

# The Week's News!



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## February 16, 2026



### Presidential footsteps through Waltham, from Washington to Carter

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • COMMUNITY • FEBRUARY 15, 2026

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BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • EDUCATION • FEBRUARY 12, 2026

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# Presidential footsteps through Waltham, from Washington to Carter

June Kinoshita

February 16, 2026



Oil painting by Ramon Elorriaga of George Washington's inauguration as the first President of the United States, which took place on April 30, 1789. Wikimedia Commons.

While no presidents have roots in Waltham, the city has hosted several presidents, dating back to the founding of the nation:

In October 1789 President George Washington was escorted through Waltham by the Waltham Cavalry Troop as part of his inaugural New

England tour to bolster support for the new federal government.

“At the time of the New England Tour, only eleven states had ratified the Constitution,” according to the [website at Mount Vernon](#), Washington's estate. “The Constitution was an untried document, having only been in use for five months at the time of the tour. Washington was well aware that as president he was the symbolic representation of the new government, and he fully intended to show on the tour that the federal government cared about all of its citizens.”

The fifth president, James Monroe, visited Waltham in 1817 to tour Boston Manufacturing Co., which was then a revolutionary model of industrial production. Monroe toured the factory [to witness the industrial advancements of the nation](#) firsthand. The visit was part of a 2,000-mile tour intended to boost national morale and bridge political divides following the War of 1812. Monroe's 1817 tour was highly successful, with the *Columbian Centinel* in Boston, a Federalist newspaper, famously declaring the beginning of an “Era of Good Feelings” after his visit.

Ulysses S. Grant [visited the world-renowned Waltham Watch Co. factory](#) in 1870, according to the Waltham Museum. The factory was a major attraction known for high-quality, mass-produced watches, and it hosted notable figures, including Grant and the king of Hawaii, the museum stated. Waltham Watch, established in 1854, was celebrated for its advanced precision, specialized labor and workforce housing.

Although not yet president, John F. Kennedy visited Waltham on Jan. 2, 1960, the same day he announced his candidacy for the presidency. Kennedy, then a U.S. senator from Massachusetts, traveled to Waltham to appear on the television show “Prospects of Mankind,” hosted by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt at Brandeis University.

President Jimmy Carter visited Waltham on Jan. 23, 2007, to [speak at Brandeis University](#) about his book, “Palestine Peace Not Apartheid.” Carter was greeted with a standing ovation. He spoke for 15 minutes and answered questions for about 45 minutes in Shapiro Gymnasium to more than 1,700 Brandeis students, faculty and staff members.

# Local court proceedings stall indefinitely in cases involving ICE

Artie Kronenfeld

February 16, 2026

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity over the past year has impacted Waltham residents' ability to get a fair trial at the Waltham District Court.

When ICE officers arrest criminal defendants in the middle of the trial process, this can leave cases in a state of limbo, affecting the court, the defendants, their families, victims and witnesses.

ICE records [obtained by the Deportation Data Project, a coalition of academics and lawyers compiling public information about ICE operations](#). Out of the 21 people who were arrested, three had previously been convicted of a crime and one had no criminal history known to ICE. The other 17 had ongoing court cases that had not yet been resolved at the time of their arrest.

The Waltham Times has been tracking 19 people with 20 active cases in the Waltham District Court who are currently in ICE custody or whom ICE has deported and are therefore unable to appear for their court dates.

“It was more common — certainly until this most recent ramp-up — that immigration would generally wait until a case was resolved before they would seize somebody. But now I’m seeing it occur while a case is pending,” said Woburn-based attorney Neil Tassel.

Other lawyers from Greater Boston also said they’ve seen more ICE arrests happen in front of courthouses across the region.

Lowell-based attorney Anthony Puopolo in a September interview with [The Waltham Times](#) said he, too, had noticed an increase in ICE detentions involving individuals with active court cases. “It’s not a dramatic uptick ... but there is an obvious [change],” he said.

A Boston-based attorney who specializes in deportation cases and requested anonymity fearing retribution against the immigration organizations with which she works, said ICE agents seem to be arresting individuals who’ve been arrested for a crime but not yet been arraigned. She said those individuals had not yet been assigned public defenders. She also said there’s often no one in the court system responsible for knowing their whereabouts.

“The arrests have been [for] something ... as minor as driving without a license. These are not violent offenders,” she said.

Tassel said ICE enforcement may have families and friends deciding to leave defendants in jail rather than post bail, because they may forfeit bail if the defendants are detained by ICE and therefore fail to make court appearances.

Tassel described this as a cruel consequence of ICE’s enforcement, negatively impacting defendants — who remain in jail instead of being released on bond — and their loved ones. “It often occurs in the families who can afford to lose that bail money the least,” he added.

## Results of ICE courthouse policy changes

The uptick in disrupted court proceedings due to ICE detentions follows a 2025 change in policy.

ICE Acting Director Caleb Vitello in January 2025 issued a [memorandum](#) on how ICE agents should carry out arrests around courthouses, setting the standard for ICE’s [current guidelines](#) on the subject.

Some elements of the guidelines stayed the same as they had under previous administrations, which [also allowed](#) ICE agents to arrest individuals at or around local courthouses in some cases. However, the new guidelines no longer require agents “to the fullest extent possible” to make sure they conduct the arrests “at the conclusion of the judicial proceeding.” Instead, the policy requires only that “When practicable, ICE officers and agents will conduct civil immigration enforcement actions against targeted aliens discreetly to minimize their impact on court proceedings.”

Neither representatives from ICE’s local Burlington office, which is responsible for ICE operations in much of New England, nor ICE’s national media relations office responded to multiple requests for information and comment about its arrest guidelines and their impact on local court cases.

### **A lack of public information and agency transparency**

The lack of available information on a detainee’s whereabouts as well as out-of-state detentions further complicate Massachusetts court proceedings. The case of one Waltham resident charged with unarmed robbery and possession of a class B drug illustrates this, as his lawyer and the Waltham District Court were [unable to find him in time for an October hearing](#).

ICE’s detainee tracker no longer displays information for detained individuals after ICE removes them from the country or when ICE is transporting them between facilities.

For many, the only way to find information about people in ICE custody is to reach out to ICE offices, which doesn’t always work: Both the ICE Burlington office’s public phone number and ICE press line now redirect to a voicemail message.

Moreover, ICE does not publish information on where individual detainees have been taken.

Third parties such as the Deportation Data Project have obtained information about those operations but only through Freedom of Information Act requests.

Tassel said he is generally only able to contact clients who have been detained by ICE and obtain information about their whereabouts if their families contact him to provide the information.

However, once a detained individual is out of the state, as they often are, that person is beyond the jurisdiction of Massachusetts district courts.

Waltham District Court does still sometimes try to file a writ to summon detained individuals held out of state. However, such efforts are not always successful.

Defense lawyers can file federal habeas corpus cases, filing for wrongful detention, a strategy also employed by immigration lawyers in cases where they argue ICE has wrongfully detained their client. If a federal court rules in their favor, they can then summon their client to court.

Massachusetts lawyers have reported that these cases have become [increasingly more common in the past year](#).

# Attorney General's office indicts Waltham medical transport firm, former owner in \$770K Medicaid fraud case

Waltham News Team

February 16, 2026

A Waltham-based nonemergency medical transportation company and its former owner have been indicted in connection with an alleged \$770,000 Medicaid fraud and money laundering scheme, Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell's office announced on Feb. 10.

A Statewide Grand Jury returned indictments against Bakali Mukasa, 44, formerly of Billerica, and his now-defunct company, JBM Health and Educational Services Inc., on charges of Medicaid false claims, larceny over \$1,200 and money laundering.

Prosecutors say Mukasa and JBM billed MassHealth for more than 16,000 nonemergency transportation rides that were never provided between July 2019 and November 2020. The company claimed to transport MassHealth members to methadone clinics for opioid addiction treatment, but investigators found that many of those patients had received "take-home" methadone orders and did not attend in-person appointments. Nearly 100 of the billed rides were allegedly for deceased members.

According to investigators, MassHealth paid JBM and Mukasa more than \$770,000 for the fraudulent rides. The AG's office alleges Mukasa laundered the proceeds through a network of bank, real estate and investment accounts under other individuals' names before transferring more than \$1 million to Uganda, where he now lives.

"These indictments underscore our office's commitment to protecting state resources and holding accountable those who defraud MassHealth," Campbell said in a statement announcing the charges.

The case is part of ongoing enforcement efforts targeting fraud by nonemergency medical transportation providers. In the past two years the AG's office has brought or settled several similar cases, including a \$1 million settlement with a Worcester County provider and a \$380,000 settlement with a Swampscott company accused of false billing.

The investigation was led by Assistant Attorney General Scott Grannemann and a team from the AG's Medicaid Fraud Division, with assistance from MassHealth, the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.

# The week ahead: City to start midyear budget review at council's Tuesday meeting

Artie Kronenfeld

February 16, 2026

The City Council Finance Committee will begin its annual review of Waltham's budget on Tuesday, 2/17.

The City Council rulebook requires the Finance Committee to review the budget every year at a special meeting all councilors are invited to attend.

The city auditor is responsible for providing councilors with reports on the city's spending over the past six months no later than Feb. 15. The Finance Committee is required to call a meeting "as soon as practicable" once committee members receive that report.

Because of Presidents Day on Monday, City Council's committees will meet Tuesday evening. The Finance Committee will meet in the Council Chambers at City Hall after the Committee of the Whole has concluded its business, and the mid-year budget review is one of the items on its agenda this week.

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled this week.

## Retirement Board

The Waltham Retirement Board, which handles decisions about city employees' retirement, will meet this week to discuss cost-of-living benefit adjustments and review investments for the last quarter of the fiscal year.

The board will meet Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 4:45 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room at City Hall and will stream the meeting via [Zoom](#).

## City Council committees

City Council committees will meet on Tuesday, beginning at 7 p.m, with the Economic and Community Development Committee.

In addition to the midyear budget review, the Finance Committee will discuss a list of requests from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy including allocating an additional \$2.5 million in funds to the Public Works department for snow removal and

\$70,000 to Veterans Memorial Skating Rink for its operating expenses; accepting a \$33,295.36 state grant for the Council on Aging; and purchasing \$1,851 in equipment for the Emergency Management Department and \$9,665 in technology for the City Clerk's Office.

The Committee of the Whole will meet to discuss the possible purchase of a lot at 67 Crescent St. The Ordinances and Rules Committee will meet to go over details of a special permit request to build [a hotel at 220 Moody St.](#) and discuss a change to the council's budgeting timeline.

