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# The Week's News!

*Keeps our community ticking!*

**March 23, 2026**



**Outdoor dining for Moody Street approved, despite Traffic Commission reservations**



**Craft beer and community bonds thrive at Mighty Squirrel**



**BrightBridge Foundation awards first Officer Paul Tracey Memorial Scholarships**



**Local students show their smarts on GBH quiz show**

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



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# Outdoor dining for Moody Street approved, despite Traffic Commission reservations

Artie Kronenfeld

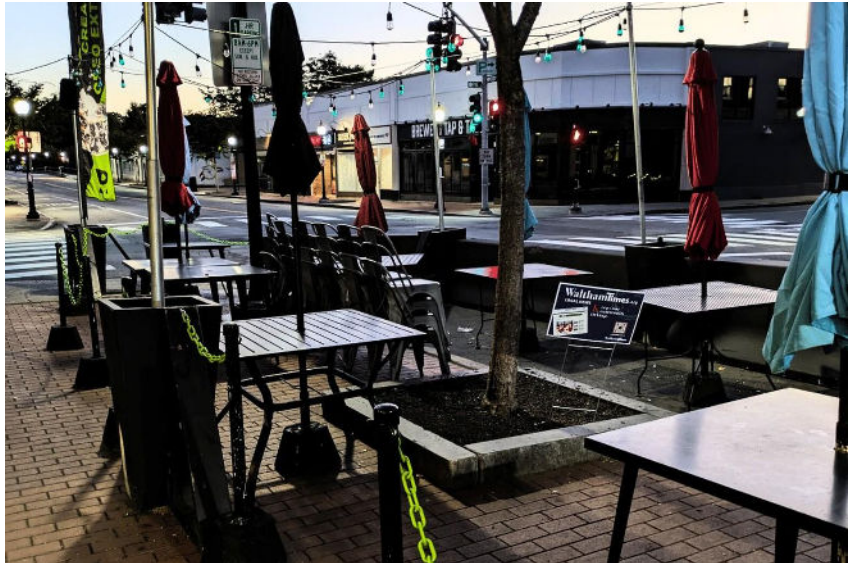
March 22, 2026

*In a Pickle outdoor dining area.*

*Photo by Scott Glazer.*

Outdoor dining is coming back to Moody Street on May 22.

An initial proposal to bring back outdoor dining over the summer [cleared the City Council in early March](#). Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris told the council at the time that she planned to go to the Traffic Commission to obtain permission for businesses to close down on-street parking spaces to create their outdoor dining areas.



At last Thursday's Traffic Commission meeting, Harris argued that restaurant owners are having a difficult time financially this year and the city should support them with opportunities such as outdoor dining.

Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan said initiatives that involved removing parking spots to make Moody Street more pedestrian-friendly have been controversial, with some residents opposing it and others supporting the idea of [closing down the street to car traffic entirely](#). Logan said the current outdoor dining plan, which doesn't fully satisfy either side of the debate, was an "excellent compromise."

Some members of the Traffic Commission expressed hesitance about moving forward with the proposed outdoor dining plan.

"I've always voted for [outdoor dining]. I'm not in favor of that this year," said Wires Department Director Tim Kelly. He said outdoor dining blocks off too much parking on Moody Street, adding that he had observed fewer diners taking advantage of the program last year than he had seen in prior years.

Kelly moved to reject the proposal. His motion failed with only two votes.

City Clerk Joseph Vizard raised concerns about businesses setting up outdoor dining areas that reach beyond their own frontage on the street and shut down other parking spaces. He moved to accept the proposal with the condition that businesses won't be able to create dining areas that extend in front of neighboring businesses.

Ward 7 Councilor Paul S. Katz said the Licenses and Franchises Committee requires applicants to submit a map of their proposed outdoor expansion, adding that it could monitor the plans this year to make sure businesses follow the commission's conditions.

The commission voted to approve outdoor dining between May 22 and Sept. 7.

# New police station design tops \$80 million

Artie Kronenfeld

March 23, 2026

*Principal architect Jeffery McElravy unveiled the station's proposed layout in October of 2025.*

A new Waltham police headquarters will cost more than \$80 million, according to architects who delivered that estimate to city officials along with an update on the project during a March 16 meeting with the Police Headquarters Selection Committee.

Jeffrey McElravy of Tecton Architects, the firm designing the city's new police and fire headquarters, said the firm's consultants estimated the construction would total about \$80,637,880. That figure does not include furniture costs.

City officials requested a more complete cost estimate for the building so they could bring a funding request to the City Council.

McElravy also provided an update on the planned station and its timeline, estimating that the bidding, construction and demolition process for the station would take approximately three years.

Waltham's new police station will be built behind the current one, so that police services wouldn't be interrupted during construction.

In May the city [authorized the construction of new emergency services headquarters on the site](#) of the current police, fire and Department of Public Works stations at 155 Lexington St. The DPW headquarters will move [to the former Fernald property](#), allowing further expansion for emergency services.

Tecton Architects [unveiled initial renderings of the proposed new police station building](#) in October 2025.

At last week's meeting, McElravy provided updates to those initial plans. He said the second floor of the proposed police station is now smaller than initially designed, in response to Fire Department requests to move a space housing 911 dispatchers to the future fire station. McElravy also removed space designated for future expansion, but he pointed out the current station plans already have room for more police officers than the city currently employs. He added that the city would be able to build out the second floor in the future if it needed more space.

Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur asked about the possibility of installing solar panels on the station. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy pointed out that the current station already has some solar panels, and McElravy said that it would be possible to install more, potentially up to the point of achieving net zero energy requirements, but that would involve building solar canopies above the back parking lot.

The city currently plans to build the new central fire station after the police headquarters is built in a second phase of construction. The new building will go on the footprint of the current 155 Lexington Street station.

Fire Department officers at Monday's meeting raised concerns about how the department would continue operations during construction, emphasizing this would be a vital problem for the city to solve before commencing the second phase of construction.



# Traffic Commission in brief: National Grid catches flak for neighborhood disruptions, Main Street plans

Artie Kronenfeld

March 23, 2026



National Grid is moving forward with plans to replace significant amounts of old gas pipe in the Felton Street neighborhood this year, but the company's other construction ambitions are currently hitting roadblocks.

The utilities company received preliminary approval for the work [from City Council in November](#), but the council required it to make a plan to mitigate the project's traffic impacts and obtain approval for the plan from the city's Traffic Commission.

At its Thursday meeting, the commission approved National Grid's plans to manage traffic on Felton Street on the condition that it create a plan for parking construction vehicles off the street and coordinate weekly with a liaison from the Police Department on traffic and parking issues.

The company's plans involve narrowing the travel lane for the length of construction, and potentially closing parts of the street during some phases of construction and redirecting traffic through Main Street. It estimated the project would take three to four months, and would need to be completed by September to avoid conflicting with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's plans for utilities work.

The company also proposed a new project that hasn't yet come in front of City Council to replace gas lines along Main Street. It presented a traffic management plan from The DDS Companies that involved 18 separate phases that included reducing travel lanes and restricting turns.

City officials said they were hesitant to approve the project and were not impressed with National Grid's previous track record.

"I know this [work] is a public safety issue. I don't contest that. What I contest is the process being used," Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy told the commission.

She said that during previous construction, National Grid had disrupted city equipment such as traffic detectors and failed to properly coordinate work with the city. "I'm just here more frustrated than anything else, because they just come in and they do what they want ... they leave it a mess."

Some members of the Traffic Commission agreed. City Clerk Joseph Vizard complained about equipment and cars left around the city during previous projects.

"There has just been rampant disrespect for the city from National Grid," he said. "I think there is a level of frustration for National Grid in the city at this point [and] that you might need to slow down."

McCarthy pointed out that City Council's bylaws require utilities companies to submit two-year plans for the projects they intend to complete before receiving approval for plans that would involve excavating roads. She said this measure is supposed to help the city make its own plans for public works projects and road resurfacing.

Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan expressed incredulity about the city's capacity to handle the proposed construction on both Felton and Main streets at the same time.

The commission decided not to vote on the Main Street plan yet, asking the company to submit a sheet outlining the timeline of projects it plans to complete in Waltham in the near future, as well as a more detailed plan about the impacts of the proposed construction.

## Additionally, the Traffic Commission:

- Approved 30 parking passes in the Embassy garage for exhibitors at the STEM Education Free Festival on May 30.
- Approved a crosswalk at Gardner Street proposed to the commission [in September](#).
- Approved an [outdoor dining plan for Moody Street](#) this summer.
- Approved a plan to restrict parking on Elson Street. Vehicles will be able to park on the north side of the street only, except for a stretch between Hammond and Prentice streets where vehicles will be able to park only on the south side of the street, and two buffer areas where the city will not allow any parking.
- Approved a preliminary budget for the Traffic Engineering Department for FY2027.
- Approved the YMCA Dash & Splash Road Race for August 1.
- Authorized traffic engineer Mike Garvin to study how best to address a citizen petition requesting a “blind driveway” sign at School Street near Mt. Pleasant Street.
- Authorized Garvin to study the potential installation of an all-way stop sign at the intersection of Adams and Walnut streets.
- Discussed the effects of heavy snow on the city’s streets. Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris thanked the Department of Public Works and first responders, suggesting that the department may need additional resources for future years to get snow cleared faster. She said she was considering legislation to address the issue and asked to return to the commission with updates.
- Voted 4–1 to replace the portable speed cushions the city plans to install on Crescent Street this summer with longer ones that would be slightly less effective but also slightly less noisy and disruptive for neighbors. This passed despite Garvin’s recommendation to wait to decide until finalizing a general traffic calming policy.
- Voted to improve signal timing at the intersection of South and Bedford streets. Garvin speculated that the reason his department has recently found many intersections see lower levels of traffic than they saw a decade ago was a result of post-COVID commuting changes.

## The week ahead: Zoning Board in final stages of Winter Street 40B discussion

Artie Kronenfeld

March 23, 2026

This Tuesday Waltham’s Zoning Board of Appeals will hear updates on the [193-unit apartment development at 245-265 Winter Street](#) proposed last summer under [Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B](#).

The ZBA, which in February discussed a draft of a final permit with the developer, said it anticipated [finishing the project’s public hearing](#) at this March meeting.

Since then, however, a neighboring project at 455 Totten Pond Road has [run into further issues with sewer capacity](#) that may impact the Winter Street project as well.

The ZBA has the power to grant project-specific variances to the city’s [zoning code](#), overrule judgments made by the building inspector and grant specific types of special permits, including the comprehensive residential permits outlined by the state’s Chapter 40B statute. This statewide policy [incentivizes affordable housing construction](#) through a special permitting process overseen by local zoning boards.

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

## **City Council**

City Council will discuss a resolution to amend the city's snow removal ordinance to ensure more effective snow removal. It will also hold a public hearing for a request from Eversource to do utilities work on Bear Hill Road and will discuss resolutions to recognize a Waltham author for Women's History Month and to recognize Local News Day on April 9.

