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the copy desk

**April 20, 2026**



**Who is your Waltham innovator?**



**Volunteer Janet Driscoll helps keep Waltham Museum humming**



**Waltham HUD funding focuses on improving Boys and Girls Club, Koutoujian Park**



**To City Council: Let's ban gas-powered leaf blowers**



# Waltham runners take on Boston Marathon with purpose and gratitude

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • APRIL 16, 2026



A Waltham resident and a Waltham native with two very different journeys will help set the tone for this year's Boston Marathon, each bringing their own story of resilience to the 26.2-mile course.

Samantha Bundy will run as part of the MetroWest YMCA charity team after a long recovery that included [relearning how to walk](#) following surgeries on both legs. A distance runner who has completed marathons in Chicago and Vermont, Bundy was diagnosed about five years ago with exercise-induced compartment syndrome, a painful condition caused by pressure buildup in the muscles during repetitive running.

Her rehabilitation included extensive physical therapy at the MetroWest Y, where she gradually rebuilt her strength. She has finished preparing for her first Boston Marathon and hopes “a lot of very cold icy runs this winter” pay off. Bundy was able to practice out on the course with long runs up the Newton hills.

Bundy says the race represents both a personal milestone and a chance to give back to the organization that supported her recovery. She's running on the [MetroWest YMCA's 10-person charity team](#).

“I'm ready to go for Monday, and I'm very excited,” she said. “Should be cool but sunny, so fingers crossed it stays that way.”

Waltham native Henry Ward, now based in Arizona, is taking on the course in a way few runners ever attempt.

He plans to run the 26.2-mile route four consecutive times in a single day — more than 104 miles total — to raise awareness and funds for people battling addiction. Ward found running as a crucial part of his own recovery and has used extreme challenges to demonstrate that people can rebuild their lives. He's running Boston to support [2Gether We Live](#), a nonprofit focused on inclusion in endurance sports.

Ward grew up in Waltham and lived here most of his life, graduating from Waltham High School in 1988. He's an experienced ultra runner with more than 25 finishes of 100-mile races, including the Cocodona 250.

He plans to pick up his son from school this weekend and then head to Boston. "I'm looking forward to it," Ward said. "I want to reach more people to share my story of recovery, talk about inclusion and raise funds for 2Gether We Live. It's a great cause."



*Henry Ward trains for the marathon. Courtesy photo.*

## Waltham On The Run

More than 40 Waltham residents are expected to take part in this year's Boston Marathon, joining Samantha and Henry along with 25,000 other runners.

A promotional banner for the Waltham Times. On the left, there is a small image of the newspaper's website. The background is green with a large, faint clock face. A red arrow points to the text "CLICK to DONATE". The main text reads "Support local news!". At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains the text "Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information." and "While our news is free to readers, it is not free to produce. Help keep it flowing! Thank you. Your support matters." The Waltham Times logo is in the bottom right corner.

**CLICK to DONATE**

**Support local news!**

**Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information.**

While our news is free to readers, it is not free to produce. Help keep it flowing! Thank you. Your support matters.

**Waltham Times**  
WALTHAM TIMES

Posts on the Waltham Residents Facebook page show a range of ages, experience and motivations to take on the challenge.

Waltham resident Aaron Gladden is running to raise money and awareness for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts, the state's leading one-to-one mentoring program for youth. [His goal is to raise \\$10,000](#) to support the organization's year-round community, site-based and campus-based programs.

Bentley University senior Dan Oliveira will also take on the course while raising money for [Understanding Our Differences](#), a Newton-based nonprofit that works with schools and communities to promote inclusion and understanding for people of all abilities.

54-year-old Vin Pulselli is running in honor of his wife while fundraising for [The Ellie Fund](#), which provides critical support services, including transportation, meals and household assistance for women undergoing breast cancer treatment and their families.

Alessia Rosati will complete her third Boston Marathon as part of the [Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge](#), dedicating each mile to friends and family affected by cancer while supporting research and care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

First-time marathoner Marissa LaRosa is running in memory of the victims of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, a race she says has held deep meaning for her, while also taking on the challenge for herself after admiring runners from the sidelines over the years.

Andrew McDonald grew up in Waltham and is a nurse at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. He'll run with the City of Newton team, raising money for the [ABC Food Pantry](#), which helps provide food assistance to local families facing insecurity.

Waltham YMCA Swim Development Director Rosie McLeod will also be among the runners, supporting hunger-relief efforts through her fundraising run for the [Newton Turkey Trot](#).

Together, these Waltham runners reflect the many reasons people take on the Boston Marathon such as personal recovery, remembrance and the drive to give back.

## Author

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### 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.

# Patriots' Day history runs through Waltham streets

BY STEVE MILMORE • ARTS & CULTURE • APRIL 19, 2026



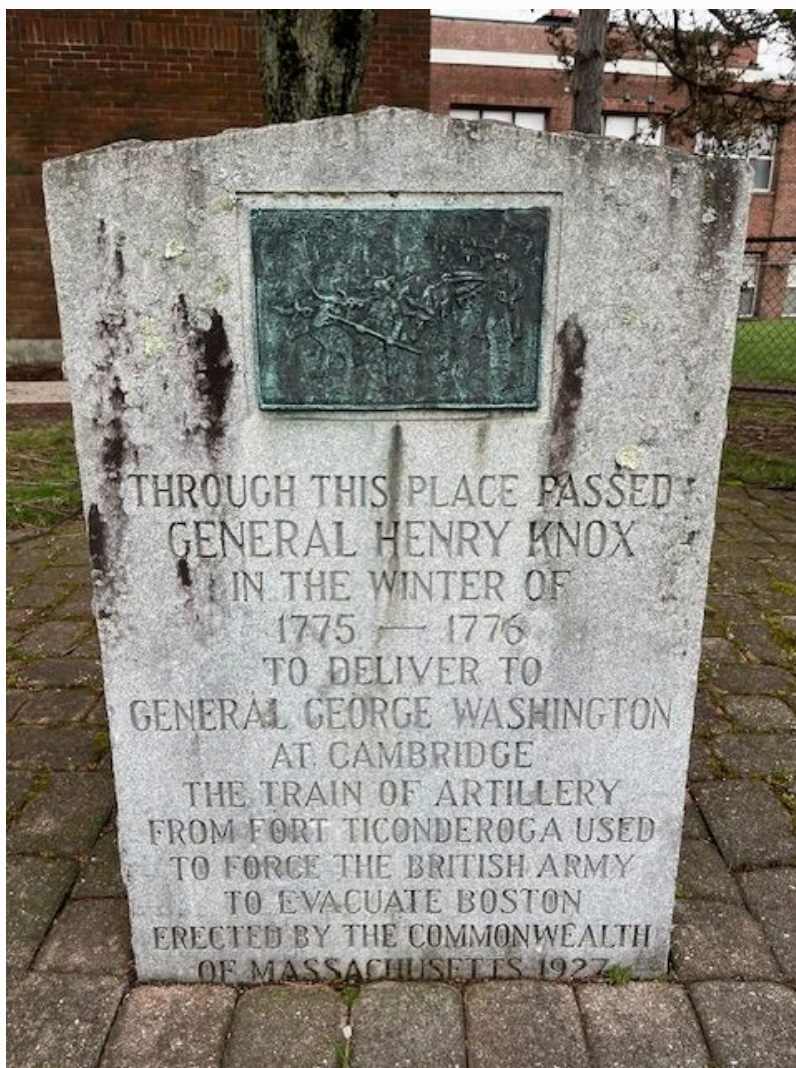
It commemorates the Henry Knox Cannon Trail, a historic route that carried artillery and troops during the American Revolutionary War.

Knox was a young bookseller-turned-soldier with a pretty tough assignment. In the winter of 1775-76, he led an ambitious effort to transport 59 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York to George Washington in Boston. The guns were desperately needed to break the British hold on the city.

Waltham was right in the middle of it. Main Street served as a key corridor into Boston, placing the city directly along the path Knox and his team likely followed as they approached their final destination. Waltham wasn't just a bystander to history – it was part of the landscape.

Historians can't confirm the exact footprint of the trail at every point, but the route through Waltham shows the critical role local roads played in moving troops and supplies during the war.

The cannons ultimately helped force British troops to evacuate Boston in 1776, marking a turning point in the war. Today, the marker at Main and South is a reminder of Waltham's role in the fight for independence.



***Henry Knox trail marker at Main and South streets.  
Photo by Steve Milmore.***

# The week ahead: Packed Ordinances and Rules meeting tackles Flock cameras, new development

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 19, 2026



The schedule for this week's meeting of City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee is packed with multiple council business items that have drawn significant interest from residents.

At its [March 16 meeting](#), in the context of [ongoing discussions](#) about the city's use of Flock Safety license plate reader technology, Ward 9 Councilor and Council President Robert G. Logan asked Chief of Police Kevin O'Connell to provide the committee with the Police Department's surveillance technology policies and attend this week's meeting to discuss them in greater depth.

The committee [also requested](#) that Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy appear at this week's meeting to discuss [three mixed-use zoning districts proposed for West Waltham](#) that are expected to bring a combined 1500 new housing units to the city.

The committee will meet after the council's Committee of the Whole meeting, which begins at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21.

The Waltham Retirement Board will meet this week to discuss new hires and retirements among city employees. The board will meet Tuesday at 4:45 p.m. in the Hoover Meeting Room at City Hall and will stream the meeting via [Zoom](#).

## City Council committees

City Council is off for Patriot's Day, so its committees will meet on Tuesday this week, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee, which is discussing a \$1.45 million loan requested by the mayor to supply power to the former Fernald State School property.

At 7 p.m., the Licenses and Franchises Committee will consider seven outdoor dining permits and three secondhand dealers license renewals and the Economic and Community Development

Committee will discuss transportation in North Waltham. The Committee of the Whole will meet at 8 p.m., when councilors will view new plans for the [ongoing Waltham Public Library renovation](#) and a project to improve accessibility at the Beaverbrook Apartments using federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding.

After the Committee of the Whole meeting concludes, the Ordinances and Rules Committee will meet to discuss Flock camera surveillance, mixed-use rezoning proposals, multiple amendments to city council rules and city ordinances [discussed last week](#), infrastructure improvements to the Department of Public Works' snow response and a proposed zoning change at 495 Lincoln St., the site of Pizzi Farm. The Finance Committee will also meet to consider two funding requests: \$44,950 to repave the 92 Felton St. parking lot and \$20,000 for the Housing Department.

## 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.

This week board members will discuss seven tobacco violations at stores around the city, as well as a variance for a pool at the Alexan Waltham and an email to the Charles River Watershed Association.

The board will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22 in the auditorium of the Clark Government Center.

