

# The Week's News!



Keeps our community ticking!

## February 23, 2026

### Singer brings music and memories to Waltham seniors

Steve Milmore

February 23, 2026



Singer Tommy Rull performs to a full house at Stanley Senior Center. Photo by Steve Milmore.

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Rull sang hit songs from the '50s and '60s such as "Venus" by Frankie Avalon and "Pretty Woman" by Roy Orbison along with crooner classics by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Perry Como.

A highlight of the one-hour performance was a sing-and-clap-along to Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," beloved by Red Sox fans as an eighth-inning spirit-lifter at Fenway Park. The audience was right on time—and loud—with the familiar "so good, so good, so good" refrain.

Rull has entertained crowds across the United States, Europe and the Caribbean during a decades-long musical career. Between songs he shared funny stories about past concerts. When he shared his story about a battle with loose dentures, he positively rocked the house.

The free show was sponsored by the [Waltham Cultural Council](#), which helps fund events in the arts and humanities for the Waltham community.

The Council on Aging offers concerts and other social gatherings for seniors over 60 and their families at the Stanley Senior Center. Check the [February calendar](#) for upcoming events.

### Breezers take a bow: Waltham's favorite party turns 10!

June Kinoshita

February 20, 2026



From left, Aleksandra and Kevin Maguire, Todd Kruthoff, Megan Morahan, Alexi Jovanidis, Karin and Scott Kimball, Fiona and John Reardon, Gabby and Steve Garschina Bobrow. Photo courtesy of Aleksandra Maguire.

If you need someone to explain what a "breezer" is, chances are you are one yourself. In local parlance, there are those whose Waltham roots go back generations. Then there are those who roll into town like a human tumbleweed—breezing in, presumably with no intention of setting down roots. Hence a breezer.



The Waltham Times is Waltham's local news publication, currently available online only. This printed compendium of articles is produced by volunteers for readers who prefer hardcopy. We aim to have an official printed edition of The Waltham Times in the future, dependent of raising sufficient revenue through donations, grants and advertising to cover the cost of printing.



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# Neighbors invited to weigh in on new Winter Street neighborhood this Tuesday

Artie Kronenfeld

February 23, 2026

Conceptual Masterplan | MIRROD 1



The conceptual master plan for Bay Colony showing the number of housing units proposed for the phases of the project. Courtesy of BXP.

The City Council is currently considering whether to allow new housing construction on [three properties in western Waltham](#). The largest of these sits on Winter Street, on a lot that owner BXP Inc. calls the Bay Colony.

BXP currently intends to build more than 1,000 units of housing as well as smaller commercial development on the 138-acre site, land currently occupied by vacant office buildings.

BXP [requested in December](#) that the city create a Mixed Innovation and Residential Redevelopment Overlay District (MIRROD) to allow it to build housing on the lot, which is currently zoned only for limited commercial use. BXP has proposed to create a small neighborhood with housing both for rent and for ownership, a fitness complex and neighborhood-level retail shops and cafes.

Because of its size, councilors have had a lot of questions about [the project's effects on Waltham](#). Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley [requested in January](#) that the developer consult with nearby residents on plans for the site, and at a Feb. 17 meeting of the Ordinances and Rules Committee, the company committed to hold a neighborhood meeting on site at 1000 Winter St., on Feb. 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Developers have not yet responded to Waltham Times about whether the meeting will be rescheduled due to weather.

## What BXP wants to build at the Bay Colony

At the [Feb. 17 Ordinances and Rules Committee meeting](#), BXP's Vice President of Development, Kier Evans, described the company's current plans for the site.

BXP has refused to commit to a final number of housing units it will build at the site, or the exact mix of housing it will provide, saying that its plans will have to adapt to market conditions because the site will take a minimum of 7 to 10 years to construct.

Instead, the company has committed to building no more than 1,500 units of housing in total between the Bay Colony site and [another site it owns at Jones Road](#) for which it is also requesting a zoning overlay. It has committed to following the city's affordable housing and veterans preference regulations.

Evans said that the company anticipates it will build about 1,100 of those units on the Bay Colony site, tentatively laying out a four-phase "master concept plan" for residential development.

The first of the four phases would involve building a 300-unit apartment building at the current site of 1000 Winter St. along with a neighboring 100,000-square-foot fitness complex. Following or coinciding with this, BXP would construct approximately 150 townhouses in the northeastern part of the property, where the site borders its closest residential neighbors.

The next phase of the plan would involve another 300-unit apartment building abutting Winter Street, followed by a 400-unit building overlooking the Cambridge Reservoir at 1100 Winter St.

Five existing office buildings that are fully or partially occupied would remain standing at the site, at 860, 870, 880, 890 and 950 Winter St.

Evans said that BXP plans to concentrate most of its high-density housing near the reservoir, both to take advantage of its views and to avoid crowding existing neighborhoods on the site's north side.

Although BXP has committed to building only 1,500 units at the site, the zoning language it has requested would technically allow for many more, likely exceeding 3,500; Evans explained that the company plans to go to the Board of Survey and Planning to divide the property into 10 to 13 smaller lots.

The project's traffic engineering team said that the new development would create about 8,000 new vehicle trips per day, including 600 to 700 during morning and evening rush hour.

They pointed out, however, that if the current office buildings being replaced by housing were reoccupied as offices, as the company can do by right, that would create comparable amounts of traffic. Compared to that scenario, the proposed housing would only create 4500 more vehicle trips per day and would see between 30 fewer and 150 more vehicles per hour during rush hour.

### **What neighbors want to see**

At the zoning amendments' [initial public hearing](#), the Bay Colony drew the most public comment between the three proposed sites; six attendees stood and spoke in favor of the rezoning, five spoke against it, and 10 additional attendees stood up to be recorded as opposing the zoning change.

Since then, a group of neighbors has continued to push for more modest development. Resident Joe Lester argued in a statement to the City Council that BXP should commit to Waltham's restrictions for limited commercial overlay districts, which require developers not to build within 500 feet of any residential or conservation recreation zone.

"BXP originally requested a 50-foot setback from our neighborhoods. Their latest revision raises it to 75 feet. Neither of these is acceptable," he wrote in a Dec. 19 email.

Both Lester and resident Mike Cohan expressed concerns about access from the Bay Colony site to Old County Road, expressing a desire that the road stay closed to through traffic.

In an email to The Waltham Times, Cohan also argued that the text of the zoning overlay should include "reasonable noise and light restrictions" and restrictions on selling undeveloped land.

The new neighborhood sits in Ward 1, near the Lincoln border and south of the reservoir from the western corner of Ward 3. Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci said he's "looking forward" to the neighborhood meeting so that residents will have an opportunity to directly weigh in on the development.

Hanley said that he's worried about an influx of traffic onto Trapelo Road from the project. "The area has gotten used to low traffic volumes since the buildings went vacant during COVID-19. The traffic study showed that only 10% of total trips would go toward Trapelo, so that was very positive, but Old County Road connects to Route 2, so I'm still dialed in and keeping an eye on that," he said.

# Traffic Commission in brief: Electric vehicle charging spots' fees to be lowered

Artie Kronenfeld

February 23, 2026



As Waltham city workers [begin to install new electric vehicle charging stations in its public lots](#), the Traffic Commission voted this week to reduce parking fees for spaces fitted with EV chargers in municipal lots.

Last month, Wires Director Tim Kelly told the Traffic Commission his department planned to install EV chargers in 20 new public parking spots across the city and upgrade existing public chargers.

Kelly told the commission this month at its Feb. 19 meeting that his department had started to install the new chargers, although they'd been temporarily curtailed by winter weather.

Unlike Waltham's previous public EV chargers, these new charging stations will require people to pay for the electricity their vehicles use. The city previously charged a higher fee of \$3/hour for parking in EV spots, instead of the city's general \$1/hour parking fee, to recoup electricity costs.

Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin had previously recommended the commission adjust the spots' parking fees, bringing them in line with the general \$1/hour parking charge, since electricity costs are now being transferred to vehicle owners.

At the time, Kelly told the commission he was in the process of assessing how much these chargers would cost in electricity, and requested it wait until Thursday's meeting to set new rates; as of the meeting, however, his department had not yet completed the assessment, so the commission voted to reduce parking fees in electric vehicle spots to \$1/hour.

The committee also voted to maintain the city's two-hour parking limit in EV charging spaces.

## **Additionally, the Traffic Commission:**

- Accepted a parking study for a proposed project to convert part of the lot at the Home Depot at 100 First Ave. into a freestanding structure to store and sell drywall. Transportation engineer Matt Kealey of VHB told commissioners that according to a parking study conducted last summer, Home Depot's parking lot is currently at 29% of its capacity on its busiest days, and this construction would only bring it to 31% capacity.
- Removed a disabled parking space at 84 Gardner St. no longer needed by residents.
- Approved a crosswalk requested by Bentley University for Linden Street, requiring the university to install it at the same time that it puts in nearby sidewalks. Commissioners asked the university to pay for ADA-compliant curb cuts at the crosswalk.
- Approved a street closure for August's Moody Street Car Show.
- Approved four road races: The Flight Performance Road Race, scheduled for May 9; the new BBJI 5K Road Race and Walk, scheduled for May 16; the Boston Brain Tumor Bike Ride, scheduled for May 17; and the Annual Fitzgerald Fun Run, scheduled for May 28.

- Approved the conversion of two Church Street parking spaces into 15-minute parking at the request of an anonymous local business, over a recommendation from Garvin to survey other businesses' preferences first.
- Heard an update on a flashing stop sign the commission [previously voted to try out](#) at the intersection of Cedarwood Avenue and Villa Street. The flashing stop sign did not make a significant difference to cars' behavior during the trial period and Garvin recommended removing it. Kelly and Ward 7 Commissioner Paul

S. Katz, however, said that the results were inconclusive because the sign's lights did not work for a month of the trial. The commission voted to extend the trial for three more months with a better sign.

- Heard updates on proposed parking restrictions for Elson Road. The street does not have the capacity for two-way traffic and parking, and after holding a neighborhood meeting, Garvin proposed allowing only allowing cars to park on the north side of the road immediately around Prospect Hill Road and Hammond Street, and only on the south side of the street in between; the commission, worried the parking plan was confusion, asked him to draw up other options.
- Voted to approve a funding request for \$365,000 for the Wires Department to complete improvements previously approved by the commission. This request included \$25,000 for improvements at the Wal-Lex Plaza that Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy had previously denied additional funding for. Kelly additionally provided updates on 10 more projects for which the department was not yet ready to request funding.
- Voted to ask Garvin to survey private way homeowners about their willingness to adopt parking restrictions on their streets for emergency vehicle access.

## City traffic engineer will visit residents directly to tackle emergency access to private ways

Artie Kronenfeld

February 23, 2026



*Evergreen Avenue, a narrow private way in Waltham.*

Some private ways in Waltham are so narrow that cars parked on them can prevent emergency vehicles like fire engines and ambulances from passing through. The Traffic Commission this week authorized Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin to try out some unusual tactics in an attempt to address this issue.

In April 2025, the commission requested Waltham adopt new regulation allowing it to restrict

parking on private ways when necessary to ensure emergency vehicles could access the streets.

The proposal went to the City Council later that month, which sent it into the Ordinances and Rules Committee [to work out details of the legislation](#). Since then, Garvin has regularly informed the commission that he expected to discuss the ordinance with councilors at a future committee meeting.

On Feb. 2, however, the committee voted to [permanently file away the proposal](#), saying the city did not have the legal backing to enforce parking regulations on private ways.

At the Feb. 19 Traffic Commission meeting, Fire Chief Andrew Mullin expressed that street parking that hindered emergency vehicle access remained “an issue that needs to be addressed” for many private ways in Waltham.

Garvin told the commission he had been studying this problem for nearly six years, and at this point intends to use the legal tools already available to him. The city can currently regulate parking on a private way if it receives the consent of all residents, and Garvin requested commissioners authorize him to create parking plans for private ways that are inaccessible for emergency vehicles and present them to individual addresses for approval.

Garvin said he had identified a total of 32 roads that were fully or partially private ways, allowed on-street parking, had curbing and were narrow enough that parked cars could pose a barrier to emergency vehicles.

The commission voted to authorize Garvin to proceed with his plan. Still, Director of Public Works Michael Chiasson expressed skepticism that individually approaching residents would work. “I think we’re going to spend a lot of time [on this] and people are going to say no,” Chiasson said. “I’m not saying don’t go through the exercise. I just think, don’t expect much in the end.”

City Clerk Joseph Vizard, however, encouraged commissioners to be more optimistic, saying that even if residents only agree to adopt regulations on a portion of private ways it would mean an improvement over the status quo.

“I uphold that these neighborhoods are going to come together for the greater good,” he argued.

<p>Garvin identified the following roads as private ways in need of parking regulation for reasons of emergency vehicle access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antico Circle</li> <li>• Bishop Terrace</li> <li>• Charlesbank Way</li> <li>• Daniels Court</li> <li>• Drew Street</li> <li>• Evergreen Avenue</li> <li>• Exchange Court</li> <li>• Falconer Circle</li> <li>• Farnsworth Avenue</li> <li>• Helen Street</li> <li>• Keach Terrace</li> <li>• Lincoln Woods Road</li> <li>• Morris Street</li> <li>• Muldoons Court</li> <li>• Robbins Place</li> <li>• Sagamore Way</li> <li>• Spencer Street</li> <li>• Summit Avenue</li> <li>• Totten Circle</li> <li>• Wight Street</li> </ul>	<p>He additionally identified private portions of the following roads as in need of parking regulation for emergency vehicle access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circle Drive</li> <li>• Gregory Street</li> <li>• Hawthorne Road</li> <li>• Hibiscus Avenue</li> <li>• Indian Road</li> <li>• Marguerite Avenue</li> <li>• Mount Walley Road</li> <li>• Prospect Hill Road</li> <li>• Royal Street</li> <li>• School Avenue</li> <li>• Seminole Avenue</li> <li>• Stone Road</li> </ul>
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# Minority Whip Katherine Clark prioritizes affordability and accountability in 2026 campaign

Cyd Abnet

February 23, 2026



*U.S. representative and Democratic Whip Katherine Clark speaking at the inauguration of Waltham City Council members in January 2026. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.*

Waltham’s U.S. representative and Democratic Whip [Katherine Clark](#) will seek reelection for the Massachusetts 5th Congressional District seat, facing off against challengers in a Democratic primary this fall as she seeks an eighth consecutive term.

Clark has laid out her [priorities](#) as she campaigns to return to Washington, citing climate change, child care, health care, reproductive freedom and voting rights as some of her top issues.

Clark is also focused on affordability, saying it’s a concern raised repeatedly by constituents throughout the district. “Most households are having a hard time meeting the basics,” she said.

If reelected, she said she’d continue working to lower the cost of living and improve access to affordable health care and child care. “Childcare shouldn’t be as much as rent or a mortgage payment,” she said.

She said she wants to create an economy that “works for working people” while keeping women in mind. Women are often treated unfairly in the workplace, which puts them at an economic disadvantage. Clark believes that by making policy choices that would benefit the most vulnerable members, the economy will work better for everyone. “Women take the brunt of any particular economic hardship,” Clark said. “If we’re doing right by women, we are going to be doing right by everyone.”

When asked about what she wants to accomplish if reelected, Clark said she wants to work with district residents to fight against the Trump administration on its economic, educational, and immigration policies. “We know the things we have to work on. We have to make sure that we are holding this administration and this cabinet accountable,” Clark said.

