

The Week's News!



Keeps our community ticking!

April 13, 2026



Waltham students shine at the 2026 districtwide art show

This week at the Senior Center: Tech know-how and health tips

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • APRIL 12, 2026

April Volunteer Day

Date: Sunday April 19th

Time: 1pm-3pm

First volunteer day of 2026!

Join us for a park cleanup to kick off the 2026 season

- Trash pickup
- Vegetation clearing

Meet at the park entrance between 200 and 300 5th Ave

Be prepared for working in the woods

- Wear closed toe shoes
- Long pants

If you have them, feel free to bring your own tools

- Loppers
- Garden shears

Celebrate Earth Day with cleanup at Prospect Hill Park

Rec Department adds staff, park improvements in proposed FY27 budget

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 9, 2026

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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This week at the Senior Center: Tech know-how and health tips

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • APRIL 12, 2026



Curated by Priscilla Ellis

Get up to speed on technology at the Senior Center this month. Tuesdays through April 28, volunteers from Bentley University's Service-Learning Program will be on hand to help residents learn how to set up email, organize digital photos and files and navigate the internet. Assistance is available in English and Spanish. Bring your laptop, tablet or phone. To register for one or more sessions, call the Center's front desk at 781-314-3499.



On Tuesday, April 14, podiatrist Helen Cho will provide routine nail and callus care. The fee is \$35, cash only. To make an appointment, call the Center's front desk at 781-314-3499.

On Wednesday, April 15, at 11 a.m., Michelle David from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office will discuss how to prepare for unexpected health issues and natural disasters. She will also highlight the rise in cryptocurrency fraud, focusing on scams that target seniors through cryptocurrency kiosks and ATMs. Call 781-314-3499 to register.

Later that day at 1 p.m., specialists from the Palliative Care Council at Newton-Wellesley Hospital will present an overview of key care decisions to discuss with your loved ones. They will share available resources and review important documents to have in place before you need them. The program is offered by Mass General Brigham's Newton-Wellesley Hospital Community Collaborative Care Council and the Heart Health and Wellness Council. The event is free, but registration is required at 781-314-3499.

Public safety report: String of car break-ins target Waltham neighborhood

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • APRIL 12, 2026



During the past week, police responded to 20 [car break-ins](#) as well as one stolen car as part of a spree targeting Waltham's Highlands neighborhood.

Residents woke up on the morning of April 3 to discover that overnight their cars had been rummaged through or had items missing. One man on Bacon Street had his car stolen. He had left his keys in his Honda CRV. The vehicle hasn't been recovered yet.

Police were able to identify an involved Land Rover and Hyundai vehicle using the city's Flock Safety camera system. The Land Rover was discovered to be stolen out of Lynnfield and had crashed in Malden. Through this, police were able to identify a suspect. The Hyundai was stolen out of Woburn but hasn't been recovered. Police have been able to identify suspects and are still investigating the incident.

"Typically the way it works is a group of younger people find an unlocked car. Sometimes people leave their keys inside and they're able to steal it. They take this stolen car, drive it to another town, find another unlocked car and either steal from it or steal the car itself," explained Dean.

Dean offered the following tips to protect against being a target of a similar scheme:

- Lock car doors and do not leave keys in a car.
- Fold car mirrors in. Many cars with keyless fobs have mirrors that fold in automatically when the car locks. If mirrors are out, someone is more likely to try to break in because it may mean the car isn't locked.
- Use a radio frequency protection system for keyless fobs. While it wasn't present in the Waltham incidents, sometimes suspects have specially-built amplifiers that can boost the signal from a fob so that the car can be started without the fob being nearby. RF protection sleeves can be bought online. Residents can also place their fob in a box covered in aluminum foil to get the same result.

A summary of police activity from April 1 to April 6 is as follows:

On April 1 at 7:13 a.m., police responded to the intersection of Hardy Pond Road and Silver Hill Lane. A construction crew had left a machine there overnight and when they came back the following morning, the tires were slashed. Police responded to a similar incident on Winter Street at 7:25 a.m., where a different construction company's machine had its tires slashed. It is unclear whether the two incidents are connected.

On April 2 at 10:29 p.m., police responded to a residence on Hammond Street. A woman had clicked on a pop-up ad on her computer that directed her to a website telling her she had a security breach. The website informed her that a "Chinese website" hacked her and put child sexual assault material on her computer. If the woman paid \$30,000, the website promised to fix it. The woman almost went through with the payment, but recognized it was a scam and called the police.

On April 3 at 10:12 p.m., police responded to the Bristol Lodge at 27 Lexington Street. Two residents of Bristol Lodge got into an argument, and one of the men ended up kicking the other. Police arrested the man, identified as Jose Burgos-Dominguez, 26, homeless, of Waltham. Burgos-Dominguez tried to pull away from police after being placed under arrest and kicked the side of the police vehicle while officers were attempting to put him in the back of the car for transport.

Burgos-Dominguez is being charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest and malicious damage to a motor vehicle. In this case, the dangerous weapon is categorized under Massachusetts law as a 'shod foot,' meaning that the suspect injured the other resident with his foot while wearing shoes.

No notable police activity took place from April 4 to April 6.

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



CYD ABNET

Cyd Abnet is a Waltham native who recently graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Clark University. She began her journalism career with Clark's student newspaper where she covered topics from on-campus protests to competitive chess scandals. In her free time you can find Cyd enjoying Waltham's numerous natural wonders.

Public health report: Nearly 40% of spring inspections result in health citations

Artie Kronenfeld

April 13, 2026

March was a busy month in Waltham's health department. Inspectors examined 93 food facilities between Feb. 24 and March 26, including restaurants, cafes, supermarkets, hotels and nursing homes.

Inspectors found health violations at 37 of the facilities they inspected. The vast majority of those violations were not deemed critical. Inspectors found a few cleaning or temperature control violations they deemed critical and in need of immediate changes.



Inspector Ivan Colon added that, as of the time of publication, “everything is up to standard.”

Health complaints

Additionally, the Health Department acted on four new housing complaints and one new trash complaint reported to the department between Feb. 24 and March 26.

It closed four housing complaints made to the department in January, three of which pertained to pest control and one to heating issues. It has brought one other heat complaint into a court process.

It issued one new trash disposal fine during the same period to ReNew Apartments.

About Health Department inspections

Waltham's Health Department conducts regular inspections of housing and food establishments to ensure compliance with the city's safety codes. Twice a year it inspects each of the city's restaurants, schools, lodging houses, nursing homes and any other businesses that serve food or are regulated by specific Waltham health codes to make sure they comply with the city's safety regulations. Its inspectors also investigate complaints about pests, trash management on private properties and other environmental hazards.

It's common for establishments to have minor violations during inspections, and when a business is found to be unsatisfactory, the department sets a deadline for the owners to correct any violations — usually five days from the date of inspection. Colon told The Waltham Times that restaurants and other businesses generally resolve all of their violations by the deadline.

Colon said if the Health Department finds a violation at a restaurant or other food establishment that causes immediate and severe health concerns, or finds three or more violations the department counts as “critical,” it will close the business until it determines the business is safe for patrons.

All information was obtained from public records requests to the Waltham Health Department.

Atrius Health doesn't need Conservation Commission approval for generator installation

BY LEA ZAHARONI • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 12, 2026



The Conservation Commission approved a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) from Atrius Health at its most recent meeting, finding that the Wetlands Protection Act does not pose a barrier to the company's plans to install an emergency generator, dumpster pad and underground electrical conduit at 1601 Trapelo Road.

The project, represented by environmental scientist Taylor Donovan of VHB, will be contained entirely within a previously paved area near a stormwater basin.

The commission's discussion centered on whether the nearby water body actually qualifies as a protected wetland under state law. While it appeared on state mapping as a wetland, commissioners and staff noted that it looks and functions more like a stormwater retention basin.

It concluded that since the body is a pond designed to collect runoff so it doesn't flood elsewhere, it doesn't have the same protections. The commission was unable to confirm the basin's construction date, which would have helped settle the question as basins built after 1995 are classified differently under the law.

Ultimately, the commission voted to approve the project, finding that even if the water body does qualify as a protected wetland, the proposed work would have no negative impact on it. Atrius Health is now free to carry out the project without input from the commission, since wetland protections do not apply.



LEA ZAHARONI

Lea Zaharoni is a recent graduate of Brandeis University, where she majored in American Studies and Journalism. She spent most of her time at school working as General Manager of the student radio station WBRS 100.1, which broadcasts live 24/7 on Waltham FM radio. She's also written for Brandeis' student newspaper, the Justice, as well as the Irish Independent in Dublin and Dig Boston. Lea loves exploring new places in town and returning to old favorites, and counts herself very lucky to be a part of the Waltham community.

The week ahead: Schools, affordable housing figure heavily in city business this week

 walthamtimes.org/2026/04/12/the-week-ahead-schools-affordable-housing-figure-heavily-in-city-business-this-week

Artie Kronenfeld

April 13, 2026

Waltham's School Committee will open up discussions about the district's budget for the upcoming school year this week.

The committee will hold a public hearing on the budget scheduled for the start of its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15. The committee will hold its regular meeting after the end of the public hearing.

Meanwhile, this week the City Council will ask the public to weigh in on the future of Waltham's affordable housing.

