

# The Week's News!



*keeps our community ticking!*

**January 19-23, 2026**



## The hidden time capsule under City Hall

BY ANIKA JAIN, BRIANNA EARLE & CAROL KORNWORCEL • ARTS & CULTURE • JANUARY 22, 2026



## Developers set permit timeline for large proposed residential, commercial districts

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JANUARY 22, 2026

## The people of Waltham deserve safer streets

BY GUEST WRITER • COMMUNITY • JANUARY 22, 2026

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# The people of Waltham deserve safer streets

Guest Writer, Kenny Artigues of Wellington Street

January 23, 2026



The intersection of Main and Moody Streets. Image from Google Street Image.

The Waltham Times published an article on Jan. 4 reviewing crash data from MassDOT. One thing not covered in that article was where Waltham sits in relation to other Massachusetts cities with regards to the safety of our streets. According to MassDOT's [Interactive Crash](#)

[Cluster Map](#), several intersections along the busiest parts of Main Street and Moody Street are in the top 5% statewide for accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians. For anyone who lives in the area, this likely won't be a surprise. But the statistics just confirm what can easily be experienced by trying to navigate the Main/Moody area on foot: It's often unpleasant and nerve wracking. I feel this way when I walk with my two young children, whether on foot or using a stroller. Getting to the library or the grocery store, both less than half a mile away, involves an unreasonable amount of hurdles and risk. The Main Street crossings nearest us require getting past four lanes of fast traffic that often won't stop unless one is standing in the middle of the road. Even the more narrow Main Street crossings near the center of town can be hair raising and provide absolutely no protection.

Most Main Street intersections provide crossing signals with barely enough time to make it across before the countdown hits zero, especially if one is encumbered by a stroller or a wheelchair. Part of what makes these intersections (and the one at Main/Prospect/Hammond in particular) so unfriendly are the wide, sweeping curbs. These not only increase the distance one must cross to safely beat the light but also make it easy for cars turning on or off Main Street to barely slow down.

I have to be extremely vigilant about crossing with my kids, even when we have the walk light, because it's so common for cars to turn "right on red" while hardly touching the brakes

(because they don't have to!). On residential streets like mine cars regularly speed past us at 40-plus mph on a road wide enough to feel like a highway, even though the speed limit is 25. Like many residents, my family doesn't have a driveway. Getting between our car and our home is frankly dangerous. After more than one near-miss, we've had to seriously reconsider whether this is a place where we can raise a family.

## **Toward a pedestrian-friendly city**

Despite the fact that Waltham is a lovely city with amenities and destinations in close proximity — exactly the kind of place that should be walkable — getting around on foot often feels like an obstacle course.

It does not have to be this way.

Conversations about road safety typically get sidetracked with red herrings about “bad drivers.” The truth is that drivers will drive in whatever way roads allow. If the roads are wide and look like runways, people will speed. If crosswalks are hard to see and not protected, pedestrians will be at risk. If curbs make sharp turns easy, drivers will do just that, slowing down only as much as the road requires. We can't fix human nature, but we can ask for road designs that guide behavior in safer directions.

The good news is that solutions exist, they don't have to be expensive and they have been proven to work in cities across the country. Narrower lanes and curb extensions naturally slow traffic. Protected crosswalks and leading pedestrian intervals give people on foot a safety buffer. Even simple changes such as high-visibility crosswalk markings and better signal timing can make a meaningful difference.

Other Massachusetts communities are making these changes. Somerville has been systematically [redesigning intersections](#) to prioritize pedestrian safety. Cambridge has implemented neighborhood [traffic calming measures](#). North Reading recently gave Main Street (on a state highway just like ours) [a “road diet” to improve walkability](#). These aren't radical experiments. They're evidence-based improvements that make streets safer for everyone, including drivers. I'm not suggesting that Waltham ban cars or turn Main Street into a pedestrian mall. I'm simply asking: Should the roads we pay for be designed primarily to shave seconds off car journeys for people passing through our city, or should they be designed to improve the lives and safety of the people who live here?

I want to encourage anyone who has had similar experiences navigating Waltham on foot to reach out to the City Council and Traffic Commission. Change is possible, but only if we make it clear that safer, more walkable streets are a priority for residents.

# Main Street McDonald's hosts fundraiser for Waltham Show Choirs

Steve Milmore

January 23, 2026



The fundraiser benefits the Waltham High School show choir, seen here practicing. Photo courtesy of WHS Show Choir.

McDonald's at 789 Main Street was the site of a fundraiser this week with 20% of the proceeds benefiting the [Waltham Choral Parents Association](#).

The WCPA is made up of a group of dedicated parents and friends who work to support Waltham's Music Unlimited and Music Express show choirs.

On Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m., families, students and supporters were invited to dine in, take out, use the drive-thru or order through DoorDash and UberEATS to help support the association. The event is one of the first community fundraisers at the newly opened restaurant.

"As a local owner-operator, I love to give back to the people who make Waltham such a great place to live. One way to do this is to bring the community together to support the Waltham High School Show Choir and help these students continue doing what they love," Rich Hogan said.

Hogan has been a licensed McDonald's owner-operator since 2014. He opened his new Main Street restaurant in December 2025.

Click [here](#) for more information on the WCPA and upcoming show choir competitions.

# City Council in brief: New committees set for 2026

Artie Kronenfeld

January 23, 2026



The City Council's eight committees have each elected a chairperson for the new year.

Councilors reelected three sitting chairs: Councilor-at-Large Carlos Vidal for the Licenses and Franchises Committee, Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris for the Ordinances and Rules Committee, and Ward 6 Councilor Sean T. Durkee for the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Additionally, Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley was newly elected chair of the Economic and Community Development Committee, Durkee was elected chair of the Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee, and Ward 2 Councilor Caren Dunn was elected chair of the Public Works and Public Safety Committee.

The Finance Committee had the only contested vote: Durkee nominated Ward 7 Councilor Paul S. Katz and Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci, the previous sitting chair, nominated himself. Katz won the chairship with three votes, approved by all present members of the committee except LaFauci; Katz himself was absent from the vote.

Councilor-at-Large Randall J. LeBlanc will chair the Committee of the Whole in his position as council vice president.

In preparation for the new year, some committees also worked to clear out older resolutions from their dockets.

LaFauci requested the Committee of the Whole file away a resolution he had proposed in 2024 about a potential public parking lot that has since been sold. Councilor-at-Large Paul J. Brasco also proposed the committee file six resolutions requested by former Ward 3

Councilor George Darcy, since he no longer serves on the council, and two more that have sat untouched for many years.

These resolutions include four conservation restrictions on city property, two requests memorializing Waltham residents, a resolution concerning the MBTA Better Bus Project and a resolution concerning a Crescent Street property. The latter two were filed without prejudice — meaning councilors can propose new motions on the same topics — at the request of other councilors.

At the Licenses and Franchises Committee meeting, Brasco requested to file an old resolution concerning a private way license for utilities company Eversource for Seyon Street, saying it was a matter of a private road and beyond the jurisdiction of the council.