Clark cited two recent Congressional actions as examples of how she and other House Democrats are holding the Trump administration accountable. On Feb. 10 House Democrats along with two Republicans voted down a resolution that contained language that would delay tariff legislation from making its way to the House floor in a timely manner. And on Feb. 11 House Democrats joined by six Republicans passed a resolution that would lift the tariffs imposed on Canada.

“Even in the minority, I am able to represent MA-5 by using the power of our unity,” said Clark, who has whip organized the Democrats’ unified front on the votes.

Clark said she leans on her role as party whip to tackle her agenda. “I get to use this leadership post to be able to be at the table, to push for change, to be bold, to meet the needs of the people in our district,” she said.

Clark is only the second woman to hold the position and is currently the highest-ranking woman in Congress.

## A quarter century of public service

Clark’s political career began locally 25 years ago.

She started in politics in 2001, when she successfully ran for a seat on the Melrose School Committee. She went on to serve in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 2008 to 2011 and then the state Senate from 2011 to 2013.

She was elected to Congress in a 2013 special election and House Democrats elected her party whip in 2023.

Clark said she didn't envision a political career when she started her professional life. She earned a bachelor's degree in history from St. Lawrence University and a law degree from Cornell University. After working as a lawyer in Chicago, Clark moved to Massachusetts in 1995 to attend Harvard University, where she earned a master's of public administration.

After graduating, she served as general counsel at the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services. The role brought her attention to issues faced by families around the state, which inspired her to enter politics.

Clark currently lives in Revere with her husband and has three children.

Clark remembers a speech given by Niki Tsongas, a former representative for Massachusetts' 3rd Congressional District. In that speech, she spoke about the power of being in Congress, something that Clark has kept in mind over the years.

"She said that it was an incredibly powerful position for good if you were willing to work and find those opportunities to do good and make change. That's been my North Star," Clark said.

## Former state representative candidate announces a 'walk-a-thon' through Waltham

Cyd Abnet

February 23, 2026



Waltham resident and former candidate for state representative Sean Diamond has announced a 20-month-long "walk-a-thon" ahead of a bid for a 2027 municipal government seat.

Diamond, who ran as a Forward Party candidate for state representative in 2024 against Democratic incumbent Thomas M. Stanley, is running for an unspecified City Council position.

"I'm Walking For Office," he wrote in a Feb. 16 email to his mailing list. "My wife Lauren and I moved to Waltham with our cat Louise. In 2024, I ran for office for the first time as an independent candidate with the political designation of Forward, trying to reach as many doors as I could in person and seeking to be one of Waltham's State Representatives. However, I quickly discovered that there is not enough time in a single campaign season to reach every house (at least not if you have a full time job). This year, I've decided that — rather than running for office again in 2026 — I'm going to start walking for office in 2027!"

Diamond said he is going to spend the next 20 months walking through each neighborhood in Waltham instead of doing "another 8 month 'sprint' to be Waltham State Rep."

He invited those interested in joining him on a walk in their neighborhood to RSVP on his [website](#) starting in March.

Diamond said his walk-a-thon is also a listening tour that will give him an opportunity to share conversation, ideas and thoughts with residents throughout Waltham.

Diamond said he plans to document safety and infrastructure concerns as well as accessibility issues around Waltham during his walking tour. He has a [form](#) on his website so residents can report issues themselves.

Additionally, he will circulate [petitions](#) on local topics of concern such as improving the accessibility of Waltham's government website.

# Waltham migraine advocate takes fight to Capitol Hill

June Kinoshita

February 23, 2026



Lisa Benson of Waltham traveled to Washington, D.C., on Feb. 10 to urge members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation to back federal bills that would improve care for people living with migraine and other headache disorders.

Benson, who serves as Massachusetts team captain for the Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy, joined more than 300 advocates from across the country for Headache on the Hill, a biannual event that brings patients, caregivers and clinicians to Capitol Hill. Over two days, advocates took part in nearly 300 meetings with congressional offices to describe how headache diseases affect families, workplaces and local communities.

In meetings with the offices of Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and Reps. Katherine Clark, Jim McGovern, Stephen Lynch, Ayanna Pressley and others, Benson shared her experience of living with debilitating migraine attacks since her 20s and developing chronic migraines — at least 15 headache days a month — by age

28. She said years spent alone in dark rooms, missing family events and hobbies, now fuel her advocacy on behalf of others with the disease.

“Living with a headache disorder isn’t just about pain. It affects my ability to work, care for my family and fully participate in my community,” Benson said. “Being in Washington and meeting face-to-face with lawmakers was empowering.”

Advocates asked lawmakers to cosponsor the bipartisan Headache Act, which would create a national strategy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate headache research, improve access to specialty care and address stigma surrounding these conditions. They also urged

support for the Safe Step Act, a bill that would put guardrails on insurance “step therapy” rules that can force patients to try and fail on cheaper drugs before receiving the treatment their doctors recommend.

Benson and other advocates also pressed for passage of the Connect for Health Act, which would make permanent many of the telehealth flexibilities adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic and expand access to remote care for patients who struggle to find headache specialists.

*Headache on the Hill advocates post in front of the U.S. Capitol. Courtesy of Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy.*



# Rep. Thomas M. Stanley pushes bills to rein in deceptive AI in political ads

Waltham News Team

February 23, 2026



State Rep. Thomas M. Stanley of Waltham is backing a pair of House-approved bills he said will help shield Massachusetts elections from deceptive uses of artificial intelligence.

Stanley, a Democrat whose district comprises most of Waltham, supported legislation that would both restrict misleading AI-generated election content and require campaigns to disclose when they use synthetic media in political ads. He said lawmakers have a responsibility to “protect voters and elections by prohibiting the deceptive use of AI in political campaigns and advertisements.”

One measure, An Act to Protect Against Election Misinformation, would bar the distribution of deceptive communications about candidates or the electoral process within 90 days of an election. It targets fabricated or manipulated audio and video meant to damage a candidate’s reputation or mislead voters about when, where and how to vote, certification of results, or endorsements by parties, public officials or organizations. The bill also allows candidates whose image or voice is used in deceptive media to seek a court order blocking distribution or to sue for damages and attorney fees.

Exemptions for the 90-day prohibition include media outlets that air the ads or report on the ads as part of a newscast as long as they clearly acknowledge that there are questions about its authenticity. Satire and parody are also exempt.

A second bill, An Act Enhancing Disclosure Requirements for Synthetic Media in Political Advertising, would require that any synthetic audio or video aimed at influencing an election clearly state at the beginning and end that it contains AI-generated material. Campaigns that fail to include the disclosure could face fines of up to \$1,000.



Stanley praised House leadership for advancing the measures, saying he was thankful to Speaker Ron Mariano, committee chairs and his colleagues “for their work to make this legislation a priority and get it across the finish line in the House.” The misinformation bill passed 154-3 and the synthetic media disclosure bill passed 157-0; both now move to the Senate for consideration.

# Singer brings music and memories to Waltham seniors

Steve Milmore

February 23, 2026



*Singer Tommy Rull performs to a full house at Stanley Senior Center.*

*Photo by Steve Milmore.*

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Rull sang hit songs from the '50s and '60s such as “Venus” by Frankie Avalon and “Pretty Woman” by Roy Orbison along with crooner classics by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Perry Como.

A highlight of the one-hour performance was a sing- and clap-along to Neil Diamond’s “Sweet Caroline,” beloved by Red Sox fans as an eighth-inning spirit-lifter at Fenway Park. The audience was right on time – and loud – with the familiar “so good, so good, so good” refrain.

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The free show was sponsored by the [Waltham Cultural Council](#), which helps fund events in the arts and humanities for the Waltham community.

The Council on Aging offers concerts and other social gatherings for seniors over 60 and their families at the Stanley Senior Center. Check the [February calendar](#) for upcoming events.