## Board of Health

The Board of Health works to address potential public health problems, including communicable diseases, foodborne illnesses, and housing and environmental safety issues, that may arise in the city.

This week board members will discuss [applications from two individuals](#), Bo Wu and Renyang Yi, to become licensed bodywork practitioners and continue work to [update the city's bodyworks regulations](#).

The board will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, in the Clark Government Center auditorium.

### **Traffic Commission**

The Traffic Commission meets monthly to discuss matters concerning Waltham's streets and transportation infrastructure.

This week the commission is scheduled to discuss street-parking changes, specifically removing a disabled parking space in front of 84 Gardner St. and converting some of Church Street's parking into 15-minute spaces, and will discuss a parking evaluation for [a proposed expansion at The Home Depot](#) at 100 First Ave.

It will continue working on some previously proposed items of business including an Elson Road parking study, improvements to the intersection of Cedarwood Avenue and Villa Street, a crosswalk on Linden Street and plans to [add electric car chargers](#) to Waltham parking lots.

The commission will also consider whether to approve a street closure for the Moody Street Car Show in August and four different May races: the Flight Performance Road Race, the BBJI 5K Road Race and Walk, the Boston Brain Tumor Ride and the PTO Annual Fitzgerald Fun Run.

The commission will meet Thursday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

### **Tree removal hearing**

The city's tree warden will hold a special public hearing to discuss the removal of a public tree at 132 Russel St. for construction.

The Department of Public Works will hold the meeting at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 20, at 167 Lexington St. The city has asked that anyone with a complaint submit it in writing at the meeting or in advance of the meeting to [kthompson@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:kthompson@city.waltham.ma.us).

# Waltham's biotech growth continues as two companies lease entire floors at Genesis 21

William Holder

February 16, 2026



Two biotech companies have each leased a full floor at Genesis at 21 Hickory Drive in Waltham, a newly converted life sciences building along Route 128.

[Dash Bio](#), headquartered in Boston, announced the expansion of its Massachusetts operations last week into the 24,000-square-foot laboratory, increasing its lab space five-fold. [Bonito Bio](#) is relocating from 850 Winter St. in Waltham, according to Banker & Tradesman, which covers state financial and real estate news.

Dash Bio, founded in 2024, serves the biotech industry by using robotics and other technologies to speed up bioanalysis processes crucial in drug development. In its LinkedIn profile, the company says that “the [drug] development phase remains bogged down by manual, labor-intensive processes. We’re changing that narrative. Our tech-first products automate critical steps, reducing costs and time to market while improving quality of results.”

“This facility gives us the capacity to serve more biotech companies who are tired of waiting months for data that should take days,” CEO Dave Johnson said in a statement.

Bonito Bio specializes in developing targeted drug delivery systems—therapeutic “payloads”—to specific cells with high precision. The goal is to allow drugs to be delivered to specific targets in the body with minimal effects elsewhere, according to its website.

The Boston Real Estate Times noted that Dash Bio, which has raised \$17.5M, has positioned itself to serve a growing customer base in Greater Boston as demand continues to rise for lab infrastructure that can support faster drug development cycles.

Together, the biotechs have leased a combined 48,127 square feet at the life science property owned by Phase 3 Real Estate partners and Bain Capital Real Estate. The property was acquired by the developers for \$52.25 million in April 2021 and totals 121,000 square feet.

In a statement, the developers said that both biotechs “are relocating their operations to newly built lab space at a property that was converted by the ownership to meet the highest standards in the sector.”

# The Waltham Police Department welcomes four new officers

Waltham News Team

February 15, 2026



Pictured from left are Officers Christopher Kelleher, Michael Clougher, Daniel Caissie and Jeffrey Penta, who graduated from the Municipal Police Training Committee Randolph Academy as members of the 22nd Recruit Officer Class on Jan. 16.

# Officers retiring from Waltham Police Department

Waltham News Team

February 15, 2026



The Waltham Police Department announced the retirement of two veteran police officers this past week. Officer Brenda Hurley is stepping down after 32 years of service. Officer John O'Connor retired after 23 years on the force. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, Police Chief Kevin O'Connell and assorted police officers, family and friends gathered to wish the retiring officers a happy retirement

*Retiring police officer John O'Connor*



Brenda Hurley receives a congratulatory plaque from Police Chief Kevin O'Connell. Courtesy of WPD.

# Hundreds join Waltham High walkout protesting ICE policies

Joseph Sharkey

February 13, 2026



Students marched from Waltham High School to Lexington Street. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Hundreds of students walked out of Waltham High School on Thursday, Feb. 12, shortly after 1 p.m. to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and voice concerns about immigration enforcement and its impact on students and families.

Students first gathered in the school cafeteria before moving outside to the front of the building near Lexington Street. Several students addressed the crowd about immigration enforcement and shared

personal concerns related to the issue.

After the speeches, the group marched around the school's loop road, holding signs and chanting.

Many handmade signs included messages opposing ICE and criticizing federal immigration policies. Some referenced immigration and the agency's role in local communities.

The walkout was organized by students and promoted on social media in the days leading up to the event. School administrators and police were present during the protest. No incidents were reported.



# At Waltham’s Banh Mi O’i, Vietnamese cuisine and inclusivity are on the menu

Elizabeth Mehler

February 13, 2026



Banh Mi O’i interior. Photo by Elizabeth Mehler.

Tucked away on Lexington Street, across from Star Market, is Banh Mi O’i, a bright, modest cafe serving up tasty Vietnamese fare.

Customers said they visit for that authentic flavor. John Bangs, a construction and property manager in Waltham, said he has been coming to Banh Mi O’i weekly for about a year, often bringing coworkers.

“I had the pork Banh Mi and fell in love with it,” Bangs said.

Phong Huynh, a new employee at Banh Mi O’i, said he moved to America from Vietnam five years ago and appreciates the restaurant’s authenticity.

“When you work in a restaurant that is run by Vietnamese people, they actually understand how to make food exactly like in Vietnam,” he said.

Ahn Pham, the cafe’s manager, said his cousin Yeanie Bach, who owns Banh Mi O’i, launched the shop to honor her family’s history. She was inspired by her own childhood experiences, when she and her mother ran a Banh Mi cart in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam, Pham said.

Bach opened her first Banh Mi O’i location in West Roxbury in 2020 and the Waltham store on Lexington Street two years ago.

“Banh Mi is about honoring the hands that built a better life, paying tribute to roots, and building a space where culture, memory, and community come together,” Bach wrote on the cafe’s website. It is “more than a restaurant.”

## All about communication

Banh Mi O’i extends its welcome to everyone, including people with communication challenges. Because of its efforts in fostering an inclusive space, the restaurant was highlighted in a new short documentary, “We Need to Talk,” which features five individuals who use an AAC device.

In the film *Tiny*, a 22-year-old with autism, walks up to the counter at Banh Mi O’i and orders lunch using an augmented alternative communication device. The tablet-like device lets Tiny, who is nonverbal, press buttons to give voice to her wishes.



Banh Mi Oi Tiny and mom get their order. Photo by Elizabeth Mehler.

“Can I have a barbeque chicken [and] water, please?” the device says. The front desk server quickly responds and brings her the order. “Sandwich,” the device says as Tiny begins to enjoy her food.

Tiny first began visiting the restaurant with her mother, who already knew Pham, the manager. Though the staff initially had

no training with the AAC device, Pham said they are extra welcoming to Tiny.

“We feel like if we can do something to make her happy, to welcome her more, we just pay a little more attention,” Pham said.

“The [documentary’s] message is that individuals who use AAC are part of our community,” said Corinna Riggs, a senior clinical advisor at the Guild for Human Services, a nonprofit based in Concord. She served as a production consultant on the film to raise awareness about AAC devices.

In the film. Tiny’s mother, Oanh Bui, says Tiny had no means of communicating with anyone, including her family, before getting an AAC. The device has given her a newfound independence and freedom to express herself, Bui adds.

Banh Mi O’i employees are “accepting of [Tiny’s] different communication style,” Bui says. “They really have the patience to be able to wait for her so that she can be able to get her orders in.”

Shop manager Pham honed his communication skills through his immigrant experience. He grew up in Vietnam before moving to America at 19 years old. He attended high school in South Boston and then two years in college before joining the Army. Along the way, he learned how to connect with others in English.

Pham said that meeting customers at the Waltham shop has helped him to better serve people of all backgrounds and abilities.

“It’s a small store,” Pham said. “So they come in, we welcome them [and] let them know they are at home so they can feel relaxed and happy.”

A screening of “We Need to Talk” was held Feb. 2 at Maynard Theatre. The documentary is also available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

# Law Department says it's willing to go to court over 455 Totten Pond Road development

Artie Kronenfeld

February 13, 2026

The city's Law Department clashed with the developer of a proposed apartment building over its contributions to local infrastructure at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting this week.

The project, proposed for 455 Totten Pond Road, has been in front of the board [since March of last year](#). After extensive negotiations with the city, the developer proposed a final draft for the special permit in November.



455 Totten Pond  
Bird's Eye View.

John Hession of VHB, a consultant on the project, expressed frustration that hearings had been delayed [twice](#) in [January](#) and that he received new feedback on the November draft decision from the city's Engineering, Law and Traffic Departments only that day, Feb. 10. "I'm just trying to demonstrate that we are trying, and we've been trying diligently through this," he said.

Still, he said his team would work with city departments to resolve their concerns by the project's next hearing in March.

Hession gave board members updated numbers on how much money the developer planned to contribute to city projects and departments for new residents' infrastructure needs: \$300,000 to the city's traffic fund for a [collaborative project](#) to install a sidewalk on Totten Pond Road; \$350,000 for the affordable housing trust fund; \$300,000 to the Fire Department;

\$300,000 to Waltham Public Schools; and \$100,000 to the Police Department.

He also told the ZBA that the developer planned to offer 72 of its 340 units at a rent affordable to households making 80% of the area's median income, five to households making 60% AMI, and eight that would be funded through a [federal voucher program for formerly unhoused veterans](#).

The ZBA and the developer agreed to hold another public hearing on the project on Thursday, March 12. The board also extended the time frame for the public hearing to March 13.

## Law Department arguments

Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned, who represents the board [in Chapter 40B development cases](#), said that the city was not willing to accept some of the terms the developer had proposed. She argued that it was unreasonable for the developer to limit its spending to \$1.4 million to mitigate its impact on city systems; other comparably-sized developments, she said, had been able to provide more mitigation funding without becoming uneconomic.