Furthermore, it will discuss a number of items from [last week's committee meetings](#), including its own legislative budget for the year. The council also expects to receive a series of requests from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, including a requested name change for Northeast Elementary School, acceptance of the city's Community Development Block Grant plan, funding for the police medical budget and disability services commission, and a loan authorization for the project management of the ongoing police station redesign, all of which will likely be discussed at next week's committee meetings.

The council will meet Monday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.

## **Zoning Board of Appeals**

In addition to discussion of the Winter Street project, the ZBA will hear an update on a planned Main Street mixed-use development whose owner requested [a waiver of city parking requirements](#) because of the lot's lack of space. At the project's last hearing in February, the board requested that the petitioner return with legal counsel. Board members will also consider a request to extend the time limit on a previous decision from 2022.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, at the Arthur Clark Government Center.

## **License Commission**

The License Commission grants and reviews permits for serving food and alcohol for entertainment and for some types of gaming machines across the city.

It will meet Wednesday, March 25, at 7 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Clark Government Center at 119 School St. Its agenda will be posted Monday on the [Licensing Department page](#) of the city's website.

## **Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission is a volunteer board charged with overseeing environmental planning in Waltham. The commission reviews certain types of construction on or around wetlands to ensure they comply with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Department of Environmental Protection stormwater standards.

It will hold a meeting over Zoom at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26. An agenda and link for the meeting will be provided on the [commission's page](#) on the city website at least 48 hours in advance.

## **Tree removal hearing**

The city's tree warden will hold a special public hearing to discuss the removal of multiple invasive Norway Maple trees at Birch Road, Hardy Pond Road and Seminole Avenue. The department plans to replace them with 30 trees of varying species, emphasizing shade trees when not placed directly below utilities.

The Department of Public Works will host the meeting at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 27, at 167 Lexington St. The city has asked that anyone with a complaint to submit it in writing in advance of the hearing to [kthompson@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:kthompson@city.waltham.ma.us).

# Bentley wins second straight Atlantic Hockey Championship: Heads to NCAA Tournament

Steve Milmore

March 23, 2026

*Bentley's Pat Lawn hoists championship trophy. Photo by Kevin Robertson.*

The Falcons captured their second consecutive Atlantic Hockey Championship in front of a sold-out crowd at Bentley Arena Saturday night, delivering a performance that matched the energy inside the building. Bentley overcame a 2-1 deficit against Sacred Heart University of Fairfield, Conn., after forward Kellan Hjartarson scored two key goals in the third period. The Falcons then withstood the final two minutes with SHU's extra attacker on the ice to secure the championship.

Mesic was named the Most Outstanding Player. Mesic, Hjartarson, Helledy and goalie Lukas Swedin, who made 24 saves, were named to the All-Tournament team from Bentley. At 23-11-5, Bentley tied the program record for wins in a single-season set last year.

## On to the NCAA Tournament

The Falcons now qualify to play in the NCAA Division 1 Men's Hockey Championship. The postseason tournament determines the national champion of men's college hockey in the United States.

At the ESPN NCAA selection show yesterday afternoon, the No. 16 Falcons were picked to play No. 1 Michigan at the regionals in Albany, N.Y., on Friday, March 27, at 5:30 p.m. The game can be seen on ESPNU. Tickets are available at the following link: [MVP Arena](#).

The team gathered at Bentley Arena to learn its fate and showed excitement and confidence about the challenge ahead.



*Bentley Forward Michael Mesic scores first goal. Photo courtesy of Bentley University.*

"Michigan has a great team, but we'll be ready. We played the No. 1 seed in the tourney last year," Falcon defenseman and [Waltham native Pat Lawn](#) said. Lawn attended Falcons games growing up alongside his father, watching them compete against the best in college hockey. Now it's his turn again.

"We'll have practice this week, and then head out to Albany on Wednesday night. This gives us a chance to have a skate, check out the rink, and we'll be ready to go," he said.

# Waltham High School boys lacrosse will have a new look in 2026

Greg Levinsky

March 23, 2026

*WHS long stick senior Jack Kelly.*

The year 2026 represents a fresh start for the Waltham High School boys lacrosse team.

Thirteen seniors from last spring's tournament team graduated, including all three Dual County League All-Stars, meaning new Hawks must fill numerous roles. Fifth-year coach Eddie Villafane anticipates a team competing for another tournament berth.

"It's a next man up kind of thing," Villafane said. "We have a bunch of guys who have varsity experience. We have a heavy junior class, and a lot of those guys are going to get a chance to show what they have."

Key offensive returners are juniors Nick Babigian, Leo DiSchino, Jack Fox and Benicio Villafane and sophomore Oliver Ouligan. "Our top three offensive players have proven themselves, and we're looking for guys to step up," Villafane said.

Defense will be a strength, especially the long stick players. Long stick senior Jack Kelly and juniors Garo Gebeyan and Orion Willoughby return. Junior short stick defensive midfielder Savva Zasilialis is another player to watch.

Football captains and seniors Brock Deveaux, a short stick midfielder, and Ryan Dragone, a long stick defender, show extra promise after a lot of offseason work. Neither have a extensive varsity experience but should see big roles.

"As soon as football was over, they picked up their sticks and wanted to give it everything they had," Villafane said. "Goalkeeper is between sophomore Ryan Kelly and senior Colin O'Brien. It could start as a committee approach, but the hot hand will always play," Villafane said. Replacing two-time All-League performer Jack Ouligan, now playing club lacrosse at Quinnipiac, is a tall task.

Waltham went 12-6 last year, earning a spot in the MIAA Division 1 Tournament and bypassing the preliminary round. Seeded No. 21, the Hawks fell 10-0 to No. 12 Franklin in the Round of 32. Right after, they joined a summer league. The continuity is strong, Villafane said. It's not a rebuild.

The Hawks open the regular season at home on Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. vs. DCL foe Boston Latin. Other key games from the 18-match slate include:

- April 7, 4:15 p.m. @ Westford Academy
- April 9, 4:30 p.m. @ Acton-Boxboro
- April 14, 6 p.m. vs. Weston
- April 20, 4 p.m. vs. Arlington
- April 25, 11 a.m. @ Newton North
- April 30, 4:30 p.m. @ Concord-Carlisle

The early-season contest against Weston could determine the DCL small leader.

"It's a tough schedule not including our DCL schedules which has state championship contenders," Villafane said. "We'll be tested."



# WHS girls lacrosse defeats Stoneham in preseason game

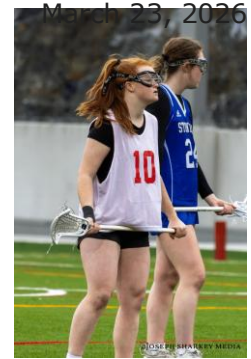
Joseph Sharkey

The Waltham High School girls lacrosse team opened the preseason with a strong performance, defeating Stoneham 10–4 in a scrimmage as the Hawks prepare for the 2026 season.

Waltham showed strong teamwork, with multiple players contributing on offense while the defense limited Stoneham’s scoring chances. The Hawks also used their speed in transition to create scoring opportunities and control the pace of the game.

Coming off a 2025 season in which the team made the playoffs, [Waltham enters the new year with experience and confidence](#). The Hawks compete in the Dual County League, which includes such teams as Newton South, Lincoln-Sudbury and Acton-Boxborough, and is considered one of the more competitive leagues in Massachusetts.

With a mix of experienced leaders and developing talent, the Hawks look ready to compete as the season gets underway.



# From jargon to genius: Brandeis contestants must explain their research in three spellbinding minutes

William Holder

March 23, 2026

Graduate students at Brandeis University will have an opportunity on Friday, March 27, to show their skills at presenting their original research in a short, engaging form for a general audience during the fifth annual Three Minute Thesis Competition. The event is free and open to the public at 4 p.m. in the Spingold Theater.

Ten students from a variety of disciplines will compete in front of a panel of judges including Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy. All 10 will receive cash awards ranging from \$300 to \$1,000, according to organizers Marika McCann, associate director of professional development and employer outreach in the Office of Graduate Affairs, and Abigail Arnold, assistant director for graduate academic affairs.

The winner will be invited to participate in a regional competition and, potentially, a national one. The event also features an audience choice award in which members of the audience can vote for their favorite presentation.

Past participants credit the experience with improving their confidence and job-seeking skills, and some have gained new insights. Jin Zhao, a computer science graduate student and winner of the audience choice award in 2025, said on the event’s website: “What made this experience meaningful wasn’t just writing the script or presenting on stage. It was the process of finding language that makes complex work feel human. My favorite part was watching other researchers from wildly different fields do the same, and realizing that passion, not jargon, is what brings ideas to life.”



Others on the organizing team for the event are Becky Prigge, vice provost for student affairs; Anahita Zare, director of education and special programs at the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center and director of the Sci Comm Lab; and Atiqua Prithu, marketing and communications student assistant.

# MassDOT lowers weight limit on Farwell Street Bridge after finding structural deficiencies

Cyd Abnet



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation lowered the load rating of the Farwell Street Bridge. The change comes after recent inspections revealed structural deficiencies.

Truck travel across the bridge will be impacted the most, according to a brief from Waltham city engineer Robert Winn. There will be a 9-ton limit for five-axle vehicles on the bridge. Large delivery trucks, which may be over 9 tons depending on the weight of the load they are carrying, fit into this category.

For two- and three-axle vehicles such as cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles and school buses, there will be a 5-ton limit. Most personal vehicles will be under this weight limit. Owners of vehicles that are above the allotted limits can be fined and found liable for damage to the bridge. [MassDOT](#) and Waltham's [Engineering Department](#) are available to answer any questions.

## Waltham High principal-in-residence submits resignation effective June 30

Lea Zaharoni

March 23, 2026

John Barnes, who has served as Waltham High School's principal-in-residence since July, submitted his resignation effective at the end of the school year. He will be the fourth principal to leave WHS since 2020.

No reason was given for his departure.

Barnes was selected as part of a trial of the principal-in-residence model.

Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa created this model after the district failed to find a permanent principal for the 2025-26 school year. The model allowed for a less experienced candidate to take the helm of WHS, with the idea that the individual would learn on the job with support from senior administrators. "[We're] hoping this could lead to retention and stability in the role as well," Mendonsa said last July when she introduced the model.

As principal-in-residence, Barnes participated in a [contentious](#) new schedule proposal process at the high school, which Mendonsa ultimately [postponed](#) until 2027.



# Fuerza brings 'ICE Out of Courts' campaign to Waltham District Courthouse

Lea Zaharoni

March 23, 2026

*Demonstrators gathered outside the Waltham District Court on Friday, March 20, to protest ICE detentions at courthouses across the state. Photo by Lea Zaharoni.*

More than 100 people marched up and down Linden Street in front of the Waltham District Court on Friday to protest ICE arrests at courthouses across the state.