# Chief's Award recipients commended for bravery, lifesaving efforts

Steve Milmore

February 20, 2026



*Waltham Police Chief Kevin O'Connell presented the Chief's Award to several members of the WPD and a community partner at a ceremony on Feb. 17.*

The Chief's Award honors individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty in service to the City of Waltham. They include

- Detective Jorge Orta and Officer Patrick Brophy for their courageous actions during a residential fire rescue.
- Officers Ryan Manganelli, John Sabatino and Conor Shea for providing lifesaving measures during a multiple-patient overdose incident.
- Officers Mark DeBernardi, Kelly O'Dowd and Jonathan Vass for delivering lifesaving care to two victims of a
- serious scooter crash.
- Emergency telecommunications dispatcher Jon Cincotta for performing lifesaving CPR while off duty.
- Ryan Fabrizio of Eversource for his selfless actions at the scene of a rollover crash. Fabrizio jumped into action to free a trapped occupant, using his tools and gloved hands to remove the windshield and assisting in safely extracting the driver from the vehicle.

# City Council in brief: City Council amends never-followed budgeting rule

Artie Kronenfeld

February 20, 2026

Waltham City Council is required to pass its legislative budget in late January, but it has never met the deadline because the data it needs to set the budget is not available until February. Rather than have the council continue to flout the rule, the Ordinances and Rules Committee this week voted to change the budget deadline to the first Monday in March.

Council President and Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan said the council's legislative budget includes city salaries, which are indexed to inflation. And it's only in February that the Auditor's Department receives the average federal consumer price index from the previous year and calculates salaries.

The committee voted to set the legislative budget's deadline to the first Monday in March and amend the time of the budget hearing to 8 p.m. to align with the timing of the Committee of the Whole.

Additionally, the City Council's committees:

- Requested an update on a resolution about compactable solar energy trash cans from the mayor and Consolidated Public Works director sometime in the next two weeks. (Economic and Community Development)
- Voted 3-2 against a request by Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur for an update from the Information Technology Department on a 2025 resolution to look into a citywide mobile app to report nonemergency issues. Logan, who is no longer on the committee, wrote the 2025 resolution, and said IT Director Donald Aucoin would visit the committee soon with updates. (Economic and Community Development)
- Approved a state Department of Conservation and Recreation lease of city land for a flood station. (Committee of the Whole)
- Voted 11-2 to authorize Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy to look into taking land at 67 Crescent St. by eminent domain to create a park. (Committee of the Whole)
- Accepted a \$33,295.36 state grant for the Council on Aging. Council on Aging Director Patrick O'Brian said he expected to receive two more such grants by April. (Finance)
- Approved \$1,851 for the Emergency Management Department to pay for updated self-contained breathing apparatus bottles for emergency responders. (Finance)
- Approved \$9,665 in Adobe Acrobat licenses, upgraded monitors and City Council laptops for the City Clerk's Office. (Finance)
- Approved an increase of \$2.5 million to the Consolidated Public Works Department's snow removal budget. (Finance)
- Voted to give \$70,000 to Veterans Memorial Skating Rink to pay for replacing a broken water tank. The committee requested a copy of the receipt for the new tank. (Finance)
- Reviewed the city's income and spending halfway through the fiscal year. (Finance)
- Received documents the council requested last week detailing zoning exemptions required for a proposed hotel at 220 Moody St. The site's developer said it would submit full renderings of its proposed design and a parking plan at the next committee meeting. (Ordinances and Rules)

Reviewed [plans, timelines and mitigation commitments](#) from the developers of three large proposed developments in west Waltham. These developers have requested that the City Council [create mixed-use zoning overlay districts](#) over the three sites to allow them to build housing. (Ordinances and Rules)

# Auditor's Office says city is on budget halfway through the fiscal year

Artie Kronenfeld

February 20, 2026



Assistant City Auditor Laura Doane told the City Council's Finance Committee on Tuesday, 2/17 that the city's revenues and expenses have stayed approximately on track with its budget so far this fiscal year.

Waltham's fiscal year begins in July, and the City Council [votes on its budget in June](#). By council rules, it is required to [hold a midyear budget review hearing](#) in February.

Doane said that the city's revenue streams have nearly all reached the halfway point of the amounts in the budget. A few items, such as motor vehicle excise charges, which receive a larger share of their revenues in the spring have not yet reached that 50% mark. Others, however, have produced more revenue than expected. For example, revenue from liquor licenses and one-day liquor permits for events has already surpassed what the city predicted for the year.

Similarly, the city collected more than three times as much as it had predicted for its marijuana tax revenue for the year, the first year it has collected this tax; the city took in \$15,459 to date. Doane said she isn't sure the city's fiscal year aligned with the opening schedule of the dispensary, but that this figure represents only the first quarter of the city's tax earnings from the dispensary.

Doane said the majority of departments' spending so far has fallen within 40-60% of their yearly budgets, although some saw slightly higher or lower spending because of the timing of some of their expenditures.

The city's Information Technology Department, for example, was significantly above the halfway point of its spending because it purchases all the city's software licenses at the beginning of the year; on the other side, the Recreation Department has spent less of its budget because many of its expenses come from its spring programming.

One of the city's major financial projects is its Other Post-Employment Benefits fund, which pays for the medical insurance of retired employees.

Doane said this is a relatively new program. Between regular budget allocations and employee contributions, Doane estimated the city put between \$23 million and \$24 million toward the project this year, but the city requires a total of approximately \$600 million to operate these benefits for retired employees without taking on debt.

Doane predicted Waltham would not be able to reach that \$600 million until 2032 but said it was making good progress. "It's going to take a long time to get to that same level where we are with retirement. Medical insurance is very expensive," she said.

Meanwhile, the city has been chipping away at some of its debts.

Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci pointed out that the city has paid off some of its bonds issued for school construction projects and that the city projects it will pay off construction costs for the Fitzgerald and Whittemore elementary schools by 2028.

He also said the city has been steadily growing its "free cash" fund, which is where the city allocates unplanned revenue and unused money from other departments at the end of the year to use as an emergency fund.

Ward 6 Councilor Sean T. Durkee pointed out that the fact that Waltham has money available to spend through the free cash fund contributes to the city's high bond rating

# City approves additional \$2.5 million for over-budget snow removal costs

Artie Kronenfeld

February 20, 2026



The City Council Finance Committee at its Tuesday meeting approved \$2.5 million in storm response costs in addition to the \$1.4 million Waltham already budgeted and spent.

Director of Consolidated Public Works Michael Chiasson said the city often exceeds its initial budget for snow removal because of the difficulty of predicting winter storms. Councilor-at-Large Tim King supported that statement, noting snow removal costs can vary significantly from year to year.

[January's heavy storms](#) took a big bite out of snow removal budgets [across New England](#). Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci said the additional \$2.5 million makes this year's snow budget the highest on record. With the addition, Waltham has so far spent \$3.9 million to handle an accumulated 41.7 inches of snow. Last year the city spent \$2.4 million on 28.6 inches of snow, and \$1.5 million on 17.9 inches the year before.

Chiasson said the \$2.5 million paid for all snow removal costs his department had incurred up to the end of January and included an additional 10% of existing spending for projected future costs for the season. That 10% margin was lower than Chiasson's initial estimate for how much funding the department would need for the rest of the season, and he told councilors he's not sure how much of it the city has already used since the start of February. "We may be back. That's not out of the question," he said.

The funding request included an increase of \$650,000 in overtime pay for city employees, bringing the city's total line item for snow-related overtime pay to \$775,000. This is more than double the average year's snow-related overtime requirements, which the department estimated during budgeting was approximately \$300,000. It also included costs for contractors the city hired to plow and salt streets, truck and equipment rentals, vehicle repairs, salt and sand.

Committee members asked Chiasson how the department decides when to salt streets, when to plow and when to hire contractors to help with the snow mitigation. Chiasson said those decisions are usually made by multiple city officials. Chiasson added that the city always prioritizes calling in its own employees before hiring outside contractors but that the city's plows alone can't cover all of Waltham. The majority of salting is done by outside contractors, he said.

