



**May 11, 2026**



**Waltham nonprofits shine in Watertown Savings Bank's \$100,000 Customer Choice Awards**



**Waltham turns wonderfully weird as Steampunk Festival takes over the common**



**Rat control will require action by both residents and the city**



**Board of Survey and Planning reluctantly approves Pizzi rezoning**



# Civics Trivia Night welcomes more teams and spectators

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • MAY 5, 2026

It's not too late for trivia buffs to register to compete in the Waltham Civics Trivia Night scheduled for next Wednesday evening. Adult teams will go against student teams who have been freshly drilled in their schools' civics classes. The event will take place May 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at McDevitt Middle School, 75 Church St.

The Waltham Times is fielding a team. "It's been a number of years since we've been in school, so we're going to have a cram session," said June Kinoshita, a co-founder of the Times. "I expect the students to put us to shame, but it's all for a good cause."

"We are excited to host our first ever Waltham Civics Trivia Night," said Derek Vandegrift, director of History and Social Studies for grades 6–12 in the Waltham Public Schools. "It will be an evening of good-spirited competition, civic learning and, most of all, community connection."

"Now, as much as ever, it's important that our students know and understand the rights, duties and responsibilities conferred to us by our Constitution," he said. "And we fully believe that civic learning should be fun and should be celebrated!"

Teams can register [here](#). There is a suggested donation of \$40 for each participating adult team.

Spectators should register [here](#). There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door for each adult spectator.

All proceeds will go to the Waltham Public Schools to support civic learning

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 – 8:30 PM**

**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**

**WALTHAM  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# Waltham nonprofits shine in Watertown Savings Bank's \$100,000 Customer Choice Awards

[walthamtimes.org/2026/05/07/waltham-nonprofits-shine-in-watertown-savings-banks-100k-customer-choice-awards](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/07/waltham-nonprofits-shine-in-watertown-savings-banks-100k-customer-choice-awards)

Waltham News Team

May 8, 2026

Thirty-four local nonprofits received a total of \$100,000 in funds from Watertown Savings Bank for its [27th Customer Choice Awards](#). The awardees were selected by popular vote and feted at a celebration on Tuesday, May 5, at the Sons of Italy Hall in Watertown.



*All of the winners of the 2026 Watertown Savings Bank Customer Choice Awards.*

“Our Customer Choice Awards program is one of which we are particularly proud because of how many organizations benefit,” said Watertown Saving Bank President and CEO Brett Dean. “The list of winners reflects the important work being done by non-profit organizations throughout the communities we serve. Customer Choice Awards Night is the Bank’s favorite event of the year.”

Waltham had a strong presence with 15 organizations showcasing the city’s vibrant nonprofit community serving a diversity of needs – and the ardent support of our community members who voted for them.

Waltham-based awardees ranged from [Badass Waltham Warriors](#), founded by cancer survivors to support people living with a cancer diagnosis, to the [Officer Paul Tracey 16 Memorial Foundation](#), founded to honor the late WPD officer by helping young people pursue careers in public safety.

Several other honorees also focused on youth, including the [Waltham YMCA](#), [St. Mary’s After School Program](#), [Waltham Choral Parents Association](#), [Waltham Partnership for Youth](#) and [Waltham High School All Night Party](#). The YMCA provides children and adults with a wide range of sports and wellness programs. The St. Mary’s program helps children in grades 2 to 8 “grow in mind, body, and soul.” The WCPA raises funds to cover costs for all students in Waltham High School’s award-winning show choir program. WPY places high school students in paid internships at businesses and nonprofits, while the All Night Party ensures WHS students have a safe place for post-prom festivities.



Colleen Brennan, Caroline Grossman, Genoveva Tavera and June Kinoshita represented The Waltham Times. Courtesy of Watertown Savings Bank.

Providing aid to people in need is the mission of several awardees. The [Community Day Center of Waltham](#) is a drop-in shelter that provides food, beds, showers, clothing and case workers to support homeless neighbors. Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted's [St. Vincent de Paul Society](#) was recognized for supporting people with food vouchers, utility bills, scholarships and other types of aid. [Healthy Waltham](#) maintains food pantries and distribution programs for families facing food insecurity. A core mission of the [Waltham Fields Community Farm](#) is to provide fresh produce to local food programs from its organic farm on Beaver Street. The farm also educates children and adults about farming and the environment.