Board Chair John Sergi supported this assessment, saying that, as a banker, he would assess the value of a project such as the one proposed at 455 Totten Pond Road at more than \$100 million. “When I calculate the numbers in my head on this project, there’s a good-sized profit margin,” he said.

Learned added that the development would have significant impacts on western Waltham. “There are 340 proposed units being added to this area,” she said. “That addition of residents to a limited commercial zone could not put the city in a worse position.”

Learned laid out a list of other changes the city wanted in the developer’s permit draft, including studying the project’s impact on Totten Pond Road’s sewer; more significant stormwater mitigation; raising the number of units affordable for households making 60% AMI; and removing language about the veterans voucher plan to avoid legal references to specific programs that might change independently of the special permit.

She emphasised that some of the Law Department requests, such as Totten Pond Road’s sewer capacity, were fundamentally about resident safety. “These [infrastructure projects] are the priority for the city. And if they are not met... I will be recommending to the board that it deny the application,” Learned said.

This project is proposed through Chapter 40B of the state’s general laws, a clause meant to encourage the construction of affordable housing. Chapter 40B [allows developers](#) to go to the ZBA for a comprehensive permit for a residential building instead of through multiple city departments.

If a city or town denies a Chapter 40B permit that was filed before the municipality meets the [state’s “safe harbor” minimums](#) for affordable housing, or if its ZBA imposes conditions that would make the project economically infeasible, the state’s Housing Appeals Committee can overrule the ZBA’s decision.

Waltham [announced in August](#) that it had reached the safe harbor benchmark, but since the 455 Totten Pond Road proposal was already filed at that point, if the board denied its permit, the city could still have to defend its decision in a court appeals process.

Learned argued the building as proposed could cause enough harm to the city that she could argue the case in front of the HAC, a superior court, or even the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. “This is an important enough issue to the City of Waltham to go that entire distance,” she said.

### **Additionally, the ZBA:**

- Postponed a hearing on a case by Waltham resident Paul Yu, who requested a parking variance to convert the top floors of a Main Street property into residential units. The board said that Yu did not submit standard documentation for the case or sufficient proof that the variance was necessary, and requested that Yu return to the board on Feb. 24 with legal representation.
- Welcomed [new associate ZBA member Kathy McMenimen](#).

# WHS boys hockey team focused as playoffs near

Liam O'Brien

February 13, 2026



WHS senior left winger Hunter Fucci scores against Lincoln-Sudbury. Photo by Jim Pierce.

Regardless of the sport, there are bound to be ups and downs throughout a season.

The Waltham High School boys hockey team has experienced this firsthand over the course of the winter. The season could not have started off much better as the Hawks rattled off wins in their first nine games. The team has experienced the other side of the coin over the last few weeks, however, losing its last four games.

Relying on strong leadership, the team is determined not to let the losses dampen its spirit as the state tournament approaches.

“One portion is health-related and the other part is just becoming mentally tough,” head coach Chris Maguire said. “We are going through a bit of a rough phase right now, but we are going to get a few key pieces back soon. The biggest piece for our team is just being mentally ready to turn the page every single day and focus on the task at hand. Ultimately, we want to peak at the right time.”

The players understand that rough patches are inevitable during a lengthy season.

“Having a lull at some point in the season was bound to happen,” Maguire said. “If we can catch our stride and be playoff ready, it is ultimately going to lead to our goals that we set at the beginning of the year.”

The Hawks have remained committed all year to keeping their focus on the next shift, a mentality that will serve them well as the group looks to climb out of the slump.

“Our team motto this year has been 1-0,” said Maguire. “That doesn’t just apply to the games, it applies to every practice, every shift and every period. We just try to focus on small, incremental time periods as it shortens your memory with things that happened in the past. It is all about that next play. Every play has a life span and a history. If you can quickly forget, move on, and learn from things, it is going to lead to more success. We are also focused on staying together as a team.”

One major boost will be the return of Timmy O’Toole. The senior captain has been out for a few weeks due to a leg injury, and getting him back in the lineup will be a massive help to the team’s offense.

“Having him back on the bench as a leader is a key piece for us, too,” Maguire said. “It is going to create the spark that we need to get back into the win column and add to that offensive ability that we showed early on this year.”

Waltham’s next game will take place tomorrow night as the Hawks host Tewksbury at Veterans Memorial Skating Rink at 7:00 p.m. WHS will be looking to avenge the 6-1 defeat it suffered at the hands of the Redmen last month.

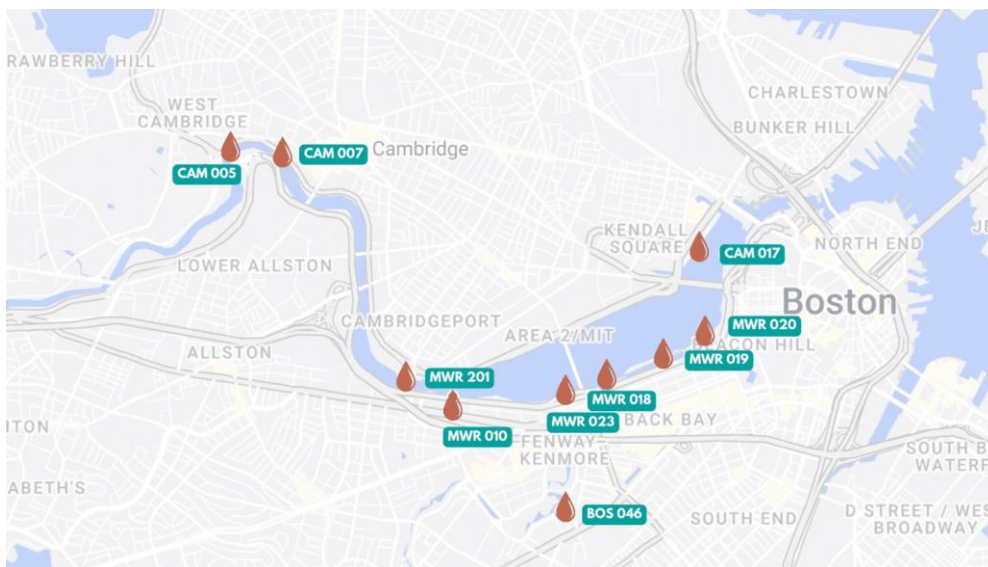
# New MWRA proposal continues to allow sewage dumping into the Charles River

Cyd Abnet

February 13, 2026

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority during a board meeting this week put forth a new plan for mitigating a certain amount of combined sewage overflow leakage into the Charles River. A previous plan presented in October raised concerns from the community about the amount of sewage content making its way into the river. Combined sewage overflow happens when outdated pipe systems that have the dual purpose of removing stormwater and moving wastewater to treatment plants become overwhelmed by a heavy rainstorm. The system then releases the excess sewage-contaminated water into the river.

According to Charles River Watershed Association executive director Emily Norton, the plan is an improvement, but it isn't perfect. "It will still result in frequent sewage discharges," she explains. "According to the MWRA's own numbers, for the difference of under four dollars a month per household, we can virtually eliminate sewage discharges. Why wouldn't we do that?"



*A map of combined sewage overflow sites on the lower basin of the Charles River. Courtesy of CRWA.*

The proposal put forth on Feb. 4 before the MWRA Board of Directors would mean that some sewage overflows into the Charles caused by rainstorms with over

three inches of precipitation would be diverted into storage tanks that would partially separate the sewage and stormwater.

The plan would create an additional \$43 of yearly costs for each MWRA ratepayer by 2050. According to calculations by CRWA, a plan that completely eliminates sewer leakage would cost an additional \$125 per ratepayer.

According to CRWA senior communications director Stefan Geller, the effects of combined sewage overflow most likely will not be felt upstream in Waltham, as all the overflow sites are in Cambridge and Boston. However, in order for people to swim in the Charles, all combined sewage overflow into the river will need to be eliminated.

The CRWA's [Cut The Crap](#) campaign, launched in April 2025, aims to create public awareness around sewage in the Charles and put pressure on the MWRA and the City of Cambridge to address the issue. The deadline for submitting a preferred project option for addressing combined sewage overflow is April of 2026, extended from the end of 2025 due to public pushback on the initial plan.

# Costco Wholesale Warehouse driveway expansion and traffic signal plans cause concern for abutters

Cyd Abnet

February 13, 2026



The Board of Survey and Planning approved a special permit to allow for the widening of a driveway at Costco Wholesale Warehouse at 71 Second Ave.

Stephen P. Golwacki from RJ O'Connell & Associates served as legal representation for Costco at the meeting. Golwacki explained that the results of a traffic study suggested that the addition of a right turn lane to the main driveway of the warehouse would improve safety, reduce queuing and resolve traffic issues in the area. In order to add the lane, the driveway would need to expand by 10 feet. The

number of parking spaces available at the warehouse would not be affected.

Board member Brian E. Moroney raised concerns about the proposed traffic signal plan, saying that it may be confusing for drivers. Members of the board reminded him that city engineers and the Traffic Commission had already approved the plan, but Moroney maintained that he thought it would be confusing for drivers.

During the public hearing portion of the meeting, Kelsey Westrich of Saul Ewing LLP spoke in opposition to the plan on behalf of her client who owns an adjacent building at 80 Second Ave. She expressed her client's concern about the traffic signals making it difficult to leave the building's parking lot from its northernmost exit. Westrich alleged that the building owner was not consulted by Costco. The traffic consultant representing Costco explained that the tenants of the building had been consulted and responded saying that they did not have any objections to the plan.

Board chairman William Creonte Jr. clarified that all matters about the traffic signals were out of the jurisdiction of the board and that the matter in front of the board was the widening of the driveway. The board voted to approve the special permit, which will allow Costco to go ahead with the project.

## **In other business, the board:**

- Approved a special permit for the use and maintenance of four existing driveway openings at 962 Main St. that are greater than 25 feet in width.
- Continued the public hearing for approval to repair and repave Fir Avenue to their March meeting.
- Approved a request for the board to submit three proposed zoning districts for Jones Road, Bay Colony and 1265 Main St. to the State's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for an eligibility determination for whether the districts qualify as Housing Choice districts. The [Housing Choice Initiative](#) is a state-run initiative to reward communities that create new and sustainable housing. A designation as a Housing Choice district allows access to grants and programs that aren't otherwise available.
- Approved an Approval Not Required plan for subdividing a lot at 564 Main St. into three separate lots.