Additionally, the City Council:

- Accepted a donation of historic Waltham memorabilia from between 1869 and 1969 for the Waltham Museum. (Finance)
- Accepted a donation of 300 toys from the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys For Tots program. (Finance)
- Accepted a grant of \$183,432 from an Eversource rebate program for converting streetlights lights to LED bulbs. Director of Wires Tim Kelly said that over the past 10 years his department has converted all lights the city owned on public roads. (Finance)
- Approved a \$771,600 loan to fund design work for the relocation of the current headquarters for the Department of Consolidated Public Works. Public Works Director Michael Chiasson said the department needs to move out of its current location at the police station [in time for the latter's redesign](#). (Long-term Debt and Capital Planning)
- Approved a [\\$5.1 million loan](#) to fund abatement work and construction on the former Woerd Avenue Dump for a public park. (Long-term Debt and Capital Planning)
- Considered [initial proposals](#) to amend the city's affordable housing requirements to incentivize new affordable development. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Heard updates about two [special permits](#) that [were introduced](#) to the council at public
- hearings last week; councilors asked both to return to the council in future weeks with more information. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Heard updates on [three zoning overlay districts](#) on privately owned land [proposed by the land owners](#) in December to allow for residential and commercial construction. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Held a [joint special meeting](#) with the School Committee to appoint Liz AlJammal to fill the seat of [recently resigned School Committee member Margaret Donnelly](#).
- Invited Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and Director of Recreation Kim Hebert to a Feb. 3 meeting to act on an earlier proposal to create senior housing and a municipal hockey rink [at the former Phineas Lawrence Elementary School](#). (Committee of the Whole)
- Postponed the vote on a City Council legislative budget because it lacks necessary information. The vote is usually held in the third week of January. (Committee of the Whole)
- Renewed a secondhand vehicle sales license for Waltham Auto Tow Inc. (Licenses and Franchises)

# Anne Louise LeBlanc, 1931–2026, loving mother and grandmother

Waltham News Team

January 23, 2026



Anne Louise (Brake) LeBlanc, of Waltham, died Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She was 94.

Louise was born on Feb. 2, 1931 in New Waterford, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, one of thirteen children born to the late Charles and Mary (Blanchard) Brake. She moved to Brookline in her early twenties and in 1955 married East Margaree, Cape Breton native

Gabriel L. LeBlanc at Saint Mary of the Assumption Church in Brookline. The couple soon moved to Waltham and became lifelong residents. Louise was the consummate homemaker and took great care of her husband and her children. When the grandchildren and great-grandchildren began arriving, her life was complete. Her great-grandchildren always looked forward to visits to Great Nana's to have a bowl of her homemade chicken soup followed by her Scottish oatcakes.

She and Gabe looked forward to yearly trips 'back home' to Cape Breton where time with family and friends was cherished. She could often be found knitting or baking wonderful treats at home but her real passion was shopping. There is hardly a store in New England that Louise didn't step into; TJ Maxx was probably her favorite.

She also enjoyed vacations and shopping with her family in Freeport, Maine. In her younger years Louise was a talented skater and enjoyed the sport throughout her life.

In addition to her husband, Gabe, and her parents she was also predeceased by her brothers, Cyril, Charles and Ambrose Brake. She leaves her children, Michael T. LeBlanc (Anita) of Lewiston, Shirley M. Brodie (William), Robert G. LeBlanc (Kathleen) and Maine and Nadine A. LeBlanc, all of Waltham; her grandchildren, Cristina Brodie (Sesha), Jennifer Browne (Damien), Kelly Spellman (Thomas), John LeBlanc (Lee), Kimberly O'Toole (Christopher), Matthew LeBlanc (Megan), Jonathan LeBlanc and Jeffrey LeBlanc; her great-grandchildren, Caroline, Liam, Fiona, Maggie, Gabriel, Luke, Jordan, Morgan, Claire, Murphy and Marlowe; her sisters and brothers, Philip Brake of Waltham, Ursula LeBlanc of Chelmsford, Claudia MacNeil and

Marshall Brake both of Nova Scotia, Bernadette Cormier of Waltham, and Bernard Brake and Cecile Blackwood both of Nova Scotia; her lifelong dear friend, Sally Braunstein; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

Family and friends will honored Louise's life Jan. 26 and 27. Burial will be in Mount Feake Cemetery, Waltham.

# District elementary schools set to adopt new math curriculum

Isabella Lapriore

January 23, 2026



District mathematics director Valerie Alfeo presents new elementary math curriculum. Photo by Isabella Lapriore.

Elementary schools across the city are set to adopt a new core math curriculum following the conclusion of a pilot program rolled out across district K-5 schools from September to December last year.

At the school committee’s Jan. 21 meeting, district mathematics director Valerie Alfeo told members that the district used EngageNY, a free curriculum, for nine years before the pilot program started. Alfeo said the district began examining alternative curriculum options after educators expressed a need to supplement EngageNY.

According to Alfeo, a curriculum council was convened, comprised of 11 standard classroom teachers, six math coaches, one special education teacher, one English as a second language teacher and three principals. The council narrowed options down to two curricula to pilot.

Alfeo said that 68.4% of the council as well as 63.6% of elementary principals recommended implementing the [Bridges in Mathematics curriculum](#), aligning with the initial curriculum goals of content standards and practices and enhancing student engagement, discovery and overall student learning experience.

The Math Learning Center, the nonprofit organization responsible for assembling the curriculum, states on its website that Bridges is “inquiry based and student centered,” and “focuses on developing mathematical reasoning while creating an inclusive and equitable learning community for all students.”

Samantha Harris, a member of the council and fourth grade teacher at MacArthur Elementary School, told the committee that her students' scores and overall learning experience were best supported by Bridges.

Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa thanked members of the pilot program and expressed her support for the new curriculum.

"I think that we will see both our staff and students thriving in this new curriculum," Mendonsa said.

Alfeo said next steps to implement Bridges will be rolled out beginning with asynchronous modules, in-person training, site visits at schools already using the curriculum, monthly administrative meetings and follow up professional development during the first year.

Additionally, teacher and student materials will be purchased and the district will provide documents throughout the year to ensure families are aware of what students are learning in each unit.

Additionally, the School Committee:

- Accepted three donations: \$5,910 from the Lady Hawks Hoopsters Booster to the Waltham High School girls basketball program, \$3,000 from Toyota of Watertown to fund two \$1,500 scholarships for seniors in the WHS auto tech program and \$7,500 from the Audrey P. Connor Trust Charitable Foundation for Stanley Elementary School to purchase supplies.
- Heard WHS updates from student council members about upcoming winter sportssenior nights, show choir competition on Jan. 31 and dance theater shows on Jan. 28, 29 and 30.
- Received monthly finance and operations, curriculum and instruction, career and technical education, special education and student services, family and community engagement and human resources updates from district leaders.

# City Council considers lowering affordability minimums to build more homes

Artie Kronenfeld

January 23, 2026



Waltham’s legislators are considering an adjustment to the city’s affordable housing requirements to incentivize more developers to build affordably.

At the Jan. 20 meeting of the City Council’s Ordinances and Rules Committee, City Solicitor Katherine Laughman presented a series of possible housing reforms [suggested by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#).

The city hired the MAPC to evaluate its affordable housing legislation and counsel the city on how to comply with the MTBA Zoning act, Laughman said. The city also asked the MAPC to evaluate how feasible Waltham’s current affordability requirements are for residential construction in the long term.

The organization’s analysis found that Waltham’s current housing requirements were reasonable for small residential developments of eight or fewer units and in some cases for very large developments of 75 units or more. But the costs imposed by the requirements would be prohibitive for many housing developments in between.