Historic and artistic organizations also received awards. [Gore Place](#) was recognized for its stewardship and education programs around the historic 19th-century Gore Estate. [Metalwerx](#) won kudos for its school for jewelry making and community studio.

Waltham-based [The Cat Connection](#) is a no-kill cat rescue and adoption program run entirely by volunteers. The organization sends a weekly article about a cat in need of a home to The Waltham Times.

Independent, local news made a strong showing. In addition to The Waltham Times, which won \$10,000, the nonprofit [Belmont Voice](#), founded in 2024, and [YourArlington](#), founded in 2006 as "an experiment in community journalism," were among the winners..

## Winners of the 27th Customer Choice Awards

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First Prize: \$15,000 – St. James Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Second Prize: \$10,000 – The Waltham Times

Third Prize: \$7,500 – St. Mary's After School Program

Actors' Shakespeare Project

Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 14

Badass Waltham Warriors

Belmont STEAM Alliance Corporation  
Burn Survivors of New England  
Chaisson Family Foundation  
Community Day Center of Waltham  
Food Link  
Gals Best Pal  
Gore Place  
Healthy Waltham  
Massachusetts Chamber Music Artists  
Metalwerx  
Mosesian Center for the Arts  
Newton North High School PTSO  
Officer Paul Tracey 16 Memorial Foundation  
Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted's St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Project Socks  
Sayat Nova Dance Company  
Sons & Daughters of Italy in Watertown  
St. Luke's Saint Vincent de Paul Society  
St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School  
The Belmont Voice  
The Cat Connection  
Waltham Choral Parents Association  
Waltham Fields Community Farm  
Waltham High School All Night Party  
Waltham Partnership for Youth  
Waltham YMCA  
Watertown Boy & Girls Club  
YourArlington

# 100 years in, Rotary's mission feels more urgent than ever

BY LAURA VAN ZANDT • IDEAS • MAY 10, 2026



When the Rotary Club of Waltham celebrates its centennial on May 14, many readers might think “How quaint!” and vaguely picture us as a social club for older folks. But look closer at what Rotary actually does, and you’ll find an organization tackling the most urgent challenges of our time. Our priorities are to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water and sanitation, improve maternal and child health, build schools, grow local economies, and protect the environment.

The Waltham Rotary Club is one of 45,000 clubs worldwide, part of a fellowship of business, professional and community leaders united by one mission: “to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace.” Founded in Chicago in 1905 by attorney Paul Harris as a place to exchange ideas and build meaningful friendships, Rotary gradually extended into humanitarian service. By 1926, when Waltham’s club formed, Rotary was active on six continents.

Nearly 50 years ago, Rotary launched a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines against polio. That effort became Rotary’s defining fight. Today, only two countries still have endemic polio, and the work continues.

But Rotary’s reach extends far beyond polio eradication. Projects include community health worker training, cervical cancer prevention, microloans, sustainable farming, aquaculture, ecosystem restoration and climate change mitigation.

In Waltham, the club delivers service projects, hosts events and fundraises to provide grants to local organizations. Over the past decade, the club has awarded more than \$300,000 to dozens of Waltham nonprofits. We have provided scholarships for high school students and leadership training for young people. Maybe your third-grader received a dictionary from us. You may have seen Rotarians delivering flowers at assisted living facilities, building with Habitat for Humanity or packing supplies for the Salvation Army.

Equally important to us is to have fun! We want members to experience the joy that comes from helping others and working alongside people you like and who care about you. We have fun doing good — and we welcome others to join us.

The Rotary Club of Waltham marks its centennial with a gala May 14 at 6 p.m. at Gore Place. Tickets are \$100, and proceeds support the club’s grant program. Donations are also welcome.


Better yet, join the club for lunch on the first or third Wednesday of every month at noon in the Gore Place Carriage House. Meet members and learn how “service above self” still matters — maybe now more than ever.



## LAURA VAN ZANDT

Laura Van Zandt is treasurer of the Waltham Rotary Club, serving with current club president Lindsey Lerit. A Rotary member for over 20 years, Laura is also a past president of the club. In 2023, Laura stepped away as executive director of Waltham-based REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc., having joined first as a board member in 2001 before moving to the ED role in 2004. She now teaches macroeconomics at MassBay Community College as an adjunct professor.