Since January, the council's Ordinances and Rules Committee has been discussing [changes to the city's affordable housing construction requirements](#), which mandate that anyone building new housing make a minimum proportion of their units affordable to households making no more than 80% of the area median income (AMI). The city's current requirements have been [criticized by some housing advocates](#), who say they're too costly and end up preventing developers from building new housing.

In early March, the committee [approved a draft](#) of a new ordinance that lowered these requirements. Under the new regulations, developers would have to make 10% of units affordable in small residential construction projects — defined as having under 19 units — and 15% in large projects. One third of those units would have to be even more deeply affordable, priced to be sustainable for households making 60% AMI.

This week, the council is holding a public hearing on the proposed changes to solicit input from members of the public on whether to adopt the legislation.

Affordable housing is also going to be in the spotlight at the Zoning Board of Appeals this week, which will continue hearings for two high-profile west Waltham housing projects proposed under Massachusetts State Law Chapter 40B. This statewide legislation outlines a process for special permits for residential developments that create a minimum amount of new affordable housing.

The board has been discussing one of these projects, a 315-unit apartment building at 455 Totten Pond Road, since [last March](#). The board [closed its public hearing](#) on the project two weeks ago, and expects to take a final vote on its Chapter 40B comprehensive special permit this week.

The other Chapter 40B project in front of the board, at 245–265 Winter St., has been [in talks since July](#) and is also [nearing the final stages](#) of the permitting process.

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

Historical Commission

The Waltham Historical Commission is a seven-member board charged with preserving and overseeing Waltham's historic buildings and properties.

This week the commission will hold public hearings over the historic value of three buildings — at 1128–1130 Main St., 32 Maple St. and 135 Woerd Avenue — and whether it should delay the owners' plans to demolish them.

The commission will also discuss its budget and meeting schedule for the upcoming year, review a proposal for a development at 687–709 Main St. and discuss plans to preserve art deco-style decorations from [the former Fitch School](#).

Commissioners will meet at 7 p.m. over Zoom. The passcode for the Zoom meeting can be found [on the commission's page](#) within the city site.

City Council

The City Council plans to discuss multiple other proposals to change to city legislation at its meeting this week. It will hold a public hearing on allowing pet-related businesses like kennels and dog groomers to [operate by right in Waltham](#) and will consider amending the city's bylaws to penalize littering and the use of leaf blowers to blow leaves onto public sidewalks.

It will also hold a public hearing about changing the residential zoning designation of a plot of land at 495 Lincoln St. to allow for smaller and denser housing. In response to a letter about the project from City Engineer Robert Winn, councilors will also consider amending a current rule requiring the city engineer to certify zoning changes have been approved by the Board of Survey and Planning, which Winn argued he shouldn't have the authority to do.

The council will revisit an earlier public hearing about [a proposed hotel at 220 Moody St.](#), approve business from [last week's committee meetings](#) and go into executive session to discuss multiple real estate matters.

It will hear a series of requests from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy that will likely be discussed at next week's committee meetings, including a request for a \$1.45 million loan to power the Fernald property, approval of updated plans for the [ongoing Waltham Public Library renovation](#), approval of a Waltham Housing Authority project at Beaverbrook, a request for additional funding for the city's [ongoing zoning review](#), a funding request for the Housing Department, the acceptance of a grant for the Fire Department and funding to repave the 92 Felton St. parking lot.

The City Council will meet on Monday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Housing Authority

The Waltham Housing Authority works to provide affordable housing options for Waltham residents who face barriers to housing.

This week it plans to discuss its finances, construction projects and current work orders at its monthly meeting. It will also rule whether to authorize WHA Director John Gollinger to accept funding from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program and the Community Preservation Committee.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, at 4:30 p.m. [over Zoom](#) and in person at 110 Pond St.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

The board has the power to grant project-specific variances to the code, overrule judgments made by the building inspector and grant specific types of special permits, including the comprehensive residential permits outlined by the state's Chapter 40B statute.

This week, the board will also hear a request to extend the construction timeline for variances allowed to the [proposed 220 Moody St. hotel](#) and revisit a case from 719-723 Main St. owner Paul Yu, who's proposing to [renovate his building into seven residential units](#) and is requesting a parking variance since he would not be able to fit the amount of parking mandated by the city at the site.

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

Board of Health

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

The board will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, in the auditorium of the Clark Government Center. An agenda and link for the meeting will be provided on [the board's page](#) on the city website at least 48 hours in advance.

School Committee

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

The committee this week will additionally vote on a new assistant superintendent for special education and student services and receive donations to the Waltham High School quiz bowl team.

The committee will meet after the conclusion of the Waltham Public Schools budget hearing, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the James J. Cannon Lecture Hall at 617 Lexington St.

Traffic Commission

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

This week the commission will revisit a comprehensive plan to improve traffic safety on the South Side [proposed by McCarthy in November](#), as well as a long-time project by commissioners to [regulate parking on private ways](#) to ensure emergency vehicles can navigate them.

The commission will consider multiple requests regarding parking: one to amend current citywide on-street parking regulations to prevent cars parking within five feet of a driveway, and another to install signs indicating the city's 24-hour parking time limit. It will also discuss a request to change the city's current definition of commercial vehicles.

Commissioners will discuss a request for a new stop sign on Temple Road, two requests for blind driveway signage — one at the intersection of Bacon Street and Totten Pond Road and the other at the intersection of School and Mt. Pleasant streets — a request to ban parking on the street across from 141 Hammond St., and a review of rectangular rapid flashing beacons along the Riverwalk.

The commission will meet Thursday, April 17 at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Strong interest at Senior Center MBTA outreach event

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • COMMUNITY • APRIL 12, 2026



Representatives from the [MBTA Mobility Center](#) visited Waltham's Stanley Senior Center last week, offering residents a hands-on introduction to navigating public transportation with confidence.

The two sessions were well attended and focused on practical tools for planning trips, understanding routes and traveling safely throughout the MBTA system.

"We're here to make the system easier to understand and more accessible for everyone," said MBTA staffer Jonathan Houston.



MBTA staffers Jonathan Houston (wearing a yellow lanyard) and Ethan Finlan (background) assist Waltham Seniors. Photo by Steve Milmore.

Organizers said the enthusiastic attendance reflected a growing demand for accessible transit information, with the goal of ensuring seniors feel informed, empowered and connected to their community.

Top MBTA features and benefits for seniors covered in the presentation include:

- Senior CharlieCard: Reduced fares of about 50% off regular MBTA trips, making bus, subway and commuter rail travel significantly more affordable for riders age 65 and older. Seniors can apply for a [Senior CharlieCard online](#) or contact [MBTA Customer Support](#) to schedule assistance.
- Discounted 7-day and monthly passes: Gives seniors flexible, low-cost options for frequent travel. These passes can be loaded directly onto a Senior CharlieCard at fare vending machines,

subway stations, online account tools or in person at [MBTA service centers](#).

- Tap-to-pay convenience: Allows seniors to board buses and subways quickly without needing cash or paper tickets. This feature is accessed by tapping a Senior CharlieCard, personal credit card or [mobile wallet](#) on fare readers at stations and on buses.
- Accessibility support: Elevators, ramps and staff assistance are now available at all MBTA stations. Look for accessibility signage or designated boarding areas or ask station or vehicle staff for help.
- The RIDE paratransit service: A door-to-door transportation option for those who can't use regular transit due to a disability. Riders must apply for eligibility through the MBTA's [The RIDE](#) program, complete an assessment if required and then schedule trips once approved.
- Priority seating: Helps ensure a more comfortable and accessible ride. Priority seats are clearly marked on buses and trains and are available on a first-come basis. Seniors can ask MBTA operators and station staff for additional assistance when boarding.

“My session was very informative. I didn't know you can now use a credit card on MBTA rides. That makes it much easier for me,” said resident Pat McCue.

Following the presentation, the team stayed to help seniors apply for the Senior CharlieCard, including resident Nancy Justin. “I didn't realize how much I could save until today,” she said.



Author



JUNE KINOSHITA

A Waltham resident since 2003, June has been a writer and editor for Scientific American, Science, The New York Times Magazine, among others. She co-founded the Alzheimer Research Forum and N-of-One. She recently retired from a 13-year career as a leader at the FSHD Society, a rare disease patient advocacy organization.

Hawks Sports Roundup

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • APRIL 12, 2026



It's a busy week for Hawks athletics, with teams continuing to work hard and compete throughout the season. Each game is an opportunity for players to improve and represent the school with pride. Students, families and community members are encouraged to come out and show support. Go Waltham!