Councilors also discussed residents' frustrations about unplowed sidewalks. Chiasson explained that DPW employees first clear sidewalks directly in front of schools and then progress through the city by clearing off sidewalks the department has identified as common school-walking routes.

Chiasson emphasized that private businesses are also responsible for shoveling walkways in front of their storefronts, adding that his department isn't able to plow all of Waltham's 151 miles of public sidewalk. "We're still doing sidewalks now," he said.

Chiasson said there were multiple unique factors that made the city's snow response more difficult this year. The consistent cold temperatures meant that salting streets was less effective than usual. He added that his department has had several retirements in the past few years and many employees are relatively new.

Multiple councilors emphasized their support for the Consolidated Public Works Department and said the snow response needs to be a community effort. "I grew up in a time where if you had a sidewalk in front of your house — I didn't care if it was a one-, a two-, or a 10-family house — [if] it was there, you did it," said LaFauci. "If everyone just grabbed a shovel and did their part where they physically can, I think this city would be better off all around."

# Developers of proposed new neighborhoods discuss impacts on Waltham

Artie Kronenfeld

February 20, 2026



Real estate companies BXP Inc. and 1265 Main Street LLC this week presented phase-by-phase plans for the construction of the residential and commercial developments they're proposing on three west Waltham properties.

The companies presented their master plans at the Ordinances and Rules Committee meeting on Tuesday. They also presented new traffic studies and a breakdown of what commitments they're willing to make to mitigate the developments' impacts.

Both developers said they have not yet completed studies on how their developments will fiscally impact the city but said they're on track to finish those studies by the committee's next meeting on March 2.

Councilors on Tuesday voted that the city hire an independent contractor to review the development plans for the three sites.

## More project details emerge

Tuesday's presentation is part of the companies' ongoing engagement with the city. It follows the two companies' December [request](#) that the City Council create special zoning districts over three properties, two owned by BXP and one owned by 1265 Main Street. The new zoning would allow the companies to build housing.

Councilors in January [asked the two companies to create](#) a master plan breaking down their proposals for construction at each site. In letters to the city, BXP and 1265 Main Street committed to pay for their projects' sewer impacts, comply with the city's affordable housing legislation and veterans' preference legislation, follow environmental standards, and reserve land for greenspace.

1265 Main Street representative Rick Vallarelli added the company had some sewer credit with the city for replacing sewer lines during previous construction.

BXP further proposed giving the city a parcel of land at 200 West St. to construct a new fire station to serve the new development in the west of the city. In a response to the city's Law Department, however, the company declined to commit to site-specific housing caps for the two lots it owns or to a specific mix of housing units, citing a need to remain flexible to market changes.

BXP projected that the projects would take at minimum seven to 10 years to build. It also said it expects to adapt its plans as it returns to the City Council to get special permits for each phase. BXP's vice president of development, Kier Evans, said the company plans to hold a meeting for abutters of its Bay Colony property on Winter Street on Feb. 24 at 1000 Winter St. from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Evans added that BXP plans to go to the Board of Survey and Planning in the future to break both its Winter Street property and [its property on Jones Road](#) into smaller lots.

Additionally, the new zoning sought by the two companies would lower the minimum number of parking spaces they're required to create as they develop the properties, a proposed change that city councilors have questioned. Both project representatives expressed that the lower minimum parking requirements were based on a [parking study from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#) showing that many Greater Boston communities have built more parking than their residents require.

# A local celebration brings Lunar New Year traditions to Waltham

Daphne Wang Stubbs

February 20, 2026



The Lunar New Year began Tuesday, Feb. 17, marking the start of the 15-day Spring Festival celebrated across many Asian cultures. At our home in Ellison Park, we hosted a gathering that introduced neighbors and friends to traditions centered on symbolic dishes and cultural activities.

## More than a meal: A cultural renaissance

Lunar New Year's Eve (Chuxi 除夕) is the final night of the lunar year, marking an important traditional family reunion, often celebrated with a lavish dinner, fireworks and staying up late to welcome the new year. This year, the gathering offered a glimpse into how global cultural traditions

are practiced locally and showcased the growing diversity of Waltham's community, including Vietnamese, Korean, Malaysian, Taiwanese and Chinese residents.

Red paper cutouts decorated the windows to symbolize good fortune, while guests received red envelopes containing monetary gifts, a tradition meant to pass on blessings and luck for the year ahead. The celebration also featured games of chance, representing hopes for prosperity in the coming year.

Food played a central role, with each dish carrying symbolic meaning. Dumplings represented wealth because of their resemblance to ancient gold ingots, fish symbolized abundance reflecting the wish for surplus and prosperity, longevity noodles represented long life, and fa gao (發糕), a steamed cake that rises during cooking, symbolized growth and progress.



## Growing diversity and energy of the community

Waltham has long been a "Watch City" that keeps time for the region, but its greatest strength is its evolving cultural clock. The Year of the Fire Horse in 2026 is regarded in the Chinese zodiac as a powerful, dynamic and transformative time, bringing strong potential for breakthroughs, decisive actions and personal growth.

Local celebrations such as this help preserve cultural heritage while fostering cross-cultural understanding among residents. As Waltham's population becomes increasingly diverse, community gatherings around global traditions continue to shape the city's cultural life.

# Breezers take a bow: Waltham's favorite party turns 10

June Kinoshita

February 20, 2026



*From left, Aleksandra and Kevin Maguire, Todd Kruthkoff, Megan Morahan, Alexi Joannidis, Karin and Scott Kimball, Fiona and John Reardon, Gabby and Steve Garschina Bobrow. Photo courtesy of Aleksandra Maguire.*

If you need someone to explain what a “breezer” is, chances are you are one yourself. In local parlance, there are those whose Waltham roots go back generations. Then there are those who roll into town like a human tumbleweed – breezing in, presumably with no intention of setting down roots. Hence a breezer.

Even people who have lived in Waltham for decades – attended schools, bought homes and even worked for the city – are deemed breezers. A basic requirement of non-breezerhood is to have been born in Waltham, an almost impossibly high bar now that there is no longer a hospital in the city.

So when some residents – all breezers – met over a decade ago and cooked up the idea of throwing a dance party to celebrate their city, they quickly landed on what to call it. “Breezer is used sort of as a pejorative,” said David Nauss, one of the original plotters. “We thought, wouldn’t it be fun to turn that on its head?”

Thus was born the [Breezers Ball](#). The founders say it’s “a special thank you to Waltham and all those who have and continue to make it such a great place to live and work.” And it’s “Waltham’s best party.”

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy always buys the first ticket.

*Continued...*

## Bloom where you're planted

The Breezer's Ball celebrates a milestone this year – its 10th anniversary. It has been held every year since 2013, except for a COVID-imposed break from 2021-2023. The ball takes place on Saturday, March 14, 6:30 to 10 p.m., at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation.

*The official poster for the 2026 Breezers Ball.*



Local companies pitch in to sponsor the event. If the ball ends up with a surplus, the money is donated to the Waltham High School scholarship fund.

Waltham being a place that doesn't put on airs, there is no dress code as such, but the theme color is teal. The museum will be transformed into a nightclub, so pile on the glitter if you feel like it.

Tickets are \$60 and [available online](#). Attendees must be 21 or older.

This year's tagline is "bloom where you're planted." The Waltham Garden Club is donating two large floral arrangements. Kathy Montesanti will be the lead floral designer, assisted by Marion Myhre.

The volunteer-run event will feature "things that are cool about Waltham," including music by [DJ Jen Williams](#), founder of House of Glow Studios. Sweet Basil on Moody Street will concoct a signature cocktail. Local restaurants are donating dishes, "tastes of food they're proud of," Nauss said.

