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March 16, 2026



Bedazzled by Breezers Ball

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • COMMUNITY • MARCH 15, 2026



State's report card ranks Waltham High in bottom 10%

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • MARCH 12, 2026



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Bedazzled by Breezers Ball

June Kinoshita

March 16, 2026

The 10th Annual Breezers Ball felt like all of Waltham contained inside one glittering, fairy light-festooned disco ball. That's just what the organizers intended and they may have succeeded beyond all expectations.

There were twentysomethings and octogenarians. DJ Jen of House of Glow spun songs in genres from Abba to Bad Bunny and everything in between. People in every hue of the rainbow. And politicians from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy to her erstwhile rival and now Congressional contender Jonathan Paz.



Restaurants from up and down Moody Street, Main Street and beyond provided favorite dishes for the abundant buffet. Dancers could trade in their drink tickets for a fluorescent blue Breezerita cocktail (or more standard fare).



Walthamites took the opportunity to stretch themselves sartorially. Teal, the theme color, found its way into brocade vests, silk ties, a feather boa and even the tartan of a kilt. The event's motto, "bloom where you're planted," inspired crowns of flowers, an abundant scattering of fabric blooms across a ballgown and a suit of floral fabric. Waltham's signature steampunk style was in evidence. There were enough sparkling sequins to be visible from the International Space Station.

When the last song faded, the shimmer lingered — a reminder that community, too, can sparkle in a thousand colors.

Irish music lights up packed house at Waltham's Senior Center

Steve Milmore

March 16, 2026

The Bhoys played a lively set of jigs and soulful ballads for the crowd.

It seemed like everyone was Irish at the Stanley Senior Center on Friday afternoon.

The place was alive with music and laughter as the [Boston Harbor Bhoys](#) took the stage for a lively afternoon performance.

A record crowd of more than 130 seniors cheered and clapped along with the Celtic-inspired trio, known for their energetic renditions of traditional Irish songs.

All three are versatile singers and musicians, each capable of holding a stage on his own. But when they come together in harmony, they really know how to energize a crowd. It took no time to get the audience tapping their feet and singing along to such classics as “The Wild Rover” and “Whiskey in the Jar.”

Eddie Biggins, along with son Ryan and singer Michael Maloney, played a lively set of jigs, soulful ballads and a few fun originals that had the audience smiling throughout. The Bhoys’ banter between songs added warmth and charm to the performance.

After the final chords were played to heartfelt applause, the Bhoys and seniors stayed around for refreshments provided by the Council on Aging.

Volunteers, staff and musicians all contributed to a successful event, which turned a simple Friday afternoon into a lively “Irish” community gathering.

The COA offers concerts and other social get-togethers for seniors over 60 and their families at the Stanley Senior Center. Check the [March calendar](#) for upcoming events.



Ward 7 City Councilor Paul Katz, Senior Center Director Patrick O'Brien, and the Boston Harbor Bhoys meet up at the Friday event. Photo by Steve



ZBA delays housing permit on Totton Pond Road again over infrastructural issues

Artie Kronenfeld

March 16, 2026

A plan to bring [a large housing development](#) to west Waltham is nearing the finish line at the Zoning Board of Appeals, but it's not there yet.

That's the update from the ZBA's special Thursday meeting on March 12, where it discussed a proposed 340-unit housing development at 455 Totten Pond Road that has been in discussion since March 2025.

Michael Cantalupa, chief development officer of developer The Davis Companies, said his team would return to the board on March 31 with a plan to address potential sewer capacity issues identified by Waltham's Engineering Department.



In advance of the March 12 meeting, the project's development team found that city sewer plans underestimated the local system's capacity, failing to reflect a 2011 sewer construction project. The team calculated that the 455 Totten Pond Road project would not overtax local pipes.

City Engineer Robert Winn, however, said that his department collected recent data indicating that some pipes in the neighborhood were already at or near capacity. This data, he said, might mean that city sewer models were even further off and would need to be completely recalibrated for the neighborhood to accurately calculate the project's impact.

Winn proposed that the developer pay the city's sewer consultant to recalibrate its model and, if the recalibration showed it necessary, commit to funding a project to widen local sewers at a few key points. He predicted this project would take multiple months and would involve replacing 570 feet of sewer pipe.

Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned argued that in light of Waltham's Administrative Consent Order with the state about sewer flow and its [existing supply of affordable housing](#), if the developer refused to pay these mitigation costs, the potential for future overflows would qualify as "damage ... great enough to outweigh the regional need for affordable housing."

Cantalupa said he would like to work out a "sharing of costs" agreement with [other projects in the area](#) so the cost of any sewer mitigation wouldn't fall entirely on The Davis Companies.

Other sticking points in the proposal

On the whole, Learned said the preliminary agreement the developer proposed for the project was still insufficient but was "getting closer" to terms the city could deem acceptable.

Previously, Learned argued that The Davis Companies had [not allocated enough funding](#) toward mitigating the infrastructural effects of adding 340 units of housing to the area. This week, Cantalupa proposed an agreement that included more mitigation funding, which also reduced or eliminated previous funding offers including a contribution to the city's general housing fund, in order to allocate more funding toward installing sidewalks along Totten Pond Road.

ZBA chair John Sergi has [previously championed](#) the Totton Pond Road sidewalk extension to make the area more pedestrian friendly for new residents. He expressed a desire for the company to be directly involved in the sidewalk construction in order to make sure it was completed by the

time the building was ready for occupancy. He also added that the company should look into the cost of potentially adding bike lanes to the road.

Cantalupa said his company was willing to work with the city on the sidewalk project but did not want to be solely responsible for completing it because of concerns over private property rights.

City pushes for more affordable units

One of the more controversial parts of this building has been its housing affordability measures. Previously, the development team [proposed using federal housing vouchers](#) to significantly reduce housing costs for some veterans, but upon learning that the developer would still earn market rent on the units involved, board members rejected the plan.

Cantalupa said his team had eliminated any language referencing the housing voucher program from the agreement. Because the project is proposed under [Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B](#), which requires eligible buildings to price a minimum percentage of their units at levels affordable to local residents, 85 of the building's units are already required to be priced at levels affordable for households making 80% of the area median income.

At some prompting from Learned, who pointed out that all previous Chapter 40B projects approved by the city have offered a minimum proportion of those units at prices affordable to lower-income residents, Cantalupa said his team was potentially willing to price 11 of the 85 units affordably for households making 60% of the median annual income. This would be equivalent to 13% of the project's affordable units, the lowest proportion of deeper-affordability units the city has allowed so far.

Learned also requested that the company include free parking spaces with affordable units, which the city has required on other projects. At the very least, she requested residents in affordable units be given a larger discount of 20% for renting parking spaces.

The city has also requested the project revisit some additional traffic issues such as changes to its driveways to prevent queuing issues from spilling into city streets, and making signal improvements at a newly installed intersection near the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink.

Eligible seniors and graduates of Waltham High can apply for zero-interest educational loan

Waltham News Team

March 16, 2026

Eligible seniors and graduates of Waltham High School can now apply for a Clark Educational Loan. It is a non-interest bearing loan to help pay for post-secondary undergraduate education. The loan is granted at the beginning of the second semester. The Waltham School Committee selects applicants based on academic and financial need. Applications are available in the Guidance Department at Waltham High School and are due no later than Friday, May 1, 2026.

Los estudiantes de último año y graduados de Waltham High que cumplan los requisitos pueden solicitar un préstamo educativo sin intereses

El Préstamo Educativo Clark está disponible para estudiantes del último año y graduados elegibles de la Escuela Preparatoria Waltham. Es un préstamo sin intereses para aplicar a la educación universitaria postsecundaria y se otorga al comienzo del segundo semestre. El Comité Escolar de Waltham basa su selección de solicitantes en las necesidades académicas y financieras. Las solicitudes deben estar disponibles en el Departamento de Consejería Académica a más tardar el Viernes, 1 de mayo, 2026.

The week ahead: Paine Estate's future will come before City Council this week

Artie Kronenfeld

March 16, 2026

A private company has proposed to run Waltham's historic Robert Treat Paine Estate, which is currently managed by the city.

That's according to correspondence Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy submitted to the City Council last week.

McCarthy's letter does not mention the name of the company or details on its proposal, but McCarthy has

requested input from the City Council at its 8 p.m. Committee of the Whole meeting this Monday on what to do with the property.



If the council is interested in having a private contractor run the site, McCarthy wrote, then she would need to open up a bidding process soliciting proposals from other private companies.

The Paine Estate, also known as Stonehurst, was the private summer home of Robert Treat Paine Jr., Lydia Lyman Paine and their descendants. The shingle-clad house was designed by renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted designed the grounds. The property represents a unique collaboration between two masters of American design. The building is a national historic landmark and is currently owned and operated by the City of Waltham.

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

Police Headquarters Selection Committee

The Police Headquarters Selection Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16 in City Hall's basement conference room to [hear updates](#) on the construction of [a new joint police, fire and consolidated public works building](#) on Lexington Street.

City Council committees

At its Monday meeting, the Committee of the Whole will discuss a resolution [advanced last week](#) by Council President Robert G. Logan to hear from the Charles River Watershed Association about preparing the city for the impacts of climate change. It also [plans to hear](#) from IT Director Donald J. Aucoin about updates to the city's website to comply with new federal accessibility standards.

The Finance Committee will discuss the Paine Estate as well, having been asked to consider accepting a donation from the Robert Treat Paine Historical Trust to restore the estate's grand piano. It will consider two other donations of historical memorabilia for the city and a state grant for the Council on Aging, as well as three funding requests

within the city: \$217,157 for softball field improvements at the Veterans Athletic Complex, \$174,581 for out-of-district special education funding and \$12,188 to repair the heating system at Government Center.