Tuesday, April 14

Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Weston, 6 p.m. (Weston HS)

Boys Freshman Lacrosse vs. Natick, Time TBA (Natick HS)

Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Weston, 4:15 p.m. (Weston HS)

Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Weston, 5:45 p.m. (Weston HS)

Boys and Girls Varsity Track vs. Multiple Opponents, 4:30 p.m. (Leary Field)

Wednesday, April 15

Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Weston, 4 p.m. (Yetten Baseball Field)

Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Weston, 4 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)

Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Weston, 4 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)

Boys JV Volleyball vs. Westford Academy, 4:30 p.m. (WHS)

Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Westford Academy, 6 p.m. (WHS)

Thursday, April 16

Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Boston Latin, 4 p.m. (Joe Moakley Park)

Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Boston Latin, 4 p.m. (Fitzgerald Field/Joe Moakley Park)

Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Boston Latin, 4 p.m. (WHS Field)

Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Boston Latin, 5:30 p.m. (WHS Field)

Boys JV "B" Baseball vs. Lincoln Sudbury, 4:15 p.m. (Cacciatore Field)

Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Newton North, 4:30 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)

Friday, April 17

Boys JV Volleyball vs. Woburn, 4 p.m. (WHS)

Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Woburn, 5:30 p.m. (WHS)

Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Natick, 4 p.m. (Natick HS)

Boys JV "A" Baseball vs. Natick, 4 p.m. (Natick HS))

Girls Varsity Softball vs. Watertown, 4:30 p.m. (Hosmer School)

Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Burlington, 4 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)

Boys Freshman Lacrosse vs. Watertown, 4 p.m. (WHS Field)

Author



STEVE MILMORE

Steve Milmore has more than 35 years experience in corporate communications and public relations. He started his career as copy editor for Computerworld magazine and has held writing and management positions at leading high tech companies including Oracle, IBM, and Dun & Bradstreet. Steve is a long-time resident of Waltham.

Waltham Fire Department welcomes new ladder truck at Moody Street Station

BY NEWSROOM • PUBLIC SAFETY • APRIL 12, 2026



The Waltham Fire Department has taken delivery of a 2026 Custom E-One Typhoon Chassis LTH100 aerial ladder truck that will replace a 19-year-old Seagrave Tiller long serving the city's south side.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, City Council President Robert Logan and City Clerk Joseph Vizard joined members of the department to mark the occasion. Fire Chief Andrew Mullin was on hand along with Ladder 2 Captain Peter Forbes, firefighter Jeff MacDonald, firefighter Brennan Barry and Fire Suppression Deputy Chief Scott Perry.

The department placed the order for the new apparatus in July 2024. The new truck features a Cummins L9 engine, an Allison EVS3000P electronic five-speed transmission and a 100-foot aerial ladder. Its complement of 10 ground ladders ranges from 10 to 40 feet in length, including roof, folding attic and extension varieties.

Crews will conduct training and testing over the next several weeks before the new Ladder 2 officially goes into service. The 2008 Seagrave it replaces will become a spare apparatus for the department.



Watchdog group opens independent investigation into Waltham Public Schools for special ed malpractice

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • EDUCATION • APRIL 12, 2026



Joey Ford, an Attleboro resident and founder of the volunteer watchdog organization Parent Data Force, [announced](#) at the School Committee's April 8 meeting that he would be opening an investigation into reported failures in special education at Waltham Public Schools.



Ford addresses the School Committee, holding one of his children. Courtesy of WCAC-TV.

Ford said afterward that he had been contacted by Leslie Fenton, a mother of a special-needs child who has experienced denial of services, delayed support and lack of meaningful follow-through on her individualized education programs, or IEPs. Fenton and other parents he spoke with also had concerns about escalation in the classroom and retaliation from the district if they spoke up.

“I’m here tonight because something is very wrong when parents in a community feel so powerless, so dismissed and so unheard that they need to call in an outsider just to be taken seriously,” Ford told the committee.

Ford started Parent Data Force in January 2025 and has since conducted independent investigations into special education practices in Attleboro and Fall River. His methods include making public records requests to the school district, the city and the Department of Elementary

and Secondary Education. Ford searches for patterns in student records, transportation records, staffing records and internal communications to try to prove systemic malpractice.

Parent Data Force is made up of ten contributors alongside Ford. They don't provide legal services or receive compensation, rather, they are volunteers who gather information. Ford described himself after the meeting as "an investigative journalist without the writing."

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, chair of the School Committee, cut off Ford's speech because he was not allowed to discuss litigation in the public input section. He reassured the committee that he was a private citizen and was not pursuing any lawsuit or criminal charge.

Committee member Edmund Tarallo addressed the mayor, turning away from Ford. "He's not a Waltham citizen, he's not associated with our schools and we're just listening to his pitch? This isn't what we're for," Tarallo said.

The mayor advised Ford to "wrap it up as soon as possible." She also said that the Special Education Parent Advisory Council had a standing invite to School Committee meetings, but that "they don't show up." Waltham's SEPAC could not be reached for comment.

Mayor McCarthy was reached, but declined to comment on pending claims or litigation against the School Department or City of Waltham. Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa and Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Lisa Kingsley could not be reached.

During his announcement, Ford asked that parents, current and former staff, service providers, and the School Committee reach out to him via Facebook with concerns about special education in Waltham.

"This is not an attack on every teacher, therapist, aide or staff member in this district. There are absolutely good people inside struggling systems. But good people inside broken structures do not cancel out the reports coming from families," he said.

Author



JUNE KINOSHITA

A Waltham resident since 2003, June has been a writer and editor for Scientific American, Science, The New York Times Magazine, among others. She co-founded the Alzheimer Research Forum and N-of-One. She recently retired from a 13-year career as a leader at the FSHD Society, a rare disease patient advocacy organization.

Donations needed for Teacher Appreciation Week

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • APRIL 12, 2026



The Waltham High School PTO is seeking donations and volunteers to support more than 250 staff members during Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8.

The effort is being led by WHS PTO President Jennifer DeRubeis, who wants to ensure that Waltham High School teachers are recognized this year in addition to elementary and middle school educators.



Canva stock image.

“I’ve run the Teacher appreciation week for the last four years at the Kennedy Middle School. It’s a huge event in middle school and elementary, but the high school teachers have always been left out. We want to correct that this year,” DeRubeis said.

Observed during the first full week of May, the celebration highlights the important role teachers play in shaping students’ academic success and personal growth. Throughout the week, schools across the Waltham Public Schools district will take part in activities honoring teachers by providing meals, snacks, raffles and other activities.

Local businesses such as B&F Pizza, Artisan Local, B-tone Fitness and Shoppers Cafe are supporting the cause with food and gift cards.

More than \$1,400 has been raised to date, but more is needed to fund the full week’s events. Donations can be made by scanning the Venmo QR code in the graphic below.

Teacher Appreciation Week Fundraising & Volunteer Opportunities

Teacher Appreciation Week is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the dedication of our educators. Community support through fundraising and volunteering will help make this week meaningful and successful.

How You Can Help

- Monetary donations to support planned events, including the Teachers' Luncheon. *Please submit contributions by April 22, 2026, to ensure lunch costs can be covered*
- Gift card donations for raffle baskets
- Donations of Raffle baskets
- Donation of handwritten thank-you notes for teachers
- Participate in SignUpGenius for needed supplies (coming soon)
- Sign up to assist with lunch setup, service, and cleanup (coming soon)

Donate via Venmo Scan the QR code below to contribute

Waltham High School Parent Teacher Organiz...

@WalthamHighPTO



**Questions? Contact us at Walthamhighpto@gmail.com or
call or text Jennifer DeRubeis 781-290-8390**

Thank you for helping us show our appreciation for our teachers!!

Did you know? The Senior Center has new high-definition magnifiers

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • APRIL 12, 2026



Did you know? There are two new high-definition magnifiers at the Senior Center for people with any vision impairment. The Clearview C+ Desktop Magnifiers can increase text size from 1.5 times to 75 times, as well as choosing color and contrast.

One of them has Text-To-Speech capability and can capture a page and read the text aloud in seconds.

Enjoy clearer views, renewed independence and an easier way to read books, mail, newspapers and more.



The Clearview reading-with-speech system. Courtesy photo.

Editor’s note: We hope you enjoy The Waltham Times’ “Did you know?” series. If you want to share tips about useful resources around town, please email news@walthamtimes.org.

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School Committee debates categorization of Valor School, hears from concerned faculty

BY LEA ZAHARONI • NEWS • APRIL 12, 2026



At its April 8 meeting, the School Committee took up the question of Waltham Valor School’s designation as its own school and whether it should just be a program under Waltham High School. Ultimately, it moved away from combining the two after hearing input from Valor’s teachers and Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy first brought up the discussion, highlighting concerns that the Valor School was not accessible to all students and that enrollment methods were not transparent for the community. Her proposed solution was to establish a more concrete connection between Valor and WHS, thereby making Valor into an alternative program under the umbrella of WHS.

Because the Valor School is its own school and not technically an alternative program, it can keep enrollment low and exercise much more control over its model and educational methods. If its school status was dissolved and enrollment was raised, it would become subject to the recommendations of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education—something Mendonsa said could jeopardize the integrity of the care staff provide.

Mendonsa told the mayor that Valor’s low enrollment keeps it autonomous. Once it reaches 75 students, it comes under the purview of DESE and receives an accountability rating. Additionally, because Valor’s dropout rate is very high relative to its small size, she said that accountability rating would likely be very low—under the 10th percentile. [WHS is also ranked below the 10th percentile.](#)

When a school is ranked so low, DESE takes on a support process that includes increased oversight over the school’s operations. “And so,” Mendonsa explained, “the school district would have two schools that would be identified as under the 10th percentile. DESE would begin supporting [Valor], and may make recommendations that go against what Valor has been trying to do in their innovative way.”

Mendonsa said that these recommendations could include imposing a minimum amount of time that students need to be on campus. Valor’s model is designed for students with special circumstances outside the classroom, and allows them to have unique schedules that

accommodate their needs. Students at Valor might be financially supporting their families and have work obligations, or have children of their own.