## License Commission

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

This week it will consider multiple one-day alcohol permit requests from Bentley University, the Waltham Land Trust and the Robert Treat Paine estate for a celebration of life. It will also consider three special farmers market alcohol permits and one-day permits for two restaurants' special events: an entertainment permit for In A Pickle and an extension of premises for Shopper's Cafe. The commission will also discuss a change of ownership for Bonfire Indian Grill and management paperwork for The Chateau Restaurant.

The commission will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Clark Government Center.

# Conservation Commission

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

This week, the commission will hold a public hearing on the redevelopment of 455 Totten Pond Road, whose comprehensive permit was [denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals last week](#). It will also discuss possible changes to the city's tree removal policy and schedule the city's annual Conservation Trust Fund meeting.

The commission will hold a meeting [over Zoom](#) at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23. The Zoom password and meeting agenda will be provided on the [commission's page](#) on the city website at least 48 hours in advance.

## Citywide cleanup

As the weather gets warmer, Waltham's public spaces are starting to host more community activities.

The city is holding its annual cleanup in honor of Earth Day, on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to noon; participants are encouraged to gather at the back of the Public Works building at 155 Lexington St., where organizers will meet volunteers to lead them in cleaning up Waltham's public spaces.

Organizers Chris Falzone ([cfalzone@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:cfalzone@city.waltham.ma.us)) and Jeff Sutherland ([jsutherland@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:jsutherland@city.waltham.ma.us)) are available to help people sign up and to respond to questions in advance of the event.

## Author

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### ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is an Arlington and Waltham-based reporter who enjoys writing about policy and administration that affect people's everyday lives. Previously hailing from Toronto, they're a former editor-in-chief of the University of Toronto's flagship student paper The Varsity. You can find them during off-work hours playing niche RPGs, wandering through Haymarket and making extra spreadsheets that nobody asked for.

# The Times celebrates Waltham's unsung heroes for National Volunteer Week

[walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/the-times-celebrates-walthams-unsung-heroes-for-national-volunteer-week](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/the-times-celebrates-walthams-unsung-heroes-for-national-volunteer-week)

Betty Barrer

April 20, 2026



*Volunteers are critical to our civic society. Canva stock image.*

Waltham hums with volunteers who quietly give their time and talent to the city's [473 registered nonprofit organizations](#), a mix of religious entities, foundations, scholarship funds, community groups, arts and culture organizations, healthcare providers and more.

The Waltham Times, which counts itself among those 473 nonprofits, also benefits from enthusiastic volunteers and recognizes their positive impact on the city.

So for National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, The Waltham Times is initiating a series of monthly articles to highlight volunteers who are standouts for their organizations yet rarely receive public acknowledgments. The first profile can be seen [here](#).

Join us in celebrating Waltham's unsung volunteer heroes, who are listed in alphabetical order:

- Colleen Brennan, The Waltham Times
- David Digregorio Sr., REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
- Janet Driscoll, Waltham Museum
- Caroline Grossman, The Waltham Times
- Lynn Hallen, Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation
- Maureen Asiimwe Kalembe, Uganda Boston Community Association
- Nathan Merrin, REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
- Alex Nicholl, Healthy Waltham
- Cath Ronan, Healthy Waltham
- Emily Szczypek, Waltham Land Trust

# Volunteer Janet Driscoll helps keep Waltham Museum humming

BY BETTY BARRER • COMMUNITY • APRIL 19, 2026



***First in a series highlighting volunteers who are essential to the success of Waltham nonprofits***

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the [Waltham Museum](#) hard, forcing it to close for a few years.

“It was difficult to rebuild,” said Tom Arena, president of the museum’s board of directors.

But museum volunteer Janet Driscoll rose to the challenge.

Driscoll worked with volunteer Mary Baker to clean the museum’s holdings and reorganize its displays. Driscoll also created thematic rooms throughout the museum, including the military room, a favorite for many visitors.

Driscoll, Arena said, is the “tip of the spear for keeping things running” at the volunteer-led museum. “Janet keeps plugging along,” he added.

Driscoll, a lifelong Waltham resident, started volunteering at the museum in 2018 and became a board member in 2022.

During her eight-year tenure, Driscoll has contributed much, said Sally Collura, another museum board member.



***Janet Driscoll stands before a giant clockface displayed at the Waltham Museum. Photo by The Waltham Times.***

She listed some of Driscoll's activities: "leading tours, organizing and booking events at the museum as well as planning special events and fundraisers at the museum [and handling] a lot of the office work including planning monthly board meetings and organizing the agenda."

Arena likewise praised Driscoll's contributions and their importance to the museum. "She has a list of new ideas, an event that we should attend, a person we should be in contact with," he said.

Driscoll disagreed that she stood out, emphasizing that all volunteers and board members work hard and closely together. She said as a retiree she has the most time available, but "we all do what we are able to do."

Driscoll was born and raised in Waltham. She and her husband, Jake, brought up three sons and one daughter in Waltham. She also worked in Waltham, taking a job at Brandeis University's registrar's office once her children were older.

After retiring in 2016, she started volunteering at the Waltham Museum at a friend's suggestion. Driscoll admitted she was reluctant to start – "I didn't want to commit to anything," she said – but once she started, she never looked back.

In her spare time, Driscoll enjoys visiting her children and their families. She travels when she can. Her most recent trip was a cruise last year in Alaska. She also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and at the Waltham Arts Council's summer Concerts on the Common.

## **Waltham Museum, yesterday and today**

Since 1971, the Waltham Museum has preserved local history and provided cultural and educational programs for diverse audiences. The goal, according to Arena, "is not just to show you an object but to share its connection to a story or a family here in Waltham."

The museum was started as a nonprofit by Arena's uncle as a "family museum" filled with objects, photos and papers donated by Waltham residents.

In the early 2000s, the museum moved into its current home, [Waltham's old police station](#). This impressive brick Queen Anne building, built in 1892, is located at 25 Lexington St. near the Waltham Common.

Driscoll highlighted the museum's social series that encourages hands-on learning and a sense of community. "We shake it up a bit," she laughed. Although she isn't required to, she always shows up.

One of Driscoll's favorite events is an immersive event involving sound bathing with crystal bowls, scheduled for June 7.

Driscoll also enjoys leading museum tours. "It's always a big surprise to find out how much people engage with the tour. Some people who lived here all their lives didn't know much of Waltham's history," she said, adding that the tours "focus on the people and cultural side of Waltham. It's not strictly academic."

Driscoll is skilled at the task. "Best tour guide ever," said Collura.

Although the museum is regularly open only on Sunday afternoons, people can make midweek appointments, which leads to another favorite activity for Driscoll: curating experiences for visitors.

"People can call in advance and tell us their interests. Some people who had lived in Waltham and donated their things will call us for an appointment, and we will put [their items] out for display and keep them out for a while," she said.

For Arena, Driscoll is far more than a friendly face greeting visitors. Her dedication and drive helped keep the museum going through its toughest years.

"We're lucky to have her," said Arena, "not to diminish the work of all the volunteers who give so much to the museum."

## Author

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### **BETTY BARRER**

Betty Barrer retired as a senior editor after almost two decades at the Massachusetts Medical Society, focusing on the NEJM Journal Watch newsletter series. Previously, she was a freelance editor and writer, which included a stint at the Massachusetts Municipal Association. A Waltham resident since 2010, she enjoys the city's lively and diverse community.

# Hawks Sports roundup

[walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/hawks-sports-roundup-3](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/hawks-sports-roundup-3)

Steve Milmore

April 20, 2026



Waltham High School teams are still in action during vacation week, with games scheduled throughout the mornings and afternoons. It's a great chance for fans to come out and enjoy the break with the Hawks.

Monday, April 20

- Boys varsity lacrosse vs. Arlington, 4 p.m. (Arlington HS)
- Boys freshman lacrosse vs. Watertown, 6:15 p.m. (Watertown HS)

Tuesday, April 21

- Boys varsity baseball vs. Cambridge, 4 p.m. (St. Peters Field/Cambridge)
- Boys JV "A" baseball vs. Cambridge, 4 p.m. (Rindge Field/Cambridge)

Wednesday, April 22

- Boys JV lacrosse vs. Lexington, 10 a.m. (Lexington HS)
- Girls varsity softball vs. Arlington Catholic, 11 a.m. (Veterans Memorial Field)
- Boys JV "B" baseball vs. Newton South, 4:45 p.m. (Newton South HS)

Thursday, April 23

- Boys varsity lacrosse vs. Framingham, 2:15 p.m. (Framingham HS)
- Boys JV lacrosse vs. Framingham, 4:30 p.m. (Framingham HS)

Friday, April 24

- Boys and girls varsity track vs. Open, 9 a.m. (North Andover HS)
- Girls varsity softball vs. Malden, 10 a.m. (Veterans Memorial Field)
- Girls varsity lacrosse vs. Framingham, 2 p.m. (Framingham HS)
- Girls JV lacrosse vs. Framingham, 3:30 p.m. (Framingham HS)

Saturday, April 25

- Boys varsity lacrosse vs. Newton North, 11 a.m. (Newton North HS)
- Boys freshman lacrosse vs. Newton North, 11 a.m. (Warren Field)

# This week at the Senior Center

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • APRIL 19, 2026



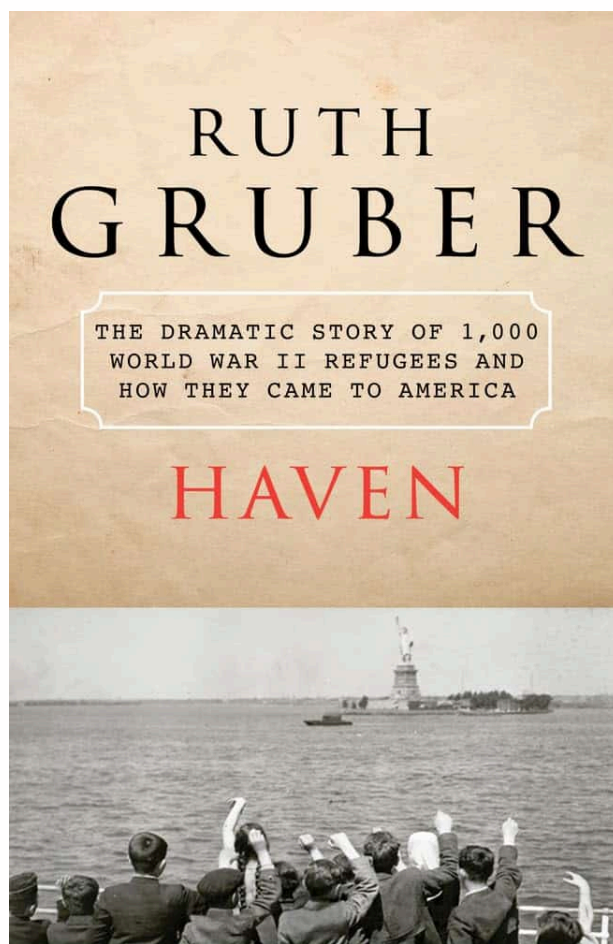
*Curated by Priscilla Elliott*

Tuesday, April 21, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sign up for a 25-minute technology tutorial with a volunteer from Bentley University's Service-Learning Program. They will show you 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. Available on Tuesdays through April 28. To register for one or more sessions, call the Senior Center's front desk at 781-314-3499.