The council's Licenses and Franchises Committee will discuss requests for 23 lodging house license renewals, including 10 for dormitories at Bentley University; the Economic and Community Development Committee will consider a plan to hire [a new city business manager](#); and the Ordinances and Rules Committee will also meet this week, likely hearing updates on [the impacts of three proposed multi-use zoning districts in west Waltham](#) and possibly discussing [city regulations on surveillance technology](#).

The City Council's committees will meet on Monday beginning at 7 p.m.

Retirement Board

The Waltham Retirement Board will meet this week to [discuss recent state guidelines](#) regarding disability claims and obtaining pre-employment employee health information, as well as cost-of-living adjustments, new hires, refunds and makeup payments.

The board will meet Tuesday, March 17 at 4:45 p.m. in City Hall's basement conference room and will stream the meeting via [Zoom](#).

Zoning Board of Appeals

The ZBA is a five-person board charged with reviewing new and existing buildings that might violate the city's [zoning code](#).

The board has the power to grant project-specific variances to the code, overrule judgments made by the building inspector and grant specific types of special permits.

This week it will hear two cases from petitioners requesting permits to construct single-family homes that will not conform to zoning regulations in their respective district, including by encroaching into their lots' front and rear setbacks.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 at the Arthur Clark Government Center.

Board of Health

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

The board will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18 in the auditorium of the Clark Government Center. Its agenda will be posted by Monday on [its page](#) in the city website.

School Committee

The Waltham School Committee, an elected six-member committee chaired by Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, makes policy and oversight decisions for the Waltham Public Schools.

The committee this week will discuss [Waltham High School's graduation rates](#) and set new meeting dates for the summer.

The committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the James J. Cannon Lecture Hall at 617 Lexington St.

Traffic Commission

The Traffic Commission meets monthly to discuss matters before the Traffic Engineering Department about improving the streets and infrastructure of the city.

This week the commission will discuss an [outdoor dining plan for the summer](#), as well as traffic management plans for a series of gas line updates [in the Felton Street neighborhood](#) and along Main Street. It will also discuss the Traffic Engineering Department's budget for fiscal year 2027, city parking conditions after snowstorms, and proposals for various road races and city festivals this spring and summer.

It will hear a number of proposals for specific traffic improvements around the city: an all-way stop at Adams and Walnut streets, changes to speed cushions along Crescent Street, and a blind driveway sign on School and Mt. Pleasant streets. It will also revisit parking solutions for Elson Road and a proposed crosswalk at Gardner Street's spray park.

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

Public safety report: Police and Fire Activity

Cyd Abnet

March 16, 2026

An assault involving an air rifle that took place on Felton Street has resulted in the arrest of a Waltham man.

On March 10 at 11:20 p.m., police were called to Felton Street where two men reported being assaulted with a rifle after an argument with the suspect. Through investigation, it was revealed that the weapon was an air rifle rather than a firearm.

Follow-up interviews conducted on March 11 led police to identify a suspect, Gary De Leon, 38, of Waltham. He was arraigned on March 12 by Judge Sharon Lalli for two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and two counts of threat to commit crime.

A summary of other police and fire activity from March 4 to March 9 is as follows:

On March 4 at 12:14 p.m., fire crews responded to reports of a utility pole on fire at the intersection of Loretta Road and Smith Street. Upon arrival, crews discovered a small fire at the top of the pole. The road was blocked off and the power company was called to attend to the issue.

On March 6 at 3:01 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Trapelo Road and Woburn Street where a woman had driven through a vinyl fence. She said that she had been using the auto-pilot feature on her Tesla and was concerned that it wouldn't detect a car turning in front of her. The woman decided to try to swerve to the right to avoid the car. She turned too hard and ended up driving through a vinyl fence at a nearby residence. The woman was cited for a marked lane violation.

On March 7 at 7:15 p.m., police responded to reports of a larceny at a barber shop on Main Street. A man had left the barber shop without paying for the services he received, which totaled \$280. Police are investigating this incident.

On March 9 at 10:33 a.m., police responded to Calvary Street. Off-site security for the property informed officers that several times during the last three months, a man had been observed walking onto the property in the early morning hours to smoke or drink. Police are investigate the incidents.

All information was obtained from spokespeople with the Waltham Police and Fire departments, [the publicly available police blotter](#) and police reports available at Waltham District Court.



Waltham High girls lacrosse team raring to go for 2026 season

Liam O'Brien

March 16, 2026

Following a 2025 campaign in which the Waltham High girls lacrosse team earned a postseason berth, the Hawks are brimming with confidence heading into a fresh spring.

Last year concluded with defeat at the hands of a formidable Chelmsford High School team in the Round of 32 of the MIAA Division 1 state championship last May. However, the Hawks' success throughout the year has armed them with experience as the new season approaches.



“I am really excited,” head coach Jill Cannon said. “These girls have worked very hard at making this program move in a positive direction. They have made a lot of changes that have certainly helped us get everyone on the same page. We have a lot of upperclass players that are returning and they are definitely going to be looked at as the leaders, showing some of these underclass players how we have been successful these last couple of years.”

Among this group of leaders are a pair of Dual County League all-stars, senior Quinn Gavin and junior Mia Kearney, in addition to goalie Leah France. Gavin and Kearney look to spearhead the offensive attack while France and Emma Gaspar will aim to make it tough on the opposition to net goals of their own. This group has ensured the Hawks are prepared as gameplay nears. WHS has taken part in a Sunday league over the course of the winter to build up their chemistry and organized workouts before school in the lead up to the season.

“It has been nice to remove myself from the picture and let everyone get their stick work and conditioning in,” Cannon said. “It has been really exciting to see the upper-class players take over that part.”

Playing in the DCL, the Hawks will inevitably have a tough schedule. However, big wins against stiff competition in the past few seasons has stripped any fear WHS might have in terms of facing intimidating foes.

“Our league games are challenging,” Cannon said. “The DCL is the toughest conference in the state. The exciting part is that we have competed with a lot of these teams. The next step is putting it all together to make an exciting matchup. We had a big win against Wayland last year, and now we are looking to compete with more teams in the league. We want to make it known that we are here and we are ready to work against anyone.”

The Hawks' regular season begins on April 1 at Medford High School. That game will be followed by consecutive home contests against Methuen High School, Westford Academy and Acton-Boxborough Regional High School.

Waltham High Senior Revue entertains a sold-out crowd

June Kinoshita

March 16, 2026

In what has become a beloved tradition, Waltham High School seniors mounted a song-and-dance revue last Thursday and Friday evenings to the delight of fellow students, school staff and families. The Senior Revue poked good-natured fun at teachers, classmates, school policies and – naturally – Principal-in-Residence John Barnes.



Word must have leaked about the high entertainment value of the production. Friday night's show was sold out, with a line of ticket-seekers snaking out the door. Drama teacher Jesse Bastarache, who directed the show, said the crowd was the largest she'd ever seen.

The show got off to an energetic start with a skit about a student's heroic efforts to get to homeroom, racing in slow motion to the iconic music of "Gallipoli" against a video projection of the seemingly endless corridors of the new building (kudos to the video production team).

As he reaches homeroom, the student is greeted by the principal's voice booming over the PA system. After rattling off announcements, the principal intones, "have a good day on purpose," drawing laughs from the students in the audience. Apparently this is a familiar mantra at WHS – one that recurs throughout the show.

Some 180 seniors participated in the show, filling the stage with wave upon colorful wave of dancers performing to a variety of popular tunes. At times, the student performers were so numerous they filled the aisles of the auditorium for an immersive audience experience.

Between the dance numbers, student singers and instrumentalists performed solos. Standouts included a "rock battle" between guitarist Erik Jensen and drummer Emmett Epstein, a medley sung by Charlotte McCrary and Anabel Rutledge and a thrilling drum solo by Celeste Fox, Tessa Allia and Greta Bautina.

One particularly pointed skit centered on a character called Magistrate Meg, who sits in judgement on students engaged in a variety of misdeeds to which high schoolers are prone. The most serious charge: a student is charged with having a good day "on accident." The evidence is presented. Visual evidence shows the student smiling,

lounging around and giving a fist bump to another student. In his defense, all he can say is "I swear I was having a good day on purpose."



The Senior Revue certainly delivered a good time – on purpose.

Volunteers kick off 'Sandwich Saturdays' to help those in need

Steve Milmore

March 16, 2026

If you're hungry and without housing, a free sandwich might just make your day. That was pretty much the thinking when resident Rich Seale started the "Sandwich Saturdays" program, giving out free lunch to the unhoused in Waltham.

Seale had identified a critical gap in food availability for people experiencing homelessness in Waltham — there's nothing offered on Saturdays. So he and his wife Deb stepped up and started a volunteer program that now provides up to 40 free sandwiches for lunch to those in need.

Through a sign-up sheet posted on SignUpGenius, volunteers pick dates and make bagged lunches complete with bottled water, fruit, chips and cookies. Each volunteer makes choices of their own. Last week was ham and cheese; next up are peanut butter and jelly, salami, and chicken breast sandwiches. The response by residents has been encouraging. Seale is booked through the end of April.

"Hopefully the program sticks. The whole idea is to have continuity so folks know that we're going to be at the same location at the same time every week. They're our neighbors, and it's incredibly important that they understand that fact." Seale said.

Saturdays between 2 and 3 p.m., Seale and helpers pass out wrapped sandwiches from the trunk of his car at the parking lot at Carter and Moody streets, near the Community Day Center. Any extra sandwiches get dropped off at the shelter.