The March 20 rally was organized by Fuerza Waltham, a member of the LUCE

Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts. It was part of the “Ice Out of Massachusetts Courts” campaign, and organizers handed out QR codes which directed people to a petition.

Jonathan Paz, founder of Fuerza, made clear the campaign’s demands on his [Instagram](#) shortly after the rally concluded. Echoing LUCE’s [online literature](#), he wrote “Here are the demands:

- Pass legislation to ban ICE courthouses arrests
- Mandate virtual access to all MA Courts
- Stop courthouse and law enforcement cooperation with ICE
- Ensure transparency, reporting & accountability
- Support community-led observer programs”

The petition states it will “target” Chief Justices Kimberly Budd and Heidi Brieger, Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka and Massachusetts House Speaker Ron Mariano. LUCE’s website goes on, “Our state government has a responsibility to do everything in its power to stop its courts from being used as staging grounds for targeting and handing over our community members to federal immigration officers.”

The crowd marched and chanted with signs for about 45 minutes before gathering in a parking lot across the street for songs, speeches and victim testimonies read in both Spanish and English. Led by members of the Waltham Singers, the crowd could be heard singing, “Solo el pueblo salva el pueblo,” meaning “Only the people save the people.”

Gloribel Rivas-Soldz, one of the organizers of the event, said in her speech, “We know that ICE and the Trump administration want all of us to be afraid of each other. They want to decide who is and is not worthy of basic human rights ... That’s why you being here is so important, because you are proving that we will not be stopped.”

The victim testimonies were submitted anonymously and read by Fuerza members. They featured a grandmother who was afraid to go to the grocery store and commute to work on the bus, as well as a woman whose husband had been apprehended by ICE and the subsequent anxiety she dealt with.

Fuerza has been involved with the campaign over the last several months, accompanying members of the immigrant community to the court when they attend hearings for crimes or violations. Paz, along with Fuerza member Phil Katz, said that court staff treated them unfairly by taking away their phones when they entered the courthouse.

Despite the presence of Fuerza, Paz said he witnessed ICE agents apprehend people outside the courthouse. “We’ve seen people taken by ICE before, during and after their day in court.”

Paz also spoke about the campaign’s demand for the 287(g) agreement between ICE and the Massachusetts Department of Correction to be dissolved. This agreement model is held between ICE and more than 1,000 county, municipal and state law enforcement agencies across the nation. It allows ICE to deputize these local law officers to act in ICE’s stead and gives them the ability to perform the actions of an immigration officer.

“We are the only blue state with a super blue majority that still has one of those [agreements],” Paz said in his speech during the rally. According to [ICE’s website](#), four states which voted blue in the 2024 presidential election have 287(g) agreements: New York, Maryland, Virginia and Massachusetts. They are most popular in Texas, Alabama and Georgia.

The Waltham Educators Association was also in attendance, and the crowd heard a brief speech from Max Page, president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. “It is the central value we have as educators that every student gets an education in our public schools. They don’t have to pay, they don’t need a passport ... if they live here, they deserve to be educated,” Page said.

The petition is currently open for signatures. Organizers said they plan to continue courthouse accompaniments and advocacy efforts as the ICE Out of Massachusetts Courts campaign pushes for a legislative response.

## **Stanley and Lawn back \$1.8B fair share budget for transit, schools**

Waltham News Team

March 23, 2026

State Reps. Thomas M. Stanley and John Lawn are backing a [\\$1.8 billion Fair Share supplemental budget](#) that would pour hundreds of millions of dollars into public transportation and education while delaying the impact of federal corporate tax changes on Massachusetts. The House approved the bill 150-3 on March 18, sending it to the Senate. The measure was written and advanced by House leadership and the Ways and Means Committee; Stanley and Lawn supported it as members of the Democratic majority.

Stanley said using one-time Fair Share surtax revenue is essential to keep classrooms, transit systems and local organizations stable “during this time of unprecedented economic uncertainty.” Fair Share refers to the Fair Share Amendment, a constitutional amendment passed in 2022 that imposes a 4% surtax on annual income exceeding \$1 million.

The \$1.8 billion spending bill also establishes a schedule for the state to conform with the federal corporate tax changes passed by Congress in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act last year. When fully implemented, these changes will represent a \$400 million revenue loss for Massachusetts.

Under the state bill, the research and experimental expense deduction will be delayed one year, the deductions for the Modification of Business Interest, Depreciable Asset Expensing, and Qualified Production Properties will be delayed two years, and the Modification of Qualified Opportunity Zone Investments program will also be delayed two years. However, should the ballot question to lower the state income tax from 5% to 4% pass in November, which would result in a \$5 billion revenue loss when fully implemented, Massachusetts would permanently decouple from these tax credits, preventing them from going into effect.

The \$1.8 billion bill is funded in part by \$1.3 billion from excess Fair Share surtax funds to invest in public transportation and education.

Highlights are as follows:

\$885 million toward transportation, including

- \$740 million toward the MBTA, with
  - \$525 million going to the Deficiency Reserve
  - \$125 million to the Workforce & Safety Reserve
  - \$60 million to physical infrastructure with a focus on the core subway system
  - \$20 million to low-income reduced fares
  - \$10 million to water transportation infrastructure
- \$50 million for snow and ice costs
- \$25 million for Regional Transit Authorities workforce development
- \$30 million to fund the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Credit
- \$30 million for MassDOT Service Investments

\$417 million toward education, including

- \$150 million toward Special Education Circuit Breaker costs
- \$150 million to fund Early Education Child Care costs
- \$38.7 million for the EEC income eligibility waitlist, including \$8 million for child care for providers and

\$7.5 million for the loan forgiveness program for providers

- \$20 million for Green SchoolWorks program to help schools with clean energy upgrades
- \$18.3 million for Financial Aid Supplements
- \$20 million endowment match for UMass and other state colleges and universities
- \$5.1 million for Tomorrow's Teachers Loan Forgiveness program
- \$5 million for ESOL Services Waitlist

The bill also allocates \$507 million from the General Fund, including

- \$300 million for the Group Insurance Commission
  - \$54.4 million for sheriffs, representing half of the deficiency
  - \$41.6 million for DTA caseworkers
  - \$10 million for FIFA Boston for World Cup–related expenses
- The bill also includes the following outside sections:
- Food Donation Tax Credit: Establishes a food donation tax credit for farm businesses based on the amount of food donated to a nonprofit food distribution organization. The credit is capped at \$5,000 annually per individual.
  - Sustainable Aviation Fuel Credit: Allows taxpayers to take a credit against the tax imposed on fuels used for aircraft propulsion and, subject to limitation, requires the amount of credit per gallon of sustainable fuel to increase by \$0.015 for each additional 1% reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions above 50%. The credit is capped at \$10 million total for all cumulative tax credits over a fiscal year.
  - Ratifies eight collective bargaining agreements.
  -

# 5K fundraiser fuels future for local kids

Steve Milmore

March 23, 2026

Enthusiasts of all ages will lace up their running shoes in a couple of months to support a cause that has long shaped local youth.

The upcoming Flight 5K, a fundraiser organized to benefit the Waltham Boys & Girls Club, is set for Saturday, May 9, at 10:15 a.m. The race starts at The Mighty Squirrel, 411 Waverley Oaks Road.

Runners can enjoy pre- and post-race festivities at Mighty Squirrel's outdoor beer garden, with food trucks on the premises and a great all-around atmosphere.

For decades the [WBGC](#) has provided a safe haven for Waltham's youth, offering after-school programs, leadership opportunities and a place to grow. All proceeds from Flight 5K will go toward sustaining these activities, helping ensure that every child finds support and inspiration.

Whether you roll it, walk it or race it, the race organizers are happy to have as many people as possible representing the community.

The Flight 5K is presented by [Flight Performance and Fitness](#), a specialized strength and conditioning facility in Waltham that focuses on personalized training for both athletes and adults.

Sign up [here](#) to save your spot for the Flight 5K.

At checkout, runners can also sponsor a child from WBGC to run by writing SPONSOR RUNNER as the first and last name of the participant. The donation pays for someone who may not otherwise be able to participate as an official entrant.

FLIGHTPERFORMANCEANDFITNESS@GMAIL.COM

\$50 COST

FLIGHT  
5K RUN/WALK

TO BENEFIT WALTHAM BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

RACE HQ: MIGHTY SQUIRREL  
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# Waltham resident scores big in Drake Maye pizza promo

Steve Milmore

March 20, 2026

A former Hawk's love for pizza turned into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet star quarterback Drake Maye.

Luke France of Waltham was named the grand prize winner of Papa Gino's "Share a Slice with Drake Maye Sweepstakes." He was selected among thousands of entries across Papa Gino's social media channels and won the opportunity to meet the Pats quarterback.

In the online sweepstakes, the New England-based pizzeria asked, "What would you tell the Patriots star over a slice of pizza?"



*Patriots' Drake Maye with Waltham grand prize winner Luke France on set. Photo courtesy of Papa Gino's.*

France had the winning answer, writing, "I would thank Drake Maye for changing my life and then make sure he doesn't eat too much because I don't want him to get a belly ache but I would also let him eat as much as he wants because he deserves it."

The tongue-in-cheek reply won him the opportunity to be in a commercial with Maye, and the two had some Papa Gino's pizza together last week.

Born and raised in Waltham, France describes himself as a lifelong fan of the New England Patriots. He played football at Waltham High School, where he was a lineman for the Hawks, and he served as an assistant coach for the team after graduation. In college he played tight end on the Salve Regina University football team in Newport, RI.

He was shocked to learn that he had been selected as the sweepstakes winner. "I couldn't believe it. My family was very happy for me because they know I'm a big Patriots fan," he said.

France was invited to attend filming of a new Papa Gino's commercial featuring Maye, and had a chance to meet and talk to the NFL star before the shoot last week.

"He was a very nice guy. I asked him a couple of questions and he answered everything honestly, not like media answers. I felt like I was talking to one of my friends by the end of it," France said.

Also a long-time Papa Gino's fan, France recalls going for a skate at the Waltham rink on Friday nights and hitting the restaurant on Lexington Street after the game with his middle school friends. "We'd order party platter after party platter, each of my friends taking turns buying. Those are some of the best memories, all my friends at Papa Gino's."

The commercial is the first in a series of ads being filmed for a new Papa Gino's marketing blitz called "Dough Delivery with Drake Maye," and France makes a special guest appearance. Fans can expect to see it this summer when the campaign rolls out across New England a spokesman said.

# BrightBridge Foundation awards first Officer Paul Tracey Memorial Scholarships

Waltham News Team

March 20, 2026



*From left: BrightBridge Vice President of Business Development Sarita Ledani, Community Relations Officer Mike Davis, Samuel Rizza, Kristen Tracey, Braeden Cunningham, Waltham Branch Manager Stepan Chiloyan and Joan Kuhn, BrightBridge Board of Directors member and Chair of the BrightBridge Foundation. Courtesy of BrightBridge Foundation.*

Two Waltham High School graduates were recognized last week as the first recipients of the Officer Paul Tracey Memorial Scholarship, an award created by the BrightBridge Foundation to honor the late Waltham police officer and support students pursuing careers in public service.