# Charles River Watershed Association 2025 Report Card provides 'A' grade for Waltham portion of the river

 [walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/charles-river-watershed-association-2025-report-card-provides-a-grade-for-waltham-portion-of-the-river](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/charles-river-watershed-association-2025-report-card-provides-a-grade-for-waltham-portion-of-the-river)

Cyd Abnet

May 11, 2026



*Executive director of the Charles River Watershed Association Emily Norton speaking in 2025 about the river report cards at Francis D. Martini Memorial Shell Park in Hyde Park, MA.*

The Waltham portion of the Charles River watershed received an 'A' grade on the Charles River Watershed Association's 2025 report card. The report card, released on May 6, covers the Charles River, the Mystic River and the Neponset River, all of which flow into the Boston Harbor and make up the Charles River watershed.

The lower middle watershed's 'A' rating is an improvement [from the 'A-' it received last year](#). Overall, however, grades were lower than they were last year, according to a press release by the CRWA. The organization thinks this is mostly due to outdated infrastructure such as ineffective storm drains, combined sewer systems and illegal discharge pipes. The CRWA's concerns were brought to the forefront [earlier in the year](#) in response to a plan put forth by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority that they felt did not properly address aging infrastructure and how it dumps sewage into the Charles.

The first watershed report card was issued in 1995 to educate the public about the health of the river and the challenges it faces. Grades are calculated via water samples collected at different points along the river by hundreds of community volunteers. The water samples are tested for E. coli, cyanobacteria and combined sewer overflow percentages. All of these contamination types directly affect the safety of the water for recreation and wildlife.

Heavy rainfall and flooding due to climate change-driven weather patterns increase the odds that sewage and bacteria will make their way into the river. Drought and heat keep water levels in the watershed lower, meaning that any stormwater overflow makes up a larger percentage of the existing water. Sewer pipes that are illegally connected to the river dump sewage directly into it. The cyanobacteria blooms that result from the untreated stormwater overflow are toxic to people and wildlife. In the past three years, CRWA estimates that more than 136 million gallons of raw or treated sewage have made their way into the Charles.

To the CRWA, grades being nearly the same as last year is a sign of stalled progress. Their 2025 report cites the Chicago and Willamette Rivers as well as the Seine in Paris as success stories in creating healthy and resilient watersheds through increased investment, and suggests that a similar approach be applied to the Charles River watershed.

"These grades make it clear that progress has stalled," said Emily Norton, the executive director of the CRWA. "To achieve a truly clean, healthy and swimmable Charles, we need to make the necessary investments in reducing stormwater runoff and ending sewage discharges."

# Fire Department swearing-in ceremony honors recently hired firefighters and newly promoted lieutenants

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 10, 2026



The Waltham Fire Department held a ceremony last week to celebrate the official swearing-in of their newest members as well as the promotions of a handful of current members. Fire chief Andrew Mullin, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, several city councilors and members of the fire department attended.

The ceremony took place on May 8 at the Moody Street Station. A crowd of people gathered to watch as newly graduated firefighters and recently promoted lieutenants were officially sworn in.

The lieutenants honored are:

- Lieutenant Selvin Sandoval was promoted to his position on June 8, 2025. He first joined the WFD in August 2011.
- Lieutenant William Gullotti was promoted to his position on February 1, 2026. He first joined the department in June 2014.
- Lieutenant Sean McGowan was promoted to his position on February 1, 2026. He first joined the WFD in June 2019.

The firefighters honored are:

- Firefighter James Vanaria was hired on May 11, 2025 and is currently assigned to the Moody Street Station.
- Firefighter Kevin Dann was hired on January 11, 2026. He will be assigned to the Moody Street Station starting May 10.
- Firefighter Jordan Fisher was hired on January 11, 2026. She will be assigned to the Moody Street Station starting May 10.
- Firefighter Ethan Huang was hired on January 11, 2026. He will be assigned to the Central Station starting May 10.
- Firefighter Stevenson Youyoute was hired on January 11, 2026. He will be assigned to the Moody Street Station starting May 10.



From left to right are firefighters Ethan Huang, Stevenson Youyoute, Jordan Fisher and Kevin Dann. Courtesy of WFD.

Waltham Fire Department members, families and city officials gathered on May 8 for the traditional ceremony. Courtesy of WFD.