For those who assume a gala comes with speeches and requests for donations, fear not. The Breezers Ball is purely a "festive civic ball with no politics, no agenda other than to break down walls and enjoy your neighbors." Nauss said he expects more than 200 revelers – "inclusive, crosscultural, politically diverse adults who love Waltham." Many are repeat attendees who bring along friends.

The organizers contribute funds to cover costs and buy their own tickets.

# Waltham needs more affordable homes. City Council has a solution

Tom Benavides

February 18, 2026

Waltham has benefited from the opening of several apartment buildings such as The Alexan, 305 Broadstone, The Point and Leland House over the past five years. Not only have these developments strengthened our tax base with [contributions that generally outpace costs](#), but they have crucially delivered more than 200 affordable homes that are desperately needed for low- and moderate-income Waltham residents. While these buildings vary in size and location, they all have one thing in common: They were permitted via Chapter 40B, a state law that allows developers to override a city's zoning laws by including affordable housing as part of their plans.

It is great that the state is taking action to address our housing shortage, but it isn't nearly sufficient to address the large number of low-income households looking for an affordable home. When Leland House opened up its affordable development for seniors, it was only big enough to provide [affordable housing for 10% of the applicants](#). When The Alexan opened its doors to all ages, there were only enough affordable units for [6% of the applicants](#).



## Leland House lobby

The gap between the amount of housing we build and the amount of housing we need is massive. We can only bridge that gap if municipalities are willing and productive partners in building more homes. We cannot solely rely on the state's overrides and mandates.

Waltham City Council does have a way to create affordable housing at the local level: inclusionary zoning, a policy that requires developers to set aside a portion of new homes

at prices affordable to low- and moderate-income households. This policy has created a modest 120 affordable homes over the past few decades, the most recent of which was approved on Dec. 23, 2019 ... more than 2,240 days ago from the time of writing!

This should concern every Waltham resident. Our housing shortage has only worsened over the past six years, yet our city council has not permitted a single unit of affordable housing in that time. Why did we stop, and how can we fix it?

## Why affordable housing stalled out

To fix things, we must first understand what went wrong between 2019 and 2020. Economic factors due to the COVID-19 pandemic are a reasonable first suspicion, but this theory is proven wrong by the large number of 40B apartments that came to Waltham in this time period. Indeed, the entire Boston region experienced a [spike in new](#)

[housing permits in 2021](#). The problem is not macroeconomic or regional; the problem is local. Between 2019 and 2020, Waltham City Council revised its inclusionary zoning policy in a way that made affordable housing extremely difficult to finance and build.

What were the changes? The required share of affordable units in a new development doubled from 10% to 20%. Simultaneously, these units were required to be more affordable, with a lower maximum allowable rent. These changes were well intentioned, but this only works if the affordable housing is financially viable to build. Inclusionary zoning does not rely on outside subsidy; it relies on the profit from market-rate units to pay for the affordable homes.

When Waltham increased the affordable share from 10% to 20%, the share of market-rate units dropped from 90% to 80%. At the same time, the more deeply affordable units cost more money to build and maintain. With fewer market-rate units supporting twice as many affordable homes, each of which costs more money to subsidize, the effect was that each affordable unit received less than half the financial support it had before. This undermined the very mechanism that makes inclusionary zoning work. A policy designed to produce more affordable housing instead produced none.

### **A solution is in sight**

Fortunately, our city councilors have acknowledged this problem and are working on a solution. A new resolution directs the city to adopt the recommendations of independent housing experts who have calculated the cost to build affordable housing. This will enable a new inclusionary zoning policy that will allow new affordable housing developments to be economically feasible. [As reported by The Waltham Times](#), this calculation effectively provides three variables the city can modify to resurrect local affordable housing permitting: the number of affordable units, the depth of affordability and parking minimums. It will be up to the City Council to decide what to prioritize when adopting a new inclusionary zoning policy.

Waltham Inclusive Neighborhoods is advocating for these specific reforms:

- Affordable housing policy should target low-income households most in need of subsidized housing. As such, Waltham's new inclusionary zoning policy should prioritize depth of affordability.
- We strongly encourage councilors to adopt a lower number of affordable units and lower parking requirements so that targeting low-income households remains economically feasible.
- The city's new inclusionary zoning policy should disincentivize developers from making a payment to the city in lieu of building affordable units.
- The city should repeat this process and reevaluate its inclusionary zoning policy every five years to ensure that new affordable housing development remains economically feasible.

I encourage readers who care about housing affordability to email their city councilors at [councillors@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:councillors@city.waltham.ma.us) to express support of inclusionary zoning reform. I also encourage readers to express their support in person at the public hearing at City Hall, which will be scheduled at a later date.

# Waltham veteran to represent Massachusetts in National Purple Heart Tribute

Waltham News Team

February 18, 2026



U.S. Army Sgt. Wayne Henry of Waltham has been selected to represent Massachusetts in the 2026 Purple Heart Patriot Project, a national tribute honoring America's combat-wounded veterans.

Henry, a Vietnam War veteran and Purple Heart recipient, will join fellow honorees from across the country for the multiday event, scheduled for April 27 through May 1 in New York. The project, organized by the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, celebrates the courage and continued service of Purple Heart recipients.

“Wayne and his fellow Patriot Project honorees represent the best of the best our country has to offer,” said Jeremy McVey, chairman of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. “They answered the nation’s call and then kept on serving.”

Henry was drafted into the Army in October 1967 and served 19 months, including a tour in Vietnam with the 70th Engineering Battalion. He was wounded during fighting in Lac Thien, South Vietnam, when a mortar round struck his unit. In addition to his Purple Heart, Henry earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with two overseas bars.

“It means more now than it did when I was in,” Henry said of his service. “I’m proud to have served my country when called upon.”

The Purple Heart Patriot Project brings recipients together for visits to historic sites, including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and the 9/11 Memorial. Organizers say the experience offers both healing and long overdue recognition for many veterans.

“These missions recognize the sacrifices made by our Purple Heart recipients and honor those who never made it home,” said retired Col. Russell O. Vernon, the mission’s executive director. “We look forward to honoring Wayne for his courage and service, both during combat operations and in the years since returning home.”

Henry remains active in veterans’ organizations across Massachusetts, serving in leadership roles with the Military Order of the Purple Heart’s state department and Chapter 875 in Springfield, as well as VFW Post 10334 and Disabled American Veterans Chapter 45, both in Waltham.

He and his wife are the parents of three children.

More information about the National Purple Heart Honor Mission and the Purple Heart Patriot Project is available at [purpleheartmission.org](http://purpleheartmission.org).

# After 25 years, plans take shape for unused land on former Polaroid campus

Artie Kronenfeld

February 18, 2026

The Main Street property that currently includes the Market Basket shopping complex may soon include up to 500 additional residential units as part of a planned northward expansion, if the city approves a rezoning request from the developers.

Plans call for eight new buildings at the site, two of which would together contain 300 to 350 residential units with underground parking. The other buildings would include a 155-room hotel and commercial space for restaurants, retail, offices and fitness facilities, according to a [proposal presented to city officials in December](#).

The site's owner, 1265 Main Street LLC, did not respond to a request for more details about its plans for the site.

At a [Dec. 15 Ordinances and Rules Committee meeting](#), Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan said the shopping center had a good relationship with The TJX Companies, Inc., the corporate parent of Marshall's and HomeGoods, both of which have locations in the Market Basket complex, and said some of the company's other retail brands would be good additions for an expanded 1265 Main St.

## The site today

The site of the proposed development is not currently zoned for residential construction. Site owner, 1265 Main Street, LLC has asked the city to create a zoning overlay district that would allow both residential and commercial construction.

This is one of three such requests before the City Council. The [two other proposals](#) come from real estate company BXP Inc., which wants similar "Mixed Innovation and Residential Redevelopment" Overlay dDistricts for two of its own properties.

The City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee has been working with 1265 Main Street LLC [since December](#) on what the fully -built development would look like. The committee expects the company to deliver a more in-depth plan later this month.