In a September email Laughman presented to the committee, the MAPC laid out four policy options it had brainstormed with the city’s Law Department that would better incentivize affordable housing construction in the city through changes to the affordable unit minimums, what units have to cost to be considered affordable, and parking space requirements for new developments to lower their overall cost.

In all of these cases, the organization calculated whether housing is affordable based on its costing no more than 30% of a household’s monthly income. Units priced for households making up to 80% of the area median income are considered affordable units by the state.

All four MAPC options imposed different requirements on smaller developments of 18 or fewer units and larger developments of 19 or more units, in line with current requirements. At the moment, the city requires that 15% of units in new buildings with eight to 18 units are rated as affordable. In buildings with 19 or more units, developers are required to add an additional 5% of units that would be affordable for households at 50% AMI.

Council President and Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan spoke in favor of the amendments.

“There has not been one single request for a special permit to develop housing of any kind since [the affordable housing requirement] was increased to 20%,” he said.

The Ordinances and Rules Committee agreed to temporarily table the matter so that committee members could consider the proposed options in more detail before the committee’s next meeting.

Summary of affordability requirements for housing development

Development size	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<b>Up to 18 units</b>	10% of all units in a development must be affordable. 2/3 of all affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80%</b> of the area median income, and the other 1/3 for residents making <b>60% AMI</b> .	15% of all units in a development must be affordable. <b>All</b> affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80% AMI</b> .	10% of all units in a development must be affordable. 2/3 of all affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80% AMI</b> , and the other 1/3 for residents making <b>50% AMI</b> .  Developers only need to build  <b>1.5 parking spaces per unit</b> in the development, instead two.	15% of all units in a development must be affordable. <b>All</b> affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80% AMI</b> .
<b>19 or more units</b>	15% of all units in a development must be affordable. 2/3 of all affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80% AMI</b> , and the other 1/3 for residents making <b>60% AMI</b> .	15% of all units in a development must be affordable. 2/3 of all affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80% AMI</b> , and the other 1/3 for residents making <b>50% AMI</b> .	15% of all units in a development must be affordable. 2/3 of all affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80% AMI</b> , and the other 1/3 for residents making <b>50% AMI</b> .  Developers only need to build  <b>1.5 parking spaces per unit</b> in the development instead of two.	15% of all units in a development must be affordable. 1/2 of all affordable units should be priced for residents making <b>80% AMI</b> , and the other 1/2 for residents making <b>50% AMI</b> .  Developers only need to build <b>one parking space per unit</b> in the development instead of two.

# Judge closes October armed robbery case following Superior Court indictment

Isabella Lapriore

January 23, 2026

Judge Ellen M. Caulo closed an armed robbery case against William Patrick Ford, 44, homeless, of Waltham, following his indictment. Caulo's move came at a status review hearing at Waltham District Court on Jan. 20.

A Middlesex Superior Court grand jury indicted Ford on charges of armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying a dangerous weapon and threat to commit a crime on Nov. 13. He was [arraigned on the charges on Dec. 23](#). Ford was arrested by Waltham police following an armed robbery outside the Mobil gas station at 1335 Main St. on Oct. 6. He [pleaded not guilty to the above charges](#) as well as two counts of possession of a class B drug at his district court arraignment the day after his arrest.

Superior Court Judge Patrick Haggan ordered the defendant remain held without bail on dangerousness at the Middlesex County House of Correction in Billerica. Haggan also set a scheduling conference and pretrial hearing for Jan. 28 and Feb. 23 in Ford's superior court case.

## Additional court actions

Caulo also rescheduled a probable cause hearing for Schleiden Meneide, 37, of 265 Village Circle Way, Manchester, New Hampshire, on Jan. 20. Meneide pleaded not guilty to 15 counts of possession of a large capacity firearm, two counts of improper storage of a large capacity firearm, one count of possession of a silencer with the intent to use or sell, one count of possession of ammunition without a firearm identification card and a fugitive from justice charge at [an arraignment on July 29](#). He remains held without bail on dangerousness at the Middlesex Jail in Billerica and is scheduled to appear at Waltham District Court on Jan. 26.

Waltham District Court Judge Sarah Kennedy scheduled a probable disposition hearing for Anthony L. Gallardo Aguirre, 20, of 8 Seattle St., Allston, on Jan. 22. Gallardo Aguirre pleaded not guilty at an Oct. 9 arraignment to conspiracy in connection with [a retail fraud scheme](#) he was alleged to have led during the summer at his former workplace, BJs Wholesale Club at 66 Seyon St. He is scheduled to appear on March 12 for probable disposition in the case.

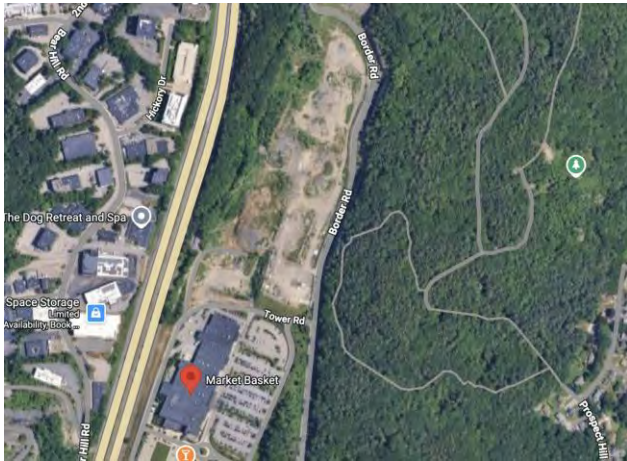
All information for this story was gathered from court proceedings and official court documents at Waltham District Court, Middlesex Superior Court and case information from [masscourts.org](https://www.masscourts.org).

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# Developers set permit timeline for large proposed residential, commercial districts

Artie Kronenfeld

January 23, 2026



Aerial view of the land north of Market Basket, site of a proposed multi-use development by 1265 Main Street LLC. Google image.

The City Council will revisit [three proposed multi-use residential and commercial districts](#) in west Waltham in about a month.

These districts would fall on top of three privately owned groups of lots. The current owners of the parcels, BXP (formerly Boston Properties) and 1265 Main Street LLC

(associated with J & Co. LLC), [proposed the zoning overlays](#) to pave the way for mixed residential and commercial construction.

BXP owns two of the properties, known as Bay Colony and Jones Road, and 1265 Main St owns the third, a large undeveloped area north of the Market Basket at 1265 Main St.

Representatives from both companies returned to the City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee at its Jan. 20 meeting to discuss concerns from the city's Law Department.

City Solicitor Katherine Laughman told the committee that it needed to consider the three districts separately because of the differences in the sites of the three properties, their existing zoning and the construction proposed for each one.

Laughman said the City Council should require the land owners to agree to a more detailed development plan for each site before passing any zoning amendments, including more specifics about the size and density of buildings and the city infrastructure needed to support them. She said this will allow the council to better understand what zoning changes are necessary for construction, protect the city from harm if a company changes its plans and incentivize the developers to act quickly.

She proposed that the developers, before getting special permits for specific construction, should submit a master plan with even more granular details about building placement and type as well as a phase-by-phase breakdown of construction.

Both developers agreed to return to the committee in late February with a development agreement that addressed Laughman's list of questions as well as further zoning details and a visually standardized site concept plan.

Both also requested and obtained committee permission to allow their own privately hired contractors to reach out to city departments so they could complete fiscal impact studies measuring how the developments would affect city infrastructure.