Tuesday, April 21, 11 a.m. Zoom discussion about "Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1000 World War II Refugees and How They Came to America," by Ruth Gruber. Hard copies and audio books will be available at the Waltham Public Library. A Zoom link and reminder will be sent to registrants a few days prior to the session. This program is free, but you must register at 781-314-3499.

Wednesday, April 22, 1 p.m. Estate planning basics. Why develop an estate plan? What legal documents are included in an estate plan? Attorney Dale Tamburro from DJT Law will discuss these important issues and answer your questions. This program is free, but you must register at 781-314-3499.

The Senior Center is located at 488 Main St. in Waltham.



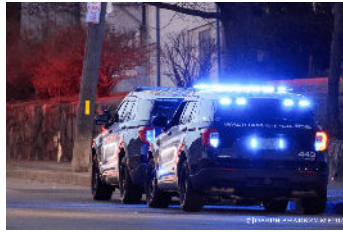
***Ruth Gruber's "Haven" is the subject of a Zoom book discussion.***

# Public safety report: Car strikes two fences and utility pole on River Street

[walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/public-safety-report-car-strikes-two-fences-and-utility-pole-on-river-street](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/public-safety-report-car-strikes-two-fences-and-utility-pole-on-river-street)

Cyd Abnet

April 20, 2026



A car struck two fences and a utility pole on River Street this week, sending the driver of the vehicle to the hospital.

On April 17 at 1:20 a.m., police responded to the area of 173 River St. According to the police report, the vehicle was speeding and struck a curb. The vehicle continued over the sidewalk, hitting two fences and a utility pole. The driver of the vehicle, a 19-year-old man from North Andover, was transported to a local hospital with moderate injuries.

The driver was issued a citation for negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding and a marked lanes violation.

## **Additional police activity**

On April 12 at 9:04 a.m., police responded to reports of a car crash on Clematis Avenue. A vehicle crashed into a loading dock around 100 feet off the roadway. The vehicle was heavily damaged, but the driver wasn't injured. The crash is under investigation by the police traffic division.

On April 12 at 10:39 a.m., police responded to reports of a larceny on Bright Street. A resident's moped was stolen from outside the property overnight. Detectives are investigating the incident.

On April 13 at 3:02 p.m., police responded to reports of a larceny on Lexington Street. The caller said his debit card had been used to buy \$2,400 worth of car parts off eBay that were sent to an address in Nevada. Police are investigating the incident.

On April 14 at 12:12 p.m., police responded to Marshall's at 126 Market Place Drive. A man had grabbed merchandise and walked out of the store. Employees followed him to Main Street before calling the police. Officers reviewed videotape from the store of the man stealing \$146 of merchandise and were able to identify him. The suspect received a summons for shoplifting by asportation third offense.

On April 16 at 3:43 p.m., police responded to Bacon Street, where the caller informed them of suspected identity fraud. Numerous accounts and credit cards were opened in the caller's name. Police gave the victim resources to help address the situation.

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

# Waltham Educators Association protests removal of SEI program, cutting ESL faculty from budget

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[walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/waltham-educators-association-protests-removal-of-sei-program-cutting-esl-faculty-from-budget](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/waltham-educators-association-protests-removal-of-sei-program-cutting-esl-faculty-from-budget)

Lea Zaharoni

April 20, 2026

At the April 15 School Committee meeting, Waltham High School teacher Maria Luiza Rodriguez read a letter backed by the Waltham Educators Association raising concerns about the elimination of sheltered English immersion classes and about next year's proposed budget, which would cut four ESL teachers and a part-time ESL coach.

The letter, signed by 75 WHS teachers across departments, brought up four main concerns: the decision was made without input from teachers, students or families; the district has not provided a clear plan for how beginner English learners will succeed in mainstream classrooms; the new model may not meet state compliance requirements for ESL programming; and cutting staff during such a significant transition could harm students.

WEA put out a [statement](#) on Facebook claiming that 20 additional educators wanted to sign the letter, but did not for fear of retaliation from the district.

Around 30 educators attended the meeting as a show of support, and several spoke during public comment. They said that without proper resources, the shift would hurt students and negatively affect the school's dropout rate. "Inclusion without the right support is not equity," said WHS history teacher Lauren Sampson during the meeting.

Teachers argue that successfully implementing the change would require months of targeted professional development, which has not been planned. Regarding staff cuts, they contend that although WHS enrolls [fewer](#) English learners than [last year](#), ESL teachers will be needed more than ever during this transition to mainstream classes.

"Placing foundational-level ESL students in mainstream content classes with their fluent English-speaking peers is a monumental instructional shift for WHS," the letter states. To ease that transition, the letter argues that ESL teachers should co-teach in mainstream classes rather than be cut.

WEA is calling on the School Committee to reject the proposed staff cuts and require the district to produce a detailed implementation plan to account for the loss of SEI classes in the fall.

The committee voted to have Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa present the district's reasoning for eliminating SEI classes and cutting ESL staff at its May 6 meeting. Mendonsa and Assistant Superintendent Shannon Conley could not be reached for comment.

# School Committee in brief: Updates on WPS's special education program, Valor School

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[walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/school-committee-in-brief-updates-on-wpss-special-education-program-valor-school](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/04/19/school-committee-in-brief-updates-on-wpss-special-education-program-valor-school)

Lea Zaharoni

April 20, 2026

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services Lisa Kingsley presented findings from the March 18 professional development day for K-12 special education teachers to the School Committee at its April 15 meeting.

Kingsley said staff identified common priorities and goals during exercises held as part of the professional development day.

More specifically, staff members identified helping students manage their emotions as well as develop planning and organizing skills as priorities.

Staff members also said the school needs to better help students through the challenges that arise during the transition from elementary to middle school. "There are new unspoken and spoken rules when you're moving between buildings and between levels ... Waltham is not alone in that," Kingsley said.

Kingsley said the special education department will create norms for individualized treatment so that students will receive appropriate levels of care depending on their needs, a move prompted by the feedback she heard from staff.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and school faculty [earlier this month raised concerns](#) about the student selection process for Valor School, the city's competency-based, flexible public high school.

In response, Assistant Superintendent Shannon Conley gave the School Committee an overview of the admission process.

Conley said there is a lengthy admissions process for WHS students seeking to attend Valor. The process includes a student application, a home visit and an "empathy interview" to determine whether the student could commit to Valor's requirements. Conley said because Valor's enrollment is capped at 55, extra care is taken to make sure students are not enrolling hastily and taking spots from others who are more prepared for the program.

According to Conley, enrollment happens during three specific windows: August, the end of October and the end of the second quarter. Conley also said WHS staff have access to the number of vacancies at Valor and are able to refer students.

She noted that Valor is only in its second year of operation and that staff members are still building guidelines and procedures suited to the school's student population.

# Four candidates for WHS principal advance to 2nd round of interviews

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • APRIL 19, 2026



The School Department is moving four candidates for the high school principal position to a second round of interviews as it seeks to replace outgoing WHS principal-in-residence John Barnes.

The announcement came just two days after the School Committee received a progress report on the search for a new WHS principal.

The School Department's human resources director, Kate Peretz, told board members at their Wednesday meeting that the Waltham High School Principal Interview Committee had interviewed seven candidates on April 13 and 14. The interview committee had selected those seven from the 19 who had applied for the job.

Peretz said the seven candidates met the search committee's criteria, which included having proper licensure, experience with public schools in Massachusetts, and experience with large, diverse populations like the one at WHS. She also said that experience with low-performing schools was part of their criteria.

The Waltham High School Principal Interview Committee includes Peretz, Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa and Assistant Superintendent Shannon Conley. Two WHS teachers, a parent of a WHS student, two WHS students and three administrators round out the committee.

Peretz said each candidate performed well during the interview, noting that the search committee gave special attention to the candidates' responses to the question, "Why Waltham and why now?"

She added that details on the candidates and their forthcoming visits to the high school, which are part of the selection process, will soon be released to the community.

Barnes, who started as Waltham High's principal-in-residence in July 2025, [submitted his resignation in March](#). He leaves at the end of the school year. No reason was given for his departure. He will be the fourth principal to leave WHS since 2020.

# Test your civic smarts at Waltham trivia night

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • APRIL 14, 2026



Think you know your local government? Up for a challenge on history, voting and how it all works? The League of Women Voters of Waltham is inviting the community to put their knowledge to the test at a Civics Trivia Night on Wednesday, May 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at McDevitt Middle School.

Teams will go head-to-head answering questions on local Waltham government, the U.S. Constitution, voting rights and other civic topics. The trivia will be played over five rounds, building up to a final high-stakes round. All teams will stay in the game and compete through every round.

Waltham students, teachers, WPS alumni, college students and residents of all ages can participate as players or attend as spectators. Organizers say the night is meant to be friendly and welcoming, with plenty of chances to learn something new along the way. Food, beverages and school swag will be offered.

LWV Waltham is asking that teams and spectators register in advance via the invite QR code.

Teams of up to eight students compete free by showing their WPS student IDs. Registration for adults is \$40 per team of up to eight people.

Attendance is free for students by showing their WPS student ID. There's a suggested donation of \$10 per adult spectator.

The event is a partnership between the LWV and Waltham Public Schools' history and social studies department. For more information, contact Derek Vandegrift, WPS Director of History and Social Studies at [derekvandegrift@walthampublicschools.org](mailto:derekvandegrift@walthampublicschools.org).

Sign Up Your Team Here



Spectator RSVP Here



**WALTHAM  
COMMUNITY-WIDE**

# **Civics Trivia Night**

**COME TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL, STATE,  
AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT!**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

**6:30-8:30PM**

**McDevitt Middle School - 75 Church Street**

*Pizza provided*

**\$40 per team (up to 8 players)**

**\$10 suggested donation per spectator**

**Free admission for students with school ID**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WALTHAM



# To City Council: Let's ban gas-powered leaf blowers

BY GUEST WRITER • LETTERS • APRIL 15, 2026



To the Editor,

As a resident of Waltham for many years, I've watched our city evolve in many wonderful ways. However, there is one modern "innovation" that has turned our peaceful neighborhoods into a source of constant stress and irritation: the gas-powered leaf blower.

I am writing to urge my fellow neighbors and our local officials to consider the heavy toll these machines take on our community's health and environment.

## **A Constant Disturbance**

The noise is not just a nuisance; it has become an intrusion on our basic right to peace in our own homes. Frequently, the high-pitched whine starts as early as 6:30 a.m. and continues well after 8:00 p.m., showing no regard for the weekend or the sanctity of a quiet Sunday. For those working from home, seniors, or parents of young children, there is simply no escape from the relentless drone. Socializing in your garden is impossible when the leaf blowers next door spew toxic fumes and generate noise well in excess of the permitted 80 decibels! Domestic pets and the wildlife around are terrified and impacted by the whine and pollution generated.