The inaugural scholarships went to Samuel Rizza and Braeden Cunningham, both members of the Waltham High School Class of 2025. Each received \$1,600, a figure chosen to reflect Tracey’s badge number, 16. The awards were presented March 13 during a ceremony hosted by the foundation.

Rizza, now attending Massachusetts Maritime Academy, plans to follow his family’s footsteps as a third-generation firefighter. Cunningham is studying criminal justice at Merrimack College with the goal of becoming a police officer.

“It’s comforting to have something good come from something so difficult,” said Kristin Tracey, Paul Tracey’s widow. “We are incredibly grateful to BrightBridge for establishing and funding this scholarship. It means so much to our family to know that Paul’s memory will continue to live on by helping young people pursue careers dedicated to serving others.”

Paul Tracey was killed in the line of duty in 2023. The scholarship, announced in 2025 by BrightBridge Credit Union and its affiliated BrightBridge Foundation, honors his dedication and service to the Waltham community.

“Paul was both a celebrated member of the Waltham community and a friend to many BrightBridge team members,” said Joan Kuhn, chair of the BrightBridge Foundation. “We are honored to support students like Samuel and Braeden who share that same commitment to making a difference.”

Founded in 2011, the BrightBridge Foundation focuses on financial literacy, community engagement and charitable giving. More information about its programs is available [on its website](#).

# City Council in brief: Zoning updates, council budget and more

Artie Kronenfeld

March 19, 2026

Plans for citywide zoning reform are progressing behind the scenes, said Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris, chair of the City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee, at its Monday meeting.

Harris told committee members that contractor [CommunityScale LLC](#), which the city hired to review and update the city's zoning code, was not yet ready to present its results in a public forum, but had requested that committee members attend private zoning meetings to help finalize rezoning plans. The committee voted to deputize Harris and Ward 9 Councilor Robert Logan to work with CommunityScale.

The committee also heard updates about proposed zoning changes in west Waltham that would allow a mixture of residential and commercial development on three large tracts of land.

BXP Inc., the owner of the largest of the three properties, known as Bay Colony, held a neighborhood meeting on Mar. 3 to give neighbors a chance [to deliver input on the proposed changes](#). As a result of this meeting, BXP's team underscored a commitment to comply with conservation restrictions, take precautions to protect the Cambridge Reservoir and nearby wildlife populations and avoid blasting work that could disturb neighbors during construction.

The developer also said it would be relabeling some of its maps based on neighbors' commentary, and requested that the three districts be renamed: from Mixed-Use Residential and Mixed Innovation and Residential Redevelopment Overlay District (MIRRODs) to Residential-Industrial-Commercial Limited Overlay Districts (RCIs).

One neighbor who attended the meeting, Joe Lester, wrote in an email to The Waltham Times that he was not completely satisfied with the results of the meeting. He requested that BXP increase its setbacks and codify a promise not to access nearby Old Conan Road. "Further changes to their [RCI] proposal are warranted," he wrote.

Meanwhile, the owner of another of the three districts, [1265 Main Street LLC](#), presented results from a fiscal impact study it had commissioned for the property. Consultant RKG Associates estimated that the development's direct impacts would be a net financial positive for the city, predicting the development would bring in around \$2.1 million in revenue while costing around \$1.9 million in new services from the city.

The committee requested that Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy appear at its next meeting on April 6 to discuss the three proposed districts' agreements with the city.



## Legislative budget

The City Council also unanimously approved a preliminary legislative budget for this year at its Monday Committee of the Whole meeting.

The legislative budget, which pays for the running costs of the City Council, totals \$491,574. The majority of its budget — around 78% — is allocated to paying councilors' salaries.

The council also discussed a number of new line items to add into its budget for the year. It approved a request from Logan to add funding for a new non-emergency feedback app for residents to use to report problems to the city.

Logan proposed the creation of the app [last March](#) as a way for residents to report issues directly to municipal departments.

The city's IT department had identified [CivicPlus](#) as a good option to run such an app. CivicPlus offered a price of \$3,750 for its first year and \$7,000 for every year after. Logan clarified that although the request was through the legislative budget, that would not necessarily be a line item on the legislative budget; it was just coming in as a city council request.

Logan also requested \$29,372 to purchase 15 Microsoft Surface Pro tablets for councilors to use as business computers. He said the council had purchased these computers before for security reasons, but the current ones are old, inefficient and nearing the end of their lifespans. Councilor-at-Large Paul J. Brasco spoke against reading such funding to the budget, arguing that councilors should purchase work computers with their stipends if they felt them necessary.

The council voted 9-5 to approve the request. Brasco, Ward 7 Councilor Paul S. Katz, Ward 5 Councilor Joey LaCava, Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci and Councilor-at-Large Carlos Vidal voted against the motion.

The City Council will give a final approval to the budget at its meeting next week. Councilors also discussed the possibility of adding further budget items at the meeting for modernized viewscreens in the council chambers to improve accessibility, and for improved document storage.

## Additionally, the City Council's committees:

- Voted [not to entertain](#) proposals to turn over the running and maintenance of Stonehurst to a private company. (Committee of the Whole)
- Heard an update from IT Director Donald Aucoin on the city's progress toward ADA compliance for its website. (Committee of the Whole)
- Agreed to invite representatives from the Engineering, Public Works, Health and Building Departments to attend upcoming meetings and be prepared to discuss paths forward to address rodent infestations. Councilor Paul Katz had drawn up specific areas of action for each department to consider as part of his resolution to address the rat problem, which he [first introduced](#) in December. (Economic and Community Development)
- Discussed the possibility of [hiring a Business Manager](#) for the city. The Committee agreed to invite City Assessor & Chairman Francis Craig to an upcoming meeting to discuss the economic impact of commercial vacancy in Waltham. (Economic and Community Development)
- Accepted \$36,063.04 for the Council on Aging, from the penultimate installment of a state grant. (Finance)
- Accepted a donation from the Robert Treat Paine Historical Trust to restore the estate's grand piano, estimated to cost \$35,000–\$40,000. (Finance)
- Accepted donations of a historic telephone directory and Embassy Theatre tickets for the Waltham museum room. (Finance)
- Allocated \$12,188 for a reimbursement for heating system improvements at Government Center. (Finance)
- Allocated \$217,157 for safety improvements and maintenance at the Veterans Athletic Complex softball fields. (Finance)

- Allocated an additional \$174,581 to the School Department’s funding for out-of-district special education programs. WPS Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Chad Mazza told councilors that this increase was partially due to rising special education costs, and partially to incomplete information reported to his office, meaning the district’s original budget did not reflect costs for 19 students. (Finance)
- Approved renewals for 12 private lodging house licenses and 10 lodging house licenses for dormitories at Bentley University. The committee tabled a discussion of a license at 77 Prospect St. which it had inspected last year and found “the worst of the bunch”; it plans to schedule a walkthrough of this lodging house at its next meeting, with another that the committee did not get a chance to inspect last year. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Renewed a [used car license for JJJ Auto Retailers](#) after informing the owner of the city’s ordinance requiring businesses to clear snow in front of their buildings, with the condition that he comply with the ordinance in the future. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Tabled a discussion of outdoor summer dining before hearing back from the Traffic Commission. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Heard updates to plans for [a proposed hotel at 220 Moody St.](#) (Ordinances and Rules)
- Voted to make a report on surveillance technology in towns neighboring Waltham from the Law Department open to the public. (Ordinances and Rules)

## Should people in the bodywork industry be required to speak English? Board of Health debates

Cyd Abnet

March 19, 2026

During their meeting on Wednesday, the Board of Health discussed whether bodywork establishments in Waltham should be required to have an English speaker on the premises at all times. This is part of an [ongoing discussion](#) about bodywork license regulations in the city. Bodywork is defined by the city as tissue manipulation that does not legally constitute massage. Waltham’s [bodywork regulations](#) have not been updated since 2016.

Director of public health Michelle Feeley shared that the proposed regulations were currently being reviewed by the Law Department and were to be based on Watertown’s newly updated rules. She noted that Watertown’s regulations did not list speaking English effectively as a requirement to receive a license to practice bodywork.

Board member Bernard Mullin shared that he thought this requirement was needed, as it is important for effective communication in health emergencies. Board chairman Dr. Henry Merola asked if there was any way that the city could provide translation services or access to courses to learn English. Feeley said she would ask, but didn’t think so.

Feeley noted that the Law Department should phrase the regulation in a way that was not “offensive.” After some debate, the group decided that both owners and staffers would need to be able to speak English sufficiently. The board made a motion to table the discussion until their next meeting on April 22.



# Waltham Runner Takes on Boston Marathon to Raise Funds for Youth

Steve Milmore

March 19, 2026

Waltham resident Aaron Gladden is running the 130th Boston Marathon on April 20 to raise money and awareness for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts, the state's leading one-to-one mentoring program for youth.

BBBSEM partners with families to match children (Littles) with screened adult mentors (Bigs) who listen and support them. They help with homework and study habits, setting goals, making safe decisions and building self-confidence. Since 1949, the nonprofit has supported more than 25,000 young people.

Gladden has been matched with his Little Brother, Teyvon, for more than 10 years and watched him grow from a nine-year-old elementary school child into a young man and high school graduate.

Running the Boston Marathon has long been a personal goal, and this year he's proud to take on the 26.2-mile race while supporting a cause that has shaped his life and community. "The match has brought so much positivity to my life and has taught me many things about myself and the world along the way. As an only child that could have used a big brother growing up, I am fully committed to this organization and everything it stands for," he said.

His goal is to raise \$10,000 to support the organization's year-round community, site-based and campus-based programs.



# Renowned journalists to tackle billionaire ownership media model at Brandeis forum

Waltham News Team

March 19, 2026

As billionaire owners reshape the American news industry, some of the nation's foremost journalists will gather at Brandeis University to debate who really controls the news, and what that means for democracy. The public forum, titled "Who Owns the News?", will take place at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in Rapaport Treasure Hall at Brandeis University.

The discussion comes in the wake of Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos's recent decision to dramatically reduce the paper's newsroom staff, a move that reignited national debate about billionaire ownership and the future of independent reporting.

Panelists include Marty Baron, who led both The Washington Post and The Boston Globe to Pulitzer Prizes; Kevin Merida, former executive editor of The Los Angeles Times, former managing editor at the Post, and founding editor of ESPN's The Undeclared; Janice Page, former arts editor of the Post and former deputy managing editor for arts and newsroom innovation at the Globe; and Kainaz Amaria, former senior visuals editor for the Post's investigative unit and veteran of Vox and NPR. Brandeis journalism professors Neil Swidey and Ann Silvio will co-moderate the conversation, which will explore whether today's ownership structures can sustain the watchdog role of journalism in holding power to account.