# Criminal cases suspended for Waltham man arrested by ICE

Isabella Lapriore

February 13, 2026



Two pending criminal cases against [Breyson Eduardo Barrera Pineda, 24, of 24 Lexington Terrace, Waltham](#), were suspended at Waltham District Court on Feb. 10.

Benjamin Urbellis, Pineda's attorney, told Judge Tonomey Coleman that according to the defendant's family, Pineda had been arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and was in deportation proceedings.

"As far as the criminal case, it's at a standstill," Urbellis told The Waltham Times.

Urbellis said he is working on returning [\\$7,500 cash bail posted](#) by Pineda's girlfriend in November.

Pineda is charged with possession with intent to distribute a Class B drug and trafficking more than 200 grams of heroin, morphine, opium or fentanyl.

Coleman issued two warrants for Pineda's arrest after he failed to appear for a jury compliance and election hearing and arraignment.

According to ICE's detainee locator, Pineda was being held in Natchez, Miss., as recently as Feb. 1. As of Feb. 10, his name no longer yields search results on the website, which often means an individual has been deported.

## Additional court actions

Judge Ellen M. Caulo rescheduled a status review hearing for [Tyler McDonald, 32, of 65 Lake St., Waltham](#), on Feb. 9. He is charged with electronic enticement of a child for human trafficking, trafficking of a person for sexual servitude and resisting arrest. McDonald was also indicted by a Middlesex Superior Court grand jury on Dec. 18 for trafficking of a person under 18 for sexual servitude and electronic enticement of a child for prostitution. He remains held on \$5,000 bail at Middlesex Jail in Billerica and is scheduled to appear via Zoom at Waltham District Court on March 16.

[James Thomas Mazzola, 49, homeless, of Cambridge](#), pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property of value less than

\$1,200, trespassing and possession of a burglarious instrument at a jury compliance and election hearing on Feb. 10. Coleman sentenced Mazzola to two years and 30 days in the Middlesex House of Correction, with 112 days of his sentence served while awaiting trial.

*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).*

# Waltham Fields Community Farm awarded \$5,000 grant

Steve Milmore

February 12, 2026



Waltham Fields Community Farm has received a \$5,000 grant from [Sincere Foundation](#), the philanthropic foundation of Framingham-based Sincere Corp.

The unrestricted grant allows WFCF to use the money as it sees fit to support ongoing farm programs.

“The support of Sincere empowers us to continue to do what we’re doing, to provide local nutritious food and education to everyone in our community. It’s really great that as a foundation they’re signaling to other funders and corporations the importance of food

security initiatives,” WFCF director of development Amanda Smith said.

[WFCF](#) is a non-profit community farm at 240 Beaver St. It distributes up to 20% of the farm’s organic harvest through food security initiatives that directly serve people experiencing hunger, such as [subsidized Community Sourced Agriculture shares](#), [Mobile Outreach Market](#) and its [VegRx program](#).



*Waltham Fields Community Farm photos by Bill Holder.*

Sincere Foundation selected Waltham Fields Community Farm because of this multi-pronged approach to combat food insecurity, spokesperson Julia Chase stated in an email to the Waltham Times.

“Sincere Foundation is proud to fund Waltham Fields Community Farm for its thoughtful, community-led approach to food security in Massachusetts. They center dignity, build trust with food-insecure families, and adapt their programming to meet people where they are. Waltham Fields Community Farm delivers more than fresh food – it sustains health, connection, and resilience at a time when these supports matter most,” said executive director Rebecca Reiner.

The foundation awarded \$250,000 to 20 Massachusetts nonprofits who are meeting basic needs such as food security, housing stability, and safe spaces in the state.

*Community Outreach Farmer Marie-ana packs boxes of “prescribed” produce for the 30 participants in the Waltham Fields Community Farm VegRx program.*

Waltham Fields Community Farm provides fresh, seasonal produce to Waltham K-12 students. The farm is located at 240 Beaver Street and offers the public fresh produce for sale, farm-based education, and community events. Photo by Emily Saperia.

# Waltham's Pat Lawn to be recognized at Bentley men's hockey senior night

Greg Levinsky

February 11, 2026



Pat Lawn grew up a mile down the road from Bentley University in Warrendale, driving past the campus on his way to school every day. He attended Falcons games growing up alongside his father, watching them compete with the best of the best in college hockey. Years later, the 24-year-old multi-year Atlantic Hockey All-Academic team member will be recognized for his contributions to the program during the Falcons senior night festivities Friday night at Bentley Arena ahead of a 7 p.m. game against foe Sacred Heart.

“It definitely hit me during our break at Christmas time,” Lawn said. “It really set in a bit like ‘holy crap, I’ve been playing this sport since I was three years old’ and it’s all going to come to a screeching halt at some point. I’m just trying to soak in all the little moments.”

Bentley coach Andy Jones took over the program in 2023. While the third-year leader didn’t recruit Lawn, Jones described him as “steady, stable, consistent and low maintenance.” “Pat brings a level of consistency that makes our team better,” Jones said. “It’s important to have a local presence because he can provide some institutional, local knowledge. We have an international team, so it’s nice to have a grounding presence.”

Bentley (15-8-5, 13-3-4, AHA) will face Sacred Heart again on Saturday and travel to RIT next Friday before closing out the regular season with a weekend series against Air Force. If the current standings hold, the first-place Falcons will host every game they play in the conference tournament, which runs March 3-21. They won the league crown last year before falling to Boston College in the first game of the regional NCAA Tournament.

Lawn, a defender, attended Waltham public schools through seventh grade and graduated from The Rivers School in Weston in 2020. After a year with the Connecticut Jr. Rangers (National Collegiate Development Conference, United States Premier Hockey League) and another with West Kelowna (British Columbia Hockey League), Lawn returned home to start his collegiate hockey career.

Lawn grew up going to Bentley games when the Falcons played at John A. Ryan Arena in Watertown. His father, Michael, served on the police detail for many games. But college hockey wasn’t Lawn’s early goal. “I kind of always just played the sport for the fun of it and never really thought about [playing in] college,” he said.

After a couple of standout tournaments his sophomore year at Rivers, Bentley reached out to recruit him. Seeing the first game in a sold-out Bentley Arena, which opened in 2018, sealed the deal. Lawn featured in the lineup for most games his first two years at Bentley, tallying two goals and six assists across 57 games.

As a senior this year, Lawn had two goals and an assist across 19 appearances. “He’s able and willing on the penalty kill,” Jones said, “and a little bit of a stabilizing presence.” Lawn will graduate with a degree in professional sales and will work in a sales role at ServiceNow in the company’s West Palm Beach, Florida office. Lawn said. “As sad as it’ll be to leave Waltham after all these years, it’ll be nice to experience something new,” Lawn said. “Especially with all this cold weather recently. I’m fired up.”

# 'They're Not Okay': Local father deported watches his family struggle from afar

Isabella Lapriore

February 11, 2026



*Melvin Solis Romero, 2024,  
courtesy of Melvin Solis Romero*

Melvin Solis Romero was deported to El Salvador seven months after he was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Watertown. A Waltham District Court firearm-related case against him, however, remains open.

After living across the Boston area for 22 years, this is the first time Solis Romero has returned to El Salvador.

Solis Romero came to the United States in 2004 when he was 18, fleeing gang violence in his home country. Offshoots of the MS-13 and rival 18th Street gangs formed in El Salvador, he said, following a 12-year-long civil war.

“It was like war,” Solis Romero said. “When the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, El Salvador was more dangerous than Iraq.”

Twenty-two years later, he was living in Massachusetts with his wife and four children, working as head of a 20-person plumbing company.

Solis Romero’s daughter is battling cancer, something he said made no difference in his case to the immigration judge.

“I was fighting my case. I told him my daughter is a citizen and she needs me,” he said. “But he told me that it would be better to stop fighting and to get deported.”

## **Undermining the right to a fair trial**

The Waltham Times [first reported on Solis Romero’s case on Nov. 9](#) after he did not appear in court for a pretrial hearing the month prior. A default warrant was issued for his arrest.

At the time, Solis Romero was being held at the Denver Contract Detention Facility in Aurora, Colorado. His lawyer, Connor Hanlon, filed a motion for a special writ of habeas corpus that’s used when a defendant is in custody under a different jurisdiction in an attempt to secure his client’s appearance.

Solis Romero was allowed to appear via Zoom, not in person.

However, despite a second writ of habeas corpus issued by Waltham District Court on Dec. 29 ordering ICE to bring Solis Romero to stand trial in February, Solis Romero was deported to El Salvador.

“The commonwealth is supposed to use diligent efforts to attempt to secure the defendant’s presence at trial if they know where he/she is being held, but more often than not the court will simply issue a default warrant instead,” Hanlon said.

Solis Romero said the deportation violated his right to a fair trial and has greatly impacted his case.

“ICE is above the law, they’re above everything,” he said, “and they only transport people when they want to.”

His case is scheduled to go to trial on Feb. 19. The case had been postponed prior to Solis Romero’s deportation, allowing the prosecution time to try to secure his appearance to stand trial.

Solis Romero said he didn’t know the status of his case, whether it was closed or if there was another warrant issued for his arrest.

Solis Romero is one of 19 ICE detainees identified by The Waltham Times with an active Waltham District Court case who have been unable to appear for their court dates.

These cases are raising alarms among some court officers.

“When ICE does not transport defendants to state courts, it slows down court processes and deprives the individual defendants of their U.S. and state constitutional rights. It is a travesty and a usurpation of state’s rights,” said David Jellinek, a Newton-based criminal defense attorney who has represented clients in ICE custody at Waltham District Court.

### **“Inhumane” conditions**

Following his initial arrest, Solis Romero was held at ICE’s Boston Field Office in Burlington, a facility meant to temporarily house detainees for a few hours.

“It was like we were homeless. They gave us plastic blankets and aluminum beds,” Solis Romero said.

U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, a Democrat for the state’s 6th District, [raised concerns about conditions at the facility](#) after visiting in November.

“The facilities in there are completely inadequate and inhumane for anyone to be staying here for an extended length of time,” Moulton said at a press briefing last December.

Solis Romero said he was held alongside 100 other detainees in Burlington, recalling that he was held in a 10-foot-by-20-foot concrete cell with 50 people.

Solis Romero was then transferred to the Cumberland County Jail in Portland, Maine, for two weeks before he was flown to Colorado.