# Friends of Waltham Family School honors three local champions of family literacy

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • MAY 10, 2026



*Art at the Waltham Family School emphasizes the importance of literacy. Image courtesy of Waltham Family School.*

The Friends of the Waltham Family School has honored three community members for their dedication to family literacy, naming Cindy Lasker and Katie Patterson as its 2026 Volunteers of the Year and longtime supporter Bob Marcou as its 2025 Friend of the Year.

Lasker has been a key member of the Waltham Family School community for seven years, while Patterson has volunteered there for four years after first learning about the program from her husband, a teacher at Whittemore Elementary School. Together, they spend Wednesdays leading library activities for parents and children, designing programming that emphasizes literacy and connection. They also have worked to expand the school library's collection with books that reflect the experiences and cultures of the families it serves.

Marcou, who grew up in Waltham, was recognized as the 2025 Friend of the Year for his decades-long commitment to local nonprofits and his steady support of the Friends of the Waltham Family School. He has served for years on the Friends' advisory board, offering strategic advice, financial contributions and consistent engagement with the organization.

"Bob attends almost every Coffee and Conversation, Advisory Council meeting and Fiesta," said Elaine Wong, vice president of the Friends. "He consistently provides both financial and emotional support to our families and to the FWFS."

The Volunteer of the Year and Friend of the Year awards are given annually by the Friends to individuals or organizations whose selfless efforts help advance the Waltham Family School's mission. All three honorees received their awards at the Friends' Fiesta for the Waltham Family School, held Thursday, April 30, at Tempo, a restaurant on Moody Street.

The [Waltham Family School](#) provides a family-centered program that offers English classes for adults and preschool education for their young children, helping immigrant families build skills for school, work and community life.

# School administrators defend elimination of SEI program, say district remains compliant with state law

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • MAY 10, 2026



At the May 6 School Committee meeting, Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa presented the district's rationale for eliminating sheltered English immersion course sections at Waltham High School starting in the fall. The explanation came after 75 WHS teachers [signed](#) a Waltham Educators Association letter in April arguing that the transition was being made without a clear plan and that proposed staff cuts would harm students during the shift.

What is changing is the removal of separately labeled SEI course sections, which were restricted to students at lower English proficiency levels. Under [new guidelines](#) from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, schools cannot segregate classes in this way. Instead, students in the beginning stages of learning English will be placed in classes with fluent speakers.

Mendonsa clarified that the district is not abandoning SEI. Technically, she said, any class with English learners is an SEI classroom, because [according to DESE](#), SEI is merely an instructional approach to teaching English. Since all core content teachers are required to have an SEI credential, as long as English learners are in the classroom, SEI techniques are supposed to be in use.

"Every class, kindergarten through all the options in high school, are SEI classes, as our student population is rich with ELL-identified students," Mendonsa said, referring to English language learners.

The presentation pointed to outcome data as one of the central reasons for the change. WHS sits in the [9th percentile](#) among Massachusetts schools. In state performance data, English learner students scored an 11 against a target of 18 in overall performance. Achievement points in math and science content classes – where segregated SEI classes were concentrated – showed zero improvement in recent years.

Assistant Superintendent Shannon Conley attributed part of the problem to how SEI course sections had evolved at the high school. She said the separate classes were originally intended as short-term support for students who were foreign-born and had limited or interrupted formal education. Over time, due to lack of administrative supervision, the classes became a longer-term track without clear exit criteria, which is out of sync with DESE guidelines.

"Unlike at the middle school[s], WHS did not have any documentation of a process for how students could transition out of these classes during the year," Mendonsa said.

Enrollment of English learner students at WHS has dropped sharply in recent years, from [428 students](#) in the 2023-24 school year to [282](#) in 2025-26, while ESL staffing has increased over the same period. Administrators said the staffing model needs to reflect the shift in enrollment.

Under the proposed model for the 2026-27 school year, English learners will take standard content courses. Those with very low proficiency levels will continue to receive dedicated English language instruction – from one to three 45-minute periods per day – taught by a licensed English as a Second Language teacher.

Mendonsa also said the district has been working with DESE's Office of Language Acquisition, which she said is supportive of the transition away from separate SEI classes. The office will provide consultant recommendations, help with master scheduling and visits to high schools where integrated models are working.