She also clarified the process of enrolling at the Valor School. Students at Valor are over-aged and under-credited, meaning they are over the age of 17 and are far behind their appropriate grade level. Valor also enrolls young parents who are under the age of 17. Generally, students are referred to Valor from WHS by counselors who observe their performance and trajectory toward graduation, and sometimes after they have dropped out. Some are also automatically referred to Valor when they first register at WHS if they already meet the criteria.

The case for keeping enrollment limited

The mayor questioned why enrollment at Valor had not grown, and said that perhaps referral processes needed to be streamlined so more students could have access to it.

Mendonsa assured that more enrollment at Valor would actually be a cause for concern, because it exists to give students another chance when they are behind at WHS. “I would be concerned if Valor had 500 students in it ... [I would ask] what are we doing wrong at Waltham High School that’s resulting in 500 students being over age and under credit?”

Additionally, Mendonsa said that she personally requested Valor be capped at 55 students for its second year so that it could stabilize amidst leadership changes.

All of Valor’s staff attended the meeting as a show of support for keeping the schools separate. Melissa Chen, a founding teacher at Valor, addressed the committee directly during the public input section. She reported that in its first year Valor graduated 14 students, with 22 more expected this year. Those 36 students would likely have become dropouts for the district without the Valor School, she said.

Chen raised the concern that the committee’s motivation to raise the low dropout rate at WHS might be entangled with the conversation about Valor students’ needs. “Discussions thus far have focused on lowering Waltham High’s dropout data rather than the specific needs of at-risk students ... If we are forced to expand beyond capacity or shift to a program model, I fear we will lose the student-centered joy and community that makes us successful,” Chen warned.

Valor teachers noted the convenient effect that combining the two schools would have on WHS’s dropout numbers. Students who graduate from Valor are currently counted as Valor graduates. If Valor were folded into WHS as a program, those graduates would count toward WHS’s numbers, giving WHS more graduates it had already lost and that Valor’s staff had worked to bring back.

A plea to let Valor complete three-year plan

Mike Russo, a founding teacher at Valor who worked at WHS for decades, voiced his frustration after the meeting. “If you move Valor under the roof of Waltham High, it will give you that quick boost. Then everybody can pat themselves on the back and say what a wonderful job they did.”

Russo said the more pressing issue for WHS is the implementation of techniques to recover more dropouts for themselves, rather than taking them from Valor.

He argued that before any structural change was made, WHS should first act on recommendations that Valor’s interim principal, Linda Flueckinger had made to WHS leadership before she joined Valor. “Her recommendations are still in their mailboxes,” he said. “They’re welcome to institute those tiered interventions.” Chen agreed that tiered interventions, which identify and support students before they fall behind, are integral to Valor’s success.

Russo also cautioned against interrupting Valor in the middle of its three-year plan to build intervention models and curriculum. “Let me finish the three years of curriculum before you flood me with students, because it’s socioemotional care. You stretch it too thin and we’re not going to be able to support these students as a whole.”

After the discussion, the mayor made a motion for more formalized information sharing between the two schools. She requested a “transfer policy both ways ... that needs to be in writing, and be communicated in various languages in the school system. I want to make sure that all students in the city of Waltham have this opportunity to go there and get the pride of a diploma while they’re having all these issues in their life.” The motion passed. No vote on combining the schools or reclassifying Valor was taken.

Chen and Russo nonetheless felt disregarded by the lack of transparency from the committee. They had only found out about the possibility of reclassification from social connections, rather than from the mayor or the committee. “It feels dismissive to change a school after two years without a collaborative conversation,” Chen said during the meeting. “We are not disposable. We are a vital part of this community.”



LEA ZAHARONI

Lea Zaharoni is a recent graduate of Brandeis University, where she majored in American Studies and Journalism. She spent most of her time at school working as General Manager of the student radio station WBRS 100.1, which broadcasts live 24/7 on Waltham FM radio. She’s also written for Brandeis’ student newspaper, the Justice, as well as the Irish Independent in Dublin and Dig Boston. Lea loves exploring new places in town and returning to old favorites, and counts herself very lucky to be a part of the Waltham community.

Rec Department adds staff, park improvements in proposed FY27 budget

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 9, 2026



The Parks-Recreation Board approved its fiscal 2027 budget, with new staff positions and park improvements as part of its spending plan.



The department, which presented its budget at its meeting on Wednesday, wants funding to hire an assistant superintendent of rangers, four employees to help with the maintenance of the 200 Trapelo Road property and an additional administrative assistant.

Other new spending will go to maintenance at the department's recently acquired Lawrence School property.

Additional FY27 spending increases will fund the amusements at Prospect Hill Park and 200 Trapelo Road as well as supplies for park rangers.

Next, Hebert will sit down with the mayor and discuss whether or not the budget is feasible. The fiscal 2026 budget is \$2,436,095. This year's budget will be larger than last year's budget, but the total amount was not announced during the public meeting. Hebert said that the fiscal 2027 budget will be nearly \$300,000 more than the fiscal 2026 budget in an email to The Waltham Times on April 10.

Work progresses on city's recreation sites

Recreation Director Kim Hebert said the expansion of the parking lot at 200 Trapelo Road was almost complete. The current amount of parking has required visitors to make parking reservations for weekend visits, so the hope is that the 30 additional spots in the new parking area will alleviate this need. Once contractors are finished with that project, they will start on the construction of an amphitheatre. The design process for the nine-hole golf course and the pool planned for the property is underway as well.

Hebert also said the partial demolition, or “detaching,” of the Fitch School from the gymnasium is set to begin no later than April 13. Additionally, the resurfacing of the playground at Nipper Mahr Park and a renovation of the softball infields at the Veterans Memorial Athletic Complex are on the docket as well.

In other business, the board:

- Read a proclamation from Mayor Jeanette A. McCarthy congratulating Hebert for 25 years of service with the department.
- Heard a presentation about the [Waltham Youth Football and Cheer](#) program from president of the organization Francois Joseph. Joseph reported that the program continues to grow while other municipalities in the league have seen a decrease in participation. He also said the team had recently gotten new helmets that include the latest safety features.
- Approved the use of Prospect Hill Park for a May 31 [road race](#) benefitting the Community Day Center.

Author



CYD ABNET

Cyd Abnet is a Waltham native who recently graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Clark University. She began her journalism career with Clark's student newspaper where she covered topics from on-campus protests to competitive chess scandals. In her free time you can find Cyd enjoying Waltham's numerous natural wonders.

School Committee votes against school choice, continuing to opt out of statewide program

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • APRIL 9, 2026



The School Committee voted unanimously at its April 8 meeting to opt out of Massachusetts' school choice program, which would allow nonresident students to enroll in Waltham Public Schools.

The committee, which has voted the same way since at least 2012, is one of 147 school districts in the commonwealth that doesn't allow nonresidents to attend.

Some 173 districts across the state opt in to the program, allowing students from outside the geographical boundaries of their district to attend their schools. The program has been an option for families since 1991.

Only one person, Attleboro resident Joey Ford, spoke at the committee's meeting. Ford, a special education advocate and founder of Parent Data Force, spoke in favor of school choice, saying, "There's a lot of special education students that really take use of being able to switch to a different district."

Under the school choice program, a student's home district is responsible for paying the tuition at the student's new district.

Even though WPS opts out of accepting students from other districts, Waltham's own students are able to enroll at participating out-of-district schools.



LEA ZAHARONI

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Youth Advocates from Waltham join statehouse push for mental health reform

Students from Waltham joined peers from across Metro South West communities at the Massachusetts Statehouse this week to call for expanded mental health support for young people statewide.

The visit was organized by the Alliance to Growth youth cohort, a leadership group created by Boston Children's Hospital's Office of Community Health through its Metro South West Community Health Initiative. During the advocacy day, students met with legislators, sharing personal experiences and urging investment in accessible, youth-centered mental health services.

The delegation included Waltham students Olivia Jeanty, Keira Frederique, Ivana Djambou, Brooklynn Mathieu, Rafaella Djambou, Nagaella Province and Monette Padilla.



Front row from left: Magali García-Pletsch, Executive Director, Waltham Partnership for Youth, Brooklynn Mathieu, Nagaella Province, Monette Padilla, Olivia Jeanty and State Rep. John Lawn, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing). Back row from left: Keira Frederique, Rafaella Djambou and Ivana Djambou.

Former Fitch School demolition under way

BY LAURA GLAZER • AROUND TOWN • APRIL 9, 2026



Demolition of the Ezra C. Fitch School building, located at 14 Ash St., began on Thursday with a large portion of the building brought down by the day’s end. Demolition and removal will continue through the end of May. The gymnasium at the back of the school located on the Cherry Street side of the lot will remain for Recreation Department use. The rest of the lot, with the exception of the spray park, will house a new park. Plans for the park have not yet been drawn.



Waltham wine notes: A delicious shiraz from India — yes, India — at Rassa on Moody Street

BY LISA FRUITT AND GARY MARKOWITZ • FOOD • APRIL 9, 2026



Waltham's Restaurant Row is a foodie magnet, attracting locals and visitors with cuisine from every corner of the globe. And most boast wine lists with classic offerings from their regions. So it's no surprise you'll find Chianti and pinot grigio at Italian restaurants, assyrtiko and retsina at Greek tavernas, and cabernet and chardonnay at American steak houses and cafes.