The trip to Colorado, Solis Romero said, was the worst experience of his life. He recalled spending 48 hours in an airplane with handcuffs on both his arms and legs, eating bread with ham, trapped in the summer heat.

The plane, carrying more than 200 ICE detainees, traveled to Pennsylvania then Texas in search of a facility that would accept them before arriving in Colorado, Solis Romero said.

“My feet were swollen because I couldn’t move them,” he said. “It was the worst I’ve ever lived, torture.”

Solis Romero said despite family members trying to reach him, he wasn’t allowed to use the phone and was late to appear on Zoom for a Waltham District Court hearing on Dec. 18.

He said an interpreter provided to him at an immigration court hearing misinterpreted his words.

“I said ‘I didn’t do this,’ and the interpreter said, ‘I did that,’” Solis Romero said. “Interpreters are against you, the judges, everyone, they don’t want immigrants here.”

### **‘They’re not okay’**

[The Adams County Health Department recently investigated](#) the Denver Contract Detention Facility following allegations of inadequate medical care from immigrant rights advocates and families of detainees.

Solis Romero said three detainees, including one in his cell block, took their own lives during his time in the facility. He said he still lives with the trauma today.

“They kill themselves because they’re terrified, some places are very dangerous, like Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, they don’t want to be there because it’s so dangerous so they’d prefer to kill themselves,” he said.

Solis Romero now lives in El Salvador with his sister and parents who he said have been incredibly supportive, though he misses his family in Massachusetts.

Solis Romero said he doesn’t have a job and is planning to go to school and get his diploma to continue his work in plumbing.

While violence in El Salvador has subsided, the current economic situation poses major challenges for him and his family. In Massachusetts, his wife is struggling to get by without him.

His wife, who pays more than \$3,000 in monthly rent, told him she plans to use this year’s tax refund to send their children to El Salvador this summer so she has time to get another job to help support them.

“‘I have \$30 to my name until Friday,’ she told me, and it was Monday, my heart stopped,’” he said.

Solis Romero, who is married to an American citizen and had submitted an I-30 petition on his behalf to begin the process to obtain a green card, said he never had any issues with ICE before last year, though like many others, he was always scared.

“I wasn’t going out because they were deporting many people,” he said. “Many women whose husbands work prefer not to work and stay at home because they’re scared.”

During an interview with The Waltham Times, Solis Romero asked about the current state of ICE enforcement in the country, wondering if anything had changed.

“They’re separating families, many children are going to be born and grow up with this trauma,” he said.

Solis Romero said he often video calls with his family in Massachusetts and can see the impact on his own kids. “I can see their faces, they smile, but they’re not okay.”

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

# Historical Commission signs off on drywall storage structure at Home Depot

Craig Allen

February 11, 2026

The Historical Commission voted to approve the construction of a small structure to store and sell drywall in the parking lot of the Home Depot at 100 First Ave. Bill Proia of Riemer & Braunstein served as legal representative for the company.



Proia explained that Waltham's Home Depot is one of the busiest stores in the country for drywall sales; so much so that it is interfering with other business operations. The separate drywall sales structure will allow customers to drive inside the structure, pick up their drywall and drive out without entering the larger store.

The structure will take up a few extra parking spaces, which is why Home Depot is applying for a special permit from Waltham City Council. All city commissions and boards are required to sign off on a special permit.

Commission chair Mort Isaacson asked Proia if there would be traffic changes in the area due to the new drywall structure area. Proia explained that contractors pick up drywall during early morning hours on weekdays, so there is no anticipated conflict. Commission member and secretary Marie Daly affirmed that because the area the Home Depot is on was historically farmland and did not contain a historic structure, there are no conflicts. For this reason, the commission voted to sign off on the permit.

## **In other business, the commission discussed:**

Progress on restoration projects at Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate. Plastering, patching and painting is currently going on in the east wing of the house. Roof and patio repairs are set to start this spring when weather permits.

The contents of a new tour brochure on the former Boston Manufacturing Company Mill Village in Waltham. Isaacson said one of the houses included in the brochure, the former Chauncey Newhall residence at 387-389 River St., may be demolished in the near future. The demolition delay on the Greek Revival-style house had expired and the owner was applying for a demolition permit. Isaacson said he chose to include the house in the brochure anyway because demolition is always a possibility and the brochure can serve as a historic record of the house. The new brochures will cost \$885.91 to print and design and will be available at the Waltham Public Library, Waltham City Hall, the Waltham Museum and Waltham Government Center.

# Waltham High students hear powerful message on relationship abuse from Gabby Petito's parents

Alaina Ferree

February 11, 2026



Waltham High students assemble to learn about relationship violence. Photo by Alaina Ferree.

Waltham High School students heard firsthand how relationship violence destroys families during a visit from the parents of Gabby Petito, a 22-year-old vlogger allegedly killed by her fiancé.

Nichole Schmidt and Joseph Petito cautioned students to watch for signs of domestic violence, telling them

that efforts to isolate a person from loved ones and attempts to excessively control a person are among the first signs of abuse.

They encouraged students in abusive situations to reach out to trusted adults, police and local



services such as [REACH Beyond Domestic Violence](#). Schmidt highlighted the importance of sharing locations with trusted friends, establishing code words and downloading safety apps such as Life360.

Students said the Feb. 8 presentation brought more awareness of the problem to the school community. "It can help make people more comfortable with an uncomfortable topic," said one senior.

Another student called Schmidt and Petito's story "moving." "I hope we can all take lessons away from it," the student said.

*The late Gabby Petito. Posted on her Instagram.*

Gabby Petito went missing in August 2021 while traveling across the country with her fiancé, Brian Laundrie. The search for Petito drew national attention. Her remains were found in Wyoming in September 2021. Laundrie, believed to be the last person to see Petito alive, had refused to discuss Petito's whereabouts, according to news reports. Laundrie disappeared from his Florida home on Sept. 13, 2021, and his remains were found about a month later. Authorities determined that Laundrie committed suicide. They alleged that Laundrie killed Petito, who died of blunt-force trauma and strangulation.

The case garnered extensive media coverage at the time and was detailed in a Netflix documentary, "American Murder: Gabby Petito."

Gabby's parents established the Gabby Petito Foundation in her memory. They now visit schools and first responder headquarters to promote awareness and prevention strategies.

They visited Waltham High School at the invitation of a WHS club called Peers Against Violence Educators.

PAVE is dedicated to educating WHS students about abusive relationships and advocating for people in dangerous situations.

Nearly one in five teens experience dating violence and 65% report psychological abuse, according to the American Psychological Association.

# City Council in brief

Artie Kronenfeld

February 11, 2026



A Jersey Mike's will be [replacing the former Wal-Lex Cleaners](#) in the 864 Lexington St. shopping plaza.

The City Council closed the [public hearing](#) for the project at Monday's council meeting. The project has been in front of the Ordinances and Rules committee [since January](#), working out conditions for a special permit to run a fast food establishment.

The project's lawyer, Mike Connors, told councilors at the Monday meeting that he had accepted some additional edits to the permit from the Law Department, but otherwise had no new updates or changes to present since the Ordinances and Rules Committee [preliminarily approved the](#)

[special permit](#) last week.

## **Additionally, the council sent the following items to committee:**

- A change to City Council rules about its timeline for setting its legislative budget to better align with federal data releases. (Ordinances and Rules)
- A resolution to [purchase an empty lot at 67 Crescent Street](#) to create a "pocket park" for the city. (Committee of the Whole)
- A request from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy to purchase \$9,665 in technology products for the City Clerk's office. (Finance)
- A request from McCarthy for \$2.5 million for snow and ice removal expenses from recent storms. (Finance)
- A request from McCarthy for \$70,000 for operating expenses for the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink. (Finance)
- A request from McCarthy to accept a \$33,295.36 state grant for the Council on Aging. (Finance)
- A request from McCarthy to transfer \$1,851 between Emergency Medical Services accounts to pay for upgraded Self Contained Breathing Apparatus bottles for emergency responders. (Finance)
- Further discussion of a public hearing for a proposed hotel at 220 Moody St. (Ordinances and Rules)
- The appointment of Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci and Ward 5 Councilor Joey LaCava to the Ambulance Services Review Committee.

*Continued on next page...*

## Prior business

The committee also approved a number of items its committees had preliminarily approved [last week](#), including:

- The appointment of former Councilor-at-Large Kathy McMenimen as an associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and former police officer John J. O'Connor, III as director of veterans' services and assistant to the License Commission.
- Accepting grants for the Green Street connector project.
- Funding transfers within the Consolidated Public Works Department, a promotion within the Accounting Department, and the purchase of a new city zamboni.
- Designating the former Phineas Lawrence Elementary School as Recreation Department property so it can construct a new ice rink.
- Preliminarily taking out a loan to create a pool in the Howe Building at the former Fernald State School property.
- Filing away a resolution regulating parking on private ways. The Traffic Commission requested the City Council adopt this resolution last April and has had it on their docket ever since; last week, the Ordinances and Rules Committee determined that the City Council would not be able to enforce such a regulation.

## City Council restarts hearing for Moody Street hotel

Artie Kronenfeld

February 11, 2026

A proposal for a new hotel in downtown Waltham had to relaunch its public hearing process this Monday due to a procedural error.

At Monday's City Council meeting, City Clerk Joseph Vizard explained that the Jan. 12 public hearing for the construction of a hotel at 220 Moody St. was not properly advertised to the public, and so the developer had to restart the process from the beginning.



The project's architectural consultant, Paul Finger, presented the updated hotel plans at the Feb. 10 City Council meeting. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.

In [his initial January presentation](#), the proposed hotel's owner, restaurateur Michael Colomba, requested a special permit to construct a hotel with a floor plan larger than zoning rules would typically permit — the latest in [a long series of proposals](#) to redevelop the currently vacant site.

At a request from Councilor-at-Large Carlos Vidal, the council this week voted to enter all testimony from that hearing — as well as the subsequent meeting of the Ordinances & Rules Committee where committee members discussed the project — into the record so it could be used in the public hearing going forward.

The project's architectural consultant, Paul Finger of Paul Finger Associates, presented a few new changes to the hotel plans at the Feb. 10 meeting.

At the January hearing, councilors raised concerns about the safety of vehicles turning out of a driveway from a proposed temporary parking area accessible via Moody Street; Finger this week told the council that his team had edited the site plans to make that driveway entrance-only, so cars coming out of the check-in area would avoid Moody Street, exiting instead onto Pine Street through the driveway at the rear of the site.