# City gets first look at proposed Moody Street hotel

Artie Kronenfeld

March 18, 2026

Hotel owner Michael Colomba presented the City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee with a first look at the hotel he [plans to build](#) at 220 Moody St. His team presented renderings of how the hotel would look to passers-by.



*Project architect Michael Wolfson presents the plan for a new hotel on Moody Street to City Council on March 16, 2026. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.*

The committee had requested a parking plan after councilors voiced concerns about adequate parking around the site. Colomba's team presented a plan at Monday's committee meeting, which reiterated previously discussed options for running parking shuttles and purchasing seven to 15 annual parking passes from the city to address the issue.

The committee had also requested the team present any plans it had to beautify the nearby Embassy Park. Colomba said he was "more than happy" to work with the council to design improvements to the park, such as creating an outdoor space that could be used for seating or performances. He added, however, that he "need[ed] to have some sort of cooperation" to deliver on all the committee's requests and make sure the project was feasible.

Colomba said he plans to pair the new hotel with a dinner cruise on the Charles River, which he's in the process of developing.

The committee will revisit the hotel project at its next meeting on April 6. It has requested Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy attend the meeting to discuss air rights for the proposed building's cantilevered second floor and other plans for the Riverwalk and Embassy Park.

In response to a memo from the Law Department, the committee also requested a number of updates from Colomba's team including fixed inconsistencies in its draft decisions, a revised traffic plan with updated data, details on the presence of amenities such as fitness facilities and bike storage, a snow removal plan, a swept path analysis and building access details for the Fire Department as well as additional legal documents.

# Gordon's Liquors owner questioned over unused free liquor license

Cyd Abnet

March 18, 2026

The Waltham License Commission called David Gordon, current co-owner of Gordon's Liquors, to appear in front of the board during its February meeting. Gordon had received a free liquor license in 2023 as part of a release of four free liquor licenses by the state based on Waltham's increased population. Hundreds of businesses applied, but only four applicants received the licenses.



Gordon applied for a free license with an idea for a restaurant named after his late grandfather, Ira "Sonny" Gordon, who started the Gordon's Liquors

business. The restaurant, called Sonny's Restaurant, was planned for 888 Main St., a location owned by Gordon's father. The free license was released to Gordon in May 2025. However, no official permits or plans have been filed for the restaurant.

"We gave you consideration to build Sonny's place because of your family and your status in the community. You've been good to the community and the community appreciates that," said Commission Chair Wayne F. Brasco during the meeting. "We can't in good faith give you a license for nothing that other people have been paying for years."

Gordon explained that the lack of action on the restaurant project was due to a slow down in retail business, but the family was ready to recommit to the project. He asked for three to six months to submit permits and move the project forward.

Commissioner Kevin Ritcey asked about the "for lease" sign on the restaurant building, which Gordon said his father put up to gauge interest in the building. Ritcey said his concern was that Gordon would sell the restaurant with the liquor license attached to make a profit. Gordon said that this was not his intention.

Brasco and Ritcey decided to allow Gordon to still hold the liquor license provided that all required permits are in by June 1 and that the liquor license cannot be sold for profit for 24 months after the restaurant opens.

# Stonehurst privatization plan dies amid confusion on council floor

Artie Kronenfeld

March 18, 2026

The Robert Treat Paine Estate will remain under city control, after the City Council this week rejected a request from a private company to take over the property's operations.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy last week informed the council about the private company's proposal to take over operating Stonehurst. She recommended that councilors consider opening a formal bidding process to give interested companies an opportunity to make proposals for managing the estate. She asked if the council had "any objection to going out to bid."

At Monday's Committee of the Whole meeting, McCarthy said she could not answer many councilors' questions or share details about the proposal submitted to the city until the council voted on her request, in order to avoid sharing information that could compromise the legitimacy of a potential bid process. In fact, McCarthy initially recommended councilors outright reject the proposal so she could provide details about it before deciding on whether to open a bidding process.

The Paine Estate, also known as Stonehurst, was the private summer home of Robert Treat Paine Jr., Lydia Lyman Paine and their descendants. The house and its grounds were designed by renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, respectively. The building, a National Historic Landmark that the City of Waltham has operated since 1986, is available to rent for events.

Speaking before the City Council's Committee of the Whole on Monday, city Planning Director Robert Waters said the estate costs the city \$267,000 per year to run and makes \$50,000. Multiple councilors expressed confusion about what their vote would accomplish. "There's no appetite to vote on something that we don't have all the information in front of us [for]," said Ward 4 Councilor John McLaughlin. "I just think people at home watching this are very confused."

After some procedural confusion about how to move forward, during which McCarthy briefly endorsed filing the motion away without further discussion, the council voted near-unanimously to reject the bid so it could hear McCarthy's report. Councilor-at-Large Paul J. Brasco voted "present." McCarthy at this point clarified that a private catering and hospitality company had contacted the city seeking to take over sales and marketing for Stonehurst. The company planned to open it up for more events Friday through Sunday with priority for city events, bring in additional staffing, retain current staff and contribute to maintenance costs.

With those details in hand, the council discussed whether to open a public request for proposals to gauge private interest in running the estate and get specific proposals. McCarthy noted that even if the city put out the RFP, it wouldn't have to accept any contractors' bids.

The idea received some tentative support from councilors concerned with the Paine Estate's finances, but other councilors said they were wary of handing over the reins of the estate to an entity primarily motivated by money.

"I've never been a big fan of privatization," said Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan. "At the end of the day, we retain that building for reasons that have nothing to do with making money."

Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci made a motion to ask McCarthy to kick off a formal bid process, but Logan superseded that vote with a motion to permanently file away the request. After multiple questions from councilors clarifying the meaning of the two proposals, Logan's motion to file passed with 12 votes. LaFauci and Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris voted against it.

# All ages, all paces – Join the Community Day Center 5K!

Steve Milmore

March 18, 2026

MetroWest Road Race is back at Prospect Hill Park !

All ages and abilities are welcome, and every dollar supports Waltham’s unhoused neighbors. “This race is for everybody. You can walk it, you can run it, and the course stays within the park. It’s a great scenic trail and a fun time,” said executive director Chloe-Rose Crouch.



This race is the culmination of a larger CDCW fundraising campaign also coming in May called “[Mission MetroWest a Mile a Day in May](#),” which is a digital exercise challenge. People commit to walking a mile a day during the month to raise funds for the center.

All proceeds raised from both fundraisers will be used to repair the building where CDCW holds its overnight program for guests, which is in very tough shape. The night program sleeps 20 people from 7 p.m to 7 a.m. through the harshest months of the winter. Within the next few years, the current condition of the building is going to put the program at risk, according to the CDCW.

“It’s a really important building for us. It’s the closest thing our guests have to a home. So every penny we raise from the race will go to repairs,” Crouch said.

# Spring clean-up along the Charles River

Emily Szczypek

March 19, 2026

A half-dozen students from InterVarsity Global Engagement & Justice showed up yesterday to help clean up litter on the banks of the Charles River.

I was there alongside them in my role as a land steward for the Waltham Land Trust. Petek Altug (at left in the photo below), New England regional coordinator for the organization, brought together this wonderful group of helpers.



# Local students show their smarts on GBH quiz show

Steve Milmore

March 18, 2026

Waltham High School's impressive Quiz Bowl team will take center stage competing against Natick on GBH's High School Quiz Show this Saturday, March 21 at 6 p.m.

The award-winning [quiz show](#) is a single-elimination academic team competition for high school students in Massachusetts, produced and broadcast by GBH.

The Waltham team's open round game against Natick High School was taped last month at GBH studios in Brighton, and will be aired this Saturday. It's also available on YouTube on March 19 at 6 p.m.



Waltham's team was one of 17 picked from more than 70 contenders. The top four WHS team members competed on the show, and two team members were on standby as alternates. The team is coached by Mike Russo, WHS math teacher, and Reba Tierney, WHS librarian Reba Tierney.

The Hawks prepped for the show for weeks by watching old seasons of High School Quiz Show, taking practice rounds and using an online quiz app.

There was a loud and proud and loud crowd cheering the team at the GBH taping including families, teammates, teachers and school committee members. This is only the second time Waltham has earned a spot during the show's 17-year run.

"The kids were incredible, and we're very proud of them. Knowledge is one thing, but performing before a camera, under the lights, using the buzzer – it's an experience they won't forget," Tierney said.

The WHS team members who competed on the show also qualified for the National Academic Quiz Tournament and will compete in the 2026 High School National Championship in Atlanta in May.

## Busy season and other activities

It's been a great season all around for the Waltham quiz teams. At a Belmont competition last month, the B team won the novice division and the A team placed second in the standard division, making it nearly a Waltham sweep.

It's been a busy season as well. Many of the students in WHS Quiz Bowl are also involved in multiple clubs and sports including Shakespeare Club, History Club, Cube Club, robotics, soccer, cross country, track, volleyball and softball.

The parents of some of the team members were also active in Quiz Bowl and often join them for local Trivial Pursuit competitions.

The WHS Quiz Bowl team members include Willow, William, Saisabari, Suzara, Josie, Kevin, Reid, Aayan, Jesus, Miguel, Ewan and Casper.

We can't reveal the ending before the show airs, but their accomplishments are certainly getting noticed. The WHS Quiz Bowl team was honored at a recent School Committee meeting, where they received a standing ovation.

# Governor and Attorney General launch portal for reporting ICE misconduct in Massachusetts

Waltham News Team

March 18, 2026

*ICE agents shown on an NBC 10 Boston news broadcast.*

Gov. Maura Healey and Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell announced a new online portal that allows Massachusetts residents to report alleged misconduct by federal immigration enforcement agents operating in the state.

The portal, available at [mass.gov/fedmisconduct](https://mass.gov/fedmisconduct), provides a centralized place for individuals, attorneys and community members to submit reports involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S.

Customs and Border Protection and other federal agencies that enforce civil immigration laws. Users can upload information, photos, or videos documenting possible unlawful activity by federal agents.

“This new reporting portal will help us gather information, support residents and ensure federal agents operating in our state are following the law,” Healey said in a statement. “The people of Massachusetts deserve to know that their rights will be respected, their safety protected and their concerns about misconduct taken seriously.”

Campbell said her office has seen “aggressive and reckless tactics” from ICE that have spread “fear and chaos” in communities. “As my office works to ensure residents are protected and have access to the legal assistance they need, I encourage everyone to use this new reporting portal if they see concerning ICE activity in their communities,” she said.

The launch coincides with updated [“Know Your Rights” guidance](#) from the Attorney General’s Office to help immigrants and their families understand legal protections around immigration enforcement. The new materials include information about accountability for federal immigration officials, the role of CBP in recent enforcement actions and protections for protestors.