But what to drink at an Indian restaurant? Why, Indian wine, of course!

If you didn't know India even has a wine culture — it dates back to 3000 B.C.E. — join the club. Our introduction to the wines of India came at [Rassa](#), the Indian restaurant which opened in 2024 at 470 Moody St. There, mixed in with the usual suspects of American chardonnay, German riesling and French rosé, we found a shiraz from [Sula Vineyards](#), India's leading wine producer.

The 2024 shiraz is a deep, dark, plummy wine. It's got some black fruit and spice on the nose, smooth berries on the palate, with a touch of cloves and a nice long finish. We paired the Sula shiraz with garlic naan, lamb rogan josh and chicken Manchurian.

We tried the Sula shiraz first out of curiosity but have kept on ordering it each time we're back at Rassa. It's a delicious surprise.



LISA FRUITT AND GARY MARKOWITZ

Waltham residents Lisa Fruitt and Gary Markowitz are the writers of [VinoDuo](#), a wine and travel blog. For 18 years, Lisa and Gary have introduced readers and followers to lesser-known wine regions, unappreciated grape varietals and must-visit wine bars the world over. Long-time visitors to Waltham's restaurants and wine shops, they have deepened their commitment to the city since moving here. Gary volunteers with the Waltham Housing Authority and Lisa is an English tutor with WATCH. Find [VinoDuo](#) at [VinoDuo.com](#) and [@vinoduoblog](#)

School leadership, performance get City Council committee's attention

BY ELIZABETH MEHLER • EDUCATION • APRIL 9, 2026



The high turnover of principals in Waltham schools and the high school's low score on a state education report card dominated discussion at the City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting Monday night.

Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa gave committee members an update on the city's School Department, stressing that she's working to tackle the key challenges facing the department.

She acknowledged the challenges the city has had in retaining principals, especially at [Waltham High](#). John Barnes, who has served as Waltham High School's principal-in-residence since July, submitted his resignation in March. He will leave at the end of the school year. He will be the fourth principal to leave WHS since 2020.

Mendoza said the role is "the hardest in the district," because WHS is the biggest school in the district with many flagship programs, including the Career and Technical Education program. She also emphasized the unique range of cultures and backgrounds making up the student body.

The district is looking to interview principal candidates for WHS next week and plans to hire a veteran principal for the role. She also aims to provide additional support, including more administrators and a stronger professional development plan.

As for WHS's low performance, which falls in the [bottom 10% statewide](#), Mendonsa said she recently met with teachers to develop a response plan around graduation and retention rates.

"A diploma is the strongest piece of paper we can deliver in the city of Waltham," she said.

Mendonsa said one of the challenges is that teachers are not seeing their students regularly, which she aims to fix. Teachers are spending 15 to 20 minutes of class time to reteach students past material, due to having core classes only an average of three days a week, she said.

"Our teachers do not have enough time with our students," she said. "Children cannot learn if they are not with their teachers on a regular basis, we have to fix that."

Despite speculation in the community, Mendonsa said the low test scores are not because of the high percentage of English-language learners in the school.

“That ninth percentile means that the great majority of students are not achieving,” she said.

Motion to rename Northeast Elementary is tabled

In other school-related City Council action, the council’s Licenses and Franchises Committee discussed a request to rename Northeast Elementary School.

The request came from Margaret Cannon, a former Waltham school district employee. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy read a letter from Cannon to the committee, advocating for the school to be named after [former Superintendent John Daddona](#), a lifelong Waltham resident who died in February.

McCarthy emphasized Daddona’s legacy as one of the longest serving superintendents. Daddona was “strong when he had to be and kind when he ought to be,” McCarthy said.

City Councilor Robert Logan moved for the resolution to be sent to the School Committee for a recommendation. Logan said although only the Licenses and Franchises Committee has the power to rename schools, he wants to hear the School Committee’s opinion.

City Councilor-at-Large Emma Tzioumis objected to the motion, saying her discussions with the Northeast community members showed “no desire” for the school to be renamed.

“I want to make sure the council does its due diligence to ensure the community has a part in this,” she added.

Tzioumis said the current Northeast community has no ties to Daddona. McCarthy, however, emphasized Waltham’s tradition of naming schools after influential figures, including superintendents who had districtwide impacts.

“Either it is a war hero, president or a superintendent,” McCarthy said. “That’s the standard.”

The Licenses and Franchises Committee motioned to table the matter.

Dinosaur Annex music ensemble explores mind, body and environment in Waltham concert

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • ARTS & CULTURE • APRIL 9, 2026



Despite its primordial name, Dinosaur Annex is resolutely future-facing. The acclaimed ensemble of Boston-area musicians specializes in the work of living composers. Next Friday, April 17, it will bring its 51st season to Waltham with a program titled “[Insect-Water-Heart](#)”, exploring the connections between mind, body and environment. The concert is from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Clark Government Building Auditorium, 119 School St., and is supported by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council and the Alice M. Ditson Fund.

DINOSAUR ANNEX MUSIC ENSEMBLE
FIFTY-FIRST SEASON
INSECT - WATER - HEART

*Musical compendium of insects, music exploring the “endless expanse of the human heart,”
music for climate change, music as flow - join us!!!*

Menagerie of Spectacular Creatures: Insecta (Luke Blackburn)
Glimpse and Scorched Earth (Keyna Wilkins)
Walk on Water (Dorothy Chang)

Sue-Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin on flutes
Diane Heffner on clarinets
Seychelle Dunn-Corbin on alto saxophone
Christopher Oldfather on piano
Lilit Hartunian on violin
Rafael Popper-Keizer on cello
Orlando Cela, conductor

April 17, 2026
7:30 pm
Clark Government Center Auditorium
119 School Street
Waltham MA
Tickets (\$30/\$15/\$5-EBT)
dinosaurannex.org

The Alice M. Ditson Fund
WCC
Waltham Cultural Council

The program centers on “Menagerie of Spectacular Creatures: Insecta,” a nearly 30-minute, multi-movement work by composer Luke Blackburn. The piece uses a “docu-composition” approach inspired by Camille Saint-Saëns’ “Le Carnaval des Animaux,” portraying insects such as monarch butterflies, Hercules beetles and fireflies through both human and insect perspectives.

Blackburn was fascinated by insects as a child. Having abandoned an ambition to become an entomologist in favor of life as a modern composer, he was drawn back to insects because “there is such a wide variety” and they provided “a perfect topic to explore different compositional techniques,” he said in a [recent interview](#) with Dinosaur Annex’s artistic director, Hubert Ho. Blackburn’s composition draws attention to endangered species and the fragility of ecosystems in decline.

The program also features “Walk on Water” by Dorothy Chang and two works by Australian composer Keyna Wilkins, “A Glimpse into Eternity” and “Scorched Earth.” Chang’s piece uses water as a metaphor for the passage of time, while Wilkins’ works reflect on climate change and the “endless expansiveness of the cosmology of the human heart,” according to the ensemble’s press release.

Performers include flutist Sue-Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin, clarinetist Diane Heffner, baritone saxophonist Seychelle Dunn-Corbin, pianist Christopher Oldfather, violinist Lilit Hartunian and cellist Rafael Popper-Keizer.

Dinosaur Annex was founded in 1975 as the musical “annex” for the New England Dinosaur Dance Theater. The dance company went extinct, but the musicians carried on, surviving economic downturns, drastic changes in the arts scene, technological revolutions and a pandemic. “The fact that this group ... operates to this day speaks volumes to its value to the Boston scene,” Ian Wiese wrote in *The Boston Musical Intelligencer*.



Members of Dinosaur Annex music ensemble. Courtesy photo.

Waltham bands to raise funds for a veteran battling Huntington's disease

BY NEWSROOM • ARTS & CULTURE • APRIL 9, 2026



By Butch Black

Lizbeth Granfield is a U.S. veteran living with Huntington's disease, a fatal condition that causes parts of the brain to degenerate over time. She uses a wheelchair and relies on a handicap-accessible van for medical appointments and other daily needs. But now the van's transmission is failing. Without the van, it will be difficult for her to continue living at home.

Granfield's caregiver, Alan Arena, is organizing a fundraising concert to raise \$5,500 to repair the van. The couple are longtime Waltham residents who now live in Dennisport but maintain a connection to the Waltham community.

Arena grew up in Waltham and long fronted the Watch City band. He is organizing the event with support from fellow musicians. He is calling it the "Hugs for Lizbeth Sweet Sixteen Concert and Transmission Fundraiser" to celebrate the 16 years Granfield has been able to live at home since her diagnosis.

The concert will be held Sunday, April 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Sons of the American Legion Post 440, 295 California St. in Newton. The concert will feature Alan Arena & Volume Control, Waltham guitarist Brad Faucher and Session450, Ed Sheer of Love Dogs, Ilana Katz, Cindy Lou & Friends and Sweet Wednesday with Dave Falk and Lisa Housman.

Tickets and event information are [available online](#), and donations can also be made through a [GoFundMe campaign](#).

Disclaimer. Butch Black is a Waltham-based musician, but he is not directly involved in this fundraiser or Post 440. He is friends with Alan Arena and Al Checchinelli, the entertainment coordinator from Post 440, and knows most of the musicians who are playing.