He added that he planned to visit the Traffic Commission at its March meeting to turn some of Moody Street's on-street parking spaces in front of the proposed hotel into a shuttle drop-off area to facilitate shuttle services for large events.

Finger also responded to questions from councilors. In response to questions from Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci, he clarified that the project team would be reworking a public sewer line between Moody Street and Pine Street, and expected it would be responsible for resurfacing the section of Moody Street in front of the site after the fact.

Responding to questions from Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris, he added that the proposed 42-room hotel currently planned to create a total of 29 on-site parking spaces, two of which would be reserved for the top-floor owners' apartment.

He added that the site currently did not have a plan for snow storage during winter storms, but that the project team would be willing to negotiate with the city about responsibility for clearing its lot and the adjoining city parking lot of snow during winter snowstorms.

"Everything is open for discussion – almost," he told councilors.

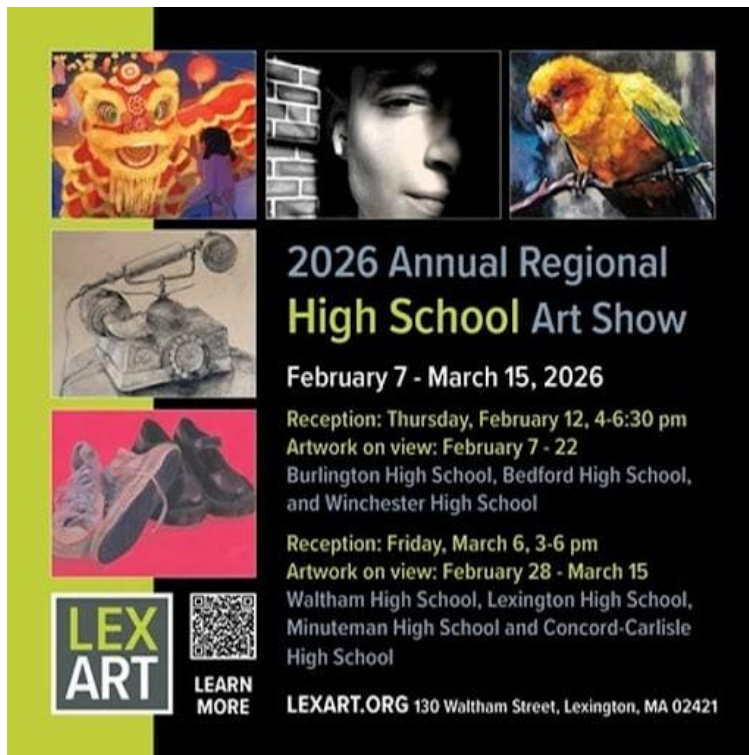
The Ordinances and Rules Committee will discuss the hotel plans further at its meeting next week, and the project is slated to come back to the City Council by April 13.

Harris, who serves as the chair of the Ordinances and Rules Committee, requested that the petitioner provide councilors with written copies of all zoning variances the project has received and plans to apply for in the future, all easements it needs from the city, a complete plan for parking at the site, and a schematic design of the building.

# Local art exhibit to showcase creativity of WHS students

Waltham News Team

February 11, 2026



The poster features a black background with a green vertical bar on the left. At the top, there are three small art images: a colorful lion dance mask, a black and white portrait of a person, and a colorful parrot. Below these are three more art images: a vintage telephone, a pair of shoes, and a QR code. The text on the poster reads: "2026 Annual Regional High School Art Show", "February 7 - March 15, 2026", "Reception: Thursday, February 12, 4-6:30 pm", "Artwork on view: February 7 - 22", "Burlington High School, Bedford High School, and Winchester High School", "Reception: Friday, March 6, 3-6 pm", "Artwork on view: February 28 - March 15", "Waltham High School, Lexington High School, Minuteman High School and Concord-Carlisle High School", "LEX ART LEARN MORE", and "LEXART.ORG 130 Waltham Street, Lexington, MA 02421".

2026 annual regional high school art show poster. Courtesy of LexArt.org

The 30th Annual Regional High School Exhibit at [LexArt](https://www.lexart.org) begins Feb. 7 and will feature work from local students, including some from Waltham High School.

The LexArt exhibit, located at 130 Waltham St., Lexington, showcases the creativity and innovation of area students and high school art programs and helps raise funds for Lexington's High School Scholarship Program.

Artwork will be on view from Waltham High School students along with Lexington High School, Minuteman High School and Concord-Carlisle High School from Feb. 28 to March 15.

Exhibit hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. A free reception for Waltham students, parents and residents is also planned for March 6 from 3–6 p.m.

[The Lexington Arts & Crafts Society](https://www.lexingtonartsandcraftsociety.org) is a non-profit regional education center dedicated to the preservation and promotion of excellence in both the traditional and contemporary arts and crafts. It offers gallery events, demo workshops and other programs during the year that are free and open to the public.

# David Montagna, 1951–2026, lifelong Waltham resident

Milestones

February 11, 2026



David Augustine Montagna, of Waltham, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge. He was 74.

David was born in Waltham on Sept. 23, 1951, son of the late Augustine and Lorraine (Gorham) Montagna. Raised and educated in Waltham, he graduated from Waltham High School.

For many years, David worked as a skilled mason, following in his father's footsteps at the family business, A. Montagna & Son. Together, they crafted immaculate brickwork.

David married Ann Marie O'Connor on Oct. 5, 1996 at Sacred Heart Church in Roslindale, beginning a partnership that lasted nearly three decades. Known for his kind heart and gentle spirit, David always made time for others, often sharing a cup of coffee and conversation with friends and family.

An outdoors enthusiast with a deep love for animals, David grew up with dogs and cats as pets. He enjoyed trips to Maine for fishing, walks in the woods and tracking wildlife. A car aficionado, he owned a Corvette and liked drag racing in New Hampshire, winning many trophies. His adventurous side took him to Hawaii, St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and St. Lucia. In a memorable solo trip, he drove cross-country to California and back, taking in the open road.

David was predeceased by his sisters, Brenda Rogers and Debra Cotoni.

He leaves his wife, Ann Marie (O'Connor) Montagna; his sister, Phyllis Mahoney, and her husband, Stephen, of Burlington; his brother-in-law, Paul Cotoni, of Cape Coral, Florida; his in-laws, late mother and father-in-laws Mary Ann and Marty O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor (Josephine) of Weymouth, Noreen Sheehan (Kenny) of Marshfield, coffee loving buddy Betty Sheehan of Marshfield, and Donald Dean (husband of the late Mary Ellen) of Mansfield; his nieces and nephews, Debra Patuto (Jeffrey) of Danvers, Jeffrey Mahoney (Mira) of Helsinki Finland, Allison Skaling (Daniel) of Cape Coral, Paul Cotoni (Christine) of Cape Coral, Charlene Smith (Michael) of Cape Coral, Brianna Abbene (Gregg) of Huntington New York, Mark Rogers of Ayer, Sean O'Connor (Cassie) of East Boston, Mark O'Connor (Adele) of Rehoboth, Jacqueline O'Connor of Weymouth, Mason Dean and Patrick Dean of Mansfield, Shannon Dean of Fall River, and Marianne Sheehan and David Sheehan of Marshfield; and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Services for David will be held privately.

# Marcia Delaney, 1949–2026, lifelong Waltham resident

Milestones

February 11, 2026



Marcia Ann Delaney, passed away peacefully on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, following a brief illness, surrounded by the love of her family. She was 76.

Born on Nov. 5, 1949, Marcia was the daughter of the late James M. and Barbara (Massie) Devoe. A lifelong resident of Waltham, she was a proud graduate of Waltham High School, where she excelled as a student and was a majorette for the Waltham High School marching band. She later attended UMass Amherst before marrying her high school sweetheart, Michael Delaney, in June 1969. Together, they shared 48 beautiful years of marriage and raised a family built on love and laughter.

Marcia dedicated many years to the Waltham Public Schools, but her heart truly belonged to Waltham Vocational High School. As the front office secretary, her vibrancy and jovial spirit made her a daily

touchstone for both students and staff.

Marcia lived life to the fullest, but her greatest joy was her grandchildren: Avery, Claudia, Emerson, Maxwell, and Hailey. A constant fixture on the sidelines of their many sporting events, she was known affectionately as “Nana Waltham.” A self-proclaimed “beach bum,” Marcia eventually retired to Sandwich on Cape Cod, where she found peace in the simple pleasures of life: reading, watching sunsets and spending long days on the beach with her family.

She is survived by her daughters, Stacey Delaney Rogers of Bourne, MA, and Jennifer Delaney Stimson of Severna Park, MD; her five cherished grandchildren; and her siblings, Christine (Devoe) Tufts and Steven Devoe. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, as well as her beloved dog and constant companion, Pepper. Marcia was predeceased by her husband, Michael Dennis Delaney, her son, Jeffrey Michael Delaney and her brothers James, Michael and Paul Devoe.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to gather and honor Marcia’s life during visiting hours at Brasco & Sons Memorial Funeral Home, 773 Moody Street, Waltham, on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Thursday, Feb. 12 at Saint Mary’s Church at 10 a.m., followed by a graveside service at Mt. Feake Cemetery.

# Margery Meehan, 1929–2026, lifelong Waltham resident

Milestones

February 16, 2026



Margery G. (Peirce) Meehan, a lifelong resident of Waltham, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2026, at Brooksby Village in Peabody. She was 97.

Born on Jan. 11, 1929, in Waltham, she was the daughter of the late Allan and Lilian (Roberts) Peirce. Margery graduated from Waltham High School and Fisher Junior College, and she remained a lifelong learner through her deep love of reading and history. She married her husband, the late Russell J. Meehan, on May 20, 1950, at First Baptist Church in Lexington, and together they raised their family in Waltham.

For many years, Margery worked as office manager for the family business, Peirce Rose Co., a greenhouse operation that grew roses and evolved from earlier farming roots on land her family had tended since the 1600s. The business, tied to local landmarks like the historic house on Waverly Oaks

Road built in 1699, reflected her family's long history in the area; her lineage traces back to passengers on the Mayflower, Boston's first mayor John Phillips, and she even had treasured letters from her great uncle who died in the Civil War. Peirce Rose Co. was a big operation and Margery's role kept everything running smoothly. She retired in the mid-1980s to care for her grandchildren but then continued working for her uncle at Peirce Tank Cleaning until his retirement.