BXP Vice President Kier Evans said his company would not be able to provide some of the information Laughman requested including sewer and traffic studies at this stage in the process but would be able to commit to providing some infrastructure funding to the city in proportion to what BXP constructs.

He added that BXP plans to match a \$15 million grant from the state to develop Green Street to make highway improvements in the area. Since construction for those improvements was scheduled to start in July, and BXP's funding decisions were tied to the success of the development, Evans said he wants to work to pass the zoning amendments and begin the special permit process by July 1.

As a part of the deliberation process, the committee also asked that BXP hold a neighborhood meeting at the Bay Colony site so that area residents can have opportunities for input.

It also requested Waltham District Schools Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa or a designee attend a Feb. 23 committee meeting to present a comprehensive plan on how the school district can accommodate these three developments as well as [other large developments](#) under construction in west Waltham that could affect the school-age population.

“This is historic for the city. In my opinion we’re talking about building a new neighborhood,” Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley told the petitioners.

# Mayor gets initial approval for \$5.1 million Koutoujian Park loan

Artie Kronenfeld

January 23, 2026



Artist's rendering of the proposed Koutoujian Playground and skate park.

The city is moving forward on a more than decade-old project to turn the former Woerd Avenue dump into a city park.

The 7-acre property, which contains the existing Koutoujian Playground and skate park, sits on a former landfill. Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris told the City Council's Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee at its Jan. 20 meeting that the state had determined the site is environmentally hazardous and mandated its cleanup.

Last week, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy asked the City Council to preapprove an additional \$5.1 million loan for the project. The city already received a Section 108 federal loan to redevelop the property.

Waltham's Housing Director Collett Casey-Brenner, speaking on behalf of the city Planning Director Robert Waters, told the Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee that progress has taken so long in part because the city had to ensure development on the site would meet environmental standards.

The city plans to cap the landfill to make the site safe for future use and redevelop it into a mixed-use green space. Casey-Brenner said the space would include skate and bike parks, a playground, workout stations, a basketball court, a tennis court, open green space with local plants and wild grasses, walking paths and parking spaces for visitors.

Harris said that the development has been a long time and that the land has been a part of city master planning since 2014. "Nobody wants to see unused land. Nobody wants to see land in decay," she said. "This project really does need to move forward. The community needs it."

The city put the project out to bid late last year, and the three lowest bids — from the Onyx Corporation, J. Bates & Son and David G. Roach & Sons — ranged from approximately \$7.4 million to \$8.2 million. According to Waters, the city's planning director, signage and equipment for the site would cost an additional \$374,890.

Casey-Brenner said the \$5.1 million coming from the new loan would pay for required costs remaining after money from the Section 108 federal loan was spent. She added that the city has already paid back \$1.05 of the \$1.06 million it borrowed through the Section 108 loan program. She also said the city plans to determine a contractor and begin moving the project forward as soon as possible.

# The hidden time capsule under City Hall

Anika Jain

January 23, 2026



Beneath the bustle of Waltham City Hall and all the business that unfolds there one can find pieces of the community's history preserved for future generations in the little-known City Hall Museum.

The museum is not marked by banners or fanfare, and the only online mention of its existence is [an announcement](#) of its Feb. 16, 2023, opening.

The museum is only open four hours a week, or by appointment through the Mayor's Office.

Inside, the museum feels less like a curated collection and more like the attic of a city that never quite wanted to throw anything away. Exhibits are filled with donations given by Waltham residents over the years.

These donations were once scattered across different storage spaces. However, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, the museum's creator, consolidated the items and moved them in early 2023 to the City Hall basement after it was renovated following a flood in 2022.



The interior of the City Hall Museum Room, filled with memorabilia and gifts to the Mayor from members of the Waltham community. Photo by Carol Kornworcel.

Thus far, every item that had been donated to the city is on display.

"I'm always trying to bring in something new and something old," McCarthy explained.

The City Council votes on what donations to accept, but the mayor has the final say on what items are displayed in the museum.



There are mannequins draped in vintage dresses once worn by 90-year-old fashion designer Yolanda Cellucci, owner of Yolanda's, a renowned fashion and bridal boutique on Waverly Oaks Road that closed in 2009. Hanging on the wall are the suits she designed for McCarthy and her mother to wear to the mayor's first inauguration.

Three mannequins wear Yolanda's gowns in the Yolanda exhibit room. Suits worn by Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and her mother are displayed on the wall to the left.

Photo by Carol Kornworcel.

There are relics from the Grover Cronin department store that once filled up an entire Moody Street block. The store's green velvet Santa Claus chair, where untold numbers of Waltham children sat for their Christmas pictures, is on display.

The museum also has the original red velvet seats and chandelier from the old Embassy Theater, where generations of Waltham residents watched their first movies.

Local artists Donna and Shawn Laswell volunteered their time and resources to recreate historical artifacts, such as Cronin's Nativity Scene, for the museum.



The Embassy Theater exhibit with original chairs and a chandelier.  
Photo by Carol Kornworcel.

Paula Landry, the museum's manager, brings the items' history to life when guiding visitors through the exhibits.

Landry, whose Waltham ties date back six generations, makes walking through the museum seem like flipping through an old family album. She remembers everything from who owned local shops to those who marched in the parades. An X-ray technician for 30 years at the former Waltham Hospital, Landry was instrumental in curating the hospital exhibit. The exhibit also includes displays of X-rays she took.

Landry said the majority of the museum's visitors are senior citizens from Waltham. "It's all the places they grew up and knew," she said.

Landry reflected on changes in the city, noting that "You used to know everybody, and now you don't."

Some longtime residents of the city are upset by how much Waltham has changed, but McCarthy, a Waltham native for 72 years, accepts that change is inevitable: "It was never going to be the Waltham [we] grew up in," she said.

# School Committee unanimously approves contested emotional support dog policy

Isabella Lapriore

January 23, 2026



Toni Mecionates, a former emotional support dog handler and fifth grade teacher at MacArthur Elementary School addresses the School Committee at its public hearing. Photo by Isabella Lapriore.

School Committee members this week unanimously approved a districtwide emotional support dog policy that contained details opposed by some educators.

The board’s approval came at its Wednesday night meeting after a public hearing to get input on the contested policy.

The approved policy includes [contested language prohibiting](#) classroom teachers from acting as handlers of emotional support dogs.

At the Jan. 21 public hearing, three members of the Waltham Public Schools community spoke in support of removing the prohibition.

Former emotional support dog handler and MacArthur Elementary School fifth grade teacher Toni Mecionates was one of the three.

Mecionates faulted the committee for failing to include educators in crafting the policy, although she said she agrees a policy is necessary.

“I think the communication was one of the things that caused this problem, and it could have been avoided at the very beginning by a simple conversation,” Mecionates said.

[At previous meetings](#) the committee had heard from Julia Norman, a digital learning teacher at MacArthur, about the school's experience with Mecionates as a handler of its former emotional support dog, Nala.

At those previous meetings, Norman had requested, on behalf of the MacArthur staff, that the committee remove the language prohibiting classroom teachers from acting as handlers of emotional support dogs.

Before approving the policy at its Wednesday meeting, committee members Debbie Coleman and Tammy Wong-Bigelow said they had researched state and national policies, noting that those policies said teachers were not permitted to act as handlers of emotional support dogs.