“At Catholic Charities Boston, every day we see clients across our programs living in a state of fear and anxiety,” said Marjean Perhot, vice president of Refugee and Immigrant Services at Catholic Charities Boston, which serves the Waltham community. “We are committed to protecting their rights to access vital services, including nutritious

food for the most vulnerable children, elderly, and families. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners to keep families together and safe.”

Healey’s announcement follows a series of state actions aimed at increasing transparency and oversight of ICE practices in Massachusetts. Last week, she urged Signature Aviation to stop supporting deportation flights from Hanscom Field and called on the Department of Homeland Security for more detailed information about arrests and detentions in the state. She has also filed legislation to block ICE operations in sensitive locations such as courthouses, schools, child care programs, hospitals and places of worship.

The state’s new portal will help identify patterns of potential misconduct and inform possible legal or policy actions by the state, officials said.



# Craft beer and community bonds thrive at Mighty Squirrel

Hedy Yang

March 18, 2026

*Naveen Pawar and Henry Manice, founders of Mighty Squirrel.*

Few people can say they've moved across the country to brew beer. But Naveen Pawar and Henry Manice, co-founders of Mighty Squirrel, packed their bags to make the move from San Diego to Waltham in pursuit of their passion for craft brewing.

Located on Waverly Oaks Road in Waltham, Mighty Squirrel opened in December 2018 and is Waltham's only production brewery and taproom. It has since expanded to two additional locations — one in Fenway, which opened in March 2024, and another in Watertown that opened last June.

But Mighty Squirrel finds its roots in a much more humble setting: It began simply as a passion project between Pawar and Manice, who met while working in the medical device industry in San Diego.

Pawar grew up in India and came to the United States to obtain his master's degree in industrial engineering at the University of Arkansas. Manice grew up in the greater Boston area and attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

The two men crossed paths while working at California-based Alphatec Spine and quickly became close friends. As their friendship deepened, Pawar and Manice realized they wanted to pursue a project together.

“We both knew that we had the entrepreneurial spirit. And that spirit got accelerated when we met each other,” Pawar recalled. “We were like, ‘What can we explore? What could be exciting and interesting and challenging together?’”

## How to brew a business

After floating other business ideas like starting a clothing company, the pair began experimenting in their kitchens with a simple home brewing kit. They were inspired by the craft brew scene in San Diego; Pawar described playing tennis every Tuesday with Manice and a couple of other friends, then visiting a brewery afterward.

Eventually, their home brews were successful enough that they moved forward with establishing their craft brew business.

They brewed on a contract basis with von Trapp Brewing in Stow, Vermont, Peabody Heights Brewery in Baltimore, Maryland, and Ipswich Ale Brewery in Ipswich, Massachusetts, selling beers to local restaurants and other retailers.

The time eventually came, however, for Mighty Squirrel to open its own physical space. The biggest question was where. After considering various locations across the country, the pair moved to Massachusetts — where Manice's family lives.



Pawar and Manice toured more than 36 different locations before, as Pawar put it, it was “love at first sight” with the current Waltham location at Waverly Oaks Park.

Pawar said the fact there were homes across the street was a major draw. “[A] brewery is a spot for the community to get together,” he said. “So yes, [what] was the most attractive of all [was] the fact that people are living right there and there is a community here.”

### **Importance of community**

This theme of community drives how the pair operate Mighty Squirrel, from the layout of the space, to the community groups that it hosts, to the names of the beers themselves.

“We love to get involved with the community in as many ways as possible,” said Manice. “It’s a privilege to have a business that gives us a platform to do so.”

The Waltham location features long wooden tables, small high tops and bar seats where groups can gather to chat, work or play one of the many board games on the brewery’s shelves. One wall is made of glass, allowing patrons to watch rock climbers inside the neighboring Central Rock Gym.

“That’s my TV,” Pawar said of the view.

Mighty Squirrel has become a favorite for local runners, climbers and other athletes. Numerous running groups host events or weekly runs at the three locations, and Mighty Squirrel is hoping to establish its own running club in the future. Pawar himself is a serious runner, having run the Boston Marathon multiple times.

Other groups also use the brewery’s expansive space for events and gatherings.

Nichole Chapais, a long-time Waltham resident and owner of marketing agency Stargazer Creative, hosts co-working events and meetings for her Greater Boston Women’s Business League at Mighty Squirrel. She said that the biggest draw of hosting events at Mighty Squirrel is its flexibility, as it offers diverse food and drink options, extended hours and plentiful parking.

Many beers are named to honor the community and people that made it possible.

“Dear George” was named for George Warren, Mighty Squirrel’s current vice president of operations and the first to join Manice and Pawar in their venture.

“He has been a big part of Mighty Squirrel’s success, and being able to share so many challenges and exciting times with George is one of the most meaningful parts of working on this business,” Manice said.

Pawar said the beer Mango Lassi is a nod to the “drink of India” and way to “stay in touch with his roots” — roots connected to a community that, when he made the pivot away from his medical tech job, didn’t always approve of what he was doing.

“When I was quitting my job in orthopedics, my family was like, ‘You’re gonna do what? You’re going to be opening your own alcohol factory?’” Pawar said.

On a bright and chilly Friday morning, the brewery was already bustling with assembly lines churning out cans of Cloud Candy and employees packing beer.

Pawar and Navice see continued growth in Mighty Squirrel’s future. The Waltham location, which was previously serviced by a weekly rotation of food trucks, opened a full-service food operation on Feb. 17, offering a variety of options that mirror offerings at the Arsenal Yards and Fenway locations.

“We are focused on delivering best-in-class hospitality in our taprooms and making delicious beer and food for the communities we serve,” Manice said.

# Waltham-based Arc of Massachusetts names new COO

Waltham News Team

March 18, 2026

The Arc of Massachusetts, a Waltham-based organization that advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, has appointed Audrey Falk as its first chief operating officer.

In her new role, announced Tuesday, Falk will build on The Arc's work from its South Street headquarters to strengthen collaboration among the organization's statewide chapters and community partners.

The Arc supports individuals and families through advocacy, education, and local programming designed to promote inclusion and independence.



“Audrey’s career has long reflected a commitment to building inclusive communities and strengthening organizations that support individuals with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities,” said Maura Sullivan, CEO of The Arc of Massachusetts. “We are excited to welcome her to this role.”

Falk brings more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit and higher education leadership. Earlier in her career, she worked at Lifeworks in Westwood (formerly The Arc of South Norfolk), where she served as the founding director of the Family Autism Center and later managed the family support program, including respite services, intensive family support and advocacy initiatives.

For the past 15 years, she led Merrimack College’s master’s program in nonprofit management and community engagement, mentoring the next generation of nonprofit leaders while forging partnerships with schools and service organizations across Greater Boston.

“The Arc of Massachusetts enhances the lives of people with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities and strengthens families and communities through advocacy, education and resources,” Falk said. “I am eager to provide guidance and direction to elevate, deepen and sustain this transformative work.”

Falk holds a doctorate in education from Boston University, a master’s degree from Harvard University and dual bachelor’s degrees from Boston University. She also co-chairs the Parent and Community Education and Involvement Advisory Council for the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Founded more than 70 years ago, The Arc of Massachusetts has deep roots in Waltham, where its advocacy and outreach efforts connect families with local schools, health services, and disability support providers. More information is available at [thearcofmass.org](http://thearcofmass.org).

# REACH to host annual Reach for the Stars gala April 9

Waltham News Team

March 18, 2026



*REACH Executive Director Amarely Gutiérrez Oliver speaking at last year's gala. Courtesy of REACH.*

REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, the Waltham-based nonprofit that provides support and advocacy for survivors of domestic abuse across the MetroWest region, will hold its annual Reach for the Stars Gala on April 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter in Boston. NBC10 Boston news anchor Jericho Tran will emcee the speaking program.

The celebration will bring together community members, partners and advocates in support of REACH's mission to build safer, healthier relationships through prevention, education and survivor services. Guests can expect catered hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, both live and silent auctions, a fan-favorite "wine pull" mystery grab bag and a photo booth.

"This year's gala is more than a celebration; it's a reflection of who we are and where we're going. At REACH, our updated mission and values — inclusion, unity, solidarity, trust and change — ground everything we do," REACH Executive Director Amarely Gutiérrez Oliver said. "The evening will honor the resilience of survivors, the strength of our community partnerships and our collective commitment to building a future where healthy relationships are the norm and safety is not a privilege, but a right."

Funds raised at the gala will support REACH's free services, including education and prevention programs, support groups, direct advocacy and emergency shelter. Tickets are priced at \$300 and available online at [givebutter.com/stars2026](https://givebutter.com/stars2026).

# Rev. Aurel Dely, 1947–2026, pastor at Siloam Church of God in Watertown

Milestones

March 22, 2026

Aurel Dely's life was centered on his family and his faith. It was his deep faith that ultimately led him home on Thursday, March 12, 2026. He passed away at home, surrounded by his loving family. He was 78.

Aurel Dely was born on March 23, 1947, in Delmas, Haiti, the son of the late Alongene and Cherisma Dely. Raised and educated in Haiti, he married Yanick Jean-Philippe in 1975 before immigrating to the U.S. to build a life and future for his family.

As an immigrant worker, he labored tirelessly to provide for his family both in the U.S. and in Haiti. After settling in Waltham, Massachusetts, he began working at G.T.E. Corporation and later served for many years as a mental health worker at the former Walter E. Fernald School.

Rev. Dely devoted his life to ministry, faithfully serving as a pastor at Siloam Church of God in Watertown, Massachusetts. Known for his dedication, humility and spiritual leadership, he was later elevated to Bishop.

In addition to his beloved wife of 51 years, Yanick, he leaves his children, Billdickson R. Dely (Heather), Natalie Marin (Clayton), Betty Broadnax (Adrian), and Rachel Dely. He was a proud grandfather to Alizah Dely, Apollodickson Dely, Aresdickson Dely, Atlasdickson Dely, Layla Marin, Kaylee Marin, Claymar Marin, Caius Broadnax, and Doss Broadnax.

He is also survived by his siblings, Elmina McCullough and Christiana Rosenberg, as well as many loving nieces and nephews and a large extended family. He was predeceased by his siblings Philogene, Xavier, Alena, Olande, Germaine, Theresa-Dieumela, Etienne and Anise.

Family and friends will gather to honor and celebrate Rev. Dely's life on Saturday, March 28. Viewing will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at New Covenant Church of Cambridge-Waltham, 527 Main Street, Waltham, followed by his funeral service at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Mount Feake Cemetery in Waltham.



# Daniel “Danny” Marqus Jr., 1943–2026, Air Force veteran

Milestones

March 22, 2026



Daniel “Danny” David Marqus Jr., of Haverhill, formerly of Waltham, died on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at the Haverhill Rehabilitation & Health Care Center after a period of declining health. He was 82.

Born and raised in Waltham, Danny was the son of the late Daniel D. Marqus Sr., and the late Doris (Mazochi) Marqus. His love of automobiles allowed him to graduate from Waltham Vocational High School after which Danny went on to honorably serve in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam Conflict.