Officials and residents raised concerns during the meeting about whether the transition could be executed before the beginning of the next school year. Committee member Elizabeth AlJammal asked how newcomer students at the lowest proficiency levels would access content they cannot yet understand. Committee member Tammy Wong-Bigelow questioned whether teachers would be adequately prepared.

Mendonso acknowledged that co-planning between ESL teachers and core content teachers has not been a consistent practice at WHS. She said the district plans to address this through professional development during common planning time in the coming school year.

The superintendent also pointed to state licensing requirements for SEI as a built-in mechanism for keeping teachers trained in SEI instruction. All educators in Massachusetts, including the superintendent herself, must complete professional development credits in both special education and SEI instruction within every five-year license renewal cycle. She said the district intends to continue offering those opportunities to ensure teachers meet the required hours.

The district is also in the process of hiring an executive director of language acquisition, who administrators say will be central to overseeing the change.

Despite the plans for professional development, teachers voiced concerns about power dynamics in the classroom. Francisco Kondor, an English acquisition teacher at WHS, had a more immersive approach, asking the committee a question about Chinese history in Mandarin to illustrate the experience of an English learner in an integrated classroom.

“We are risking our students suffering the problems of both a power gap, where others know more than they do, and a language gap,” Kondor said.

Additionally, committee member Sabrina DeJoannis gave a personal anecdote about her experience being a non-native English speaker coming to the United States for college. Despite being technically fluent in English, she was embarrassed by her heavy accent.

“So, when I needed help, I didn’t raise my hand,” she said. “And I’m sure a lot of [students] will go through this. I want to make sure we have a way to catch them when they are not sure of themselves, or when they don’t want to be made fun of by others. To recognize that before it’s too late.”

## Author

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### 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.

# Senior center excursion to WHS show choir concert

BY NEWSROOM • NEWS • MAY 10, 2026



**By Priscilla Ellis**

The Waltham Council on Aging invites older adults to attend a special evening of music and community at the Waltham High School Show Choir Spring Pops Concert on Thursday, May 14, at Waltham High School, 554 Lexington St.

Guests will enjoy a pre-concert meet-and-greet with light refreshments from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in the school cafe, followed by the concert from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The performance will feature a lively mix of musical styles paired with engaging choreography by Waltham High School's award-winning show choir.



***WHS show choir at Tantasqua. Photo by Brooke Fitzgerald of @brooketakespictures.***

Transportation is provided free of charge via Tik Tok Trolley, departing the Waltham Senior Center, 488 Main St., at 5:45 p.m. and returning at approximately 9 p.m. The venue is fully accessible, with drop-off at the rear entrance, the auditorium on the same level, and elevator access to the cafe.

The event is free, but advance registration is required. To reserve a seat, call 781-314-3499.

# Waltham councilor takes center stage as music director of Boston show

BY STEVE MILMORE • ARTS & CULTURE • MAY 10, 2026



The musical [Swept Away](#) is currently running in Boston through May 23 to strong reviews, and one of the creative forces behind the production may surprise Waltham residents. Ward 7 City Councilor Paul Katz, now serving his third term on the council, is the show's music director.

The show is produced by [SpeakEasy Stage Company](#), a Boston-based nonprofit theater. Katz has worked with SpeakEasy since 1992, leading the music direction for Swept Away and more than 25 other productions, concerts and benefit performances.

Swept Away is a folk musical set in the late 1800s using the music of The Avett Brothers. It follows four whalers who survive a shipwreck and are stranded at sea, where limited supplies force them to make difficult choices as they fight to survive. The show was on Broadway in 2024.

Music plays a central role in the production, and Katz's job as musical director is to guide performers through the show's folk-rock sound, helping them shape harmonies to match the Avett Brothers' blend of bluegrass, gospel, country and rock influences.

"The music is such a major element in this show and its folk-rock style is extremely specific," said show director Jeremy Johnson. "Paul understood immediately how the actors needed to phrase the lyrics so that they connect to the various styles of the Avetts. I've had so many people mention how beautifully sung the show is, from the leads to the ensemble."

In addition to coaching the cast, Katz conducts the show's eight-piece orchestra, which features guitars, banjo and other stringed instruments that give the production its Americana feel.