Coleman added that since committee member Sabrina DeJoannis requested the committee hold a public hearing, she had received calls from community members who didn't want to attend the hearing, expressing their concerns about letting teachers act as handlers.

“[The callers expressed] a lot of concern over a classroom teacher being a handler, asking if the dog is sick, dog needs to go home, does a teacher have to leave?” Coleman said.

School Committee members also approved a proposal from Wong-Bigelow to amend the new policy. The amendment adds an expedited approval process to bring an emotional support dog to a school in cases when an urgent or emergency social, emotional or traumatic need of an individual student or student body is identified.

The policy passed with a vote of 6-0 following the amendment's approval.

# Joint committee appoints Liz AlJammal to fill vacant School Committee seat

Isabella Lapriore

January 23, 2026



Clerk Joseph Vizard swears in Liz AlJammal next to her husband, Issam, and City Council President Robert G. Logan. Photo by Isabella LaPriore.

Members of the City Council and School Committee appointed former member Liz AlJammal to fill a recently vacated committee seat.

The appointment was made at a Jan. 20 meeting, which was scheduled after Margaret Donnelly [resigned from her position on Jan. 12](#). Donnelly had served on the School Committee for 32 years.

Fifteen of the 19 members present at the special joint meeting voted for AlJammal, who was nominated by current School Committee vice chair, Debbie Coleman.

After being elected, AlJammal thanked the room for her appointment, vowing to continue prioritizing students.

“I promise to do my very best to do what’s right for the kids of this city,” she said.

[AlJammal](#) previously served nine years on the committee but was not reelected during the last election season, losing to Sabrina DeJoannis [by 584 votes](#).

Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur had nominated former School Committee candidate Carolina Lara for the position as well. Lara sought election in 2023 but was unsuccessful, [finishing 99 votes behind Donnelly](#).

AlJammal will hold the position until Jan. 2, 2028, per article four, section three of [the Waltham City Charter](#).

# Five years after he was randomly attacked, David Cameros Gomez says the impact remains

Isabella Lapriore

January 22, 2026



*David Cameros Gomez, courtesy photo.*

It was 7 p.m. on Nov. 19, 2020. David Cameros Gomez had spent the last two weeks at his Waltham home quarantining with COVID. He had just gone out for groceries and once home, took out the trash. At the dumpster, with no warning, he was struck in the head.

He remembers standing in the dark next to a dumpster, illuminated by his phone screen, and then the hit. He was knocked unconscious. “I felt like I fainted for a few seconds and as best as I could, I looked for my phone,” Cameros Gomez said in a recent interview some five years after the attack. Once he found his phone, he called 911. The attack was random, as far as he could tell. Cameros Gomez said he didn’t feel he was targeted.

He — and the rest of the city — came to learn it was not an isolated assault.

An unidentified person had been attacking people across Waltham in a similar random manner since Nov. 10 that year, which made residents fearful. The string of attacks spanned 17 days, and no arrest was made for a month following the first assault.

On Dec. 11, 2020, Clauvens Janvier was initially arrested and charged in connection to one assault that took place a month prior. Following an investigation by Waltham police, the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office and Massachusetts State Police, Janvier was connected to 11 other assaults across the city between Nov. 10 and Nov. 27 that year, according to [a press release from the DA and Waltham police](#).

Janvier, a 29-year-old Waltham man, pleaded guilty to charges in connection to the 12 attacks and [was sentenced Jan. 6 at Middlesex Superior Court](#). He received a sentence of 14 years and one day at the Souza Baranowski Correctional Center in Lancaster.

According to Cameros Gomez, however, that isn’t enough. “He behaves very well on the outside. I think he’ll get up to half that time and be released much sooner,” he said.

In a January interview, Cameros Gomez recounted the lasting impacts of the assault. In the weeks following the incident, Cameros Gomez said he could only open his jaw enough to consume liquids, causing him to lose weight. He suffered a broken skull but learned from his

doctor that he wouldn't need surgery, that his bones would heal themselves. But while the bones may have healed, other injuries remain.

"The blow affected a nerve," he said. "When it rains, when I shave the right side of my face, when I go to the barber, when I brush my teeth I feel a tingling sensation, like pins and needles on the right side of my face."

Watch CDC, a Waltham nonprofit, helped Cameros Gomez after the attack. The organization paid his rent and bought food.

"I am very grateful to that institution," said Cameros Gomez, explaining that he initially received support when he had COVID and saw that support continue after the attack.

Cameros Gomez was the fifth victim of 12 total attacks Janvier carried out. He said he felt like the police, however, only began to follow up with the first five victims after Janvier attacked a mailman.

"[The mailman] is someone important here, [while] we are Latinos," he said. "They only started paying attention when someone important was attacked."

When asked for comment in response, a spokesperson for Waltham police directed The Waltham Times to the joint press release, declining to comment further.

Four months after the attack, Cameros Gomez moved to Maine. He said he was never contacted to make a victim impact statement in the case.

A spokesperson for the DA's office did not comment directly following correspondence from The Waltham Times.

Because Janvier accepted a plea deal, Cameros Gomez wasn't able to testify against his attacker either, though he would have if given the opportunity he said.

When asked what he would say to Janvier, Cameros Gomez expressed hope that his attacker is forgiven by God.

"I don't wish ill on anyone, no matter how much of an enemy they are, because karma exists and God takes care of everything," he said.

*All quotes in this story were translated to English from an interview conducted in Spanish.*

# Hearing for lawsuit against WCAC set for February

Isabella Lapriore

January 21, 2026

The lawsuit between a local online news organization and Waltham’s cable access channel could be decided or sent to trial in February, resolving questions about fair use of broadcasted government meetings.

John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse in Boston. Image credit: Wikipedia.



The Feb. 26 hearing will consist of arguments from plaintiff Channel 781 News and defendant Waltham Community Access Corp. to decide whether the case should proceed to trial or be decided given the present facts from both parties.

Both Channel 781 and WCAC have filed motions to decide the case without moving to trial.

“Over the past year, we confirmed through discovery that WCAC didn’t consider fair use in good faith when they sent takedown notices to YouTube. Those takedown notices caused YouTube to shut off Channel 781 right before the September 2023 preliminary election in Waltham, when their voice was most needed,” Mitch Stolz, a lawyer representing Channel 781, said in an email to The Waltham Times. “At the hearing next month, we’ll be asking the court to rule that WCAC broke the law and is liable for the harm they caused to Channel 781’s free speech rights.”

Channel 781, WCAC and WCAC’s lawyer did not respond to requests for comments.

Channel 781 bills itself as “a citizen news service for Waltham” and [posts its coverage on YouTube](#). It uses segments from WCAC broadcasts as part of its video content.

The case between the two entities dates back nearly a year and a half, during which time the defendant and plaintiff have been filing motions and counter motions.

In September 2023 WCAC reported Channel 781 to YouTube, saying that Channel 781 videos containing clips of WCAC broadcasts represented copyright infringement. YouTube disabled Channel 781's channel in response to WCAC's report. YouTube's disablement of Channel 781 happened five days before Waltham's preliminary election, including a contested mayoral race.

Channel 781 filed its federal lawsuit against WCAC in July 2024, alleging that WCAC knowingly misrepresented copyright claims outlined under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act in an effort to remove Channel 781's coverage. Channel 781 argued that using clips from broadcasted government meetings are fair use of copyrighted material.