When his daughter and son-in-law purchased their home in Haverhill, Danny moved to Haverhill with the determination to be an everyday grandfather and not a weekender. Although he lived there for more than 20 years, a big part of his heart remained in his home town of Waltham, where he returned daily to drive his cab and interact with the people he came to know and who depended on him. Even after retiring in 2016, he would visit Waltham regularly to visit with family and friends and cruise Moody Street.

Danny maintained an active lifestyle. He belonged to a bowling league and always enjoyed playing a competitive game of pool. He was no stranger in the kitchen and enjoyed cooking and baking, and all kinds of household projects. A born people person, he so enjoying sitting on the porch watching over the neighborhood and his neighbors, as he used to see his mom do while growing up. From the very beginning he was a fan of the King “Elvis Presley,” and a collector of all things Elvis. Danny was a dedicated and faithful fan of the Red Sox and the Patriots and his absolute favorite holiday was Christmas; he was known for spoiling all of the kids at Christmas-time.

The most important thing in Danny’s life was his commitment to his family, and he was so grateful to witness his granddaughters, Brianna and Alexis, become young ladies.

He was the brother of the late William Marqus, Albert J. “Rocky” Marqus, Thomas S. Marqus.

Danny is survived by his devoted daughter Kristin Rodis and her husband Adam Rodis; his granddaughters, Brianna and Alexis Rodis of Haverhill; his sisters, Lorraine M. Bissett of Ohio and Nancy R. Silva of Waltham; and his brother, Christopher Marqus of Sudbury. He also leaves many nieces and nephews.

He was the brother of the late William Marqus, Albert J. “Rocky” Marqus and Thomas S. Marqus.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours and share memories with Danny’s family at the Mary Catherine Chapel of the Brasco & Sons Memorial, 773 Moody Street, Waltham on Thursday March 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services for Danny will be held at 1 p.m.. Interment with full Military Honors of the U.S. Air Force will follow at Mount Feake Cemetery.

# Donald Frost Jr, 1950–2026, retired Waltham firefighter

Milestones

March 18, 2026

Donald Joseph Frost Jr. “Frosty,” passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

He was 75.

Don was born Aug. 9, 1950, the son of the late Donald J. Frost and Carol S. Frost (Popp). A long time resident of Waltham, Don was known for his gregarious personality and unmistakable gift of gab. He loved telling stories and could strike up a conversation with just about anyone, often leaving people with a new story to pass on. In his younger years, Don enjoyed dancing and was awarded the title Best Dancer of his senior class in 1968. Throughout his life he had a love of food, particularly a good steak – “rare as the chef would allow,” a cold Pepsi and Brigham’s Vanilla ice cream. He also enjoyed lively conversation and the music of Bruce Springsteen. Above all, he loved spending time with his friends and family reminiscing about the glory days.

Don proudly served his community as a member of the Waltham Fire Department for 27 years. In addition to his service at the fire department, he also drove his catering truck, Second Alarm Canteen, where his love of food and people came together. In his retirement years, Don was a driver for Patriot Taxi where he enjoyed doing airport runs, priding himself on the early morning shifts when he was up and everyone else was still in bed.

Don will be remembered for his smile, humor, big appetite, and most importantly his “great hair.” His friends and family will cherish the many stories he shared, and his presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Don is survived by his wife of 54 years, Linda Frost; and his sons, Donald J. Frost III and his wife Cindy Ferry of Little Compton, RI, and Matthew Frost of Waltham, MA. He was lovingly known as Papa to his granddaughters Lindsey, Kayla and Madison Frost, and his three great grandsons Sage, Theodore and Montgomery, who brought him great pride and joy. He is also survived by his siblings, Charles Frost and his fiancé Sandra Anderson; Linda Riley and her husband William; and Lorry Connolly and her husband Paul. In addition to his immediate family, Don leaves many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends celebrated Don’s life at the Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial, 773 Moody Street, Waltham, on Friday March 20, followed by the sharing of memories and concluding with Waltham Fire Department Honors in recognition of Don’s faithful service to the citizens of Waltham.



# Glenn “Benji” Sawyer, 1961–2026, Waltham native who ‘truly loved life and lived it to the fullest’

Milestones

March 17, 2026

Glenn W. “Benji” Sawyer, of Hyde Park and formerly of Waltham, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Lahey Clinic Hospital & Medical Center in Burlington, with his loving family by his side after a period of declining health. He was 64.

Born in Boston on April 3, 1961, he was the beloved son of the late Thomas Sawyer and Lillian C. (Turner) Sawyer. Benji was raised, educated and spent most of his life in Waltham before moving to the Hyde Park section of Boston three years ago.

Benji attended Waltham Public Schools and Waltham Vocational High School, where he learned the skills of his trade that would make him one of the very best at what he did. A talented, hardworking, and highly skilled craftsman, he worked throughout his life as a plasterer with W.B. Cameron Construction in Waltham. His dedication to his trade and pride in his work earned him the respect of coworkers and friends alike.

In his younger years, Benji had a deep love for sports and friendly competition. He was an avid bowler who spent many nights at the Wal-Lex bowling lanes, participating in various leagues. He also enjoyed playing softball and shooting pool. When he wasn’t working or playing sports, you could often find him socializing with friends and coworkers at Shoppers Café, a place where his humor and easygoing nature made him a familiar and welcomed presence.

Benji truly loved life and lived it to the fullest. He cherished being around people, sharing stories, telling jokes and making others laugh. Over the past several years, as he faced many medical challenges, Benji turned deeply to his faith and his strong belief in God, which provided him with strength and comfort. Benji will be remembered for his craftsmanship, his loyalty to those he loved, his deep faith, and the laughter he brought into the lives of so many. His presence, humor, and generous spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving Wife of 23 years, Gerene “GiGi” Petrucii; his devoted son, Glenn J. Sawyer of Waltham; his cherished grandson, Jacoby Sawyer; his stepdaughter Samantha Goodridge; as well as his beloved niece, Chantel Sawyer of Whitinsville, whom he cherished like a daughter. He also leaves his dear siblings, Charles H.

Sawyer of Fall River, Stephen T. Sawyer of Manchester, NH, John M. Sawyer of Nashua, NH, and Gale E. Kingsbury of Whitinsville. Benji was also the cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews, and he is further survived by many great-nieces, great-nephews, extended family members and numerous friends who will miss him dearly.

Family and friends celebrated Benji’s life during visiting hours in the Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial, 773 Moody Street, Waltham on Sunday March 22 followed by a funeral service.



# James Frederick Burke, 1943–2026, retired Waltham firefighter

Milestones

March 17, 2026

James Frederick Burke, also known as “Big Guy,” passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 82.

Jim grew up in Waltham, raised his family in Sudbury, and spent many summers in Marshfield—places that meant a lot to him throughout his life. He worked for many years as a firefighter in Waltham and later owned and ran his own painting business. Earlier in life, he also played minor league baseball in the Cincinnati Reds organization. He was known for his strong work ethic and dedication to supporting his family.

Jim loved fishing, and many of his favorite memories were taking his grandchildren fishing, often followed by a stop at Friendly’s for ice cream. He also enjoyed reading, horse racing and playing cards. He was a loyal Boston sports fan, an old-school Celtics fan who held season tickets back in the days of the Boston Garden, and he always kept an eye on baseball.



To those who knew him best, Jim was an unforgettable personality. He was a charismatic storyteller, a clever guy with a twinkle in his eye, thoughtful and generous, and always ready with a story or a laugh. His presence, humor and love of family will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him.

Jim’s greatest pride and joy was his family, and the memories he made with them will be cherished for generations. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, Jim enjoyed a full life centered on family, storytelling and the things he loved most. Jim shared 63 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Sara, and together they built a large and loving family that was the center of his life. He was a proud father of six children and a deeply devoted grandfather to 19 grandchildren and 3½ great-grandchildren, all of whom brought him tremendous joy.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sara Burke of Sudbury; his children Jim and Marie Burke of Wayland, Cheryle and John Gallagher of Marshfield, David and Anne Burke of Cohasset, Greg and Joanne Burke of Wayland, Kristin and Bud Noel of Brewster, and Jenn and Brendan Glass of Duxbury; and his siblings William Burke of Marlborough, Beverly Wright and Dave Wright of Billerica and John and Judith Burke of Texas.

He was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Irene Burke of Waltham, and his brother, Michael Burke of Waltham.

Family and friends celebrated Jim’s life during visiting hours in the Brasco & Sons Memorial Funeral Home, 773 Moody Street, Waltham on Friday morning, March 20, followed by a mass of Christian burial at Our Lady of Fatima Church – Ascension Parish Sudbury Campus, 160 Concord Road, Sudbury. Burial, with Waltham Fire Department Honors, will followed at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Sudbury.

# Mahesh Bhagadia, 1952–2026, loving husband and father

Milestones

March 18, 2026

Mahesh Bhagadia, a longtime resident of Waltham, passed away peacefully at home on March 9, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 74.

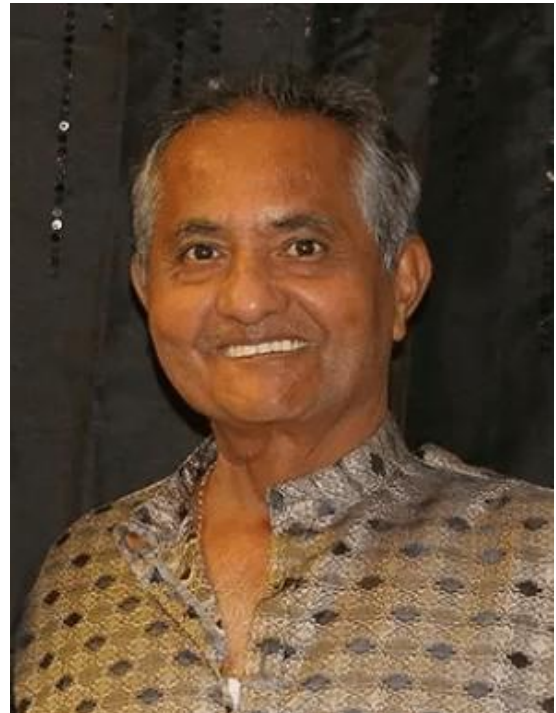
Mahesh was born in India on December 9, 1952. He worked as a mechanic at Sullivan Tire, formerly Tom Lyons in Waltham, for 37 years. He was known as a dependable and hardworking man who took great pride in his work and in helping others. Mahesh enjoyed the simple pleasures in life and was an avid car enthusiast who loved buying and fixing cars.

Mahesh will be remembered for his loyalty, his quiet strength and the many friendships he built throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Mahesh was the beloved husband of Minaxi Bhagadia, with whom he shared 48 years of marriage. He was a devoted father to Bhavin Bhagadia of Virginia and Hemali and Samir Patel of Framingham, and a proud grandfather to Roshni and Aarav Patel.