## **Environmental & Health Impacts**

The environmental cost is even more staggering than the noise. It is a common misconception that because these tools are small, their impact is negligible. In reality, the two-stroke engines used in most commercial blowers are incredibly inefficient. Operating a commercial gas-powered leaf blower for just 30 minutes emits more ozone-forming pollution than a large pickup truck driving 3,000 miles. These machines spew a cocktail of carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, and fine particulate matter — including mold and animal waste — directly into the air our families breathe.

## **A Better Way Forward**

We don't have to look far for good examples. Our neighbors in Lexington recently took the lead by implementing a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, recognizing that the technology for quieter, cleaner electric alternatives is already here. Newton bans the use of gas powered leaf blowers

from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A single electric leaf blower operating at less than 65 decibels is permitted per lot and can only be used from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and not on Sundays.

We can do better. We call on the Waltham City Council to outlaw gas-powered leaf blowers while allowing electric leaf blowers operating at less than 65 decibel noise output between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and not on Sundays.

Let's reclaim the peace of our mornings and the quality of the air on our streets and gardens.

Sincerely,  
Richard and Leueen Laing  
Angelside



SALLY WETZLER • APRIL 17, 2026 AT 12:49 PM

I similarly cringe and resent the noise and fumes of these machines operating at all hours almost every day, especially on the weekend when I (and sometimes my guests) are forced to go indoors as they rev up. Other municipalities' approach to leaf blowers takes into consideration everyone that is impacted by their use, which is only fair. I also would urge the City Council to consider limiting or banning gas-powered blowers. If the Council is unsure how the public feels on this issue, opening the discussion to public input will illustrate how fed up we are with this nuisance.

**Reply**



ROB PARK • APRIL 17, 2026 AT 10:41 AM

I'd second that motion. Anything quieter and especially with a lower carbon footprint would be appreciated.

**Reply**



MICHAEL WYSON • APRIL 17, 2026 AT 9:18 AM

I have noticed that many people leave their homes and return in the afternoon after their landscaping contractors have done their noisy work. Those of us who work from home, are retired, or care for children or the elderly during the day are subjected to an extreme lack of peace and quiet created by gas-powered machines. Not to mention the auditory damage the workers must suffer. If a homeowner requires quieter equipment, most landscapers will comply.

**Reply**

# Waltham faith leaders to gather for emergency summit on homelessness

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • APRIL 14, 2026



With Waltham’s homelessness crisis deepening, faith leaders from across the region are gathering for an emergency interfaith summit aimed at coordinating relief efforts.

Chaplains on the Way, an interfaith ministry serving unhoused residents, will host the event, called the Interfaith Round Table on Homelessness, on Sunday, April 19, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St.

The “Inclusive Luncheon and Listening Session” will convene clergy and congregational leaders from all of Waltham’s faith traditions to discuss how local houses of worship can work together to respond to the city’s escalating need for shelter and support.

According to Chaplains on the Way, attendance at its daily breakfast program and warming center has jumped by 66.7 percent in recent months—a surge that Executive Director Michael Jones said has strained the organization’s capacity and underscored the need for citywide collaboration.

“Because Chaplains on the Way is a non-denominational, interfaith ministry dedicated to our neighbors experiencing homelessness, we occupy a unique position in the community,” Jones said. “We are honored to serve as a bridge, bringing together leaders from across the full spectrum of faith traditions to sit at one table.”

“No single congregation can solve this alone,” said Pastor Bill Hoch, a Chaplains on the Way board member. “We’re hoping to streamline how houses of worship provide support and create clear on-ramps for congregants who want to help.”

All faith leaders are welcome to attend, Jones said. Those interested can register by emailing [info@chaplainsontheway.org](mailto:info@chaplainsontheway.org).

Chaplains on the Way, founded in Waltham, provides spiritual care and basic services—including meals and outreach—to people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty. More information is available at [www.chaplainsontheway.us](http://www.chaplainsontheway.us).

# Waltham Land Trust season kickoff party and steward training brings kindred spirits together

BY CYD ABNET • COMMUNITY • APRIL 14, 2026



**Volunteers receive training on how to be a steward for the Waltham Land Trust. Photo courtesy of WLT.**

One of the things Alison Fleck likes most about being a steward for the Waltham Land Trust is seeing the impact that her work has had over the years. “I’ve done work in Woerd Woods, by the Charles River, in Prospect Hill Park and at Wellington fields taking out invasive species and replanting the open space with native shrubs,” said Fleck, a WLT member and steward since 2023.

She particularly enjoys going to clean-up events and ‘work parties,’ which are hosted by WLT several times a week and provide great opportunities for connection with others. “It’s great to go to events with all kinds of people of all ages,” Fleck said.

People interested in rolling up their sleeves to help preserve Waltham’s green spaces can learn more about it this Saturday. The Waltham Land Trust is hosting a gathering and steward training at Prospect Hill Park Lodge. Both current stewards and prospective stewards can join WLT and city park ranger Adam Green at noon on April 18 for a season kickoff party and a 1 p.m. steward training. Registration through the WLT [website](#) is required to attend the event.

WLT hopes to train around 25 volunteers at this weekend’s event. Stewards help to maintain the Western Greenway Trail, the Mass Central Rail Trail, Wellington Fields, paths along the Charles River, the trails at Prospect Hill Park, the path around Hardy Pond and paths at Beaver Brook reservation.

Stewards must be at least 18 years old or if younger than 18, accompanied by a parent who has gone through the training as well. Stewards commit to walking portions of Waltham’s trails on a regular basis to pick up trash, report trail hazards and perform light maintenance as needed. The work can vary widely, which gives stewards the opportunity to care for many different areas of the city.

Charlie Hamlin, who has been volunteering with WLT for a few years, takes care of the Chesterbrook Corridor on the Western Greenway Trail. For him, the contribution to future generations keeps him coming back for more.

“The experience is rewarding because it is clear to me that these public lands in Waltham need to be preserved for future generations,” said Hamlin.

Like Fleck, Hamlin enjoys the social aspect of being a steward. Now that he is retired, he hopes to spend more time at fundraisers to get to know more of his fellow stewards.

“It is great to have this community that is so devoted to this effort,” he said.

Those interested who are unable to attend the training this weekend can email WLT Executive Director Sonja Wadman at [swadman@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:swadman@walthamlandtrust.org) or call 781-893-3355 to receive an interest form.



### **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.

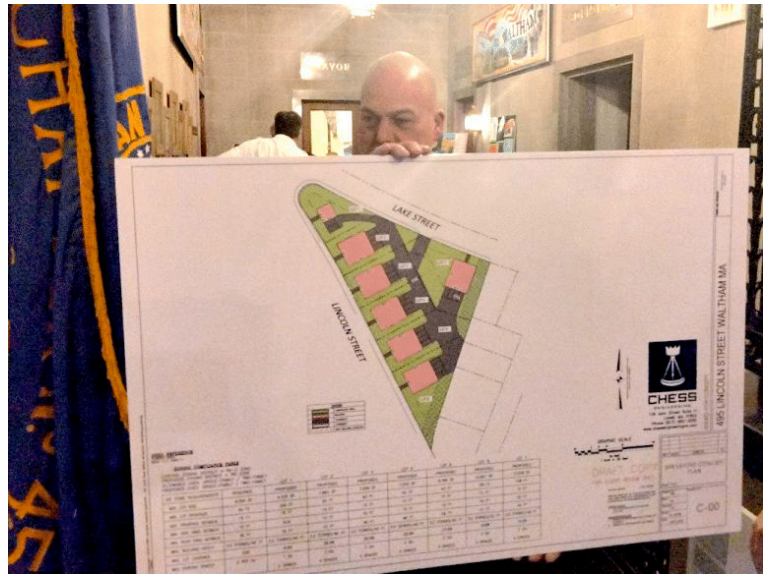
# Pizzi Farms seeks zoning reform to become housing development

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 14, 2026



The owner of neighborhood ice cream shop and corner market Pizzi Farm appeared this week in front of City Council to request a change to the lot's zoning designation, which would allow it to be redeveloped as housing.

The owner's lawyer, Joseph M. Connors Jr., explained to the council that although Pizzi Farm has operated since 1964, the current owners don't have heirs to take over the business. Instead, Cheryl and Richard Pizzi have partnered with Anthony G. Cardillo III of Waltham construction company A. Cardillo & Sons Inc. to develop it into housing.



**Rick Pizzi hold a schematic of the proposed housing development at the site of Pizzi Farm. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.**

The Pizzis' plan is to split the current lot into six two-family townhomes and one single-family home. They are asking for it to be designated as a Residence B district. Connors presented an initial layout for the lot but warned it wasn't yet finalized. He did not give a specific date for when the development would go up.

The lot currently sits in a Residence A2 zoning district, which would only allow four single-family homes to be built on the lot. The owners appeared previously before the Board of Survey and Planning in September to confirm a subdivision of the lot into four segments. Connors explained that the lot sits beside land zoned for more intense residential use, including Residence C districts with multi-family homes.

Members of the Board of Survey and Planning expressed dissatisfaction with the idea of designating the lot as a Residence B district, given that it does not border any similarly-zoned land. In response to questions from board member Brian Moroney, Connors admitted the current development plans would not be harmed if the city designated 495 Lincoln St. as a Residence C zone like some of the districts it borders.

A total of 12 audience members stood in favor of the development, and none opposed it. One audience member, Tim Riley, added that the two-family townhouses would be consistent with the character of the current neighborhood, although he lamented the loss of corner stores like Pizzi Farm across the city.

Richard Pizzi told councilors that the lot's abutters had not raised any concerns about the new development plans, and some had in fact expressed that they appreciated the decrease in traffic this redevelopment would bring.

The City Council did not take action and forwarded it to the Ordinances and Rules Committee and the Board of Survey and Planning for further review.

## Comments (2)

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JOHN DUNTON • APRIL 15, 2026 AT 9:45 AM

The apparent imminent loss of the best drive-in ice cream spot in Waltham is a huge loss to the community. It's such a great place to be on a warm evening enjoying first rate frozen treats among our fellow Waltham residents. Will only Dairy Joy in Weston be left? And where will that crew of high school kids find summer employment?

**Reply**



TIMOTHY RILEY • APRIL 15, 2026 AT 8:55 AM

See, I don't get the comments from members of the Board of Survey and Planning about zoning RB in isolation here.

If we strictly looked at zoning of adjacent parcels as a reflection of a 'desirable community character', those single family homes shouldn't be there! Almost all of them have one problem or another (usually small lot sizes, but a couple have high lot coverage). Conforming to that zoning means some of those families would have to leave, and their lots merged to build a luxury large single family home or the parcels upzoned themselves. This is why 'zoning to protect neighborhood character' is an unworkable concept and we should drop it.