Failing for fun – Rube Goldberg contraption builder takes over Charles River Museum

June Kinoshita

April 8, 2026

Who doesn't love the Hasbro game Mousetrap? There's something primally satisfying about turning that crank, sending a steel ball rolling down a set of switchbacks, through a twisting gutter, knocking a larger ball into a bathtub that tips, sends the ball falling onto a teeter-totter, which propels a diver into a tub, shaking loose a basket that rattles down a pole to trap the mouse. Sure, it would be so much easier to set a snap trap, but where's the fun in that?

Mousetrap is a classic example of a Rube Goldberg machine, named for the American engineer and Pulitzer Prizewinning cartoonist who loved to draw outlandish contraptions. According to Zach Umperovitch, the self-styled "world's leading authority" on the subject, Rube Goldberg machines "take a simple task and use as many steps as possible to complicate things using everyday objects in a humorous way."

Last Friday, April 3, a sold-out crowd at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation heard Umperovitch give an energetic and entertaining talk about the theory and practice of Rube Goldberg machines. He was supremely wellqualified for the task, with [a resume unlike any other](#). Among his achievements, he is a three-time Guinness World Records Holder, twice for the longest Rube Goldberg machines ever built and once for the largest potato battery in history.

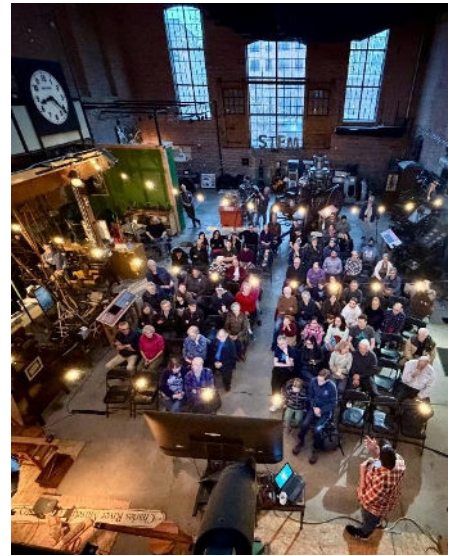
Umperovitch's expertise and skill at designing, building and explaining Rube Goldberg machines led the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation to invite him for a residency. Last week, the museum gave him free rein to rummage through the museum's storage basement and create a room-size contraption. "They told me I could use the museum exhibits and things that were lying around, which, honestly, is amazing," he said.

The key to designing Rube Goldberg machines, Umperovitch said, is to improvise, fail, fix and keep trying until one succeeds. He then unveiled his newest Rube Goldberg contraption, which he had designed and assembled earlier that week using parts salvaged from the museum's storage basement.

The device was meant to fold a brown paper bag. To accomplish the task, Umperovitch enlisted an armamentarium of gears, levers, pulleys, hooks, spinning devices, lifts, ziplines, a skateboard, an old gas station pump, a giant boot and other bits and bobs. Predictably, and much to the audience's amusement, the contraption failed on the first try. As audience members helpfully shouted out ideas for fixing it, someone – perhaps also predictably – jiggled a piece and set a chain reaction of spinning pulleys and rolling balls. Much scrambling and adjusting ensued.

Eventually, all parts were in place, adjustments were made and the world's newest Rube Goldberg device executed its task perfectly. A ball rolled down a ramp, a giant boot sailed through the air, gears rolled, things flew up and down, and on and on, until air blasted through a whistle, which made a piercing sound and sent a brown paper bag fluttering triumphantly to the floor.

As the applause subsided, Umperovitch invited people to attend the following day and watch local teams compete to build the best contraptions – the more improbable and ridiculous, the better.



1 Zach with Bob Perry, Executived Director of CRMII.

Waltham High School removes sheltered English immersion program following new state guideline

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • APRIL 7, 2026



Waltham school administrators will eliminate sheltered English immersion classes from Waltham High starting with the next school year. This move came in response to analyses of the program's outcomes in tandem with a [new guideline](#) from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education which emphasizes that SEI programs must be carried out in the least segregative manner possible.

Massachusetts state law defines SEI as “an English language acquisition process... in which nearly all classroom instruction is in English but with the curriculum and presentation designed for children who are learning the language.” For example, a student new to the English language would take SEI math as a replacement for their grade-level math class.

Without SEI classes, students who are still learning English will be in courses alongside classmates with all levels of English proficiency, including native speakers. This goes for all classes, including math, science, and history.

SEI is an alternative to integrated English immersion, where English language learners are together in classes with native English speakers. The SEI model is beneficial for newcomer students who may not have had continuous formal schooling beforehand and are [beginners](#) in learning English.

DESE's 2026 guidelines emphasized that SEI courses are not a replacement for English-as-a-second-language instruction. If a student is enrolled in a sheltered class, the student must also take classes specifically for English acquisition.

At WHS, SEI programming has not produced consistent student performance, and the administration was aware that it was not operating as expected, said Assistant Superintendent Shannon Conley.

“It was intended that those courses taper off so that your newcomers get courses like that... but after a few months, then they are tapering off into the general education classes. That’s not what occurred,” Conley said. “So when you really start to drill away at [student performance metrics], we already knew that perhaps that model was something that we would need to look at.”

DESE’s new guidelines prompted administrators to act on the doubts they had about SEI programming.

Conley said that SEI classes used to be taught more frequently to benefit a larger newcomer population. As that population shrunk, offerings for sheltered classes did as well.

The school has seen a recent drop in English learner students. The EL student population represents 16.7% of WHS’s enrollment for the 2024-25 school year, a 4.8% drop from the previous year.

DESE’s new guidelines also stipulate that sheltered programs must have clear entry and exit criteria and that students must be consistently monitored for readiness to move into integrated immersion.

“One of the things that’s really important in other districts that still have SEI courses is that they are completely aligned to state frameworks. So it’s always based on the content frameworks first versus the language component. And in some cases that wasn’t the way that our SEI courses looked. There was a heavier focus on the language and less about that true alignment to the content, and that should have never happened,” Conley said.

Since fully sheltered classes will no longer be offered at the high school level, all students will be integrated into the standard classes taken by native English speakers, no matter their level of English acquisition. Conley said WHS must help teachers, who are still required by law to get an SEI endorsement, improve the way they run their classes to support students at a lower level of English acquisition. This is because students who are still learning the language will now be in integrated classes. She said the district will continue to develop these teachers’ skills through professional development.



LEA ZAHARONI

Lea Zaharoni is a recent graduate of Brandeis University, where she majored in American Studies and Journalism. She spent most of her time at school working as General Manager of the student radio station WBRS 100.1, which broadcasts live 24/7 on Waltham FM radio. She’s also written for Brandeis’ student newspaper, the Justice, as well as the Irish Independent in Dublin and Dig Boston. Lea loves exploring new places in town and returning to old favorites, and counts herself very lucky to be a part of the Waltham community.

Hawks girls lacrosse rolls over Medford High

BY LIAM O'BRIEN • SPORTS & RECREATION • APRIL 7, 2026



Big win for the Hawks against Medford High School. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Quinn Gavin starred in a 20-9 Waltham win over the Mustangs last week, scoring an astonishing seven goals. Teammate Mia Kearney landed four scores, while Avery Leeman notched a hat trick as WHS emerged victorious from its first regular season game.

Goalie Leah France was tough in net, garnering a dozen saves while Abby Morse chipped in some crucial defensive plays. France, coming off of a Dual County League Small All-League nod last season, will be a crucial component of the Hawks' return to the state tournament.

This week is a busy one for Waltham on the home turf. Teams from Methuen High School, Westford Academy, and Acton-Boxborough Regional High School will all pay a visit.

City Council in brief: Future economic recovery options for Route 128 corridor

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD & ELIZABETH MEHLER • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 7, 2026



The City Council’s Economic and Community Development Committee voted to request that the mayor fund a new economic development manager position in the next city budget. It also requested the clerk’s office compile job descriptions for business managers in neighboring cities for the committee to later review.

This decision came after Frank Craig, chair of the city’s Board of Assessors, presented on how Waltham’s Route 128 corridor is facing difficulties attracting and retaining businesses in the current financial environment.

Craig, speaking Monday at the Economic and Community Development Committee meeting, said the Route 128 corridor until recently had experienced a steady inflow of biotechnology companies looking for lab and office space. However, commercial occupancy in the last few years has tapered off as biotech companies have had more difficulty obtaining capital funding.

Craig spoke at Monday’s meeting to paint a picture of Waltham’s economic pressures to give councilors more information as they considered whether to [hire a business manager](#) for Waltham.

Craig described lab and office buildings constructed within the last five years that seem to have experienced difficulty finding tenants, including three that are fully or partially vacant. He said that given the high cost of building specialized lab spaces, real estate companies are reluctant to start construction on new buildings, meaning even more city lots will likely [continue to sit empty](#) and lose value unless companies find other ways to use them.

Older buildings may be in an even worse position, Craig said, as real estate markets witness a “flight to quality” in the commercial sector. He pointed out that one office building at 130 Turner St. sold last year for \$25.5 million — significantly less than the last time it changed hands in 2018, when it sold for approximately \$80 million.