WCAC followed with a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, but the Massachusetts U.S. District Court judge presiding over the case, Patti B. Saris, [denied the WCAC motion to dismiss](#) the case on Jan. 6, 2025.

Following Saris' decision, WCAC filed a formal response to the lawsuit denying the allegations. WCAC filed that response on Jan. 17, 2025.

Then, on Nov. 13, 2025, Jeffrey Pyle, a lawyer for WCAC, filed a motion for summary judgment. He also filed 13 supporting exhibits arguing that WCAC considered fair use copyright privileges before reporting the videos. He argued that WCAC didn't believe its broadcast clips were covered under fair use because they had been reused by Channel 781 and the copyright reports targeted only those specific clips, therefore not acting in "bad faith" as outlined under [section 512\(f\) of the DMCA](#).

In a cross-motion, Channel 781's lawyers denied WCAC's motion requesting summary judgement, requesting Saris rule that WCAC did act in bad faith and that the takedown notices violated the DMCA. The plaintiff submitted witness depositions, video exhibits and a table outlining how much of WCAC broadcasts were used in each of the 15 clips.

WCAC filed a reply opposing this motion, arguing that Channel 781 cannot prove WCAC knowingly lied about misrepresenting the copyright infringement claims. Additionally, Pyle introduced two more exhibits to supplement WCAC's motion for summary judgment: an invoice showing payment made to WCAC for use of community meeting footage and an email made by Stolz, requesting YouTube restore Channel 781's account on Nov. 7, 2023.

The February hearing is open for members of the public and media to listen to by signing up on the [U.S. District Court website](#).

*CORRECTION made Jan. 21, 12 p.m.: The article incorrectly stated that Channel 781 was the defendant and WCAC was the plaintiff.*

# Waltham Cultural Council awards more than \$50,000 in grants to support local arts

Steve Milmore

January 21, 2026

The Waltham Cultural Council has awarded 51 grants totaling \$51,445 to support arts, sciences and cultural programs throughout the city. There was considerable interest this year, with the WCC receiving 62 applications for funds.

The council rewarded programs that are inclusive, accessible and celebrate the spirit of the Waltham community. The WCC grants will fund a diverse range of initiatives to engage residents of all backgrounds and ages.

Many of the grants issued this year support community events such as Waltham RiverBeat, Watch City Steampunk Festival, Concerts on the Common and Farm Day.



*Waltham's Steampunk Festival was one of the recipients of the WCC grant. Photo by Andrew Horton-Hall.*

Others are for fun projects such as Puppet Pen Pals for the Whittemore Elementary School and Hip-Hop Chair Dance for Seniors.

Funding was also awarded to support diverse arts and culture including African Culture Services for its music performance series and story magazine. Ethnic Arts Center of Somerville also received a grant for its We Are Family! legacy project for Waltham.

The WCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils supported and funded by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. It also receives funding from the City of Waltham, which allows for even greater local impact.

A complete list of this year's grant recipients and more information on the WCC's funding priorities can be found on the [Massachusetts Cultural Council website](#).

*Disclosure: The Waltham Times received a 2025 WCC grant to fund its arts coverage.*

# Hovey Players starts 90th year with 'Eurydice'

Julie M. Cohen

January 21, 2026

The Greek myth of Orpheus has been retold countless times over the millennia from the protagonist's point of view. However, the venerable Hovey Players theater group will perform the classical tragedy from the heroine's perspective in the upcoming show "Eurydice."

Director Jill Tokac said "I feel so honored," when asked about leading her first Hovey show, especially at the beginning of the organization's 90th anniversary year.



The Newton resident has been directing for five years while simultaneously working a full-time job at the Boston Children's Chorus. She was drawn to the modern retelling of

"Eurydice" by playwright Sarah Ruhl's openness to directors bringing her work to life in their

own ways.

"I completely changed the concept of what the script is," said Tokac about her interpretation. She praised Hovey for giving full creative control to her, the actors, set designers, and other contributors.

Nico Miller, as Eurydice, entering the Underworld during a Hovey Players rehearsal for "Eurydice" on Jan. Courtesy photo by Sara Jones.



Conor Long, as the Nasty/Interesting Man, seen trying to seduce Eurydice, played by Nico Miller, during a Hovey Players rehearsal for "Eurydice" on Jan. 18. Courtesy photo by Sara Jones.

## Director's vision

According to Hovey Players' description of the play, "'Eurydice' transforms a traditional myth into a visceral, contemporary meditation on love worth grieving for."

Part of the seven-person show calls for music to be played at certain times but leaves it up to the director to choose the tunes. Tokac decided to commission original music written by her friend Bryan Whittier.

According to Rebecca Shor, a member of Hovey's creative board, the theater group's shows often include music but it produced its last full musical about 10 years ago. However, other companies have staged musicals in the Hovey space.

In addition to adding songs, Tokac also had the challenge of fitting the expansive concepts in Ruhl's play into Hovey's 50-seat black box theater.

"It is very, very intimate," she said. In fact, the audience is so close to the actors that microphones aren't needed.

Since "water is a big theme of 'Eurydice,'" said Tokac, she decided to create a modern beach setting.

"We've moved it forward in time," she said, noting that a character even uses a cell phone during the show. As a side benefit, it's also cost effective to set it in the 21st Century.

Tokac, who appreciates Hovey's support, hopes to direct more shows with the theater in the future.

Hovey Players is located at 9 Spring St., Waltham. "Eurydice" will run from Jan. 23 to Feb. 7. For more information, [visit the website](#).

# Velcro is a kitty who seeks attachment

THE CAT CONNECTION

January 21, 2026

Meet Velcro, a sweet and beautiful 6-year-old tortie who's sure to leave you attached.

**Velcro would love to find a home to get attached to. Photo from The Cat Connection.**



Velcro is a social gal who loves being in the same room as her people and even prefers to eat when they do. She can be a bit shy at first and isn't a fan of change, but once she feels safe and secure, there's no place she'd rather be than curled up contentedly in your lap.

Smart and vocal, Velcro enjoys chatting throughout the day and will even come when her name is called! This devoted girl would love to be your one and only, thriving best in a home without other pets or children.

If you're looking for a loyal lap cat and lifelong companion, Velcro is ready to stick by your side.

If you are interested in adopting Velcro, please fill out our online adoption application. Share anonymous news tips

You can leave a news tip anonymously, but if you would like us to follow up with you, please include your contact information

# Retired professor and Holocaust survivor makes \$18 million gift to Brandeis

William Holder

January 21, 2026



*Brandeis University president Arthur Levine and retired professor and benefactor, Peter Jordan. Photo courtesy of Brandeis University.*

A long-time chemistry professor at Brandeis University and his wife have made an \$18 million gift in support of research in theoretical and physical chemistry at the university, according to a Jan. 16 announcement from Brandeis.

The gift from Peter Jordan, professor emeritus, and his wife Barbara Palmer honors Jordan's parents. His father, Hans, fled Nazi Germany with his wife and young son. A civil engineer, he faced initial barriers to professional success related to his Jewish ancestry and economic conditions before finding employment in the defense industry. In his free time, he designed and patented one of the first reliable garbage disposals. It became a popular appliance in modern post-war kitchens.

“My becoming a professor was somewhat of a full circle moment for my father,” said Jordan. “His sacrifices helped make it possible for me to pursue a career that he once aspired to and, fittingly, at a university that was founded by the American Jewish community.”