The volunteers never make speeches or ask questions people don't want to hear. They simply hand out the lunch bags. A simple sandwich and a kind word is enough to make a difference, Seale said. "We've been doing it since November and there's a trust level now. There's no commitment on their part. It's sandwiches with smiles, and it may be the only smile they get all day, all week or all month," he said.

Residents can sign up [here](#) to join the sandwich makers and help support a new community initiative of kindness, caring and compassion.



Badass Waltham Warriors raise funds for families battling cancer

Joseph Sharkey

March 16, 2026

Community members filled American Legion Post 440 on Saturday evening for the Badass Waltham Warriors' St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser, an event supporting local families coping with cancer.

The annual fundraiser featured food, raffles, silent auctions and live entertainment as residents and local businesses gathered in community solidarity. Proceeds from the event will go toward helping families manage the financial and emotional toll of cancer treatment.

The [Badass Waltham Warriors](#) began in 2019 as a support group for Waltham mothers battling breast cancer. The organization has since grown into a community-wide effort providing both emotional and financial assistance to families affected by all forms of cancer.

Many local sponsors supported the event this year, including City Streets Restaurant, Cabot's Ice Cream & Restaurant, Watertown Savings Bank, Lamacchia Realty, Maple + High, Everett & Sons Insurance Agency, Babigian Law, The Tack Room, Interior Stone, Signs by Tomorrow and the Waltham Lions Club.



City-run housing faces potential accessibility loss, 'dire hopes' for future state funding

Artie Kronenfeld

March 16, 2026

Waltham's city-run affordable housing may face future financial struggles, the Waltham Housing Authority's executive director told commissioners this week.

At the WHA's Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, Executive Director John Gollinger said he has "dire hopes" for how much funding the department will receive in next year's state budget.

Still these challenges won't be immediate. Gollinger said that the department was "still above water" after the first third of its fiscal year. "Sometimes it's an ebb and flow. You get all sorts of money, and then you get nothing, and then you get all sorts of money [again]," he said.

At the moment, the WHA is still owed close to \$390,000 in previously allocated but yet-unpaid state funding.

Some commissioners also expressed concern over the security of the department's city funding. One commissioner said that Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy has so far been "pro-housing," but expressed that "the clock is ticking" on when she will leave office.

The WHA may lose two accessible properties

The board also discussed two houses on Marguerite Avenue whose 30-year leases from the state ran out in October 2025. Assistant Executive Director Mark Johnson said the two houses are some of the WHA's few large handicap-accessible properties and it was in discussions with the state to renew the leases. Currently, he said, it was being offered a five-year lease for both houses, but was pursuing a 20-year lease instead.

Johnson said that both houses require modernization, which would cost between \$70,000 and \$75,000, and one of the two also currently requires between \$20,000 and \$25,000 in repairs due to damage from a previous tenant. He said the WHA was currently pursuing state-level voucher funding to pay for that construction.

Still, Gollinger pointed out that because neither property is profitable for the WHA — and, in fact, that it loses money on them — it may not be able to continue renting the houses in the long term.

Additionally, the WHA's Board of Commissioners:

- Congratulated the WHA's maintenance employees for their high scores at its last performance review.
- Discussed the state of the Section 8 housing vouchers the WHA administers. The WHA is permitted to issue 455 vouchers in total. Gollinger told the board the WHA has been able to financially support administering 390, issuing them to additional people when current recipients turn in their vouchers, move or pass away.
- Heard a report on ongoing construction. The WHA is currently working on a number of different construction projects, including installing security cameras and repairing windows at Chesterbrook Gardens and renovating eight to 10 kitchens at its Beaver Brook properties. Johnson said these projects were experiencing delays: "It just seems like the process for getting our contracts executed ... has been slowed down significantly."
- Received an update about annual budgets it [approved in January](#). Gollinger told commissioners that the Executive Office of Housing and Liveable Communities found a calculation error in its median salary figures, reducing one of its budgets by \$15,017 for FY2026.

State's report card ranks Waltham High in bottom 10%

Lea Zaharoni

March 13, 2026

Waltham Public Schools fell short in student performance in a number of categories, despite scoring a three-year high on making progress toward improvements.

That's the conclusion reached by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary education, which is responsible for overseeing the education of children in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 in Massachusetts.

DESE issued its [2025 report card](#) for WPS, which contains wide-ranging data sets and vastly different performance scores for schools in the district.

The report, issued in early February, covers Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System performance data, rates of chronic absenteeism, diversity of coursework, spending per student and more.

Multiple years of data in these categories contribute to an [accountability rating](#) for each school in a given district, which measures overall school performance. The district as a whole receives a [growth percentage](#), which denotes its "cumulative progress toward improvement targets."

While WPS as a district has scored a three-year high of 53% progress toward targets, placing it in the "substantial progress" category, some schools lag far behind its overall standard of growth.

WPS comes up noticeably short in comparison to the state average score. The 2025 report card found that only 22.2% of WPS students take a digital literacy class compared to 38.6% statewide. 70.9% of students pass all of their ninth grade courses, which is 10% less than the total of students across Massachusetts.

Challenges at the high school

The biggest outlier in the 2025 report is an accountability percentile score of nine for Waltham High School. That figure places the school in the bottom 10% of all Massachusetts public schools, meaning 91% of schools outperformed it on the state's measures.

WHS is the only school in the district which DESE has deemed is "requiring assistance or intervention." This distinction is not entirely dependent on a school's accountability. For example, Plympton Elementary received a score of 29 and yet was put in the highest growth category, "School of Recognition." This is because it met the improvement targets laid out by DESE.

WHS, on the other hand, has a growth score of only 17%, meaning it has made very limited progress toward performance goals set by the state. WHS, the city's sole high school represented in DESE's report, has risen just 1% from its 2024 placement in the eighth percentile.

The report also tracks how many students go on to postsecondary education, which is defined by the percentage of students who are enrolled in a two- or four-year institution by March 1 of the year following graduation. For the class of 2024, counting all students, Waltham saw 59.2% of its students go on to attend a postsecondary institution, compared to the state's 63.5%. But among English learners, only 13.3% of WPS students were counted as part of the college-going population, compared to the state's 30.5%. This figure is down from 17.2% in 2022.

Despite Waltham's lower performance than Massachusetts as a whole, some performance metrics are on the rise. The ninth grade course-passing rate was up more than 5% from last year, and the dropout rate for grades 9-12 was down from last year's 14.4%.



Immediate action sought to address rising dropout rates

The 2025 Report Card includes some figures from the 2023-24 school year, such as graduation and dropout rates, because that data takes time to compile. According to a WHS school-wide correspondence from Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa sent March 11, DESE has released the graduation and dropout rates for the 2024-25 school year, and the progress seen the year before has declined.

The graduation rate has fallen 1.5% to 79.3% for WHS, and does not include Valor High School which operates on a flexible, asynchronous schedule to accommodate students with special circumstances outside the classroom.

The dropout rate has also risen to 15.5%, nearly triple the state average of 5.8%.

Mendonsa stated in the email, “While some districts face similar challenges, the data shows Waltham’s dropout rate is among the highest in this comparison group, reinforcing the need for immediate and sustained action. Improving graduation outcomes and ensuring students remain engaged through completion of high school is a top priority for the district.”

She also said the School Committee would discuss possible solutions at an upcoming budget workshop.

Some bright spots

Despite WHS’s jarring accountability score and the newly released high school outcomes, the report card is not all negative. Attendance percentages are high and chronic absenteeism rates are low, in line with the standard across Massachusetts. The detailed [accountability report](#) for WHS also showed growth “exceeding targets” for English learners making progress toward attaining English language proficiency.

Additionally, WPS’s other schools are performing well, on the whole making either moderate or substantial progress toward growth markers set by the state. MacArthur Elementary scored the highest in the district with a 58th percentile accountability rating.

However, a ninth percentile accountability score for Waltham High School points to structural issues and brings negative attention to the district. According to DESE, it is among the worst schools in the state of Massachusetts. Mendonsa, in conjunction with the School Committee and Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, who serves as the School Committee chair, face the challenge of translating awareness of the results into tangible action.

UPDATED March 13, 1:09 p.m. Due to a reporting error, the initial version incorrectly stated that only 13.3% of WPS students were counted as part of the college-going population. This figure pertains to WPS students who are English learners.

Parenting Awareness Conference equips parents to help their kids

June Kinoshita

March 13, 2026

*Welcome desk and nonprofit tables at the Waltham Family Conference.
Photo by The Waltham Times.*

Rare is the parent who has not experienced a child hitting middle school and morphing from a once-bubbly kid into a cipher who holes up in their room and answers questions in monosyllables. Parental panic kicks in. Is my child depressed? Being bullied at school? Doing drugs? As kids navigate adolescence, it's not uncommon for them to engage in negative self-talk about hating how they look, that they have no friends, that they are "ugly" or "a loser." The protective parent wants to jump in and assure them that they are beautiful, brilliant and everyone loves them.



Resist the urge to contradict your child when this happens, counseled Malik Marrero, a senior family support specialist at Wayside Youth and Family Support Network. "Find a space to listen, not react," he said. "By listening, you are validating how they feel. It doesn't have to be true." He also suggested parents not jump in with advice but "allow your child to find a solution for themselves."