If anything is wrong with this site, it's the width of Lincoln and Lake streets encouraging speeding next to a school. There's frequently a cop stationed here to catch them too.

**Reply**

# Who is your Waltham innovator?

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • APRIL 16, 2026



The Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation’s new #MA250 banners across the city celebrate a dozen icons of industry, but “we know we’ve only scratched the surface of the history made in Waltham,” said Stephen Guerriero, director of education at the museum.

The project, “250 Years of Revolutionary Industrial Innovation,” was developed, planned and written by the museum’s former intern Maya Colman, now a community engagement manager at The West End Museum in Boston.

After The Waltham Times [published a story about it](#), Anthony Mangini, a 96-year-old former Raytheon (now RTX) manager, wrote to remind us that Raytheon’s Lab 16 developed the Lark — the first successful guided missile — on Seyon Street and in the old Bleachery complex.

“It was a massive technological achievement born right in our backyard,” Guerriero said. “It got us thinking: Who else belongs on a banner?”

Waltham has been a city of firsts, from the Boston Manufacturing Company and Watch Factory to the “Apollo Weaver” women to the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. What other firsts deserve to be celebrated?

We want to hear from you!

- Is there a specific site in Waltham where history was made?
- Is there an innovator, scientist or laborer whose story needs to be told?
- What “Waltham firsts” are you most proud of?



**Jodi Rosenbaum, founder and CEO at More Than Words.**

# Waltham HUD funding focuses on improving Boys and Girls Club, Koutoujian Park

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 16, 2026



A redesign of the Waltham Boys and Girls' Club is the largest item in the city's recently published draft plan for how it will use its federal Community Development Block Grant funding this year.

The CDBG program, run by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, distributes grants to municipalities for housing, public works and community aid programs. This grant funds improvements in quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents and for vulnerable populations, such as survivors of domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness.



**Waltham Boys & Girls Club. Google Maps.**

The city is soliciting public feedback on the [CDBG draft plan](#) it released on [April 10](#) after a public meeting [the previous day](#). The public comment period closes on May 10, after which the plan will be sent to HUD. Once the city finalizes its contract with the agency, partner organizations can sign their own agreements with the city and begin receiving CDBG funds by July.

The city got \$846,875 in funding this year — \$24,697 less than last year. In fiscal year 2021, Waltham received \$978,390, while in 2024 the city received \$871,572.

Despite [the city's fears](#), the federal government [did not cut CDBG funding](#) in last year's federal budget. Assistant Director of Planning/Sustainability Frank Nakashian said the decline in funding is mostly due to changing demographics around the country; HUD allocates the CDBG budget based on the sizes of low-income populations.

Nakashian said that the Planning Department chose which projects to fund based on the five-year plan it compiled last year based on resident feedback.

The department can spend only 15% of its CDBG funding on non-construction-related public service projects. This year, it proposes to fund 13 applications, all from organizations with which it has partnered before. The largest non-construction community service allocations are going toward the Community Day Center and Opportunities For Inclusion. The list also includes services such as homework help, youth engagement programs, meal programs for homeless people, ESL classes and assistance paying for utility bills.

The applicants estimate these projects will help 6,873 people, 96% of whom live in Waltham's South Side and 83% of whom are from low- to moderate-income households.

These estimates do not include residents who will benefit from the \$273,466 allocated for planning design work by the Boys and Girls Club. It estimates, once complete, the building will serve around 3,000 people. The next-largest line item is \$220,000 toward the city's repayment of a federal Section 108 loan for the conversion of the former Woerd Avenue landfill into a playground and public park named for Jack Koutoujian.

About 6.7% of the block grant goes to a city program to fund home renovations for homeowners and renters. Most of this program, said Nakashian, is funded by revenue from rebates when previous recipients of this grant sell their homes. Approximately 23.5% of CDBG funding goes to administration costs, covering a proportion of the salaries of Planning Department staff who head up the program and Housing Department staff who oversee home rehabilitation.



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**Waltham Times**



## ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is an Arlington and Waltham-based reporter who enjoys writing about policy and administration that affect people's everyday lives. Previously hailing from Toronto, they're a former editor-in-chief of the University of Toronto's flagship student paper The Varsity. You can find them during off-work hours playing niche RPGs, wandering through Haymarket and making extra spreadsheets that nobody asked for.

# Holocaust survivor visits Bentley Hillel to deliver powerful story of survival and grief

BY LEA ZAHARONI • COMMUNITY • APRIL 16, 2026



In honor of the annual day of Holocaust remembrance, Yom HaShoah, Bentley University Hillel hosted Jack Trompetter, a survivor of Nazi-occupied Europe, to tell his family's story of persecution, recovery and pitch black humor during one of history's darkest chapters.



***Jack Trompetter, center, with the Bentley Hillel leadership board. Photo by Tamar Levy.***

Trompetter was born in 1942 in a Holland already run by the Nazi Party. His mother and father were working class — a seamstress and a restaurant worker — but politically active in the labor movement. By the time he was born, Jews had been removed from public professions, banned from public swimming pools and made to wear the Star of David everywhere they went. Aryan

certificates, which proved no Jewish ancestry up through one's great-great-great grandparents, were required for those in the public sector.

At that time, Trompetter said, Jews in Holland reacted to their slow, methodical persecution with compliance. "The Jewish community thought, obey the rules, pay your taxes, cross at the green, be a good neighbor, everything would be okay."

This was because those Jews who were sent to concentration camps at first were told they were going for work. A Jewish council, or Judenrat, was assembled by the Nazi government to relay messages and orders to the community. They came up with a vague location — "east" — and told Jews they would be resettled there for labor.

The community believed them. "Back then, people did not know. If you were someone who said to the Jewish community, there are concentration camps where they will murder you, you would think they were crazy. People couldn't conceive of this." So, they packed their suitcases with warm clothing and waited to be sent "east."

Trompetter's family survived, although not together. His parents hid with a young couple in Tilburg for two and a half years, and after receiving a smuggled note from a family member about the dangers of the city, chose to hide him with a Catholic farming family in central Holland from the age of 3 months to nearly 3 years.

Of the 25,000 Dutch Jews who went into hiding, he noted, a little more than half were betrayed by friends and neighbors, sometimes for just a pound of sugar in return. "I've come to understand my family's past is very much about luck and the help of other people," he said.

## **A framework of ignorance**

When asked about antisemitism today and how it compares to his family's history, Trompetter refused to discuss the problem separately from racism in general. He believes they are part of the same framework of ignorance, which is cured by actually getting to know someone you have prejudice against.

"You can be sure that many of those people who are antisemitic never had anything to do with a Jewish person. It's not like a Jewish person wronged them in some way. It's an idea they have in their head." The same, he said, is true of racism against anyone. "Babies are not racist. Babies are not antisemites. You learn it."

He referred to a phenomenon he called the terrible power of ideas, using Germany as an illustration. Engineers used their expertise to design gas chambers, and doctors worked out the

logistics of human experimentation. Their education and intellectual achievements were no match for Nazism. “You have to be careful when you think about what you believe,” he said.

## The lessons of the hidden children

Trompetter came with his family to New York City by boat in 1949 under the sponsorship of an aunt, Tante Rose, and has lived in America ever since, save for a few cathartic returns to Holland. He didn’t fully adopt his identity as a Jewish man until the 1980s, when he struck up a friendship with Rabbi Moshe Holzer of Temple Beth Shalom in Cambridge.

Later in life, he also reconnected with his identity as a survivor. Trompetter talked about a “hierarchy of competitive suffering” within the Jewish community after World War II, and recalled feeling that his story wasn’t valid enough to discuss because he was too young to remember it himself. He noted several times, however, that the physical body can remember things far before the mind can.

“I know that our bodies experienced everything and took it in and had to bury it somewhere,” he said. Trompetter found others who could relate to this form of trauma at one of the first international hidden children conferences, held in 1991 in New York. Over 1,600 people attended the conference, far exceeding the expectations of the Anti-Defamation League, which organized it.

Trompetter has enjoyed weekly Zoom meetings with other hidden children he’s met over the years, and noted that his community of survivors had been experiencing some *deja vu*.

“We’re the canaries, and we can smell the gas, the doo-doo and the fascism. And what we understand today, we’re in a very difficult spot. History doesn’t repeat itself, but it rhymes,” referencing a quote from Mark Twain.

Offering advice to the young crowd on preventing another rhyme, he simply emphasized, “be kind, be kind, be kind.”



### 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.

# Brandeis honors three alumni for transformative achievements in arts, medicine and sports

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • EDUCATION • APRIL 16, 2026



Brandeis University has announced that Philadelphia Eagles Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Lurie, actor Loretta Devine and cancer researcher Sheila Efron Taube will receive the Alumni Achievement Award, one of Brandeis University's highest honors. It is presented to graduates who have made distinguished contributions in fields such as business, science, medicine, education, government, the arts and humanities, journalism, law, sports and real estate.



*Brandeis University's campus.*

The award recipients will be celebrated Sunday, April 19, on the Brandeis campus.

Lurie, who earned his doctorate in social policy at Brandeis in 1987, has led the Eagles to 12 division titles, four Super Bowl appearances, and two World Championships. Beyond his success in football, he has maintained a passion for filmmaking, a family legacy that began with his grandfather, founder of the former General Cinema theater chain.

An accomplished producer, Lurie has executive produced several acclaimed films, including three that won Academy Awards: "Inside Job" (2010), "Inocente" (2012) and "Summer of Soul" (2021).

Lurie is also recognized for his philanthropic leadership. In 2018, he founded the Eagles Autism Foundation, which supports research and services for families affected by autism. In 2025, he and his family expanded that work by launching the Lurie Autism Institute in partnership with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Penn Medicine.

While at Brandeis, Lurie chose to study social policy because “I wanted to understand from a needs basis where one could make an impact in the world, and what was happening around the world in terms of health, education, socioeconomic issues, virtually anything,” he said.

## From “Dreamgirls” to “Grey’s Anatomy”

Loretta Devine, MFA '76, has amassed more than 300 Broadway, film and television acting credits over her decades-long career. She originated a starring role in the Tony Award-winning Broadway production “Dreamgirls” and appeared alongside Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett and Lela Rochon in the groundbreaking 1995 film “Waiting to Exhale.” The movie, the first with an all-Black female cast to achieve top box-office success, earned Devine an NAACP Image Award.

Devine’s television work includes more than 160 roles in series such as “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Boston Public” and the animated children’s show “Doc McStuffins.”

She credits her time at Brandeis with helping her develop a strong work ethic, gain confidence and better understand character development.



