come and share your talents! Waltham Open Mic welcomes musicians, poets and storytellers who want to perform. There is no cover, but we pass the hat to raise money for [...]



SUN  
25

January 25 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

### Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice"

Hovey Players 9 Spring Street, Waltham, MA

On the day of her wedding, Eurydice falls victim to a tragic accident that sends her hurtling into the Underworld. Ripped from her beloved Orpheus, the greatest musician in the [...]

\$25.00



MON  
26

January 26 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### Introduction to the Jewish Bookshelf – The Legal Codes

Temple Beth Israel 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA

You want to learn more about Judaism, but where do you start? We are known as The People of the Book, so it's a great idea to get to know [...]

Free

MON  
26

January 26 @ 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

### Waltham City Council meeting

Waltham City Hall 610 Main St., Waltham, MA, United States

Waltham City Council normally meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, except during July and August. If a meeting falls on a Monday holiday, Council instead meets [...]

WED  
28

January 28 @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

### Family Access of Newton – Open house

Family ACCESS 492 Waltham Street, West Newton

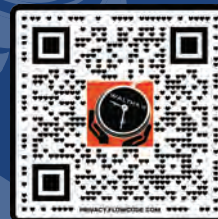
Join Family Access of Newton at our Early Learning Center for a free open house event. Explore our brightly lit classrooms, art room, library and indoor gym, along with our [...]

Free





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