Marrero was one of dozens of experts who spoke at the Parenting Awareness Conference held March 7 at Waltham High School. His talk on "Recognizing Early Signs of Mental Health Needs in Our Kids" was one of 11 workshops offered. Some sessions had an academic focus, such as getting ready for kindergarten, understanding school curricula, navigating the online portal for checking students' grades and finding summer internships. Others were about physical and mental health, including concussions, mental health in kids, family stress, risky behaviors, relationships and reducing stress through interacting with the natural world.

The conference evolved from a workshop on mental health awareness held eight years ago at Northeast Elementary School. The presenter spoke about a desire to see a citywide program. Nadene Stein, who retired in December as assistant superintendent of pupil services for Waltham Public Schools, took up the idea and in 2020 launched the first districtwide conference in March, which is Mental Health Awareness Month. That event coincided with the COVID-19 lockdown, and only eight parents attended. Stein persisted, producing an online conference in 2021, then holding it at McDevitt Middle School in 2022 and Kennedy Middle School from 2023 to 2025. This year was the first at the new high school.

Local nonprofits offering services for children and families lined the common-area space. There were raffles giving away toys, gift certificates from local shops and highly coveted "principal-for-the-day" prizes. The organizers provided breakfast and lunch.

Around 30 families attended the workshops and festivities. "Families get busy," said Stein. "It's hard to get people to come." For the families that did make the time, the conference offered a wealth of valuable information, a chance to converse with other parents, contacts with local providers and the reassurance of knowing they are not alone in their journey.

'Voice' singer from Waltham to perform at Tempo's BakBar

Julie M. Cohen

March 13, 2026

Kevin James Graham has been immersed in music his entire life, from learning to play drums at age 7 to competing against fellow singers on "The Voice." Ahead of the April release of his album "Moonrise," the longtime Waltham resident who's made a national name for himself will perform before a local crowd on March 20 at Tempo's BakBar.

"It's really nice to bring it back home," said the 34-year-old singer, who described his style as "bluesy" and "gritty."

In addition to performing on NBC's 26th season of "The Voice" in 2024, he was invited twice to sing the National Anthem at Fenway Park, has entertained the crowd at Waltham's Riverfest and performed during a Patriots exhibition game.

While growing up in the city, Graham played country tunes at home with his family and, after mastering the drums, expanded his instrument repertoire to include the violin and guitar.

Graham recalled that when he was a fifth-grader at the former Bright School, his music teacher introduced him to the Beatles, sparking a lifetime love of rock n' roll. As he continued his music education, taking guitar lessons at the now-defunct Lexington Music on Moody Street, he listened to other rock performers such as AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan. He improved his skills by strumming along to his idols' DVDs.

"I truly love music and it was really natural to pick things up," Graham said about playing multiple instruments, including the mandolin and piano. "It all happened like dominos."

In 2014, he formed the band Rolling Nectar (now on hiatus), and in 2018 and 2021, he was invited to sing the National Anthem at Fenway. "All those moments help fuel forward progression ... of your artistry," he said. Performing in front of thousands at Fenway was a great way to prepare for his next steps on TV.

'The Voice' and beyond

Graham's most personal instrument — his singing voice — brought him to the attention of a nationwide audience.

Asked how he felt after Country star Reba McEntire chose him to be part of her team during the blind auditions on "The Voice," Graham said, "I was just thankful to get picked. ... I didn't want to go there to sing my heart out and then leave." During the show, he said cameras would cut to his mother Susan Graham, who played guitar with him growing up, as well as his uncle Tony St. Cyr, who taught him drums.

His mother was "exuberant" and excited about his on-air performances, which included a rendition of Faces' "Stay With Me" and a battle duet singing Teddy Swims' "Lose Control." "It was a fun social experience to meet artists from across the country," Graham said.

The Waltham virtuoso's journey on "The Voice" ended in October 2024 after the battle duet, which he lost to contestant Adam Bohanan. Graham's favorite memory from the experience happened on his last day when Grammy-Award-winning crooner Michael Buble hugged him and reassured him by saying, "You have a music career." "That I'll never forget," he said.

More information

Graham recently released "Precious Time," the second single from his new album "Moonrise," which will be out in April. For more information, visit <https://kevinjamesgraham.com>



Soulful country

June Kinoshita

March 13, 2026

Ward Hayden and Greg Hall at the Second Shift concert on March 12, 2026.

Photo by Margaret Zeitouny.

Ward Hayden and Greg Hall gave a fabulous performance at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation, part of the museum's [Second Shift music series](#). Hayden played guitar, harmonica, and kazoo. Hall played upright bass and guitar.



Student artists from WHS take the spotlight at LexArt exhibit

Steve Milmore

March 13, 2026

WHS student photography is part of the exhibit. Photo by Steve Milmore.

For many Waltham High School student artists, the regional high school art show at the [Lexington Arts & Crafts Society](#) is their first opportunity to display their work in a professional gallery. The show runs through Sunday. Exhibit hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 30th annual high school exhibit at LexArt showcases the creativity and innovation of area students and high school art programs and helps raise funds for Lexington's High School Scholarship Program. It celebrates student art and underscores the importance of arts education.

This year's exhibit features a diverse collection of WHS artwork including colorful paintings, detailed drawings, photography, mixed-media pieces and ceramics, all of which highlight the talent and dedication of Waltham's young artists.

The exhibit takes the students' work outside the classroom, where the public can appreciate the creativity and effort behind each piece.

A reception was held on March 6 to kick off the show, with WHS students, teachers and family attending to support the students and celebrate their achievements.

LexArt Gallery is located at 7130 Waltham St. in Lexington. The exhibit ends on March 15.



Waltham High Honor Society has impacts throughout the city

Waltham News Team

March 12, 2026



Members of the National Honor Society at Waltham High School have logged more than 3,800 hours of community service this school year — and they’re not done yet.

With 150 students participating, the NHS has volunteered across the city, from helping at the Healthy Waltham Food Pantry and the Waltham Public Library to tutoring in elementary schools and assisting at local PTO meetings and the Waltham Farmers Market.

“While the NHS officers and advisers coordinate many of the volunteer opportunities, students are also encouraged to find individual opportunities to help their own communities,” said Anabel Rutledge, president of the Class of 2026 National Honor Society. “For some, this has meant coaching youth basketball teams while others have tutored students.”

The largest service event of the school year was Hawks for the Holidays, the school’s annual gift drive for Waltham children. The program matches hundreds of local children with WHS homerooms, clubs and athletic teams, which raise money and shop for gifts. The effort culminated in a holiday assembly Dec. 22, followed by gift distribution at St. Mary’s Church.

Thanks to widespread participation, NHS members helped provide presents for more than 300 children.

Looking ahead, the group plans a “Secret Student” event later this month. NHS members will anonymously select teachers to surprise with small gifts, decorations and clues throughout the week — a lighthearted way to show appreciation for educators’ hard work.

In May the society will induct new members from the Class of 2027, and students are already anticipating Awards Night, prom and graduation on June 7.

Drought conditions worsen across the state as spring approaches

Cyd Abnet

March 12, 2026

Drought conditions in the state of Massachusetts are worsening due to a lack of groundwater recharge from winter precipitation. The central and northeast regions of the state are now at a level three, indicating critical drought, according to Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. The only area of the state that showed improvement was Nantucket County, which is now at a level two, indicating significant drought.

Waltham and surrounding areas had around 3 feet of snowfall in February, which amounts to 2.5 inches of water. This is not enough to make up for months of below-average precipitation. The above-average temperatures earlier this week combined with spring rains will begin to replenish the water system. State agencies will continue to monitor rainfall and respond according to the state's [drought management plan](#).

While residents can't change how much precipitation the state gets, there are things that can be done on an individual level to respond to the current drought. "Small actions can help protect our water supply while conditions recover," says Tepper. The following is a list of actions provided by the EEA that residents can take to help promote the recovery of the state's water system:

For Regions in Level 3 – Critical Drought, Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Follow state water conservation actions and any local water use restrictions;
- Monitor total household water use shown on your water bill for sudden increases, which often indicate leaks. Use the MA home water use calculator tool to evaluate household water use;
- Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately. Check for leaks in homes and businesses regularly by:
 - Checking water meters for constant dial movement
 - Using dye tabs to check for toilet leaks
 - Conducting regular inspections of all pipes and fixtures, including those located in utility rooms, crawlspaces and other hidden areas
- Use dishwashers rather than handwashing dishes. Run the dishwasher only on a full load;
- Aggressively reduce indoor water use by:
 - Taking showers and avoiding baths
 - Reducing shower length and consider using a shower timer
 - Running washing machines only on a full load
 - Not letting water run while brushing and shaving
- Replacing old fixtures and appliances with water-efficient ones. Make sure toilets, faucets, and showerheads are WaterSense labeled
- Stop all non-essential water use.

‘Who Will Draw Our History?’ showcases women’s Holocaust testimonies in art

June Kinoshita

March 12, 2026

In the years immediately following World War II, as the world was struggling to absorb the scale of the Holocaust, a small group of Jewish women survivors turned to art to document what words could scarcely convey. Their evocative drawings, diaries and illustrated books are now the focus of an exhibition at Brandeis University’s Kniznick Gallery, titled “Who Will Draw Our History? Women’s Graphic Narratives of the Holocaust, 1944–1949.”

Organized by guest curator Rachel E. Perry, Ph.D., the exhibition runs through April 30 and sheds light on ten women who survived Nazi concentration camps including Majdanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Ravensbrück, as well as those who endured years in hiding. In the absence of cameras or photographs, these artists — Lea Grundig, Luba Krugman Gurdus, Mária Turán Hacker, Edit Bán Kiss, Regina Lichter-Liron, Ella Liebermann-Shiber, Ágnes Lukács, Zsuzsa Merényi, Elżbieta Nadel and Zofia Rozenstrauch — used visual storytelling to preserve the record of their suffering and survival.