Family was everything to Margery. She quietly supported everyone, whether through childcare for cousins when her siblings had a newborn, helping relatives through hard times, or just being there behind the scenes to make things work. Her selflessness extended to taking in family members when needed and caring for her parents in their later years. She loved spending time with her loved ones and believed in doing whatever it took to keep the family strong.

Margery's passion for history ran deep, from local stories tied to her Massachusetts roots to world events and biographies that explored what made people and eras tick. She enjoyed historical fiction and always sought to understand the past, often uncovering family connections that stretched back centuries.

In addition to her husband Russell, Margery was predeceased by her son Paul D. Meehan; her brothers Robert A. Peirce, Donald P. Peirce and Thomas H. Peirce and her sister Sally McKenney.

She is survived by her daughters, Martha J. Marchand (late Steven) of Medford and Janet E. Aucoin (Joseph) of Waltham; her grandchildren, Stefanie A. Claydon (Richard) and Trevor J. Marchand, along with many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for Margery will be held on Tuesday Feb. 17 at 12 noon in Mount Feake Cemetery, Waltham.

# Mary Constance Andrews, 1934–2026, ‘devoted herself generously to her family and community’

Milestones

February 11, 2026



Mary Constance “Connie” Andrews, lovingly known as Nana by most, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Jan. 24, 2026, in Brewster, MA. She was 91. Connie was born on Feb. 24, 1934, in Cambridge, MA, to Josephine (Josie) O’Brien (O’Sullivan) and Cornelius (Connie) O’Brien. Both of her parents immigrated from Cork, Ireland, and met in Boston. Connie had two younger brothers: Paul, who passed away as an infant, and Kevin, who served in the U.S. Navy.

Connie’s early life was marked by both hardship and resilience. She grew up in the post-depression years, during a time when her college-educated father faced “Irish Need Not Apply” discrimination that limited his opportunities. At the age of 12,

Connie suffered the tragic loss of her mother, Josie, who died after a third-floor railing collapsed. Connie was lovingly supported by her maternal grandmother and aunts, all of whom had also immigrated from Ireland. She graduated from Cambridge High and Latin High School.

Connie married the love of her life, William Andrews, Sr., in 1952 and together they raised two children. Bill predeceased her in 1987, leaving a lasting absence in Connie’s life, though she carried his memory with deep devotion. Connie devoted herself generously to her family and community. She served as both a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, and her children’s summers in Waltham were filled with camping adventures stretching from Virginia to Prince Edward Island, including many beloved trips to Shawtown in New Hampshire and Nickerson State Park on Cape Cod.

Her professional career spanned decades as a school secretary in the Cambridge and later the Waltham School Departments. Following the death of her husband, Connie returned to school and graduated from Regis College at age 60. After retiring from the school system, she embarked on a second career with FEMA, where she worked for 18 years. Her assignments took her from Birmingham, AL to Guam in the Western Pacific.

Though she stood barely five feet tall, Connie had the biggest presence in any room. Tough as nails and as fierce as they come, she met life’s challenges with grit, humor and an unshakeable will, while remaining deeply devoted to her family and friends. When her grandchildren reached high school age, Connie took each of them on a special trip to Europe, visiting France, Italy, Greece, and Spain, journeys that became treasured family memories. In later years, she continued traveling through Europe with her dear friend Pam.

Connie held a deep pride in her Irish heritage, which she celebrated throughout her life. St. Patrick’s Day was a treasured family tradition, always marked with corned beef and cabbage and time spent together. In one of her most meaningful journeys, Connie took her entire family to Ireland, a trip that created lasting memories and strengthened the family’s connection to their roots. Connie held both U.S. and Irish citizenship.

Connie was deeply grateful for the friendship and support of the Waltham Senior Center, which enriched her life for many years. She proudly lived independently in her home in Waltham until the age of 91.

Connie was a lifelong believer in compassion, independence, and women’s health, values she lived by and supported as a loyal donor to Planned Parenthood for over fifty years.

Connie is survived by her son, William Andrews, Jr. (Regina) of Sand Lake, NY, and her daughter, Ellen Andrews of West Harwich, MA. She also leaves behind cherished grandchildren: Erin O’Brien (Dara Barnett) of Brooklyn, NY, Kaitlin Andrews (Ryan Morgan) of Brooklyn, NY, Will Andrews (Elissa) of Colchester, VT, Meg Andrews of Boston, MA and Michael O’Brien (Shana) of North Reading, MA. In addition, she is survived by beloved great-grandchildren, Emmett and Prior Barnett, Penny and Maeve Morgan, Liam and Malcolm Andrews, and Julien and Daisy O’Brien.

Burial Services were held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Mount Auburn Cemetery, with a luncheon to follow.

# Paola Aniello, 1931–2026, emigrated from Italy and settled in Waltham

Milestones

February 16, 2026



Paola (Pravata) Aniello, passed away peacefully on Feb. 11, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was 94.

Born on Sept. 13, 1931, in the small town of Roccapalumba in Sicily, Paola was the cherished daughter of the late Vincenzo and Giovanna Pravata (Gatto). A loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and dear friend, Paola was a woman of faith whose life was rooted in devotion to her family. She married her beloved husband, Vincenzo Aniello, with whom she shared 58 years of love, partnership, and laughter. In 1966, Paola and her husband, Vincenzo, with their young children, immigrated to the United States. They both worked hard in pursuit of their American dream and within one year were able to purchase their first home in

Waltham. It was the beginning of providing a beautiful life for their family.

Generous to a fault, hardworking and endlessly loving, Paola found her greatest joy in caring for those she loved. Paola was happiest when surrounded by her children and grandchildren at the dinner table on Sunday. She had a special gift with her hands and expressed her creativity through knitting, crocheting, sewing, cooking, and baking, always ensuring her children and grandchildren were her priority. She always had knitting or crochet needles in her hands. She especially enjoyed crocheting baby blankets and gifting them to family and friends and most, if not all, of her family and friends have at least one of her hand-knitted scarves.

Paola was a dedicated employee who worked for over 30 years as an assembler for The Unitrode Corporation of Watertown, where she was respected for her diligence and reliability. After her retirement from Unitrode, Paola and Vincenzo took time to travel, making several trips to their beloved Italy. They especially enjoyed cruising to various destinations with their friends.

Paola and Vincenzo were active members of the Sons of Italy in Watertown. They attended all the dinner dances with many of their friends. They enjoyed dancing to great Italian music and looked forward to the New Year's Eve dinner dance. For Paola these occasions were her excuse to buy a new dress with matching shoes and purse!

Paola is predeceased by her beloved husband, Vincenzo Aniello, her dear son, Frank Aniello, her son-in-law Louis Bilski and her sisters Vincenzina Pravata and Antonina Gatto.

She is survived by her loving and devoted children Jackie Burkett and her husband Michael, Joanna Johnson and her husband Robert, Angela Bilski, and her daughter-in-law Dana Aniello; her cherished grandchildren, Michael Burkett, Julia Burkett, Alicia Aniello, Vincenzo Aniello, Arianna Aniello, Matthew and Taylor Johnson, Kayla Johnson, Louis J. Bilski IV and Thomas Bilski who all affectionately called her "Nonna". In addition, she is survived by many cherished nieces, nephews, extended relatives and dear friends, in the US and abroad. All will miss her warmth, strength and unwavering love and devotion.

Family and friends are respectfully honored Paola during visiting hours on Tuesday, Feb. 17 A mass of Christian burial in honor of Paola's life will be celebrated at 12 noon at Sacred Heart Church, 311 River Street, Waltham. Interment followed at Mt. Feake Cemetery.

# Richard Fratto, 1953–2026, Waltham teacher and scuba instructor

Milestones

February 11, 2026



Richard N. Fratto, of Waltham, died Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026. He was 73.

Richard was born in Brighton, a son of the late Nicholas Fratto (Retired Cambridge Police Chief) and Dorothy (D'Onofrio) Fratto. He graduated from Watertown High School with the class of 1970 and attended Manter Hall School in Cambridge in 1971. While at Salem State College he played hockey and held the position of Senior Class Coordinator in which he orchestrated class activities including a concert by Bruce Springstein and his class Senior Week. He graduated in 1976 and later earned his Masters degree in education from Cambridge College. He married Weston native Susan E. Bigham on May 5, 1984 and made Waltham their home since 1984.

An avid scuba diver, he owned and operated his own dive shop, Pro Divers U.S.A. and taught scuba diving at Boston College, Boston University and other area

colleges. Following his love for teaching, Richard spent over twenty years in the Waltham School System, teaching both elementary and sixth grade science. Outside of work, he loved spending time with his family, wreck diving throughout the Northeast and Cape Cod, and volunteering to coach Waltham Youth Hockey. He always looked forward to diving for lobsters for the family's annual July 4th cookout.

He was a devout Catholic and faithful communicant of Saint Julia's Church in Weston and Sacred Heart Church in Waltham.

In addition to his wife of 42 years, Susan, he leaves his son, Dr. Brian E. Fratto of Holden; his brother, Ofc. Joseph T. Fratto (ret.) (Kathleen) of Waltham; and in-laws, Penelope Comeau (Phillip), Deborah Bigham Esq., Dr. Peter Bigham (Kathleen) and Joseph Fanara. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Nicholas and Dorothy; his sister, Brenda A. Fanara; and in-laws, Attorney Edward T. Bigham Jr. (Marie), Joan M. Bigham and Edward T. 'Jeep' Bigham III Esq.

Family and friends will honor and remember Richard's life by gathering on Tuesday, Feb. 17 in Saint Julia's Church, 374 Boston Post Road, Weston where his funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Burial is private and there are no calling hours.

# Simiona Almeida de Freitas, 1937–2026, loving mother and grandmother

Milestones

February 11, 2026



Nascida no Paraguai, em 1937, foi acolhida, naturalizada e viveu em outro país — o nosso Brasil — por quase toda a sua vida. Encerrou sua jornada nos Estados Unidos, em 2026, aos 88 anos, perto de completar 89. Foi generosa, de coração imenso, solidária e empática; uma guerreira incansável, brava e firme, mas também doce e amorosa com sua família e com os amigos verdadeiros. Dela vieram 7 filhos, 13 netos e 13 bisnetos. Seu grande feito foi o amor e a dedicação à sua família. Cozinhou comidas deliciosas, amava um cafezinho preto coado, as músicas de Roberto Carlos e também cantava com alegria as canções “Índia”, “Malagueña” e “Chalana”. Lembraremos dela em sua graça e plenitude, sorrindo, fazendo tiradas desconcertantes, chamando-nos de “cherokita”. Estamos cientes de que todo cuidado e respeito foram prestados a ela em seus dias mais escuros. Certos de que repousa no Reino do Senhor e de que sua alma resplandece na paz celestial e no descanso dos justos, despedimo-nos com saudade, mas também com o

conforto espiritual de saber que ela está com nosso Deus. Gratidão, Simiona, por tudo o que foi e por tudo o que nos deu. Descanse em paz! A família enlutada agradece as homenagens póstumas.