Craig pointed to Burlington and Watertown as municipalities that have done a good job weathering this real estate downturn by taking advantage of opportunities to build new developments with office, residential and commercial spaces in close proximity. He added that Burlington and Watertown both employ municipal economic development specialists.

The Board of Assessors has been forecasting economic trends in the city to assess the value of its commercial properties. However, Craig said the city would benefit by trying to put together a longer-term picture of those trends and their impact, for example of the potential effects of currently proposed construction projects around the city, such as the [housing developments](#) proposed under [Massachusetts General Law 40B](#), on future commercial development.

City ‘eager’ to continue with mixed-use district plan

In other City Council action, the council’s Ordinances and Rules Committee took steps toward approving a zoning change to allow real estate companies to construct mixed-use developments on three parcels of land around Route 128.

These zoning overlay districts were [proposed in December](#) by real estate companies BXP Inc., which owns the land at the Winter Street Bay Colony and along Jones Road, and 1265 Main Street LLC, which owns the parcel at 1265 Main Street.

Councilors expressed a desire to move forward with the zoning changes. “The city is really eager to achieve this goal with you,” Ward 8 Councilor and committee Chair Cathyann Harris told representatives of the two companies at a Monday meeting.

Representatives of BXP reviewed the results of a [recent consultation with neighbors of the Bay Colony property](#). They said most of the changes requested by neighbors would be taken up in upcoming special permit discussions, but it committed to expanding the setback at the northwest edge of the property from 75 to 100 feet.

Mark Fougere, a consultant hired by BXP to assess the developments’ fiscal impact on the city, told the committee he expects BXP’s two proposed districts to ultimately earn more money for Waltham. He estimated that the Bay Colony site would bring in about \$3.9 million in new revenue from sources such as property taxes and cost the city between \$1.5 and \$2.2 million in services for new residents. The Jones Road parcel, he estimated, would bring in about \$1.75 million in city revenue, and cost between \$436,000 and \$693,000.

On the recommendation of Planning Director Robert Waters, the committee voted to allocate \$55,000 to hire CommunityScale LLC, the company conducting Waltham’s [ongoing zoning review](#), to review plans for the three overlay districts while the committee continues to deliberate. Ward 2 Councilor Caren Dunn requested CommunityScale estimate how long its review will take to complete to ensure it aligns with [construction deadlines associated with the zoning districts](#).

The committee also requested Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy appear at its next meeting on April 21 to discuss the three proposed zoning changes.

Additionally, the City Council:

- Officially filed a 2-year-old motion welcoming Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa to the district after hearing an update from Mendonsa on Waltham's schools. (Committee of the Whole)
- Approved a preliminary plan for the \$850,450 that Waltham will receive in Community Development Block Grant funding which the Planning Department plans to submit to the Department of Housing and Economic Development after Thursday's community feedback meeting. (Economic and Community Development)
- Approved an appropriation of \$35,339.10 for the Disabilities Services Commission's accessibility supplies, including changing tables, aquatic wheelchairs and scholarships for individuals impacted by disabilities (Finance)
- Approved a state grant of \$3,500 for the Waltham Police Department to train 911 dispatchers. (Finance)
- Preliminarily approved a grant of location at Bear Hill Road near Fox Road for the electric utility company Eversource to provide underground storage space expansion (Licences and Franchises Committee)
- Renewed a secondhand dealers' license for The Tool Shed at 471 Main St. (Licenses and Franchises Committee)
- Approved special permit extensions for three proposed office spaces at 1432 Main St., 460 Totten Pond Road and 850 Winter St. allowing landowners to postpone construction on the projects. Ward 9 Councilor and Council President Robert Logan warned that councilors should consider an upper limit on extending special permits, pointing out that the 50 Winter St. permit was originally granted in 2013 and has been affecting feasibility studies for all other prospective developments in the meantime. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Reviewed updates to plans for a proposed hotel on Moody Street. The petitioner presented changes to the building's aesthetic design requested by McCarthy and agreed to add in specifics about parking permits the building will purchase from the city and the funding it will provide for local park improvements. The committee sent a draft of an air rights easement the building will require for its proposed second-floor cantilever over the Embassy parking lot to McCarthy's office for review. (Ordinances and Rules)

Celebrate Earth Day with cleanup at Prospect Hill Park

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • APRIL 7, 2026



Prospect Hill Park
April Volunteer Day

Date: Sunday April 19th
Time: 1pm-3pm
First volunteer day of 2026!
Join us for a park cleanup to kick off the 2026 season

- Trash pickup
- Vegetation clearing

Meet at the park entrance between 200 and 300 5th Ave

Be prepared for working in the woods	If you have them, feel free to bring your own tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear closed toe shoes• Long pants• Sun protection• Water and snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loppers• Garden shears• Work gloves• Trash picker sticks

With the arrival of spring and Earth Day just around the corner, community members are invited to roll up their sleeves and make a difference at Prospect Hill Park in Waltham.

[The Friends of Prospect Hill](#) have organized a volunteer cleanup event for Sunday, April 19, from 1-3 p.m., giving residents the opportunity to help pick up litter and clear vegetation in one of Waltham's most scenic outdoor spaces.

The event is open to everyone. Families, students, and local residents are all encouraged to attend and contribute to the community effort.

Earth Day first began in 1970 and is now an annual event dedicated to environmental protection, raising awareness about issues such as pollution, climate change and conservation.

The group will meet at the Prospect Hill Park access gate between 200 and 300 5th Avenue (not the Totten Pond Road entrance). Participants are encouraged to wear long sleeves and pants and apply insect repellent.

Please [RSVP here](#) to determine how many volunteers to expect. Head outdoors, be active and soak in the beauty of Waltham's prized park!



Waltham students shine at the 2026 districtwide art show

The Waltham Public Library was buzzing this spring as the WPS 2026 Districtwide Art Show opened its doors to the community Monday night. The art will be on display until April 30.

The exhibit showcases the creativity and talent of students from across the city's schools, featuring a wide range of artwork including photography, paintings, drawings and sketches from elementary through high school students.

The opening reception included music and refreshments and attracted a curious crowd of families, teachers and community members. Students proudly discussed their inspirations and techniques while visitors admired hundreds of submissions on three floors of the library.

Each piece seems to tell its own story, from colorful abstracts to detailed depictions of nature, reflecting the diverse imagination of Waltham's youth.

Now an annual event, the show includes art from all 11 schools — emphasizing the importance of arts education in the district — and provides a platform for students to share their work with the public. Visitors are encouraged to stop by the [Waltham Library](#) to enjoy the vibrant collection of student artwork. The library's hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Sketch work at the Library. Photo by Steve Milmore.

Focus and talent bring promise to WHS baseball this year

BY GREG LEVINSKY • SPORTS & RECREATION • APRIL 7, 2026



Two games into the 2026 season, the Waltham High School baseball team displayed immense potential. The Hawks (1-1) also showed deficiencies.

After falling to a solid Brookline team to open the season, Waltham responded Friday with a 6-3 decision on the road at reigning MIAA Division 1 state champion Chelmsford, The Boston Globe's No. 10-ranked team in all of eastern Massachusetts.

"They're very talented," coach Larry Scafidi said. "I don't know if this team has found its personality yet, but I love the fact that they play loose. You can't just turn it on and off. It's about focus."

Waltham went 14-6 last year during the regular season to earn the No. 18 seed in the state tournament and lost to No. 15 Boston College High School in the round of 32. It was the program's fifth straight postseason appearance.

Conor Gavin, a Boston Globe All-Scholastic honorable mention and Dual County League Most Valuable Player, graduated and now pitches for Bowdoin College. Dual County League All-Star Conor Chiasson also graduated. But the Hawks boast plenty of experience with seniors Hunter Fucci, Emmett Moynihan, Tim O'Toole and junior Brian Flemming, all returning DCL All-Stars.

Fucci steps in as the team's top arm. He was the 1B to Gavin's 1A last year. The Wheaton College commit is a right-hander who throws in the low 80s with a three-pitch mix. He also bats second and plays center field when he's not on the mound.

Moynihan is the catcher. A four-year varsity starter, he's a stalwart behind the plate. Case in point, he threw out a runner in the Chelmsford game in the second inning, keeping the Lions off the base



Senior Hunter Fucci takes the mound for the Hawks.
Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

paths for the rest of the game. Moynihan also serves as the team's closer, reaching the mid-80s when pitching.

O'Toole, the second baseman and the leadoff hitter, is "the most intense kid you'll ever meet in your entire life," Scafidi said. A contact hitter with great speed, O'Toole shifted over from third base.

Flemming, the first baseman, bats fifth. He won the team's "Gold Glove" award in his first year at the position last spring. He's a power hitter.

"He's a grinder, just constantly trying to do better even when he's great," Scafidi said.

Other key players to watch include sophomore pitcher Teddy Letendre, who started against Chelmsford. Ditto for sophomore pitcher Will Hietsch, who put on 50 pounds of muscle since last year. Senior pitcher Isaac Shatsoff, senior third baseman Cam Egiros and junior pitcher/outfielder Billy Champion also play key roles.

Key games to monitor during the remainder of the season include:

- at Cambridge, April 21, and vs. Cambridge, May 4
- vs. Newton South, May 6
- vs. Lincoln-Sudbury, May 7 (doubleheader)

"I expect to be just as good as we were last year," Scafidi said. "My thing to them this year is just to win the next game. They're great kids with unbelievable senses of humor, and I want them to have fun."