The exhibition presents rare works gathered from museum archives and private collections around the world. Viewers encounter wordless novels, handmade albums and pictorial diaries that serve as both personal testimony and historical evidence. Many of the pieces combine raw immediacy with striking artistry, revealing how these women grappled with trauma while reclaiming creative expression.

“There is a belief that after the war, the survivors didn’t speak ... that survivors were too busy rebuilding or too traumatized by the war,” Perry said in a WBUR interview. “What this exhibition shows you is that the survivors were intent [to speak] even when they were displaced and deterritorialized and dispossessed, they felt compelled to document what they had experienced.”

Brandeis’s Kniznick Gallery, located in the Women’s Studies Research Center, serves as an apt venue for this exhibit. The show arrives at a poignant time, as scholars mark a transition into what some call an “age after testimony,” when survivors’ voices are fading from living memory.

“Who Will Draw Our History?” invites visitors to consider how art endures — not only as witness, but as resistance. “I’m really struck by their call to duty and what they were able to create,” Perry said.

[The Kniznick Gallery](#) is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. It is closed on Saturdays.



Collection of Six Graphic Holocaust Books



Councilors push for business manager to sell city as commercial center

Artie Kronenfeld

March 11, 2026

City councilors want to hire a business manager to bring more companies to Waltham.

Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley on Monday introduced a resolution to create the position. He said it could help attract new business to the city, which is having trouble [maintaining its commercial tax base](#).

“We’re at kind of a crossroads in Waltham where our commercial property is taking a nosedive,” Hanley said.

Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris supported the resolution, saying that a business manager could make a case to businesses for moving to or expanding in Waltham.

“Our sister cities that are around us actually have business development managers who are actively seeking business,” she said. “I think it’s critical that we do that outreach in order to be competitive.”

Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur linked this to the plan to [close Moody Street permanently to car traffic](#), saying she had advocated for hiring a similar position back in 2023 when she proposed the street’s pedestrianization to the Traffic Commission.

She said there was precedent for hiring a business manager: The city had employed a marketing director in 1986 to help Moody Street recover from the heavy transfer of retail business to malls and in the '90s had convened a Downtown Revitalization Committee to propose new ventures for the downtown.

Ward 7 Councilor Paul S. Katz also voiced support for the position, saying a business manager could help companies see Waltham’s strengths.

“One of Waltham’s biggest challenges is a perception problem. People just don’t always see the extraordinary opportunities that exist here,” he said. “Waltham has tremendous assets: our location, our workforce, our commercial districts. But rather than waiting for business to come to us and knock on our door, we should be proactive in promoting what our city has to offer.”



City Council in brief: Celebrating Waltham’s role in Revolutionary War history

Artie Kronenfeld

March 11, 2026

March 17 marks the 250th anniversary of Evacuation Day. In honor of the anniversary, Ward 6 Councilor Sean T. Durkee proposed that the City Council officially recognize Waltham’s role in the country’s Revolutionary War history and the Waltham residents who fought in the Continental Army.

Durkee at the council’s Monday meeting presented stories about Waltham’s contributions to the Revolutionary War while introducing his motion. “I know this is kind of a longer resolution, but I promise [I’ll submit it] only once every 250 years,” he joked.



Evacuation Day celebrates the evacuation of the British troops that had occupied Boston during an 11-month siege of the city. The Continental Army, under the command of George Washington, successfully broke the siege and drove out British forces and civilian loyalists after fortifying Dorchester Heights in early March 1776.

Durkee said that records of Revolutionary War soldiers and sailors published by the Massachusetts secretary of state between 1896 and 1908 specifically list members of the Waltham Minutemen company led by Capt. Abraham Peirce as having fought to take Dorchester Heights.

Waltham residents were deeply invested in the war, Durkee said. He described how significantly the war touched the community: Records show that half of all Waltham men 16 or older were conscripted as soldiers; and its population dropped from 870 people at the war's start to 689 at its end, the result of war casualties and families retreating from the conflict.

Waltham also has ties to the cannons used by the Continental Army to strengthen its hold at Dorchester Heights. Henry Knox, a 25-year-old former schoolteacher, famously led the improvised transportation that brought the cannons and other weapons captured at Fort Ticonderoga in New York to Suffolk County. This "noble train of artillery" passed through Waltham's Weston and Main streets, a journey memorialized by a monument at the two streets' intersection.

The council agreed to table the matter so Durkee could return with a formal copy of the resolution for councilors to sign and present to the Waltham Historical Society.

The City Council also referred to its committees for next week:

- A discussion on whether to seek bids from private companies to take over the administration of the Robert Treat Paine Estate after a request made by the mayor. (Committee of the Whole)
- A request for the Charles River Watershed Association to present to the council on Waltham's progress in ensuring climate resilience and identifying next steps for the city. (Committee of the Whole)
- A discussion about hiring a city business manager. (Economic and Community Development)
- A donation from the Robert Treat Paine Historical Trust to restore the historical estate's piano. (Finance)
- A donation of a historical telephone directory and Embassy Theatre tickets. (Finance)
- A request for \$217,157 to renovate the softball fields at the Veterans Memorial Field complex. (Finance)
- A request for \$12,118 to renovate the heating systems at the Arthur C. Clarke Government Center. (Finance)
- A state grant for the Council on Aging. (Finance)
- A transfer of \$174,541 to pay for out-of-district tuition and transportation for special education programs. (Finance)
- A resolution to run an outdoor dining program for restaurants and businesses this summer, similar to last year's program, and open applications. (Licenses and Franchises)
- The approval of 23 lodging house license renewals, including 10 for dormitories at Bentley University. (Licenses and Franchises)

Additionally, the City Council:

- Agreed to schedule public hearings for changes to the city's dog grooming and affordable housing rules, as requested by the Ordinances and Rules Committee.
- Approved business discussed by committees last week, including the completion of the midyear budget hearings, the purchase of office supplies for the city, the purchase of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon for Trapelo Road, conceptual design funding for the Farwell Street Bridge, increases in teacher salaries after a recent union renegotiation, and a license for a temporary kayak dock on the Charles River.
- Approved funding for the conversion of the former Woerd Avenue dump into Koutoujian Park after the Attorney General's Office dismissed a bid protest against the city.
- Participated in the Pledge of Allegiance with local Girl Scout Daisy-Brownie troop 63252.
- Recognized Earth Day on April 22, and Arbor Day on April 24. Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris told residents the council would have more updates on city programs for the two holidays as they approached.
- Voted to go into executive session to discuss strategy in a real estate matter.

Plans to bring outdoor dining back to Moody Street heat up

Artie Kronenfeld

March 11, 2026

Restaurants may be back outside on Moody Street this summer.

That's the message from the City Council, which on Monday received a resolution supporting a repeat of the city's [outdoor dining program last summer](#).

The resolution stated the program was "well-received by both the public and business owners" and pressed for the city to undertake the same program again.

The resolution also suggested that the council amend current ordinances to create a more streamlined application process for restaurants and retail outlets to participate.

The outdoor dining program originated from a pandemic-era initiative which closed much of Moody Street to vehicle traffic during the warmer months and allowed restaurants and retail shops to expand onto the street.

The city stopped closing the street in 2024 but continued to allow outdoor dining by letting restaurants expand onto sidewalks and cordoned-off parking spaces.

After advocates urged the city to expand the initiative, government leaders commissioned a study examining options for Moody Street's future, including closing the street full time. The study was released [in October 2024](#) but the Planning Department has taken no action on it [since receiving it last summer](#).

Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris, who introduced the resolution to support outdoor dining, said she would appear at the March Traffic Commission meeting to seek approval to open applications for outdoor dining.

The council voted to send the resolution to the Licenses and Franchises Committee, which Harris said has helped businesses navigate the application process in previous years.

This resolution additionally tied the outdoor dining program to the city's general support of small businesses, committing to "supporting local businesses and enhancing the city's economic vitality by ensuring the success of outdoor dining."



Four honored as 2026 'Heroes of Waltham'

Waltham News Team

March 11, 2026

The Waltham Democratic City Committee has announced this year's "Heroes of Waltham," recognizing four individuals and organizations for their exceptional service and leadership in the community. The honorees are Clarence Richardson, Nadene B. Stein, the Waltham Educators Association and The Waltham Times.

Nadene Stein and Clarence Richardson are among the honorees of the Waltham Democratic City Committee's 2026 Heroes Award recipients.

Richardson, a longtime leader in local Democratic politics, was nominated for his years of dedicated work rebuilding the city's Democratic network. Formerly treasurer of the WDCC, Richardson later became its first African American chair, helping the organization recover from the challenges of the pandemic and reenergize civic engagement.



Beyond his party work, Richardson serves as executive director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and has provided counsel to several community institutions, including the Waltham Partnership for Youth and Gore Place.

Stein, who will retire this year after nearly 25 years with Waltham Public Schools, is being recognized for her decades of educational leadership and community service. Starting as principal of Northeast Elementary School, she rose to the role of Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, advocating especially for students with disabilities. Stein also serves as president of the boards of both Healthy Waltham and the Waltham Land Trust, and has long been active in local Democratic leadership.

The Waltham Educators Association, representing more than 900 public school employees, was honored for its advocacy on behalf of students and education professionals. The union's recent efforts included taking a strong public stance against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement presence in Waltham schools and leading successful contract negotiations that secured long-awaited pay raises, expanded parental leave and other benefits for educators.