**Ward 7 City Councilor Paul Katz is making music, not just policy. Photo courtesy of SpeakEasy Stage.**



***Music director and Ward 7 councilor Paul Katz with the Swept Away orchestra. Photo courtesy of Nile Scott Photography.***

“Paul knows how to follow and support the actors as they move through the show, and he even mentioned during our final rehearsals that his favorite place to be is sitting on his perch, conducting the band,” Johnson said.

Katz began playing piano at age four and continued formal lessons through middle school and high school as his studying became more serious. He later attended Brandeis University and completed additional studies at the New England Conservatory.

After college, he worked with Reagle Music Theatre, where he wrote and arranged its Christmas Spectacular and established himself as a leading pianist and musical director in the region. Over the course of his career, he has worked on more than 100 musicals, ranging from classic shows to more current Broadway productions.

Katz said the connection between music and storytelling is what continues to draw him to theater. “My job is to help craft the songs to bring out the best performances in the artists,” he said. “Music adds a dimension that you don’t get in a play. It sets a mood, and can make the hair stand up on the back of your neck.”

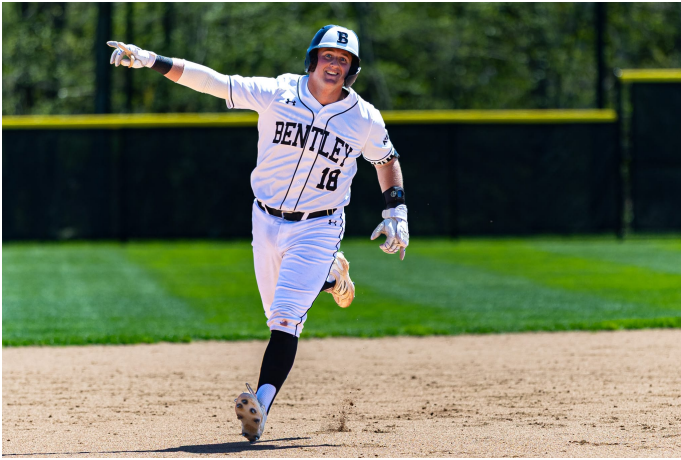
For Katz, balancing public service in Waltham with life in the theater world may seem unusual, but both roles rely on creativity and collaboration whether it’s in the council chamber or from the orchestra pit.

# Bentley Falcons baseball captures first-ever NE10 championship

[walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/bentley-falcons-baseball-captures-first-ever-ne10-championship](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/bentley-falcons-baseball-captures-first-ever-ne10-championship)

Steve Milmore

May 11, 2026



*Falcons Tommy Goonan rounds bases in Bentley win. Photo courtesy of Bentley University.*

For the first time in program history, Bentley Falcons baseball are Northeast-10 champions. The second-seeded Falcons defeated the top-seeded Southern New Hampshire Penmen, 11-9, on Sunday to complete an unbeaten 3-0 run through the NE10 Championship tournament. They end the regular season with a record of 39-13.

Infielder Nick Pappas was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player after going 6-for-14 with a home run, four runs scored, and three RBI across Bentley's three postseason victories.

On the mound, Waltham's Sam Belliveau earned the win with 5.2 strong innings, allowing just three hits and no earned runs. Relief pitcher Evan McCarthy was dominant out of the bullpen, retiring hitters through the eighth inning after entering in the sixth.

Bentley appeared in full control with an 11-4 lead entering the ninth, but SNHU mounted a late comeback. A walk, a hit batter and an error loaded the bases before the Penmen connected on a grand slam to cut the deficit to three. That brought pitcher Keegan Antelman out of the bullpen, and he responded by striking out two batters before inducing a game-ending flyout to secure the historic victory.

With the championship victory, Bentley earned the program's first-ever automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Baseball Championship, marking the Falcons' first appearance in the national tournament.

The NCAA Division II Baseball Selection Show is scheduled for Sunday, May 10, at 10:30 p.m.

# Hawks Sports roundup

 [walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/hawks-sports-roundup-6](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/hawks-sports-roundup-6)

Steve Milmore

May 11, 2026



*WHS girls volleyball players. From left to right, Cecelia Novoa, Angelice Feliz, Brooklynn Mathieu, Catherine Chen and Katishka Castro Ortiz. Photo by Jonathan Traub.*

Spring sports action continues this week for the Hawks, with teams across the program set for another full slate of games and meets. As the regular season pushes forward, the Hawks will look to stay competitive and gain momentum in the final stretch.