Jordan served as a chemistry professor at Brandeis for nearly 50 years, retiring in 2011. During that career, Jordan's research at Brandeis centered on theoretical biophysical chemistry, applying physical and chemical principles to understand biological systems — an interdisciplinary field that is crucial for areas such as drug discovery and nanoscience.

The gift will create a new senior professorship in theoretical chemistry, a junior professorship in physical chemistry, and three new graduate research fellowships in the chemistry department which will expand research, build knowledge and inform teaching at Brandeis.

University President Arthur Levine said Jordan's decision to make such a generous and impactful gift to Brandeis is emblematic of his love of his work and teaching, and of the institution. “Not only did Peter make us proud during his long career at Brandeis, but he has generously dedicated his resources to help the chemistry department's future faculty and students,” he said.

Jordan and Palmer, who served as associate dean, university registrar and head of institutional research at Brandeis, also endowed the Jordan-Dreyer Endowed Summer Undergraduate Research in Chemistry Fellowship Fund in 2018.

# Employment scams prey on people anxious to find work

Steve Milmore

January 21, 2026



A Waltham resident recently applied to an online job posted on CareerBuilder that matched his qualifications and interests. But he became suspicious when he was asked to pay for equipment. He called the employer and learned the job post was a scam.

The Waltham Police Department warns that people are being victimized by scammers every day. Examples include cryptocurrency fraud, fake tech support to fix non-existent computer problems and “phishing” emails that trick you into giving personal information.

Scams are constantly evolving, and the workplace has become a major hunting ground. The growth of online job searches and remote work opportunities make it easy for scammers to pose as real employers.

According to the Better Business Bureau, employment scams are [#1 on the biggest scams list](#) for 2026. Imposters are posting jobs on trusted sites such as ZipRecruiter and Indeed that are nearly indistinguishable from real listings. Many people looking for work are being ripped off, and desperation makes job hunters more susceptible to fraud.

These scams can take many forms, from publishing fake websites to offering false job opportunities. They’re looking to cash in with an offer you can’t refuse for a position that doesn’t exist.

In one common scenario, a fake employer offers an applicant a job and then tells that person to buy expensive equipment in order to work remotely. The supposed company says it will reimburse the new employee and sends a fraudulent check — usually for more than the equipment was worth, asking the employee to send the difference via Venmo or PayPal before the fake check bounces.

So how do you stay safe and not waste your time? Here are a few key signs and red flags that can help identify potentially fake job postings, according to [Indeed](#).

- Always conduct thorough research on the company and the job offer. If the information provided is too vague, the pay is extremely high, or the offer seems too good to be true, these are red flags signaling a potential scam.
- Avoid job listings asking for up-front payments, promising high wealth in a short time, or that use unprofessional communication. Such signs often indicate the job ad isn’t legitimate.

# Thank you to The Outer Limits

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Guest Writer

January 20, 2026

Dear editor of The Waltham Times,

My name is Kevin Keaney. I was once a resident of Waltham, growing up on the South side in the 1980's & 90's. I've been teaching Graphic Design & Illustration classes at Waltham High School for 20 years. I am writing to mark the upcoming retirement and closing of my favorite store on Moody Street, The Outer Limits. A cultural hub for myself and many others – Steve Higgins first opened the store in 1983. With the current proliferation of comic book movies and culture, it's hard to imagine this popular art form was once on the fringe of entertainment and artistic endeavors – sold primarily at supermarkets and gas stations.

Creating comics was relegated to the lowest of art forms, and barely considered as “Art”.

To my friends and me, The Outer Limits was our museum. The store opened my eyes to the world of illustration and graphic design. The Outer Limits showed me a multitude of stories in every genre – from superheroes, and science fiction, to tales of everyday life experiences.

Steve introduced me to Art Spiegelman's “Maus” long before it entered high school curriculums. I've read Mary Shelly's “Frankenstein” many times thanks to being introduced to Berni Wrightson's artistic masterwork, and I got hooked on the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles when they were printed in black & white – long before Nickelodeon got a hold of them. Steve encouraged me to read about comics as a field of study with Scott McCloud's “Understanding Comics” and Will Eisner's “Comic & Sequential Storytelling”. Books I continue to share with students to this day.

Steve Higgins was kind and receptive to my pack of teenage friends. He would constantly be moving around the store – tucking comics in plastic sheets, running the register, all while joking with his customers. The rows of comic books were a visual delight – some familiar, but many unknown to me. The Outer Limits also sold models of giant robots and spaceships

from Japan – heralding the Anime/Manga artform so popular today. For more than forty years, Steve Higgins and The Outer Limits offered items focused on pop culture artifacts. Comics, graphic novels, books, out of print magazines, plastic model kits, newspapers, buttons, action figures, and so much more. Congratulations to Steve Higgins on a well deserved retirement – and a sincere thank you for transporting myself and so many others to The Outer Limits.

Thank you,  
Kevin Keaney

# Home Sales

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	1/12/2026	32 HARVARD ST UNIT 2	\$575,000	2/1	1215 sf
	1/12/2026	240 RIVER ST	\$862,500	3/3	2068 sf
	1/14/2026	61 HALL ST UNIT 205	\$979,990	2/2	1395 sf
	1/15/2026	65 WOBURN ST	\$670,000	3/2	1458 sf
	1/15/2026	42 ALDER ST UNIT 42	\$613,050	3/1	1118 sf