***Philadelphia Eagles Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Lurie. Courtesy of Brandeis University.***



***Loretta Devine. Courtesy of Brandeis University.***

# Improving outcomes for cancer patients

Sheila Efron Taube, BA '63, studied biology as an undergrad at Brandeis and earned her doctorate in microbiology and immunology, focusing on virology, from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. Taube joined the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, becoming chief of the Cancer Diagnosis Branch and then associate division director of the Cancer Diagnosis Program.

During her 30-plus-year career, Taube helped change how scientists approach cancer diagnosis research so it better aligns with developing treatments. For her work, Taube won the NIH Director's Award, the institute's most prestigious award given to employees for exceptional performance, for moving the field of cancer diagnosis into the age of modern technology.

Taube also led efforts to significantly improve diagnoses, treatments and outcomes for early-stage breast cancer. "It took 18 years to develop and conduct the early-stage breast cancer trial. I had recently retired by the time it was done. But it became absolutely clear that a large percentage of patients would have just as good an outcome without chemotherapy. It saved a lot of pain and suffering on the part of patients and hundreds of thousands of dollars in treatments," Taube said. "It's also a great example of how the critical thinking that I learned at Brandeis can make an impact."



***Sheila Taube. Courtesy of Brandeis University.***



## **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.

# Topping out ceremony for Bentley's Adamian Academic Center

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • AROUND TOWN • APRIL 19, 2026



***Bentley University President Brent Chrite signs the beam during the topping out ceremony. Courtesy of Bentley University.***

Bentley marked a milestone in the construction of the [Adamian Academic Center](#) on Tuesday, April 14, with a topping out ceremony to mark the completion of the building's frame. The community gathered to witness the raising of a beam as part of the topping out tradition. Community members signed the beam. Bentley's President Brent Chrite and Chief of Staff Amanda King spoke. The beam was topped with an evergreen tree and American flag, following traditional custom.

# Zoning Board rejects proposed Totten Pond Road apartments

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 16, 2026



A proposed new development at 455 Totten Pond Road has been halted in its tracks after more than a year of negotiation at the Zoning Board of Appeals.

At its meeting this Tuesday, ZBA members voted 3-2 to reject an application from The Davis Companies to build a seven-story, 340-unit apartment building at the site of the former Naked Fish restaurant and Home Suites Inn called The Residences on Winter.

The building was originally [proposed in March 2025](#) under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B. This state law allows developers a workaround to zoning legislation, fast-tracking housing developments that pledge to dedicate a quarter of their units as affordable housing based on regional need by giving them an avenue to negotiate directly with a municipality's zoning board.

Glenna Gelineau, Matthew Deveaux and Stephen Taranto all voted against the proposal. Before the vote, Gelineau told developers that Totten Pond Road, which sits in a commercial zone that saw a 315-unit residential building go up in the past year at 305 Winter St. and is looking at [a potential 323-unit development at 245-265 Winter St.](#), cannot handle the proposed influx of residents.

"I understand that we have to take each project on its own merit. However, I do not believe that the state or even the housing court intended for any city to absorb over 1000 units on one city block," she said, echoing [an earlier letter from the Housing Department](#) that also referenced a since-rejected development at 379-395 Totten Pond Road. "It benefits no one if our city resources and infrastructure cannot support the project."

She asked the developers to increase the project's affordable unit offering, arguing that the state's base affordability requirements were insufficient.

Mike Cantalupa, a representative of the developer, told the board that his team could not offer any more affordability concession.

"I understand it's the board's job to push us and make sure that we're contributing as much as we can to the community in which we develop," he said. "From my perspective, you've done just that. You've pushed us to the point where we cannot contribute any more."

He pointed out that Waltham is considering lowering its own local affordability requirements to make housing construction more financially feasible for developers. “This particular project [with an] affordability percentage at 25% will probably be the highest that you’ll see in years and years to come,” Cantalupa warned.

The developer of the building has 20 days after the hearing to appeal this case to the state Housing Appeals Committee. Generally, the HAC has required municipalities to meet a high bar to claim a permit is “inconsistent with community needs.”

Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned told the board that if the developer didn’t agree to address any sewer capacity issues it caused the city, she was confident the HAC would uphold a permit denial from Waltham. She warned that it might not uphold other concerns about infrastructure, however, on the grounds that Waltham could address any such issues with the tax revenue new development would bring.

“It is very clear that these impacts are happening and occurring and falling on the city’s financial shoulder,” she said. Still, she added, “[The HAC’s] decisions you see repeatedly are in favor of the applicants, the developers. Their mission is to create affordable housing... I couldn’t say definitively that we would be successful.”

If the Housing Appeals Court rules in favour of The Davis Companies, it can require the ZBA to issue a permit for the development, and may include restrictions on the conditions ZBA members are allowed to impose, limiting the city’s influence on the new permit.

In August, Waltham blocked another proposed development on Totten Pond Road by declaring that the city had met state criteria for safe harbor, meaning it had enough affordable housing and would no longer be obligated to accept new Chapter 40B applications. At that meeting, Learned argued that the neighborhood around Totten Pond Road “was never designed to handle that residential [population].”

Because The Residences on Winter had already filed an application with the city, however, its permit application wasn’t halted by the safe harbor declaration.

Previous hearings on the project saw a number of points of friction, including an expansion from the initially proposed 315 units to 340 units, a partnership with a proposed rental assistance program for recently unhoused veterans that board members contested did not fit the spirit of affordability, pushback from neighbors and concerns about sewer and sidewalk infrastructure in the area.

The final agreement rejected by the ZBA offered 25% of its apartments — 85 in total — at affordable rates set by state requirements. That meant the apartments would cost no more than 30% of the monthly income of someone making 80% of the area median income. The developer

agreed to make 13 of those units affordable to residents making 60% AMI, cover any additional water utilities costs, allocate 36 surface-level parking spaces to residents and implement a veterans' preference for 10% of the affordable units.

The city had also negotiated \$2 million in mitigation payments for infrastructural impacts caused by the development. That would include sewer improvements in the area, if the city determined them necessary; a new sidewalk along the north side of Winter Street; and, if money was left over, additional funding for Waltham's schools, fire and police services to cover the costs of expanding to fit the new district. Contributions to these departments have been included in agreements with [previous Chapter 40B developments approved by the city](#).

In addition, the developer had committed to funding an update of the city's sewer model in the area to determine if it would be able to handle the new development; traffic light adjustments at three nearby intersections; a survey of parking and driveway use after the project was occupied to ensure there were no new traffic issues; a shuttle service to the commuter rail for residents; and a new shelter for a relocated bus stop.

## Additionally, the ZBA:

- Delayed a hearing for an ongoing case about [the redevelopment of a property at 719–732 Main St.](#) to May 12 so owner Paul Yu's lawyer could appear.
- Delayed a hearing for the [proposed 245-265 Winter St. Chapter 40B development](#) to May 12 to give board members more time to review new material from the applicant.
- Granted a six-month extension of time to on previously granted zoning variances for [a proposed hotel at 220 Moody St.](#)

## Comments (1)

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TIMOTHY RILEY • APRIL 17, 2026 AT 8:39 AM

I don't see the argument about the city not handling the influx of people holding water. The city had no problem permitting commercial developments supporting thousands of workers in this area. Nor will the ask about requiring more affordability (this project was already providing more than our new IZ changes will require). And the city attorney also dismissed the infrastructure support angle as well.

I think the ZBA is asking too much here and we'll lose this case.

# Stop standing in the way of progress

BY GUEST WRITER • LETTERS • APRIL 18, 2026



To the editor,

The [recent decision](#) by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to reject the development at 455 Totten Pond Road is a disappointing, yet familiar, step backward for our city. Once again, the board has chosen to stall progress on multifamily housing, seemingly favoring a status quo that only accommodates higher-end developments while pushing away projects that include significant affordable housing.

As someone who has lived in Waltham since 2015 — first as a renter and now as a homeowner—I have seen firsthand how much this city has to offer. As someone who transitioned from renting to owning here, I worry that without more diverse housing options, that same path will be closed to the next generation of residents who are already struggling to find affordable housing.

The argument that our infrastructure cannot handle this growth is a tired one. This project was proposed for a commercial zone, not a quiet residential area. If we cannot build dense housing that includes affordable units in a district already designed for high-volume use, then where in Waltham is acceptable?

Waltham is going to continue to grow whether we like it or not. We can either get ahead of this growth by supporting smart developments that offer 25% affordability, or we can remain stagnant and fall behind our neighboring cities. By rejecting these opportunities, the ZBA is blocking the path to a more vibrant, inclusive and economically strong community. It is time we stop standing in the way of the progress that will define Waltham's future.

Sincerely,  
Brad Onken  
Cedarwood

# Waltham Housing Authority considering new state housing locations

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 16, 2026



Members of the Waltham Housing Authority's leadership team will meet with representatives from the state's Executive Office of Housing and Liveable Communities this month to discuss the possibility of new state-funded housing at Chesterbrook and South streets.

The WHA's properties are funded through state and federal housing assistance programs. The authority already manages state-funded housing properties near both locations, and is considering adding new locations to its

portfolio, said Assistant Executive Director Mark Johnson at the organization's monthly board of directors meeting on April 14. Johnson added that the WHA and EOHLC would also discuss the future of two state-funded houses on Marguerite Avenue whose leases with the WHA [have recently expired](#).

Meanwhile, some of the organization's federally run programs may not be expanding very much in the near future. Executive Director John Gollinger told directors the WHA had received a federal directive not to distribute Section 8 vouchers beyond its means, because the federal government was not prepared to allocate additional funding if local housing authorities started to experience budget shortfalls.

Gollinger said the WHA was on track to maintain its current number of Section 8 vouchers. As of last month, the organization, which is authorized to distribute 455 vouchers, had 390 active.



**Waltham Housing Authority meeting. Picture by Artie Kronenfeld.**

# Additionally, the WHA:

- Authorized Gollinger to accept any federal funding from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. This program distributes funding for construction, purchase and rehabilitation of housing for low-income residents. Waltham is part of the WestMetro HOME Consortium, a partnership between multiple local municipalities that uses HOME money to improve affordable low-income housing offerings in the area.
- Received an update on the state of WHA housing, which has nine vacant units. The organization is commencing renovations at School Street and Prospect Street properties soon. It voted to accept a certificate of completion for a \$15,073.71 computer learning center renovation at Chesterbrook, and learned that its properties on Orange Street are now fully powered by solar energy.
- Received an update on the WHA's fiscal state. Gollinger said its revenue and costs in February were fairly standard, and the organization is financially stable.

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**Waltham Times**

## Author

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### **ARTIE KRONENFELD**

Artie Kronenfeld is an Arlington and Waltham-based reporter who enjoys writing about policy and administration that affect people's everyday lives. Previously hailing from Toronto, they're a former editor-in-chief of the University of Toronto's flagship student paper The Varsity. You can find them during off-work hours playing niche RPGs, wandering through Haymarket and making extra spreadsheets that nobody asked for.