Monday, May 11

- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Acton-Boxborough, 7 p.m. (Yetten Field)
- Boys JV "A" Baseball vs. Acton-Boxborough, 4 p.m. (Yetten Field)
- Boys and Girls Varsity Track & Field vs. OPEN, 4 p.m. (Weston HS)
- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Lincoln Sudbury, 4 p.m. (Lincoln Sudbury HS)
- Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Newton South, 4:30 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)
- Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Newton South, 4:30 p.m. (Newton South HS)
- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Watertown, 4:30 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Watertown, 6 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Essex Tech, 4:30 p.m. (WHS)
- Girls Varsity Volleyball vs. Essex Tech, 6 p.m. (WHS)
- Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Watertown, 4 p.m. (Leary Field)

Tuesday, May 12

- Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Lincoln Sudbury, 4 p.m. (Lincoln Sudbury HS)
- Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Framingham, 4 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)

- Boys and Girls Varsity Track & Field vs. Multiple Opponents, 4:30 p.m. (Leary Field)
- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Lincoln Sudbury, 5:30 p.m. (Lincoln Sudbury HS)

### Wednesday, May 13

- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Wayland, 4 p.m. (Wayland HS)
- Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Wayland, 4:30 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)
- Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Wayland, 4:30 p.m. (Wayland HS)
- Boys JV "A" Baseball vs. Wayland, 4 p.m. (Nipper Maher)
- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Wayland, 7 p.m. (Yetten Field)

### Thursday, May 14

- Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Wayland, 4 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Wayland, 6 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Wayland, 4 p.m. (Wayland HS)
- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Wayland, 5:30 p.m. (Wayland HS)
- Girls Varsity Tennis vs. North Reading, 4 p.m. (North Reading HS)
- Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Boston Latin, 4 p.m. (Boston Latin HS)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Boston Latin, 5:30 p.m. (Boston Latin HS)

### Friday, May 15

- Boys JV "A" Baseball vs. Concord-Carlisle, 4 p.m. (Concord-Carlisle HS)
- Boys JV "B" Baseball vs. Concord-Carlisle, 4 p.m. (Concord-Carlisle HS)
- Boys Freshman Lacrosse vs. Brookline, 4:30 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Somerville, 4 p.m. (WHS)
- Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Somerville, 5:30 p.m. (WHS)
- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Malden, 4 p.m. (Malden HS)

### Saturday, May 16

- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Boston English, 3 p.m. (Boston English HS)
- Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Medford, 1 p.m. (Medford HS)
- Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Medford, 2:30 p.m. (Medford HS)
- Boys and Girls Varsity Track & Field vs. Multiple Opponents, 9 a.m. (Location TBD)

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**Waltham Times**

# Mighty Squirrel's biergarten opening draws crowd

[walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/mighty-squirrels-biergarten-opening-draws-crowd](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/mighty-squirrels-biergarten-opening-draws-crowd)

June Kinoshita

May 11, 2026



Biergarten guests could dine at tables or play corn hole against the majestic backdrop of the Gore mansion. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Mighty Squirrel's seasonal biergarten opened on Friday on the grounds of historic Gore Place. Hundreds of people showed up, drawn by the outdoor dining, brews and lawn games. People warmed themselves in the late afternoon sunshine, but the cool breezes called for sweaters and jackets as the sun went down.

The biergarten featured a selection of Mighty Squirrel beers, along with hard seltzers, hard smoothies and nonalcoholic options. A food truck served an eclectic menu including lobster rolls, clam chowder, smash burgers, wings, birria poutine, harvest bowls, salads, tikka masala, saag paneer and desserts.

The biergarten plans to operate through the fall, from 4 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays through Sundays. The biergarten will also operate from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on select Monday holidays.

Gore Place officials noted that dogs are not permitted on the property due to the site's status as a working farm, though service animals are allowed.


# Missing person: Mason James Boulay

 [walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/missing-person-mason-james-boulay](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/missing-person-mason-james-boulay)

Cyd Abnet

May 11, 2026

## MISSING



### Mason James Boulay

Last seen April 25th 2026 in Waltham, MA  
Male, 31 years old, D.O.B. 12/17/94

Blue eyes, brown hair, approx. 170 lbs. 6' tall. Mental health crisis. left phone wallet and medicine at home. If seen do not approach just keep eyes on him & call Waltham Missing Persons Detective Dan McDouglas

## 781-314-3550

Waltham police are searching for Mason James Boulay, 31, of Waltham, who has been missing since April 25.