Simiona Almeida de Freitas, 88, of Waltham, passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, surrounded by the love she so freely gave throughout her life.

Born in Paraguay in 1937, Simiona’s life was one of journey and devotion. She was welcomed, naturalized, and spent nearly her entire life in Brazil, her beloved adopted homeland, before concluding her earthly journey in the U.S. in 2026, just shy of her 89th birthday.

Simiona was generous, with an immense and compassionate heart. She was supportive and deeply empathetic, a tireless warrior, brave and steadfast in the face of life’s trials yet always gentle and loving with her family and cherished friends.

From her came seven children, thirteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. Her greatest legacy was the unwavering love, devotion and care she gave to her family.

She was known for cooking delicious meals, savoring a freshly brewed black coffee, and for her love of the music of Roberto Carlos. She joyfully sang beloved songs such as “Índia,” “Malagueña,” and “Chalana.” She will be remembered in her grace and fullness smiling warmly, offering disarming remarks and affectionately calling her loved ones “cherokita.” Her family finds comfort in knowing that she was cared for with dignity, respect and love during her most difficult days.

Family and friends gathered to honor Simiona’s life during a funeral service on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 in The Mary Catherine Chapel Of Brasco & Sons Memorial Chapels located 773 Moody Street Waltham, MA.

## Waltham home sales, Feb. 5–6, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	2/5/2026	30 WAMPUM AVE	\$681,000	3/1.5	1740 sf
	2/6/2026	63 GREENWOOD LN	\$814,000	4/2	1970 sf
	2/6/2026	44 SACHEM ST	\$890,000	4/2.5	2145 sf
	2/6/2026	61 HALL ST UNIT 305	\$1,249,990	2/3	1829 sf

## Waltham home sales, Feb. 9–13, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	2/9/2026	13 ROBBINS ST UNIT 1	\$828,000	5/3	2260 sf
	2/9/2026	333 RIVER ST UNIT 1	\$774,383	3/2.5	1850 sf
	2/12/2026	61 HALL ST UNIT 302	\$1,100,000	1/2	1803 sf
	2/13/2026	92 MILNER ST	\$758,000	3/1.5	1760 sf

# Calendar

February 17-March 10

<p>TUE <b>17</b></p> <p>February 17 🗓️</p> <p><b>Waltham Fields CSA shares open for 2026 registration</b></p> <p><b>Waltham Fields Community Farm</b> 240 Beaver St, Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>Vegetable, fruit, flower, and mushroom CSA shares are now available for the 2026 season at Waltham Fields Community Farm (WFCF). Learn more about CSA shares and sign up here. WFCF [...]</p>	<p>WED <b>18</b></p> <p>February 18 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm</p> <p><b>Fiber arts night</b></p> <p><b>Waltham Public Library</b> 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>Cozy crafting season is here! Join us for a fun night of community and crafting. Bring your fiber arts projects—any project from knitting to embroidery, crochet to cross-stitch, weaving and [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>TUE <b>17</b></p> <p>February 17 @ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm 🗓️</p> <p><b>2026 Annual Regional High School Exhibit</b></p> <p><b>Lexington Arts &amp; Crafts Society</b> 7130 Waltham St, Lexington, MA</p> <p>The 30th Annual Regional High School Exhibit is ongoing February 10 to March 15 at the LexArt Gallery, Tuesday to Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Featuring the work of [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>THU <b>19</b></p> <p>February 19 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am 🗓️</p> <p><b>Traffic Commission meeting</b></p> <p><b>Waltham City Hall</b> 610 Main St., Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>The Waltham Traffic Commission meets monthly, September to June. Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month, at 10 a.m., with changes to accommodate special meetings and holidays. Meetings are held at City Hall, 610 Main Street, on the second floor, in the council chamber. Members of the public are invited to [...]</p>
<p>TUE <b>17</b></p> <p>February 17 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 🗓️ <b>Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</b></p> <p><b>Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</b></p> <p><b>City of Waltham Government Center</b> 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 [...]</p>	<p>THU <b>19</b></p> <p>February 19 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm</p> <p><b>The History of Hip Hop</b></p> <p><b>Waltham Public Library</b> 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>Learn about the history of hip hop with Professor Rondae Drafts, Ph.D. Rondae is Executive Director of MUSIC Dance.Edu, specializing in performing arts opportunities and music education throughout New England. [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>TUE <b>17</b></p> <p>February 17 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 🗓️</p> <p><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 Debt and Capital Planning Committee meet upon the call of the Chairperson of each committee. The remaining committees meet in the following order, beginning at [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>THU <b>19</b></p> <p>February 19 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm 🗓️</p> <p><b>Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham</b></p> <p><b>Meadow Green Rehabilitation &amp; Nursing Center</b> 45 Woburn St. off Trapelo Rd., Waltham</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>WED <b>18</b></p> <p>February 18 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p><b>Low back pain and posture</b></p> <p><b>Waltham YMCA</b> 725 Lexington St, Waltham, MA</p> <p>In this workshop a physical therapist will educate on the components of good posture for a healthy lower back. They will discuss the causes and types of low back pain [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>SAT <b>21</b></p> <p>February 21 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</p> <p><b>Annual Duck Walk along the Charles</b></p> <p><b>Will be emailed to those who register closer to the date</b> 8 Common Street, Waltham</p> <p>Join the Waltham Land Trust for a walk along the Charles River trail in search of dazzling waterfowl visiting from northern climes, as well as our resident birds. Possible sightings [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>WED <b>18</b></p> <p>February 18 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm</p> <p><b>Living well with Parkinson's disease</b></p> <p><b>Newton YMCA</b> 276 Church St, Newton, MA</p> <p>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 [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>SAT <b>21</b></p> <p>February 21 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm</p> <p><b>Waltham Concerned Citizens peace vigil</b></p> <p><b>Main and Moody</b> 1 Moody Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>Please join Waltham Concerned Citizens at the corner of Main and Moody Streets for our regular third-Saturday peace vigil on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 11:00 a.m. to noon.</p>
<p>WED <b>18</b></p> <p>February 18 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm 🗓️</p> <p><b>Board of Health meeting</b></p> <p><b>City of Waltham Government Center</b> 119 School Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>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 [...]</p>	

SAT  
21

February 21 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

## Coffee with the Councilors

**Common Good Co.** 419 Moody Street, Waltham, MA, United States

Mark your calendars! Join Ward 9 Councilor and City Council President Robert G. Logan and Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris for "Coffee with the Councilors" open office hours on Saturday, February 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Common Good. Bring us your questions or concerns, or just drop in to say "hi." [...]

SUN  
22

February 22 @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am

## Café Meet and Mingle: Bi+ community edition

**Cafe On The Common** Waltham

Hoping to connect with other bi+ people over coffee and conversation? Join Friends Beyond Boston-Waltham Social (20s-40s) for a relaxed and friendly coffee social in Waltham. This edition of our popular series is for anyone who identifies under the Bi+ umbrella—including bisexual, pansexual, fluid, queer-identified, unlabeled, questioning, and anyone who experiences attraction to more than [...]

Free

SUN  
22

February 22 @ 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

## Trails, Tents, and Traditions: Boy Scouting in Waltham

**The Waltham Museum** 25 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA

Join us as we continue our Social Series with "Trails, Tents, and Traditions: Boy Scouting in Waltham" with Robert Logan, President of the Waltham Friends of Scouting and President of the Waltham City Council. This event highlights Waltham's scouting legacy and the values that have guided scouts on and off the trail: preparedness, service, and [...]

Free

SUN  
22

February 22 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## Music, tea and biscuits with the Ruth and Ben String Band

**Gore Place** 52 Gore Street

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon of "high-energy, old-time music" with the Ruth and Ben String Band. Come early to enjoy some tea, biscuits and good company in the beautifully restored (and heated!) 1793 Carriage House, the perfect venue for down-home music and socializing! The music is very spirited and people of all ages love the band's [...]

\$21

WED  
25

February 25 @ 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 [...]

WED  
25

February 25 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## Puppet playtime

**Gore Place** 52 Gore Street

Join Good News Gus and his puppet pals for songs, stories, and activities in the Gore Place Carriage House. This interactive puppet show is both fun and funny; you'll be [...]

\$16

THU  
26

February 26 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

## Chakras, crystals and chill

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

Chakras, crystals and chill with Body, Stone and Soul. Join us for a fun and fascinating night! The wonderful Tasha of Body, Stone and Soul is back to teach us [...]

Free

THU  
26

February 26 @ 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 page for more information (Zoom links are included in each posted agenda).

SUN  
1

March 1 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## Music, tea and biscuits with Mrs. Wilberforce

**Gore Place** 52 Gore Street

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon of beautiful traditional music from the British Isles and beyond with Mrs. Wilberforce. Come early to enjoy tea, biscuits and good company in the beautifully restored (and heated!) 1793 Carriage House, the perfect venue for music and socializing! The duo of Kyra Davies (fiddle, viola, vocals) and Sean Smith (guitar, bouzouki, [...])

\$21

MON  
2

March 2 @ 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

## Purim Palooza with Temple Beth Israel

Join the Jewish community of Waltham to celebrate Purim with carnival games, hamantaschen contest, crafts like make your own mask and gragger, and a costume parade! Sign up here to throw [...]

THU  
5

March 5 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm [📧 Waltham Cultural Council meeting](#)

## Waltham Cultural Council meeting

**Zoom**

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 [...]

THU  
5

March 5 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm [📧](#)

## Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham

**Zoom**

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 [...]

SUN  
8

March 8 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

## Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra "All-American Concert"

**Waltham Government Center** 119 School Street, Waltham, MA, United States

The Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States with a very exciting concert featuring American composers! Tickets can only be purchased online here. Adults: \$28.50. Children ages 5-17 accompanied by an adult: Free.

\$28.50

TUE  
10

March 10 @ 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

## National Grid — Customer assistance event

**McDevitt Middle School** 75 Church Street, Waltham, MA

Meet with assistance program experts and connect with the resources your family needs, all under one roof, all in one day. Our advocates will be on-site to help you explore options [...]

Free