WHS team shows promise for 2026 season. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.









GREG LEVINSKY

Greg Levinsky is a graduate Boston University. His work has appeared in The Boston Globe, Detroit Free Press and several outlets in Massachusetts and Maine. He can be reached by email.

Waltham home sales March 31–April 3, 2026

Newsroom

April 8, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	3/31/2026	77 Old Country Rd	\$939,000	3/2	1579 sf
	3/31/2026	136 Willow St	\$840,000	6/1.5	1966 sf
	3/31/2026	15 Alder St Unit 1	\$1,065,000	3/4	2500 sf
	3/31/2026	32 Cherry St	\$675,000	3/2	2106 sf
	4/1/2026	157 Grove St Unit 2	\$640,000	2/2	1025
	4/1/2026	8 Fountain St	\$800,000	4/2	2754 sf
	4/3/2026	345 Bishops Forest Dr Unit 345	\$1,200,000	2/2.75	2424 sf

Calendar

April 15-25

WED 15 Apr 15. @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Neuropathy

Waltham YMCA 725 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

In this workshop physical therapists will educate on the sensation changes encompassed with the diagnosis of neuropathy. Therapists will discuss effects of balance, strength, and mobility as well as tips for functionality and avenues of care. This health workshop is a continuation of the Community Outreach Program spanning a variety of health diagnoses, presented by [...]

Free

WED 15 Apr 15. @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Neuropathy

Newton YMCA 276 Church St, Newton, MA

In this workshop physical therapists will educate on the sensation changes encompassed with the diagnosis of neuropathy. Therapists will discuss effects of balance, strength, and mobility as well as tips for functionality and avenues of care. This health workshop is a continuation of the Community Outreach Program spanning a variety of health diagnoses, presented by [...]

Free

WED 15 Apr 15. @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Board of Health meeting

City of Waltham Government Center 119 School Street, Waltham, MA

The Board of Health meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. Contact the Health Department to confirm each meeting and [...]

WED 15 Apr 15. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

In Conversation: Jean Shin [Virtual Program]

Rose Art Museum 415 South Street, Waltham, MA, United States

Jean Shin transforms discarded objects into monumental sculptures that invite us to reconsider consumerism and identity. Shin's 1999 installation "Alterations," currently on view as a centerpiece of the group show [...]

Free

WED 15 Apr 15. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

In Conversation: Jean Shin [Virtual Event]

Zoom

Jean Shin transforms discarded objects into monumental sculptures that invite us to reconsider consumerism and identity. Shin's 1999 installation "Alterations," currently on view as a centerpiece of the group show "Fabricated Imaginaries: Crafting Art," was reinstalled this year by the artist for the first time since its creation. In this virtual event the artist will [...]

Free

WED 15 Apr 15. @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Bike Together Waltham — April evening group ride

Margaritas 211 Moody Street, Waltham, MA

Our evening group ride is back! Join us Wednesday, April 15, for our first evening ride of 2026. Front and back lights required. 4-5 mile route TBD. Group dinner afterwards [...]

Free

WED 15 Apr 15. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

School Committee meeting

617 Lexington St 617 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

The School Committee typically meets twice per month (once each in July and August) on Wednesday evenings. Check the School Committee web site to confirm meeting dates and times. Unless [...]

THU 16 Apr 16. @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Traffic Commission meeting

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

The Waltham Traffic Commission meets monthly, September to June. Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month, at 10 a.m., with changes to accommodate special meetings and [...]

THU 16 Apr 16. @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Fabric painting with stencils

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

Design unique clothing, accessories and more by painting and stenciling onto fabric. Bring your own shirt, tote bag or any fabric piece you'd love to customize. Local artist Matt Mello will be leading the group to help bring your artistic vision to life. We will be painting and socializing. Come have fun with us! In [...]

Free

THU 16 Apr 16. @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham

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

Gain confidence as a public speaker. Our club, within Toastmasters International, works on improving communication and leadership skills in a supportive environment. We meet twice a month, first and third 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. [...]

FRI 17 Apr 17. @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Acme Theater presents 'Unnecessary Farce' by Paul Slade Smith

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

FRI 17 Apr 17. @ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sprout Benefit for Waltham Fields Community Farm

Lyman Estate 185 Lyman Street, Waltham

Join us at Sprout to celebrate the joyous start of a new growing season at Waltham Fields Community Farm! Enjoy local bites from Maple + High and LifeLoveCheese and an [...]

\$105

FRI 17 Apr 17. @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble: Insect—Water—Heart

Clark Government Center 119 School Street, Waltham, MA

Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble continues its 51st season with a concert in Waltham with music focused on mind, body, and environment. The concert is centered around Luke Blackburn's "Menagerie of [...]

\$30

SAT
18

Apr 18. @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Free Zero Waste Day

Nipper Maher Park 65 Dartmouth Street, Waltham, MA

Doing some spring cleaning and have some items you're looking to get rid of? The Waltham Recycling Department is hosting a free zero waste day at Nipper Maher Park! Open [...]

Free

SAT
18

Apr 18. @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Waltham YMCA Healthy Kids Day

Waltham YMCA 725 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

Join us to celebrate Healthy Kids Day! This is a day to celebrate our kids' mental and physical health, while teaching healthy habits and inspiring a lifetime love of physical activity. Games, prizes, music, healthy snacks for all!

Free

SAT
18

Apr 18. @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Waltham Forward neighborhood walk-a-thon (Ellison Park)

Ellison Park Neighborhood

For this event, I am going to explore the Ellison Park neighborhood (north of Main Street and west of Linden Street). We will start at the Dunkin on Linden Street between 10:45 and 11:00 a.m. before making our way across Linden Street. RSVP @ WalthamForward.com/walk. The Purpose of the Walk As we walk, we will [...]

Free

SAT
18

Apr 18. @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Annual volunteer stewards training

Prospect Hill Park 314 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA

Join the Waltham Land Trust for their free, annual training for volunteer trail and land restoration stewards, covering native and invasive plants and trail sustainability. Co-hosted with City of Waltham [...]

Free

SUN
19

Apr 19. @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Friends Beyond Boston: Coffee social at the Café

Cafe On The Common Waltham

Looking to meet new people over a great cup of coffee? Join us at Café on the Common in Waltham for a relaxed, conversational coffee social. This event is great [...]

Free

SUN
19

Apr 19. @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Volunteer day at Prospect Hill Park

Prospect Hill Park 314 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA

Spring is here and Earth Day is near! Come volunteer in Prospect Hill Park to pick up litter and clear vegetation. Whether this is your first time or 100th time [...]

Free

SUN
19

Apr 19. @ 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Film screening of 'Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack'

Wasserman Cinematheque at Brandeis University 415 South Street, Waltham

Join the Rose Art Museum for a special screening of the acclaimed 2019 documentary "Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack," an intimate and illuminating portrait of one of the most dynamic [...]

MON
20

Apr 20. @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Watch City Ukers at the Waltham Museum

Watch City Ukers Every Month at the Waltham Museum

The Waltham Museum 25 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA

Hosted by Marisa and Malissa every third Monday at the Waltham Museum, the Watch City Ukers #207 provide a relaxed atmosphere where any level is welcome. We are thrilled to share our newly revised Watch City Ukers Songbook with you. It's packed with fresh favorites we think you'll love whether you're a beginner or seasoned [...]

MON
20

Apr 20. @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

'In the Land of Arto' East Coast premiere

West Newton Cinema 1296 Washington Street, Newton

In "In the Land of Arto" Camille Cottin ("Call My Agent," "House of Gucci") stars as a wife who travels to Armenia to legalize her husband's death, only to learn [...]

TUE
21

Apr 21. @ 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

WED
22

Apr 22. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Virtual tour of Yinka Shonibare's 'Sanctuary City'

Virtual Tour

Join the Rose Art Museum for a virtual exploration of "Yinka Shonibare: Sanctuary," the U.S. debut of the British-Nigerian artist's powerful and immersive installation "Sanctuary City" (2024). The installation consists of eighteen scaled-down replicas of historical and contemporary buildings from across the globe that have served as places of refuge for persecuted and vulnerable groups [...]

Free

THU
23

Apr 23. @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Fiber arts night

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

Join us for a fun night of community and crafting. Bring your fiber arts projects—any project, from knitting to embroidery, crochet to cross-stitch, weaving and beyond. In the lecture hall.

Free

THU
23

Apr 23. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Conservation Commission meeting

Zoom

The Conservation Commission typically meets twice each month on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Meetings are usually held remotely via Zoom and are open to the public. Visit the commission's web [...]

SAT
25

Apr 25. @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Gore Place Sheepshearing Festival

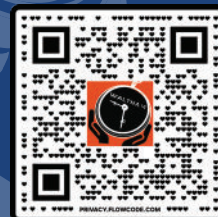
Gore Place 52 Gore Street

Since 1987, this annual event has been a springtime tradition on the grounds of our historic, 50-acre estate. People often tell us that spring doesn't begin until the Sheepshearing Festival! This event features live musical acts, 100+ craft and fiber artists, demonstrations of traditional shearing techniques, herding dogs, historic re-enactors, and hands-on activities for the [...]

\$25



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