The Waltham Times, founded in 2024 to restore local news coverage after years of media consolidation, was recognized for "filling a void in local journalism" and promoting informed civic engagement. Co-founder June Kinoshita represented the paper at a recent WDCC panel on the role of local news in democracy. Since its launch, the publication has become a trusted source for accurate, community-focused reporting.

"These four Heroes exemplify the courage, compassion and civic spirit that keep our city thriving," the WDCC said in its announcement. The honorees will be recognized at the Heroes of Waltham celebration on May 3.

Reservations for the event are available through March 15 for a suggested donation of \$40 per seat, increasing to

\$50 thereafter. Details are available at watchcitydems.com/heroes.

Bentley gets No. 2 seed in women's NCAA East Regional Basketball Tournament

Steve Milmore

March 11, 2026

Bentley University's women's basketball team officially clinched the program's 40th NCAA Division II Championship berth, the NCAA announced Sunday.

Bentley will be the No. 2 seed in the region when it begins to defend its 2025 NCAA East Regional title. The Falcons will take on No. 7 seed Mercy University in the opening round Friday, March 13, hosted by Southern Connecticut State University at its James Moore Field House in New Haven, Connecticut.



Southern Connecticut is the region's top seed and host after beating Bentley in the Northeast 10 Championship game Sunday afternoon, 59-50. Bentley and Mercy went head-to-head in the Falcons' 2025-26 season opener on Nov. 15, with Mercy winning a close one, 64-61.

The NCAA Division II women's tourney determines the national champion and brings together the top programs from around the country in a single-elimination format. Teams qualify by either winning their conference championship, earning an automatic bid or receiving an at-large selection as Bentley did based on team performance during the season.

Bentley finished the 2025-26 season with impressive statistics, including a 14-2 conference record, an eight-game winning streak during the season and a national ranking in the WBCA Top 20.

Waltham responders train for active-threat scenarios

Joseph Sharkey

March 11, 2026

Waltham first responders training at the Brandeis campus for active-threat situations.

The Waltham Police Department, Waltham Fire Department, Armstrong Ambulance and other public safety personnel have been practicing coordinated response to simulated active-threat scenarios.

The training, which has been taking place at Brandeis University over the past few weeks, included staging areas, rescue task force operations and coordinated medical response while law enforcement secured the scene. The exercises were designed to be hyper-realistic so responders could practice working together during complex incidents.



Coaching icon Barbara Stevens honored with lifetime achievement award

Steve Milmore

March 11, 2026

Legendary basketball coach and [Waltham resident Barbara Stevens](#) has been awarded a prestigious WeCOACH Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional 43-year coaching career.

The award is presented to women in sports who succeed at the highest levels while also displaying an unwavering commitment, pioneering spirit and trailblazing leadership to empower and pave the way for girls and women.

Stevens is one of the winningest coaches in NCAA women's basketball history, becoming just the fifth women's basketball coach to surpass 1,000 career wins (the only non-Division I coach in that exclusive club), retiring with an extraordinary 1,058-291 record.

She was Bentley University's head coach for 34 years (1986-2020) where she won more than 900 games. Stevens led the Falcons to the NCAA Division II national title in the 2013-2014 season, a year in which the Falcons posted a perfect 35-0 record.

Stevens' Bentley tenure included an incredible .818 winning percentage, 31 NCAA Tournament berths, 14 NCAA Regional Championships, 10 appearances in the NCAA Semifinals, 12 30-win seasons (including five straight from 1989-93) and 20 Northeast 10 regular season championships.

During her career Stevens was named the NCAA DII National Coach of the Year five times and recognized as the Northeast 10 Coach of the Year 16 times.

She was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020, recognizing a career defined by excellence, consistency and transformational leadership in women's basketball.

Stevens retired in 2020 and is enjoying her post-coaching days in the Bishops Forest community in Waltham, where she has lived for 28 years.



Become a voice for a child who needs one; Info session March 30

Steve Milmore

March 11, 2026

Boston Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is looking for volunteers to advocate on behalf of children who have experienced abuse or neglect in the child welfare and foster care systems in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties. No special professional background is required.

Today only 15% of eligible foster youth have access to a CASA — a trained, court-appointed volunteer who provides consistent, one-on-one support and helps shape critical legal and life decisions, according to Boston CASA.

“Imagine facing judges, rotating caseworkers and endless transitions as a child without one adult focused solely on what’s best for you,” said Nicole Stewart, Executive Director of Boston CASA and a former foster youth. “That’s what foster youth experience. A CASA changes that equation. We’re looking for volunteers prepared to show up consistently, advocate fiercely, and be the person a child can count on.”

CASAs are appointed by a judge to focus solely on the best interests of a child in foster care. Each CASA is matched with one child or sibling group and builds a consistent, trusted relationship by meeting with them regularly and staying involved for the duration of the case. They collaborate with teachers, doctors, foster parents, attorneys, and caseworkers to ensure the child’s needs are met.

Daralyn Perry, an insurance company owner and Waltham resident of 28 years, is one such volunteer. She was profiled in [September](#) and said her work advocating for foster youths and staying involved as a resource makes a difference.



Attending an information session is the first step in becoming a CASA. The sessions provide an overview of Boston CASA, the application and interview process and additional requirements.

Sessions are held virtually on Zoom. The next two will be:

Monday, March 30, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

After attending an info session, potential volunteers apply for the position and, if accepted, take part in 35 hours of training before being appointed to a case.

Each volunteer is supported by a professional supervisor from Boston CASA.

Sign up for an info session [here](#). For more information on the volunteer program, visit: <https://bostoncasa.org/>

WHS student Ryan Shread remembered on first anniversary of his death

Joseph Sharkey

March 11, 2026

Flowers left in memory of Ryan Shread, whose body was found on the grounds of Plympton Elementary School.

One year after Waltham High School student Ryan Shread passed away, members of the Waltham community remember the young man who left a lasting impact on friends, classmates, teammates and family.

Shread was 17 years old and a junior at Waltham High School when he died. He was known by many as a dedicated football player, a supportive friend and someone who brought energy and kindness to those around him.

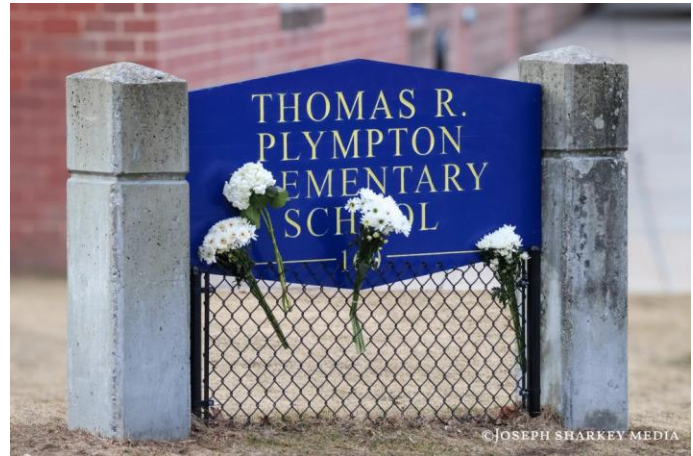
His passing on March 8, 2025, deeply affected the Waltham community, particularly students and members of the Waltham High School football program.

In the days following his death, classmates, friends and community members gathered to honor Shread's memory, holding vigils and placing flowers and memorials throughout the city. Many gathered at Leary Field, where teammates and friends released white balloons and shared memories of the young athlete.

One year later, Shread's memory lives on through the people who knew him and the community that rallied to support his family.

In a message shared with the community, Shread's family said the past year has shown them just how much their son meant to the people around him.

"Ryan is missed every single day, and even more today than a year ago," the family said. "We continue to be incredibly grateful for the support, kindness and love the Waltham community has shown our family. It means more to us than words can express."



Ann Chicco, 1936–2026, lifelong Waltham resident

Milestones

March 16, 2026

Ann T. (Shaughnessy) Chicco, of Waltham, died Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital surrounded by her loving family. She was 89.

Ann was born in Waltham on June 24, 1936, a daughter of the late John and Helen (Malloy) Shaughnessy. She was one of seven siblings and was raised in a close-knit Irish family. Ann was a lifelong Waltham resident, with a special place in her heart for the Lakeview section of Waltham. While working at the Paper Bag Manufacturing company in Waltham, she met her future husband and love of her life, Guy A. Chicco. They were married on June 26, 1960 at Saint Charles Borromeo Church. Together they made their home on Overlook Road in Waltham. They say that love grows best in little houses. 21 Overlook Road was a small home, however, it was filled with Ann's unconditional love and devotion for her family.



Ann treasured the special memories made while camping each summer on the Cape and in New Hampshire with extended family and friends. She loved the ocean and the pool and spent many summer days floating in the water on Sea Gull Beach, as well as Old Orchard Beach. She loved the magic of Disney World and was joyful to share that special magic with two trips to Florida with her grandchildren. In her later years, Ann and Guy enjoyed many happy winters in Naples, Florida.

For over 50 years, Ann and Guy played cards each Friday night with their card group, a tradition filled with friendship and laughter. The group also enjoyed traveling together to places such as Bermuda, Nashville and Branson, Missouri.

Ann was happiest when her family was gathered around her table; in her eyes, there was always room for one more. When her children were older she hosted Monday night dinners. She was very proud of her grandchildren and loved attending their events. She was their biggest cheerleader and loved celebrating all of their accomplishments.

Ann was a lifelong member of Our Lady's Church in Waltham. She faithfully attended Mass each week and would watch Mass on TV if she could not attend in person. She had a deep faith that guided her throughout her life and shaped the way she cared for others.