# Traffic commission delves into Lowell Street safety and parking on private ways

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 16, 2026



The Traffic Commission discussed a safety plan for Lowell Street and plans for parking on private ways during their Thursday meeting.

Based on a 36-page proposal submitted by Mayor Jeanette A. McCarthy, city engineer J. Michael Garvin presented his opinion on a variety of traffic solutions to make Lowell Street and the intersecting streets safer for both pedestrians and drivers. This area has been concerning for South Side residents due to the volume and speed of traffic as well as the lack of sightlines available for those turning onto Lowell Street.

Ward Eight Councilor Cathyann Harris presented briefly on the proposed plan, saying that more than 300 of her constituents had signed the plan as presented by the mayor. Harris also led commission members through examples where she had to drive past the stop line, into a crosswalk and even slightly into the roadway to make turns from intersecting roads.

Mayor McCarthy told the commission she believed the data collected by Garvin was incomplete as it didn't clearly indicate what days or times the traffic volume data was collected. She also said she didn't think the data painted the full picture, as there were a lot of near misses on the street that didn't necessarily result in full collisions.

"I don't know when you have to be convinced," Mayor McCarthy said. "If you physically watched [the traffic on the street] you would know you wouldn't want your mother, your brother or your sister walking on that street."

City Parking Clerk Thomas Magno motioned to table the matter and submit all data on the area to the mayor for her review. The motion was approved.

The traffic commission heard comments from Garvin on parking regulations on private ways, a matter tabled from Feb. 26. Garvin covered each of the 32 private ways and shared his recommendations for managing parking on those ways. Many private ways he determined needed no action.

For public portions of Circle Drive, Mt. Walley Road and Marguerite Avenue, the commission voted to put in place Garvin's recommended parking restrictions. For Evergreen Avenue, Farnsworth Avenue, Hawthorne Road, Summit Avenue and Wight Street, the parking restrictions needed to be approved by all abutters to be put into place.

For Charlesbank Way and Sagamore Way, which are within apartment complexes, Garvin requested that No Parking signs put up by the owners of the complexes be submitted for approval to the commission.

The commission motioned to approve the parking restrictions suggested for the public way portions mentioned and requested that Garvin work with city councilors to figure out a way forward with the private way restrictions presented.

In other business, the commission made the following motions:

- To change the maximum allowable length of a commercial vehicle parked on a roadway from 24 feet to 20 feet.
- For Garvin to study the possibility of a stop sign where Sherwood Lane meets Temple Road.
- For Garvin to review the placement of flashing crosswalk beacons along the Charles River Greenway. Ward Nine Councilor and Council President Robert G. Logan was concerned that the buttons for the beacons were difficult to access not only for pedestrians but for people on bikes.
- For Garvin to perform a study based on a request by Logan to prohibit street parking within five feet of a driveway.
- To approve a request for some sort of signage to inform visitors of Waltham parking regulations, specifically the 24-hour maximum parking regulation, which states that a car cannot be parked in the same street spot for more than 24 hours without being moved.
- To approve a request for no parking signs to be placed across the street from 141 Hammond St.
- To approve a request for a blind driveway sign to be placed where Bacon Street meets Totten Pond Road.



### **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.

# Explosion knocks out power across Waltham's life sciences hub

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • PUBLIC SAFETY • APRIL 16, 2026



Around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Waltham emergency crews responded to 42 Fourth Ave. after a reported transformer explosion caused widespread power outages across the city's industrial and life sciences district.

The incident affected multiple buildings throughout the office park area along Third and Fourth avenues, as well as nearby streets including Smith Street, Wyman Street and Trapelo Road. Traffic signals in the area were also without power, leaving several major intersections dark and disrupting traffic.



***A technician works to repair the blown transformer. Photo courtesy of Joseph Sharkey Media.***

The affected area is part of Waltham's Route 128 corridor, home to a concentration of office and laboratory buildings supporting technology and life science companies. Many of these facilities have backup systems, and several buildings switched to generator power shortly after the outage, allowing operations to continue.

Emergency crews remained at the scene while utility workers restored service. The cause of the transformer explosion remains under investigation.



## **JOSEPH SHARKEY**

Joseph Sharkey is an independent news photographer based in Waltham. He grew up in the city and has had a strong interest in public safety and first responders. That passion led him to covering breaking news, focusing on incidents like fires, accidents and major public safety events. His work has been featured on WCVB, WHDH, NBC10 Boston and other local news outlets.

# Helicopter application of mosquito larvicide planned at Beaver Brook Reservation

BY NEWSROOM • PUBLIC SAFETY • APRIL 16, 2026



The East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project will conduct a helicopter application of biological larvicide later this month to reduce mosquito populations in a large wetland area of Beaver Brook Reservation in Waltham.



The treatment will occur between April 21 and May 1, weather permitting. Crews will apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *Israelensis* (bti) in granular form from a low-flying helicopter directly over the wetlands. Officials said residents do not need to take any special precautions during the operation.

Bti is a naturally occurring bacterium found in soil and is considered relatively non-toxic by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It specifically targets mosquito larvae and a few related aquatic insects from the fly family. The product, VectoBac GS (EPA Registration No. 73049-10), breaks down quickly in the environment and does not harm people, pets, fish or wildlife.

Mosquito control officials said the application is part of the region's annual effort to curb mosquito-borne illnesses such as West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis, which have been detected in Eastern Massachusetts in recent years. Reducing mosquito populations early in the season helps limit potential disease spread later in the summer.

Residents seeking more information can contact the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project at 781-899-5730 or visit [mass.gov/mosquito-control](https://mass.gov/mosquito-control).



## NEWSROOM

Waltham's go-to news source, providing high-quality, unbiased, community-focused coverage to foster an informed and engaged community.

# Janice Foskin, 1955–2026, a creative and caring spirit

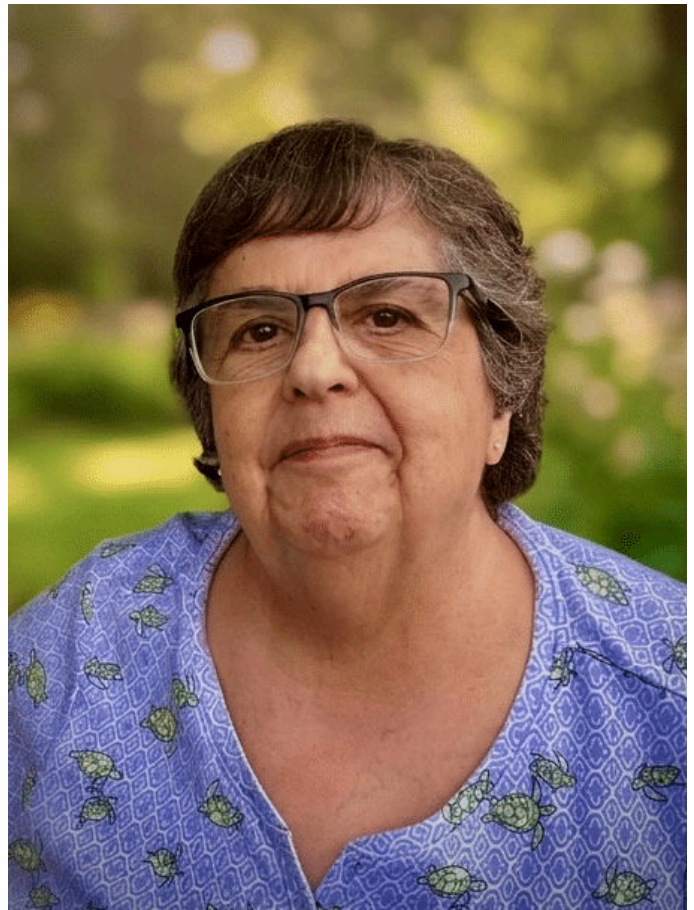
BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 19, 2026



Janice Foskin, a lifelong resident of Waltham, passed away on April 10 after a courageous and determined battle. She was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt and friend whose quiet strength and kind heart touched the lives of those who knew her.

Janice was born in Waltham on January 18, 1955, to the late Virginia and Conrad Foskin. She remained deeply connected to her community throughout her life and found comfort in the familiar places and people she cared about.

She is survived by her sister, Elizabeth (Gallagher) Coburn of Bedford, New Hampshire, and was predeceased by her brother, James Foskin. Janice had a deep love for her family and many friends. In addition to her sister, Janice is survived by her three nieces, one nephew, two grandnieces, and five grandnephews.



***Janice Foskin, 1955–2026***

Janice had a gentle spirit and found moments of happiness in life's simple pleasures. She loved playing BINGO and other games, appreciating both the excitement of the game and the companionship of those around her. She also had a talent for cross-stitching, creating detailed pieces featuring cats and nature, each made with patience and care, and she enjoyed coloring and other creative activities. Janice valued time spent with others, whether sharing a meal, playing games, or simply talking and laughing together. She was a devoted member of her church and found strength and comfort in her faith.

She will be remembered for her resilience, her thoughtfulness, and her ability to find happiness in everyday moments. Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

# Joseph Mola, 1928–2026, whose family ‘was his life’s greatest work’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 16, 2026



Joseph Mola, of Stow, formerly of Waltham and Marlborough, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 13, 2026, surrounded by the family he loved so deeply and devoted his life to building. He was 97.

Born on May 12, 1928, in Capo d’Orlando, Sicily, Joseph came to the United States as a young man carrying very little, yet he brought with him something no circumstance could diminish: an unshakeable belief that hard work and quiet perseverance were enough to build a life. Within three years of arriving on American soil, he had purchased his first home. It was not a small thing. It was the beginning of everything. He was blessed to witness the enduring legacy of his sacrifices, his tireless work, and the quiet strength that defined him.

Joseph lived in Waltham for over 20 years, later in Marlborough, and most recently in Stow. Wherever he called home, he did more than reside there, he built something. He leaves behind not just the structures he shaped with his hands, but a family shaped by his example: his steadiness, his integrity and his belief that a life well-lived speaks for itself.

Joseph was the devoted husband of Rosa Mola, with whom he shared more than 70 years of marriage. Theirs was a love story rooted not in grand gestures but in the steady, daily choosing of one another, in commitment, respect and the kind of partnership that deepens through the decades.



***Joseph Mola, 1928–2026***

# Michael O'Toole, 1955–2026, lifelong Waltham resident

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 16, 2026



Michael J. O'Toole, of Waltham, died Saturday, April 4, 2026 at VNA Senior Living in Somerville following a period of declining health. He was 70.

Michael was born in Newton on April 26, 1955, a son of the late Francis and Lois (Bryson) O'Toole, and had been a lifelong resident of Waltham.

Until his retirement he worked as a manager for area video stores. An aficionado of old movies and comics, he could recall titles from short lines of script.

He was the brother of the late Ronald F. O'Toole and leaves several cousins and their families.

Family and friends will honor and remember Michael's life by gathering for a graveside service at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21 at Mount Feake Cemetery, 203 Prospect Street, Waltham.