# Calendar

January 27 to February 9

<p>TUE <b>27</b></p> <p>January 27 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 🗓️ <b>Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</b></p> <p><b>Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</b></p> <p>City of Waltham Government Center 119 School Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>The Zoning Board of Appeals generally meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room located on the ground level, or in the auditorium on the first floor, of the Arthur Clark Government Center at 119 School Street. The meeting schedule is determined by the volume of applications filed with the ZBA. [...]</p>	<p>WED <b>28</b></p> <p>January 28 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm</p> <p><b>Mill Talk: The unlikely story of Roomba—birthing the world’s favorite robot</b></p> <p>Charles River Museum of Industry &amp; Innovation 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States</p> <p>Every product has a story, but one of the most improbable is the tale of Roomba. For 40+ years major corporations and basement tinkerers alike struggled to solve the seemingly simple problem of building a robotic floor cleaner. Nothing worked. Finally, in 2002 a quirky team from an unknown company cracked the riddle and delivered [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>TUE <b>27</b></p> <p>January 27 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm 🗓️</p> <p><b>Open rehearsals with Lexington Pops Chorus</b></p> <p>Clark Hall @ Hancock Church 1912 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington</p> <p>Sing with Lexington Pops Chorus in its 44th season. Lexington Pops Chorus will hold two open rehearsals, January 27 and February 3, in Clark Hall at Hancock Church, 1912 Mass Ave, Lexington (on the Green). We welcome new singers each September and January. Auditions are not required, but singers must be able to read music. [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>THU <b>29</b></p> <p>January 29 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm</p> <p><b>Introduction to Tarot with Body, Stone and Soul (Part 2)</b></p> <p>Waltham Public Library 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>Curious about tarot or already an enthusiast? All are welcome to join us for this fascinating introduction to tarot with Tasha of Body, Stone &amp; Soul in Jamaica Plain. Tarot is a system of 78 symbolic cards; each card represents a different archetype or fundamental life lesson. There are many ways to use tarot cards, [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>WED <b>28</b></p> <p>January 28 @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm</p> <p><b>Family Access of Newton — Open house</b></p> <p>Family ACCESS 492 Waltham Street, West Newton</p> <p>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 outdoor play spaces. Meet our nurturing community of teachers and other families and discover all we have to offer. Sunday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m. - [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>THU <b>29</b></p> <p>January 29 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p><b>Waltham’s Wonderful Birds (Virtual Event)</b></p> <p>Zoom</p> <p>While spring and summer may steal the spotlight with colorful, musical songbirds, January and February are ideal months to appreciate our hardy resident birds and wintering waterfowl. Join Michele Grzenda, Waltham resident and expert birder, and the Waltham Land Trust for an engaging virtual program featuring beginner-friendly bird watching tips and tricks, helpful birding resources [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>WED <b>28</b></p> <p>January 28 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p><b>Behind the Screen: ‘Teenage Wasteland’</b></p> <p>West Newton Cinema 1296 Washington Street, Newton</p> <p>"Teenage Wasteland" is a coming-of-age story based on exclusive access to hundreds of hours of candid, humorous and nostalgic video outtakes, and the cooperation of Fred Isseks and his intrepid students as they reckon — thirty years later — with a defining event in their lives and a remarkable story of civic courage. Join us [...]</p> <p>\$20</p>	<p>FRI <b>30</b></p> <p>January 30 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm</p> <p><b>Waltham Rotary Club presents Music Bingo</b></p> <p>American Legion Post 156 215 Waverly Oaks Rd, Waltham, MA</p> <p>The Waltham Rotary Club is excited for the return of Music Bingo on Thursday, January 30, 2026. We are back at the American Legion so start inviting your friends and coworkers to get in on the fun and friendly competition! We are looking for our sponsors to return and we would love to have some [...]</p> <p>\$25</p>
<p>WED <b>28</b></p> <p>January 28 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 🗓️</p> <p><b>License Commission meeting</b></p> <p>City of Waltham Government Center 119 School Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>The Board of License Commissioners meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., but may be moved due to holidays or other circumstances. Contact the Licensing Department to confirm each meeting and for additional information.</p>	<p>FRI <b>30</b></p> <p>January 30 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</p> <p><b>The Fantastic and Highflying Harlem Wizards are coming to town</b></p> <p>John F. Kennedy Middle School 655 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>Please join us at John F. Kennedy Middle School. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the game begins at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to purchase your tickets in advance. See you at the game!</p> <p>\$20</p>

<p>SAT <b>31</b></p> <p>January 31 @ 10:30 am - 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>MassDestruction Resurgence V: Robot Combat!</b></p> <p><b>Charles River Museum of Industry &amp; Innovation</b> 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States</p> <p>MassDestruction returns once again to the Charles River Museum of Industry &amp; Innovation, bringing you an entire day of mechanized mayhem! Expect to see Boston's brightest put their metal to the metal as we clash 3 lb and 1 lb robots in our Pyramid of Pain! Standard museum admission applies.</p> <p>\$10</p>	<p>WED <b>4</b></p> <p>February 4 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  <b>School Committee meeting</b></p> <p><b>617 Lexington St</b> 617 Lexington St, Waltham, MA</p> <p>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 [...]</p>
<p>SAT <b>31</b></p> <p>January 31 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm</p> <p><b>Bike Together Waltham — January group ride</b></p> <p><b>Waltham City Hall</b> 610 Main St., Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>Join us for our first ride of 2026! We will ride on the newly-opened Linden Street bridge of the Mass Central Rail Trail. Be sure to follow us on social media for last-minute weather changes. Optional group lunch/coffee afterwards.</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>THU <b>5</b></p> <p>February 5 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  <b>Waltham Cultural Council meeting</b></p> <p><b>Zoom</b></p> <p>The Waltham Cultural Council is a part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's local council program. It allocates funds for arts, sciences and humanities projects and events which focus on Waltham's cultural [...]</p>
<p>SAT <b>31</b></p> <p>January 31 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm</p> <p><b>Charles River Collaboratory public workshops: How to work with AI</b></p> <p><b>Charles River Museum of Industry &amp; Innovation</b> 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States</p> <p>Ever wonder what all the hype is about with AI? This workshop will be led by Charles River Collaboratory instructors, with youth leaders as co-instructors. This workshop will focus on the basics of AI, and you will learn to train a "machine learning" model for object recognition to understand how AI models are trained by [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>THU <b>5</b></p> <p>February 5 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  <b>Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham</b></p> <p><b>Zoom</b></p> <p>Gain confidence as a public speaker. Our club, within Toastmasters International, works on improving communication and leadership skills in a supportive environment. We meet twice a month, first and third Thursday nights. The first meeting of the month is via Zoom, while the third Thursday meeting is hybrid with the in-person location at Meadow Green. [...]</p>
<p>SUN <b>1</b></p> <p>February 1 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm</p> <p><b>Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice"</b></p> <p><b>Hovey Players</b> 9 Spring Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>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 world, Eurydice is reunited with her father in the Land of the Dead. Orpheus journeys to retrieve his bride but Eurydice has doubts about returning [...]</p> <p>\$25.00</p>	<p>THU <b>5</b></p> <p>February 5 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  <b>Conservation Commission meeting</b></p> <p><b>Zoom</b></p> <p>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 page for more information (Zoom links are included in each posted agenda).</p>
<p>MON <b>2</b></p> <p>February 2 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</p> <p><b>Tu Beshvat tree fair and Seder</b></p> <p>Temple Beth Israel invites the Waltham community to celebrate Tu Beshvat, the Jewish birthday of trees, with a short "tasting" service reflecting on the blessings of the seasons and the produce of the trees. Local environmental leaders will then present the work they do in our community at an interactive, family-friendly tree fair with hands-on [...]</p>	<p>THU <b>5</b></p> <p>February 5 @ 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm</p> <p><b>Hovey Players present Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice"</b></p> <p><b>Hovey Players</b> 9 Spring Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>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 world, Eurydice is reunited with her father in the Land of the Dead. Orpheus journeys to retrieve his bride but Eurydice has doubts about returning [...]</p> <p>\$25.00</p>
<p>MON <b>2</b></p> <p>February 2 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  <b>Waltham City Council committee meetings</b></p> <p><b>Waltham City Hall</b> 610 Main St., Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>The Licenses and Franchises Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. The Veterans Services Committee, the Public Works and Public Safety Committee, the Economic and Community Development Committee, and the Long Term [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>SAT <b>7</b></p> <p>February 7 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm</p> <p><b>Brunch Latino en Taquería Clásica: Conoce gente nueva</b></p> <p><b>Taqueria Mexico</b> 24 Charles St, Waltham</p> <p>Imagínate: tacos recién hechos, café caliente, y conversación que fluye naturalmente con gente que te entiende. Esta taquería familiar ha sido un tesoro escondido desde los '90s, y ahora es el lugar perfecto para conocer gente nueva y construir amistades auténticas dentro de tu comunidad hispana. Haz nuevos amigos mientras disfrutamos comida casera donde todos [...]</p>
	<p>MON <b>9</b></p> <p>February 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  <b>Historical Commission meeting</b></p> <p><b>Zoom</b></p> <p>The Waltham Historical Commission meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. To appear before the WHC or to submit correspondence or information, contact the commission 10 business days prior to the meeting. Meetings are usually held remotely via Zoom and are open to the public. [...]</p>







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