In Dec. of 2024, Ann and Guy moved to the Leland House on Newton Street in Waltham. Ann cherished the community that was built there, participating in many activities.

Ann had a gift of finding the good in everyone, never judgmental and gave of her time willingly whenever it was needed, always putting her family before herself. Her honest words of encouragement and advice came from the heart and will be forever cherished.

In addition to her loving husband of sixty-five years, Guy, she leaves her forever grateful children, Guy A. Chicco, Jr. (Karen) of Randolph, John W. Chicco (Joan) of Waltham, Paul J. Chicco (Judy) of Sandwich, Andrea E. Bianchi (Kevin) of Framingham and Mark Chicco (Mindy) of Old Orchard Beach, Maine; her cherished grandchildren, Jessica, Robert and Jake Chicco, Lauren Lazar, Kristen Chicco, Julie Winslow, Troy Chicco and Meredith and Kevin Bianchi, her adored great-grandson, Theodore; her loving brothers and sister, Thomas Shaughnessy (Joanne) of Billerica, John Shaughnessy (late Marie) of Waltham and Maryellen Jasinski (Tim) of Norwood; and several nieces, nephews and their families.

Ann was also a sister of the late Richard Shaughnessy (late Ellie), Donald Shaughnessy (late Mary) and Joan Cowie (late Bob).

Family and friends will honor Ann's life by gathering for an evening wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham, on Tuesday, March 17 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and again at 9 a.m. on Wednesday morning before leaving in procession to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, 880 Trapelo Road, Waltham where her funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Burial in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 10:45 a.m.

Barbara Micklay, 1928–2026, loving wife, mother and aunt

Milestones

March 16, 2026

Barbara J. (Robinson) Micklay, of Artisan at Hudson Community, formerly of Waltham, died Saturday, March 7, 2026 at her home. She was 98.

Barbara J. Robinson was born Jan. 19, 1928 in Watertown, a daughter of the late John Robinson and Violet (Rosborough) Robinson Isaccson. Raised in Watertown she graduated from Watertown High School. She was married to the late Donald A. Micklay until his death in 2012. A longtime Waltham resident she moved to Artisan at Hudson in 2022 where she easily adapted to her new surroundings and community and quickly became a much-loved resident.

Barbara worked as clerk for the Registry of Motor Vehicles in Watertown for over 25 years. She was a friendly face and respected colleague.

A talented knitter amongst her many talents and treasures, she made Christmas stockings for family and friends, a timeless and treasured gift. She was also known by many as 'Auntie'. A longtime member of the former First Baptist Church of Watertown she transferred her membership to the First Baptist Church of Belmont when her church closed.

In addition to her beloved husband, Donald, she was predeceased by their only daughter, Linda Micklay, and brother, John W. 'Jack' Robinson and his late wife, Diane.

She leaves her nephew, Scott D. Robinson (Mary) of Hudson, and niece, Lori Fone (Michael) of Sun City, Florida; and her great nephews and nieces, Nicholas, Diane, Kaitlin, Lyndsay and John Robinson.

Barbara was also the aunt of the late John B. Robinson.

Family and friends will honored Barbara's life by gathering for a morning wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham followed by her funeral service and burial in Ridgelawn Cemetery, Watertown.



Mary Sullivan, 1932–2026, former mayor of Bangor, ME

Milestones

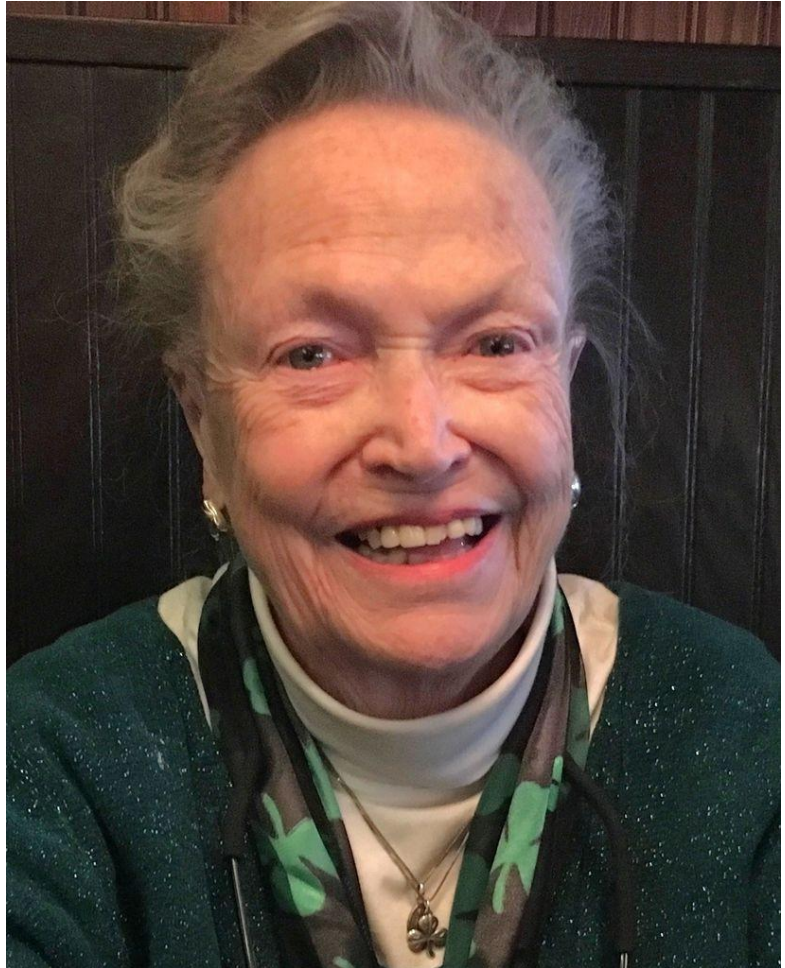
March 16, 2026

Mary E. (Roche) Sullivan, of Waltham, passed peacefully in her home on March 8, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was 93.

Mary was born on June 29, 1932, in Allston to Leo F. Roche Sr. and Ethel Toomey Roche.

She married her lifelong love, Charles Morgan Sullivan, Sr. on Sept. 8, 1956, and they remained devoted to each other until his death in 1997.

Mary devoted her life to family, education and civic service. After graduating from Regis College, she pursued her master's degree in economics at Boston College, where she met her beloved Charlie. She worked as registrar at Husson College in Bangor and was a revered math teacher at John Bapst Memorial High School. Her public service included serving on the Bangor City Council and as District 110 Representative in the Maine State legislature.



A true trailblazer, Mary became the first woman to serve as mayor of Bangor, the third largest city in Maine. While there, she was a fierce advocate for all of her constituents and an inspiration to all with her strength, wisdom, wit, compassion and bipartisanship. Mary was devoted to her faith and dedicated herself to Sacred Heart Church in Waltham, particularly through her commitment to eucharistic ministry.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Charles M. Sullivan, Sr.; her son, Mark C. Sullivan; her granddaughter Madonna Pearl Mullen; and her brothers Paul D. Roche and Leo F. Roche Jr.

She is survived by her children, Charles Morgan Sullivan Jr. (Cherie), Ethel Sullivan Williams (Dexter), Mari Sullivan Mullen (Jim), Kathleen Sullivan and Ursula DellaPorta (Brian); her grandchildren, Emily Williams Zango (Sarah), Franki Mullen, James Mullen, Derek Williams and Olivia DellaPorta; and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honored Mary's life by gathering for a wake at The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham on Monday, March 16, 2026 and again on Tuesday morning before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, 311 River Street, Waltham where her funeral mass was be celebrated. Burial followed in Saint Joseph's Cemetery, West Roxbury.

William Laswell, 1942–2026, was ‘always willing and eager to give his time to the community’

Milestones

March 16, 2026

William Dennis Laswell, passed away peacefully at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, MA on March 9, 2026. He was 83.

Willy/Bill/Billy was the embodiment of a loving father and grandfather, faithful friend, adoring husband, appreciative family member, community involved citizen and proud and grateful veteran.

When he retired from his full time job at the Waltham Post Office and his part time job in the Office of the Weston Public Schools he became involved in volunteering tirelessly at St Mary’s Church by serving as a Eucharistic Minister and assisting at funerals, at Marist Hill Nursing Home by assisting and being a friend to patients and by serving as Commander of Chapter #45 of the DAV. He was always willing and eager to give his time to the community. He believed that kindness should always be shared and never in short supply, that forgiveness is our greatest strength, that it doesn’t cost anything to give back and to step up and do the right thing when you see that it needs to be done.

His generosity of spirit was admired by all. He believed that humor could brighten even the darkest hour. Hard working, always forgiving, loving and faithful, Willy had many friends who always knew that a good time and laughter would be had by all where and when Willy was included.

Willy/Dad/Bumpa was a loving and devoted husband to Donna (Thompson) to whom he was married for 57 years, a proud father to his sons, Shawn and Glenn, and proud grandfather to Michael and to Michael’s partner, Emily Giroux.

He leaves his nieces Linda Geoffrion, her husband Gary and their children Matthew and Thomas, and Cheryl Stunkel and her husband Glenn; his nephew Peter Magliarditi, his wife Kathy and their children Emma and Paul; his sisters-in-law Carol Pottle who was predeceased by her husband Michael, their children Mark and Sharon and her husband Dave Clement and their children Adam and Callie, and Diane DeRoche, her husband Ronald and their children Ryan and Kerri and her husband Matt Galvin and their children Avery and AJ.

He was predeceased by his sister Mary Joanne Laswell, his father, William H. Laswell, his mother, Lillian (Mahoney) Laswell and his son, Shawn Laswell.