***Michael O'Toole, 1955–2026***

# Theresa “Arlene” Connelly, 1938–2026, loving wife, mother, and grandmother

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 19, 2026



Theresa “Arlene” (Hayes) Connelly, of Waltham, died Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She was 87.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 47 years, Donald A. Connelly, who passed away in 2008, as well as by her brothers Henry Hayes and Raymond Hayes, and her sister June Cannistraro.

Arlene leaves her children, Janice Connelly of Waltham, Barbara Arsenault (Chris) of Billerica, Diane Kenton (Peter) of Woburn, John Connelly of Waltham, Joseph Connelly (Janet) of Rockland, Jane Morway (Richard) of Windham, NH, Ann Duggan (Thomas) of Andover and Stephen Connelly (Julie) of Auburn; her grandchildren, David Arsenault (Chrissy), Barbara French (Jesse), Ann Schaefer (Chris), James Arsenault, Michael Arsenault (Saoirse Gillespie), Liam Connelly, Rorey Connelly, Paige Connelly, Jessie Connelly, Ella Connelly, Lilliana Connelly and Samuel Connelly; her brother David Hayes of New Hampshire; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



***Theresa “Arlene” Connelly, 1938–2026***

Family and friends will honor and remember Arlene’s life by gathering for an evening wake at The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and again at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning before leaving in procession to Saint Mary’s Church, 133 School Street, Waltham, where her funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Waltham.

# Victor Louis Andrews, 1931–2026, engineer and air force veteran

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 19, 2026



Victor Louis Andrews, formerly of Franklin and Waltham, died Tuesday, April 14, 2026 after a brief illness. He was 94.

Born and raised in Watertown, he graduated from Watertown Public Schools. Upon graduation he joined the U.S. Air Force and served honorably as a Staff Sergeant until he was discharged in 1955. Victor went on to further his education and received his Bachelors Degree in Engineering. Victor began his career in engineering with G.T.E. Sylvania Defense Contractor, and stayed until his retirement.

The son of the late Victor and Elise D'Andrea, he was the husband of the late Madeline (Morley) Andrews.

Victor is survived by his wife Diane (Weldon) Andrews; his children John "Jack" (Deborah) Izzi of Waltham, Raymond (Diane) Snow of Framingham, Victor D. Andrews and Christopher R. Andrews of Woburn, Debbie Dauphine and David Hubbard; his grandchildren, Sarah Boudreau, Raymond Snow, Michael Izzi, Melissa Andrews, Victoria Andrews, Neil Dauphine and Amber Dauphine; and his great grandson Henry Boudreau.



***Victor Louis Andrews, 1931–2026***

A graveside funeral service will be held Friday morning, April 24 at Mount Feake Cemetery, 203 Prospect Street, Waltham at 11 a.m.

# Waltham new home sales, April 7–10, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	4/7/2026	40 Whitman Rd Unit 2-1	\$388,800	2/1	732 sf
	4/8/2026	14 Willard St	\$699,900	3/1	2114 sf
	4/9/2026	41 Auburn St	\$795,000	2/1	1266 sf
	4/9/2026	27 Jacqueline Rd	\$300,000	1/1	450 sf
	4/9/2026	61 Hall St Unit 302	\$1,551,505	3/3	2772 sf
	4/10/2026	8 Keach Ter	\$680,000	3/1.5	1224 sf
	4/10/2026	21 Warren St Unit 2-4	\$427,500	2/1	724 sf

# Calendar

April 21-May 13

**TUE**  
**21**

Apr 21. @ 10:00 am - 4:30 pm 🗓

## Waltham Clothing Exchange now open on Tuesdays

**First Parish Church** 50 Church St, Waltham, MA

The Waltham Clothing Exchange (WCE) is now open for its spring season on Tuesdays only from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through May 12. WCE is a friendly thrift shop [...]

**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 🗓

## License Commission meeting

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

The Board of License Commissioners meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., but may be moved due to holidays or other circumstances. Contact the Licensing Department to confirm each meeting and for additional information.

**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 [...]

**FRI**  
**24**

Apr 24. @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

## Brandeis cross-campus art tour

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

Spend the afternoon exploring art across campus. Start at the Kniznick Gallery with a tour of "Who Will Draw Our History?" featuring powerful graphic narratives by women Holocaust survivors who began documenting their experiences just days after liberation. Then walk with us to the Rose Art Museum to explore "Photorealism in Focus" and "Fabricated Imaginaries: [...]"

Free

**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

**SAT**  
**25**

Apr 25. @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

## Charles River Earth Day Cleanup—WLT –FULL

**Charles River**

This event is now full. Sign up will go to a wait list. It may seem far away, but at the Waltham Land Trust we're already thinking about the 27th annual Charles River Earth Day Cleanup on April 25. Join this special event and help remove litter or invasive plants from along the banks of [...]

Free

**SAT**  
**25**

Apr 25. @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

## Rock Voices Newton – Community rock choir spring concert

**Newton South High School** 140 Brandeis Rd., Newton

The long, cold winter is finally behind us! Come celebrate spring with an evening of fantastic music by Rock Voices, Newton's only community rock choir. Our 100+ members and a professional live band will perform hits by your favorite artists: The Beatles, Jimmy Cliff, Grateful Dead, Three Dog Night, Suzanne Vega, the Doobie Brothers, Crosby [...]

\$23.18

**SUN**  
**26**

Apr 26. @ 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

## Nashville comes to Waltham: 'The Healing Garden Concert'

**French American Victory Club** 193 Elm Street, Waltham, MA

Prepare for an afternoon of world-class storytelling, soulful melodies, and acoustic mastery. The French American Victory Club will host "The Healing Garden Concert," a special matinee performance featuring three of [...]

\$28.52

**MON**  
**27**

Apr 27. @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

## 'The Incredible Snow Woman' East Coast premiere

**West Newton Cinema** 1296 Washington Street, Newton

A 46-year-old Arctic explorer known as "The Incredible Snow Woman" unexpectedly returns to her childhood home in the Jura mountains to reunite with her brothers. Unable to face her own [...]

**MON**  
**27**

Apr 27. @ 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm 🗓

## Waltham City Council meeting

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

Waltham City Council normally meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, except during July and August. If a meeting falls on a Monday holiday, Council instead meets on Tuesday. Refer here for the full 2026 meeting schedule and full council and committee meeting times.

TUE  
28

Apr 28. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Zoning Board of Appeals meeting

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

The Zoning Board of Appeals generally meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room located on the ground level, or in the auditorium on the first floor, of the Arthur Clark Government Center at 119 School Street. The meeting schedule is determined by the volume of applications filed with the ZBA. [...]

SUN  
3

May 3. @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

### Annual Heroes brunch

American Legion Joseph F. Hill Post 215 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham, MA

Please join us for the 17th annual Heroes Awards celebration. This year's honorees are (for 2025): Clarence Darrow Richardson, Jr. Dr. Nadene B. Stein Waltham Educators Association The Waltham Times [...]

\$50

SUN  
3

May 3. @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### Art Show Fundraiser

Temple Beth Israel 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA

"Come Buy Your Mother Something Nice" Join us the week before Mother's Day to pick up a piece of superb art at a great price, and it supports our community! [...]

MON  
4

May 4. @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

### 'Hold Onto Me' East Coast premiere

West Newton Cinema 1296 Washington Street, Newton

It's summer, and 11-year-old Iris is running wild through the streets with her older friend Danae when she learns her estranged father, Aris ("Dogtooth" star Christos Passalis), is back in [...]

WED  
6

May 6. @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Parks-Recreation Board meeting

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

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

Free

WED  
6

May 6. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm School Committee meeting

### School Committee meeting

617 Lexington St 617 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

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

THU  
7

May 7. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Waltham Cultural Council meeting

### Waltham Cultural Council meeting

Zoom

The Waltham Cultural Council is a part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's local council program. It allocates funds for arts, sciences and humanities projects and events which focus on Waltham's cultural diversity and local history. The council meets approximately once per month. It accepts grant applications from September 1 to October 15 for the 18-month period [...]

THU  
7

May 7. @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham

Zoom

Gain confidence as a public speaker. Our club, within Toastmasters International, works on improving communication and leadership skills in a supportive environment. We meet twice a month, first and third Thursday nights. The first meeting of the month is via Zoom, while the third Thursday meeting is hybrid with the in-person location at Meadow Green. [...]

SAT  
9

May 9. @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Waltham Garden Club annual plant sale and seed giveaway

Waltham Senior Center 488 Main Street, Waltham, MA

Get your garden started with our favorite flowers and plants! Free seed packets for flowers, veggies and herbs. Please join us and help the club raise money for its various programming and community projects throughout the year. Note location: Parking lot at the Waltham Senior Center, 488 Main Street.

Free

SAT  
9

May 9. @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### Blood drive at First Parish Church

First Parish Church 50 Church St, Waltham, MA

The Watch City Steampunk Festival/Heinlein Society Blood Drive will take place at First Parish in Waltham on Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can arrive early, donate, help people in need, and still attend the festival! Give blood or platelets with the Red Cross May 1-17 and get a \$20 Amazon [...]

SAT  
9

May 9. @ 10:15 am - 12:00 pm

### Flight 5K at Mighty Squirrel Brewing Co!

Mighty Squirrel—Waltham 411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham, MA

We are fired up to officially announce the Flight 5K at Mighty Squirrel Brewing Co! Incredible location. Bigger vision. Pre and post race festivities at Mighty Squirrel's outdoor beer garden with food trucks and an awesome race atmosphere. We are raising money for the Waltham Boys & Girls Club, an organization that provides a safe [...]

\$50

MON  
11

May 11. @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### Historical Commission meeting

Zoom

The Waltham Historical Commission meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. To appear before the WHC or to submit correspondence or information, contact the commission 10 business days prior to the meeting. Meetings are usually held remotely via Zoom and are open to the public. [...]

MON  
11

May 11. @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

### 'Six Days In Spring' North American premiere

West Newton Cinema 1296 Washington Street, Newton

A single mother—who is determined to give her twin boys a spring vacation after her original plans collapse—trespasses at her former in-laws' luxury villa on the Riviera, a place she [...]

TUE  
12

May 12. @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### Community Preservation Committee meeting

Zoom

The Waltham Community Preservation Committee meets approximately four times per year (September, November, February, May). Meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The application deadline is noon, one week before each meeting. The May meeting usually includes the annual public input hearing. Meetings are usually held remotely via [...]

WED  
13

May 13. @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

### Community-wide civics trivia night

McDevitt Middle School 75 Church Street, Waltham, MA

Join the Waltham Public Schools and the League of Women Voters of Waltham for a night of fun, friendly competition, and civic participation! Our inaugural Community-wide civics trivia night will be a lively, interactive, social event where teams compete by answering questions spanning: Waltham government and history State government and history Federal government and branches [...]



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