He is also survived by his siblings, Veena Modi (Waltham), Suresh and Minakshi Bhagadia (Stoneham), Divya Modi (Billerica), Kanta Modh (St. Louis), and Kailash and Dinesh Kapadia (India), along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and colleagues who will miss him dearly.

A traditional Hindu funeral service in celebration of Mahesh's Life was held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 in the Lucy Stone Chapel of Forest Hills Cemetery, 171 Walk Hill Street in Jamaica Plain, where family and friends came together to honor and celebrate his life.



# Maximino Jimenez, 1941–2026, former member of Waltham Police Department

Milestones

March 17, 2026

Maximino “Max” Jimenez, of Waltham, formerly of Marlborough, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 84.

Born in Orocovis, Puerto Rico on Nov. 18, 1941, he was the beloved son of the late Regino and Catalina Jimenez (Bonilla).

Max was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle and dear friend. Kind, caring and a man of great faith, he loved people and people loved him. He was very sociable, with a smile that could light up any room he entered. Max was a proud member of his neighborhood walking club and enjoyed staying active while connecting with friends and neighbors.

With an extraordinary work ethic, Max pursued higher education before beginning a distinguished career with the Waltham Police Department. As a proud member of the department, he served his community as a protector, partner and dedicated public servant, always prioritizing the well-being of the residents of Waltham. Throughout his time in law enforcement, he was deeply involved in community organizing, maintaining high ethical standards and fostering honest communication with those he served.

Later in his career, Max transitioned into the corporate world, where he took on a leadership role as a manager at Raytheon Corporation. In this position, he led with integrity, empathy and respect, earning the admiration of colleagues and those he mentored.

Max was truly a man of culture with worldly experience and refined taste. He had a unique gift for selecting only the very best in life, whether it was food, music, travel or company. Above all else, Max dearly loved his wife, family, and friends. His warmth, kindness, and unwavering dedication to those around him will be remembered always.

Predeceased by his loving parents and his dear siblings, Elisa A. Jimenez and Jose Jimenez.





Max is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 48 years, Germaine Jimenez (Doiron) of Waltham; his beloved daughter, Betsy and her family; his brothers, with whom he shared a special bond, Domingo Jimenez of Waltham, Ismael Jimenez of Nebraska, Felix Jimenez and his wife Jacinta of Waltham, Israel Jimenez and his wife Janet of Medfield, and Angel R. Jimenez of Parker, Colorado; his dear sister-in-laws, Annette and her husband Efrain Diana, Leona and her husband Marcelino Cotto and Dianna Doiron; and his brother-in-laws, Jean-Paul Doiron and his partner Lisette Springer, Guy Doiron and his partner Ali Ward. He also leaves numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends who will miss him greatly.

Friends and family remembered Max during visiting hours on Thursday, March 19, 2026 in The Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial Chapels, located 773 Moody Street Waltham. A funeral service in celebration of Max’s life followed before interment at Mt. Feake Cemetery.



# Calendar

March 24-April 6

TUE <b>24</b>	Mar 24.  <b>Waltham Fields CSA shares open for 2026 registration</b> <b>Waltham Fields Community Farm</b> 240 Beaver St, Waltham, MA, United States  Vegetable, fruit, flower, and mushroom CSA shares are now available for the 2026 season at Waltham Fields Community Farm (WFCF). Learn more about CSA shares and sign up here. WFCF [...]	THU <b>26</b>	Mar 26. @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm <b>Waltham Friends of Scouting—Trivia Night FUNdraiser</b> <b>Watertown Sons of Italy Hall</b> 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
WED <b>25</b>	Mar 25. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  <b>License Commission meeting</b> <b>City of Waltham Government Center</b> 119 School Street, Waltham, MA  The Board of License Commissioners meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., but may be moved due to holidays or other circumstances. Contact the Licensing Department to confirm each meeting and for additional information.	THU <b>26</b>	Mar 26. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  <b>Conservation Commission meeting</b> <b>Zoom</b>  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 [...]
WED <b>25</b>	Mar 25. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm <b>Zoë Buckman: 'Show Me Your Bruises, Then'</b> <b>Zoom</b>  Join artist Zoë Buckman for the virtual premiere of her new three-channel film, "Show Me Your Bruises, Then," followed by a conversation with Rose Director and Chief Curator Dr. Gannit Ankori. Written, directed, and performed by Buckman and featuring Cush Jumbo and Sienna Miller, the 17-minute film examines the multigenerational impact of domestic violence and [...]  Free	FRI <b>27</b>	Mar 27. @ 12:00 am - 11:30 pm  <b>WPY: Now accepting summer internship applications</b> <b>online via <a href="https://bit.ly/WPYInternshipApply">https://bit.ly/WPYInternshipApply</a></b>  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. Students must be available for all six weeks of the program. Some placements may have [...]
THU <b>26</b>	Mar 26. @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm <b>The Gore Roll: A talk with Brenton Simons</b> <b>Gore Place</b> 52 Gore Street  The Gore Roll of Arms, the earliest known collection of heraldic arms in America, was the work of Christopher Gore's father, John Gore (1718-1796). John Gore ran a paint shop in Boston and did fine decorative painting on coaches for the elite of Boston. The Gore Roll includes pen, ink, and watercolor arms for New [...]  \$20	FRI <b>27</b>	Mar 27. @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm <b>Three Minute Thesis Competition</b> <b>Spingold Theater</b> 415 South Street, Waltham, MA  Graduate students at Brandeis University will have an opportunity to show their skills at presenting their original research in a short, engaging form for a general audience during the 5th [...]  Free
THU <b>26</b>	Mar 26. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm <b>Between Silence and Song: The music of women composers with flutist Bonnie Cochran</b> <b>Waltham Public Library</b> 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States  Join us for a very special concert in celebration of Women's History Month! Flutist Bonnie Cochran will perform and highlight the music of women composers of the past and present, talented composers who may not be known to the general public, such as Cecile Chaminade, Andrea Clearfield, Dierdre Lynds, Melika Fitzhugh and Katherine Hoover. Through [...]  Free	SAT <b>28</b>	Mar 28. @ 8:00 am - 10:00 pm <b>Eastern Show Choir Festival 2026</b> <b>Waltham High School</b> 554 Lexington St, Waltham, MA  Waltham High School Show Choirs are excited to host the 2026 Eastern Show Choir Festival (ESCF). ESCF holds the distinction of being the longest running show choir competition in New England. All proceeds directly support Waltham Show Choirs including Music Unlimited, Music Express and Show Band. Music Express is scheduled to perform at 12:15 p.m., [...]  \$20
THU <b>26</b>	Mar 26. @ 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm <b>2nd Shift Concert: Rachel Sumner &amp; Traveling Light</b> <b>Charles River Museum of Industry &amp; Innovation</b> 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States  Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light are a Boston-based string band making music that blends folk tradition with feminist storytelling, poetic detail, and just enough grit. At the center is Sumner's [...]  \$25	SAT <b>28</b>	Mar 28. @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm <b>Micro greens are magic</b> <b>Waltham Fields Community Farm</b> 240 Beaver St, Waltham, MA, United States  Join us in the warmth of the greenhouse as we welcome Hannah Lawson from Wildly Rooted Culinary Garden. Hannah will be sharing the magic of micro greens, including how to grow and harvest them at home, a culinary tasting, and information about the incredible nutritional value of micros. You'll go home with a container of [...]  \$50

SAT  
28

Mar 28. @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

## Children's program featuring live snakes

Christ Church 750 Main St, Waltham

Professional snake handler Rick Roth will bring his favorite legless reptiles for facetime with Waltham students. Come learn about these important creatures who are essential parts of our ecosystem. Suitable for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Free, but space is limited, so registration is required.

Free

SUN  
29

Mar 29. @ 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

## Lyman Estate southern woods cleanup

Lyman Estate 185 Lyman Street, Waltham

Help remove trash that has accumulated in the woods on the south side of the property near the Mass Central Rail Trail. Afterwards, volunteers can enjoy a free tour of the property, light refreshments, and the satisfaction of a job well done. Supplies and instructions will be provided, but bring work gloves if you have [...]

Free

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

SAT  
28

Mar 28. @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

## Waltham Forward neighborhood walk-a-thon (Return to the Bleachery)

Bleachery Neighborhood

Waltham's next regular municipal Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2027, so from March 2026 to October 2027 I plan to walk to-and-thru every neighborhood in Waltham at least once as part of a 20 month Waltham Forward Neighborhood Walk-a-thon. A key part of this walk-a-thon is that it will be in person, in real [...]

Free

SAT  
28

Mar 28. @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

## Bike Together Waltham — March group ride

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

Meet behind Waltham City Hall. We will ride on the newly opened rail trail bridge over Linden Street. Coffee or lunch to follow the ride. Follow us for any last-minute [...]

Free

SUN  
29

Mar 29. @ 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

## Lyman Estate southern woods cleanup

Lyman Estate 185 Lyman Street, Waltham

Help remove trash that has accumulated in the woods on the south side of the property near the Mass Central Rail Trail. Afterwards, volunteers can enjoy a free tour of the property, light refreshments, and the satisfaction of a job well done. Supplies and instructions will be provided, but bring work gloves if you have [...]

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. [...]

THU  
2

Apr 2. @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

## Community Passover Seder in Waltham

Join Temple Beth Israel in Waltham for a joyful and participatory community seder open to all. Our seder is uplifting with traditional and new songs, relevant discussion and an opportunity to connect with friends and family or meet new people. Our in-house volunteer committee prepares a homemade kosher for Passover meal in our kitchen. Fee: [...]

\$75

FRI  
3

Apr 3. @ 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

## Acme Theater presents Unnecessary Farce by Paul Slade Smith

Acme Theater of Weston 377 North Avenue, Weston, MA

In a run-down motel, a high-stakes sting operation is about to go hilariously off the rails. In Room A, an embezzling Mayor meets his accountant. In Room B, two rookie cops wait to catch it all on tape. But when the rooms get swapped, the money disappears, and a Scottish hit man enters the fray, [...]

\$25

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

SAT  
4

Apr 4. @ 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

## An evening with Live Bullet band

Lexington-Waltham Elks 959 Waltham Street, Lexington, MA, United States

Experience the magic of Live Bullet, a Bob Seger tribute! Raffles, snacks, 50/50, cash bar. Proceeds to benefit Bill Walsh Scholarship. \$25 per person or reserve a table of ten \$250. For ticket information call 617-513-8451.

\$25

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. [...]

MON  
6

Apr 6. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 

## Waltham City Council committee meetings

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

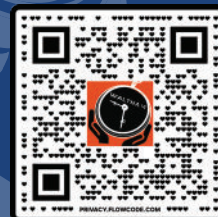
The Licenses and Franchises Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. The Veterans Services Committee, the Public Works and Public Safety Committee, the Economic and Community Development Committee, and the Long Term [...]

Free





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