The family is eternally grateful to the staff, nurses and doctors at Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital for the compassionate care they afforded him in the last few months of his life. Thank you all for your service, compassion and dedication to our veterans.

Family and friends will honored Bill’s life by gathering for a evening wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street, (Route 20) Waltham, on Friday, March 20 and again on Saturday morning, March 21 before leaving in procession to Saint Mary’s Church, 133 School Street, Waltham where his funeral mass was celebrated. Military honors were rendered at the conclusion of the Mass and burial in Mount Feake Cemetery was private.



Kevin Bell, 1958–2026, veteran and professor at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology

Milestones

March 11, 2026

Kevin Michael Bell, of Waltham, passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2026 at his home with his family by his side. He was 68.

Born in Bourne, Massachusetts on Feb. 22, 1958, Kevin was the son of the late Thomas and Mary (Halligan) Bell. As the son of an Air Force family, he spent parts of his childhood living in Japan and Kansas before the family returned to the Boston area. He was raised in Dorchester and Brookline and graduated from Brookline High School.

Kevin proudly served his country in the U.S. Army as an Air Cavalry Mechanic. While stationed in Germany, he met the love of his life, Martina Koch, a native of Germany. The couple married in Germany in 1980 and later settled in Brighton before moving to Waltham eight years ago.

Kevin found his true calling in education. After working as an HVAC technician, he became a professor and Department Head of the HVAC program at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston, where he

taught and inspired students for more than twenty years. A natural teacher who was outgoing and talkative, Kevin had the rare ability to make complex subjects understandable and enjoyable.

Kevin had a wide range of interests. He was an avid reader who loved history and science fiction. He played bass guitar and enjoyed jamming with friends while listening to classic rock. He also loved to travel and explored many destinations throughout Europe, the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to his beloved wife, Martina D. (Koch) Bell, Kevin leaves his son, Jason Bell, of Waltham. He was predeceased by his brother, Thomas S. Bell.






Family and friends will honor and celebrate Kevin's life by gathering at The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham on Friday, March 13, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.. Burial with military honors in Bourne National Cemetery will be held at a later date.



Waltham new home sales, March 8–14, 2026

Waltham News Team

March 15, 2026

	3/13/2026	289 Bishops Forest Dr	\$836,000	2 / 3.5	2300 sq. ft.
	3/11/2026	126 Dale St.	\$1,455,000	3 / 1.5	3305 sq. ft.
	3/12/2026	249 Lake St.	\$465,000	2 / 1	792 sq. ft.
	3/11/2026	61 Hall St. Unit 101	\$1,285,000	unknown	unknown
	3/9/2026	98 Seminole Ave.	\$680,000	3 / 1.5	1224 sq. ft.

Calendar

March 18-April 12

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	THU 19	Mar 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 [...]
WED 18	Mar 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	FRI 20	Mar 20. @ 12:00 am - 11:30 pm 🗓 WPY: Now accepting summer internship applications online via https://bit.ly/WPYInternshipApply The 2026 Waltham Partnership for Youth (WPY) summer internship program application is now open. WPY's paid 2026 summer internship program runs from June 29 to August 7 and is open [...]
WED 18	Mar 18. @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm 🗓 Board of Health meeting The Board of Health meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. Contact the Health Department to confirm each meeting and for additional information.	FRI 20	Mar 20. @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Spring equinox walk at Prospect Hill Park Craft Food Halls 200 5th Avenue, Waltham, MA Celebrate the new season with a walk at Prospect Hill Park before going to our fundraiser at Craft Food Hall. We'll follow the alternate route we took on New Year's Day, which has mostly gradual elevation changes on trails through Waltham's oldest park. Meet at Craft Food Hall, 200 5th Ave. Visit or call 781-893-3355 [...]
WED 18	Mar 18. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Mill Talk: From electronic waste to opportunity Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States How refurbished technology can close the digital divide. In this conversation, Dylan Zajac will explore where old electronics really end up, the environmental and social costs of e-waste, and how [...] Free	FRI 20	Mar 20. @ 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm 🗓 Gently-used book sale Gore Place 52 Gore Street Book lovers can buy gently-used books at bargain prices (\$2 for paperbacks, \$5 for most hardcovers) during the sale. The event will be held in the Carriage House at Gore Place. You can donate books too! We can accept donated books from March 1 through March 13. To arrange a drop-off time, please email events@goreplace.org . [...] Free
WED 18	Mar 18. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 🗓 <i>School Committee meeting</i> School Committee meeting 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 [...]	FRI 20	Mar 20. @ 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm Waltham Land Trust—Spring equinox fundraiser at Craft Food Hall Craft Food Halls 200 5th Avenue, Waltham, MA Spring is the season of renewal and rebirth-try something different at one of the trendiest spots in Waltham, offering sous vide burgers and steaks, pizzas with a crispy dough, tasty [...]
THU 19	Mar 19. @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am 🗓 Traffic Commission meeting 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 [...]	FRI 20	Mar 20. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Devil's in the Details: The history and mystery of the Gore Place wallcoverings Gore Place 52 Gore Street Do you love design details and perhaps a little mystery? Take a tour of the mansion and learn about the history of our wallcoverings plus the challenges involved in antique [...] \$21
THU 19	Mar 19. @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Art and meditation workshop: Intuitive watercolors Waltham Public Library 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States Join Faith Johnson, internationally exhibiting artist and healing arts practitioner of Full Circle Healing Arts, for a relaxing meditation followed by quiet reflective journaling and intuitive watercolor painting (with local [...] Free	SAT 21	Mar 21. @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Family Shabbat Join Temple Beth Israel's growing family community on Saturday, March 21, 11:00 a.m., for family Shabbat with interactive songs, prayers, playtime, and a fun scavenger hunt to search for bread before Passover! Snacks provided as well as a kiddish light lunch with the community. Free and open to all. RSVP for location by March 16 [...]

SAT
21

Mar 21. @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Gently-used book sale

Gore Place 52 Gore Street

Book lovers can buy gently-used books at bargain prices (\$2 for paperbacks, \$5 for most hardcovers) during the sale. The event will be held in the Carriage House at Gore Place. You can donate books too! We can accept donated books from March 1 through March 13. To arrange a drop-off time, please email events@goreplace.org. [...]

Free

SUN
22

Mar 22. @ 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

More than Money: The world of coin collecting

The Waltham Museum 25 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA

Join us as we continue our Social Series with "More than Money: The world of coin collecting" with Neil Musante, a collector and numismatic researcher and author of two books that have become standard references on the subject, with a third coming soon. This talk will explore various aspects of collecting, including some of the [...]

Free

SUN
22

Mar 22. @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

'Golda's Balcony'—a one-woman biographical play

Temple Beth Israel 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA

A one-woman show featuring Beth Goldman as Golda Meir. "Golda's Balcony" is set on the eve of the 1973 Yom Kippur War and uses flashbacks to trace Golda's life from Russia to Milwaukee and her move to Palestine in 1921. These personal stories frame a gripping exploration of idealism, leadership and the resolve required to [...]

\$20

MON
23

Mar 23. @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Introduction to the Jewish Bookshelf — Poetry and Creative Midrash

Temple Beth Israel 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA

You want to learn more about Judaism, but where do you start? We are known as The People of the Book, so it's a great idea to get to know the framework of some of our foundational literature. Introduction to the Jewish bookshelf presents texts that will be your entryway into conversations about creation in [...]

Free

MON
23

Mar 23. @ 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Waltham City Council meeting

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

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

THU
26

Mar 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 games professionally run by Sporcle Events. Prizes will be awarded for each game winner and the overall winner, as well as raffles and a cash [...]

\$25

THU
26

Mar 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 [...]

SAT
28

Mar 28. @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Friends Beyond Boston: Cozy igloo experience

Mighty Squirrel—Arsenal Yards 102 Arsenal Yards, Watertown

Join us for drinks and bites inside a heated igloo at Arsenal Yards in Watertown. This small group social is perfect for anyone new in town or simply wanting to build friendships in a low-pressure environment. Mighty Squirrel has a great selection of drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and food to choose from; pick your favorites [...]

Free

THU
2

Apr 2. @ 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
2

Apr 2. @ 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 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. [...]

SAT
4

Apr 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 warm atmosphere, authentic Spanish flavors, and excellent wines and sangrias. This anniversary dinner isn't about networking or pressure. It's about celebrating community, showing up as [...]

\$45

SUN
5

Apr 5. @ 12:00 am - 11:59 pm

WPY: Deadline for Summer internship application tonight

online via <https://bit.ly/WPYInternshipApply>

Deadline to submit applications for the WPY Summer Internship Program is tonight at 11:59 p.m. The 2026 Waltham Partnership for Youth (WPY) summer internship program application is now open. WPY's paid 2026 summer internship program runs from June 29 to August 7 and is open to Waltham residents in high school, ages 14 and older. [...]

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm [📍](#)

Parks-Recreation Board meeting

Waltham Community and Cultural Center 510 Moody Street, Waltham, MA

The Parks-Recreation Board meets monthly, excluding July and August. Public agenda and additional information can be found here.

Free

SUN
12

Apr 12. @ 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Cedar Hill: Cornelia Warren's gift to the Girl Scouts

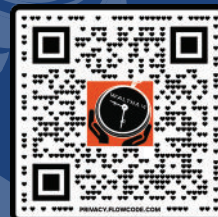
The Waltham Museum 25 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA

Join us as we continue our Social Series with "Cedar Hill: Cornelia Warren's gift to the Girl Scouts" with Francine Edwards, one of the co-founders of the Girl Scout Museum [...]

Free



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