## 25 years of unfulfilled plans

The 94.44-acre site once housed the corporate campus of the Polaroid company.

After Polaroid announced it was selling the property in 2000, the lot sat unused for many years. It passed from company to company in the face of foreclosures, market downturns and scrapped development plans. 1265 Main Street LLC, which is also called J&Co. in city documents, bought the property in 2011.

The company has developed a significant portion of the site. Market Basket and TJ Maxx are among the retailers, restaurants and service shops located there.

When Market Basket opened in 2015, 1265 Main Street [received praise](#) from city leaders such as Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy for relocating power lines and dedicating 20 acres of the site to become a park.

During that initial development phase, 1265 Main Street had said it would begin developing the site's north end in late 2015 or early 2016. Since then, the company has proposed further development plans influenced by [state studies of the region](#), with its revised plans now including office, retail, fitness and hotel space as well as housing. Last year it appeared in front of [the City Council](#) and [the Historical Commission](#) for permission to create a six-story hotel on the property.

# Malcolm Bourgeois, 2023–2026, ‘was a bright light who truly only knew love and happiness’

Waltham News Team February 20, 2026



Malcolm Bourgeois, of Waltham, passed away on Sunday morning, Feb. 8, 2026. He was 2.

Born on Dec. 17, 2023 to his loving parents Michael and Elizabeth (Pelaggi) Bourgeois, he was a bright light who truly only knew love and happiness. In his two short years, he never knew a “bad” day, meeting every moment with a child’s joy and curiosity that defines his soul.

Though his time was brief, Malcolm was a true adventurer. He was happiest when he was moving – whether he was hiking to the top of mountains, camping across New England or simply running through the grass. He cherished his daily walks and the time spent playing outside in the fresh air.

Extremely smart and famously funny, Malcolm had a natural gift for making everyone around him laugh. He was a regular fixture at music classes, libraries, play groups and coffee shops, where his personality shone brightest. He loved being loud, often filling the house with

his favorite songs, especially “Old MacDonald” and a very enthusiastic rendition of his ABCs.

His legacy is one of pure, uncomplicated love—a reminder to all who knew him of the beauty in the simple things.

In addition to his parents, Malcolm is survived by his grandparents, James and Joan Bourgeois of Lawrence and James and Amy Pelaggi of Venice, Florida; his aunts and uncles, Lisa and Joseph Puopolo of Groveland, Amanda and Eric Hunt of Wrentham and Matt Pelaggi and Heather Larson of Seattle, Washington; his cousins, Sylvie, Haven, Jake and Eric, Jr.; his great-grandmother, Marilyn Goldstein; and his great-uncles and great-aunts, Andrew Goldstein, Cheryl Petch, Ronald and Laurie Deschenes, Richard Oaks and Sheryl Doucet, Ronald and Karen Deveau and Gary Deschenes.

Family and friends will honored and celebrated Malcolm’s life on Saturday, Feb. 21st

# John Daddona, 1932–2026, lifelong Waltham resident and former WPS Superintendent

Waltham News Team

February 20, 2026



John J. "Jack" Daddona, of Waltham, died Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026 at Emerson Hospital in Concord following a period of declining health. He was 93.

Jack was born in Waltham on March 31, 1932, a son of the late Michael and Teresa (Cusano) Daddona and had been a lifelong resident. He was a graduate of Waltham High School where he excelled in sports, earning him a football scholarship to the University of Denver where he graduated in 1955. Four years later he earned his Master's degree in education from Northeastern University in Boston.

Jack began a long and distinguished education career in Waltham, first as a teacher at the Warrendale School, as it was then known, later becoming principal. He rose through the ranks gaining experience in every department and in every facet of school management. He was appointed Waltham's Superintendent of Schools, a position that he held until his retirement.

Jack's ready smile and kind, affable nature earned him many friends among teachers,

students and parents. He took the time each year to visit every classroom in every school in the city. The very personal connection that Jack made with those he met made him a friend for life.

Jack's love of sports never waned and he could be counted on to attend Waltham High football games regularly and play many rounds of golf during the good weather.

He leaves his wife, Sue-Ellen Lydon-Daddona; his children, Theresa Arsenault and her husband Robert of South Carolina, John Daddona, Jr. and his wife Paula of Massachusetts and Mark Daddona and his wife Debra of Florida; his grandchildren, Darren, Derek and Allison Arsenault, and Michael, Victoria, Emily and John Daddona, III; his great-grandson, Luca, with another great-grandson expected this April; and his sister Olga DiTomasso of Lunenburg.

Jack was also the father of infant Michael Patrick Daddona and brother of the late George Daddona.

Family and friends will honored and remembered Jack's life by gathering at his celebration of life mass at on Friday, Feb. 27 at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, 880 Trapelo Road, Waltham.

# Brian Peter Stone, 1947–2026, Navy veteran who ‘always made his family his priority’

Waltham News Team

February 20, 2026



Brian Peter Stone, of Waltham, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 78.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, Brian was a kind and loving man who always made his family his priority. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy and, following his honorable discharge in 1967, began a distinguished career as a draftsman at Polaroid Corporation, where he dedicated more than three decades of service and met the love of his life, Mary Jane Stone.

Brian was a longtime member of American Legion Post 440, and he truly possessed a servant’s heart. Above all, he cherished time spent with his family, especially at gatherings where his warmth, humor, and steady presence brought everyone together.

Predeceased by his beloved siblings, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Thomas Stone, Joseph Stone, David Stone, and Peter Stone.

Brian is survived by his loving and devoted daughter, Elizabeth Seymour, and her children, Brandon Seymour and Alyssa Lowes, all of Del City, Oklahoma; and his stepdaughter Cynthia Christie and her husband Marc of Epsom, New Hampshire. He also leaves to cherish his memory his brothers, John Stone of Auburndale and Kevin Stone and his wife, Madeline, of Billerica, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends who will miss him deeply.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to gather and remember the love and friendship Brian shared during visiting hours on Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in The Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial Chapels located, 773 Moody Street Waltham. A celebration of Brian’s life will begin at 5:30 p.m.

In commemoration of his honorable and faithful service, presentations will be offered by The American Legion Post 440 and the United States Navy.

Burial will be held privately for Brian’s family.

# Clorinda Pino De Salazar, 1942–2026, 'had a special talent for making everyone feel welcome'

Waltham News Team

February 20, 2026



Clorinda Pino De Salazar, of Waltham, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026 In Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She was 84.

Clorinda was born in La Libertad, Peru on Jan. 1, 1942, a daughter of the late Teodoro Pino Roldan and Juana Barrios Rodriguez. Her father passed away when she was young and she did not have the easiest life growing up. Those early struggles taught her lessons that no school could give: the importance of hard work, keeping family close and the value of education. She carried those lessons with her and made sure to pass them on to her children.

She moved to Lima as a young woman, where she met her husband, Damian Salazar Unton. They married and built a life and family together.

Clorinda worked in the restaurant business in Peru and kept her love of cooking throughout her life. She was known for her delicious meals and had a special talent for making everyone feel welcome at her table. She also enjoyed crocheting.

Faith was at the center of Clorinda's life. She read the scriptures often and lived her beliefs with quiet strength. She was a devoted mother, protective, sometimes strict, but always guided by love. She taught her children to be responsible, to save what they could and to stay humble no matter how much they achieved. She was generous with whatever she had, whether food, clothing or her time, and was always ready to help others.

Clorinda leaves her husband, Damian Salazar Unton; her Children, Yrma Orlanda Salazar Pino (Victor Osores Aguilar) of Waltham, Escarlet Soledad Salazar Pino (Jose Luis Cardenas Mendez) of Pamplona, Spain, Wilda Teodosia Salazar Pino (Adalberto) and Gerardo Walter Salazar Pino (Ofelia) of Lima Peru; 12 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren, including Sophia Noelia Osores and Luna Evelyn Osores; and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored and remembered Clorinda's life on Saturday, Feb. 21 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Weston. Burial will be private.

# Francis Escott, 1966–2026, loving husband and brother

Waltham News Team

February 20, 2026



Francis "Frank" P. Escott, of Waltham, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026. He was 59.







Born on Dec. 31, 1966, in Somerville, he was the beloved son of the late Dennis Escott and Rita (Feola) Escott. Frank was born, raised, and educated in Somerville, where he spent many years before moving to Waltham in 2006.

In recent years, Frank was employed as a driver for DoorDash. He enjoyed being out on the road and took pride in his work. An avid sports fan, Frank loved watching all the New England teams and rarely missed a game. He was also a strong and enthusiastic supporter of Donald J. Trump.

Frank's greatest joy was his family. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 20 years, Maria (Lourdes) Escott, and his dear brother, Arthur Escott. He will be remembered for his loyalty, strong convictions, and the love he shared with those closest to him.

# Calendar

February 25-April 4

<p>WED <b>25</b></p>	<p>February 25 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  <a href="#">School Committee meeting</a></p> <p><b>School Committee meeting</b></p> <p><b>617 Lexington St</b> 617 Lexington St, Waltham, MA</p> <p>The School Committee typically meets twice per month (once each in July and August) on Wednesday evenings. Check the School Committee web site to confirm meeting dates and times. Unless specifically noted, all regular meetings of the Waltham School Committee begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the Cannon Lecture Hall at 617 Lexington [...]</p>	<p>FRI <b>27</b></p>	<p>February 27 @ 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm</p> <p><b>2nd Shift Concert: Winterpills</b></p> <p><b>Charles River Museum of Industry &amp; Innovation</b> 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States</p> <p>Formed in the fog of the timeline around the fall of the Twin Towers, the death of Elliott Smith, the peak influence of Pitchfork and the dawn of the iPod, the members of Winterpills met and began making music in the old-fashioned winter of 2003 in the shambolic Northampton, Massachusetts, music scene. They gleefully stumbled [...]</p> <p>\$28.52</p>
<p>WED <b>25</b></p>	<p>February 25 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm </p> <p><b>License Commission meeting</b></p> <p><b>City of Waltham Government Center</b> 119 School Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>The Board of License Commissioners meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., but may be moved due to holidays or other circumstances. Contact the Licensing Department to confirm each meeting and for additional information.</p>	<p>SAT <b>28</b></p>	<p>February 28 @ 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>RESCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER TO FEB. 28 Join the Waltham Land Trust for a walk along the Charles River trail in search of dazzling waterfowl visiting from northern climes, as [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>WED <b>25</b></p>	<p>February 25 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p><b>Puppet playtime</b></p> <p><b>Gore Place</b> 52 Gore Street</p> <p>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 [...]</p> <p>\$16</p>	<p>SUN <b>1</b></p>	<p>March 1 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm</p> <p><b>Music, tea and biscuits with Mrs. Wilberforce</b></p> <p><b>Gore Place</b> 52 Gore Street</p> <p>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, [...])</p> <p>\$21</p>
<p>THU <b>26</b></p>	<p>February 26 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm</p> <p><b>Chakras, crystals and chill</b></p> <p><b>Waltham Public Library</b> 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States</p> <p>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 [...]</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>MON <b>2</b></p>	<p>March 2 @ 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p><b>Purim Palooza with Temple Beth Israel</b></p> <p>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 [...]</p>
<p>THU <b>26</b></p>	<p>February 26 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm </p> <p><b>Conservation Commission meeting</b></p> <p><b>Zoom</b></p> <p>The Conservation Commission typically meets twice each month on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Meetings are usually held remotely via Zoom and are open to the public. Visit the commission's web page for more information (Zoom links are included in each posted agenda).</p>	<p>MON <b>2</b></p>	<p>March 2 @ 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 [...]</p> <p>Free</p>
<p>THU <b>26</b></p>	<p>February 26 @ 11:30 am - 9:00 pm</p> <p><b>Waltham Land Trust—Fundraiser at the Chateau</b></p> <p><b>Chateau Restaurant</b> 195 School St, Waltham</p> <p>Enjoy delicious Italian American family food, steaks, seafood, and many vegetarian options at or from this beloved Waltham institution. Follow the instructions at <a href="http://walthamlandtrust.org">walthamlandtrust.org</a> for the fundraiser and the Waltham Land Trust gets 20% of your sale to use towards saving land, building trails, and outfitting our volunteer trail stewards. Good for dine-in or takeout.</p> <p>Free</p>	<p>WED <b>4</b></p>	<p>March 4 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm </p> <p><b>Parks-Recreation Board meeting</b></p> <p><b>Waltham Community and Cultural Center</b> 510 Moody Street, Waltham, MA</p> <p>The Parks-Recreation Board meets monthly, excluding July and August. Public agenda and additional information can be found here.</p> <p>Free</p>
		<p>THU <b>5</b></p>	<p>March 5 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  <a href="#">Waltham Cultural Council meeting</a></p> <p><b>Waltham Cultural Council meeting</b></p> <p><b>Zoom</b></p> <p>The Waltham Cultural Council is a part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's local council program. It allocates funds for arts, sciences and humanities projects and events which focus on Waltham's cultural [...]</p>

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 [...]

FRI  
**6** March 6 @ 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**2026 Annual Regional High School Exhibit: Waltham High School Reception**

**Lexington Arts & Crafts Society** 7130 Waltham St, Lexington, MA

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. A reception for the [...]

SAT  
**7** March 7 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Waltham Democratic Caucus**

**Northeast Elementary School** 70 Putney Lane, Waltham, MA

The Waltham Democratic City Committee announces details for this year's Waltham Democratic Caucus. Open to the public. Caucuses are held each year to nominate delegates to the Annual MassDems State [...]

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

MON  
**9** March 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 🗓️

**Historical Commission meeting**

**Zoom**

The Waltham Historical Commission meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. To appear before the WHC or to submit correspondence [...]

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

THU  
**12** March 12 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Waltham Partnership for Youth's 11th annual Trivia for a Cause**

**American Legion Nonantum Post 440** 295 California St, Newton, MA

Join us for Waltham Partnership for Youth's 11th annual Trivia for a Cause. Enjoy a competitive night out with your friends and colleagues, while supporting vital youth programming in Waltham. [...]

SAT  
**14** March 14 @ 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

**Breezers Ball Pre-Spring Fling**

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

The 10th Anniversary Breezers Ball—a special "Thank You" to Waltham—will be a wonderful party to celebrate and thank Waltham for being such a great place to live and to work. [...]

\$60

WED  
**18** March 18 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

**Managing mental health symptoms in a neurological population**

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

This talk will discuss the overlap between neurologic disorders and mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety. It will explore common presentations of these mental health symptoms in neurological [...]

Free

WED  
**18** March 18 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Low back pain and posture**

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

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 [...]

Free

THU  
**19** March 19 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am 🗓️

**Traffic Commission meeting**

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

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 [...]

THU  
**19** March 19 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm 🗓️

**Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham**

**Meadow Green Rehabilitation & Nursing Center** 45 Woburn St. off Trapelo Rd., Waltham

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 [...]

THU  
**26** March 26 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

**Waltham Friends of Scouting—Trivia Night FUNdraiser**

**Watertown Sons of Italy Hall** 520 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA

Waltham Friends of Scouting will host a Trivia Night on Thursday, March 26, at the Watertown Sons of Italy Hall. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) There will be two one-hour [...]

\$25

SAT  
**4** April 4 @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**Tapas brunch at Solea: Celebrating 9 years of Friends Beyond Boston**

**Solea Restaurant & Tapas Bar** 388 Moody Street, Waltham

This April marks nine years of Friends Beyond Boston – Waltham Social and we're celebrating that milestone by gathering at Solea, one of Moody Street's longtime favorites, known for its [...]

\$45