Boulay is described as a 6-foot-3-inch white male weighing about 170 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes. He was last seen in the Cedar Street area of Waltham wearing a cream-colored sweatsuit, a blue windbreaker, a green Celtics hat and black sneakers. He was carrying a black backpack.

Boulay does not have his phone, his wallet or his prescription medication with him and is believed to be having a mental health crisis.

Anyone with information about Boulay's whereabouts should call the Waltham Police Department at 781-314-3606. If Boulay is in immediate danger, WPD advises calling 911.

WPD did not respond to a request for further comment on the situation.

# Public safety report: Reported trespassing at 200 Trapelo Road

 [walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/public-safety-report-reported-trespassing-at-200-trapelo-road](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/public-safety-report-reported-trespassing-at-200-trapelo-road)

Cyd Abnet

May 11, 2026

Police responded to two incidences of suspected trespassing at 200 Trapelo Road this week. The parcel of land houses the former Walter E. Fernald Developmental Center campus as well as the city's new Universal Playground. Security cameras have been installed on the property in recent months, and a nighttime security officer remains in place. Both measures are intended in part to mitigate trespassing.

On May 3 at 1:22 a.m., police responded to reports of trespassing at the site. The security officer on-site called to report seeing four people in black hoodies enter the property. Officers checked the property and were unable to locate anyone inside.

On May 3 at 10:08 p.m., police responded to a second report of trespassing at 200 Trapelo Road. The security officer said he observed what he described as a "high-powered" flashlight shining from inside one of the buildings. Officers checked the building and the surrounding area, but were unable to locate anyone.

A summary of additional police activity from May 1 to May 4 is as follows:

On May 1 at 2:13 p.m., police responded to reports of an argument on Calvary Street. Upon arrival, officers were able to determine that the misunderstanding was largely due to a language barrier and were able to facilitate communication to resolve the issue.

On May 1 at 4:21 p.m., police responded to reports of a scam at a residence on Kings Way. The caller had sent nearly \$500 to an account she found online in order to book a vacation in the Caribbean. As communication continued, she believed she had been scammed and made a report to the police.

On May 2 at 8:47 p.m., police responded to reports of an attempted breaking and entering at a residence on Hansen Road. The caller found a damaged window screen on the ground outside her home, which prompted her to contact the police. Nothing had been taken from the scene. Police checked the surrounding area for evidence or any potential witnesses, but didn't find anything.

On May 3 at 1:19 a.m., police responded to reports of drug activity at Margarita's on Moody Street. The caller said he witnessed what he believed to be drug dealing activity in the rear parking lot of the building. Officers were able to find a group of individuals in the area who matched the description. Upon investigation, none of the parties were using or selling drugs.

On May 4 at 2:43 p.m., police responded to the post office at 38 Spruce St. where a caller reported walking into the post office and finding no employees inside. Finding it odd, the caller decided to contact the police. Upon arrival, officers were able to locate an employee onsite. It is believed the employee may have been briefly away from the desk when the caller arrived on scene.

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.

# The week ahead: Large western Waltham zoning project returns to council for public hearing

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 [walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/the-week-ahead-large-western-waltham-zoning-project-returns-to-council-for-public-hearing](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/the-week-ahead-large-western-waltham-zoning-project-returns-to-council-for-public-hearing)

Artie Kronenfeld

May 11, 2026

Two real estate companies, BXP Inc. and [1265 Main Street LLC](#), will return to City Council this week to request zoning changes so they can build residential developments.

The companies have asked the council to create Residential Commercial Industrial Limited Overlay Districts, or RCIs, over three lots currently zoned for commercial use. The zoning change would [allow the companies to construct housing](#). The two companies seek to build a total of [1,850 units across the three lots](#).

The companies' request to change the zoning [got both negative and positive reactions from residents](#) when it was first proposed at a public hearing in December. Since then, the companies have held a meeting for neighbors near [the Bay Colony property](#) and implemented changes, such as moving buildings further from lot lines, to the proposed development.

City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee has expressed a desire to [pass the zoning amendment and begin special permit discussions by July](#). This is partially because of the timeline of a local infrastructure project, the Green Street Connector; BXP is contributing funding to the project it has associated with one of the proposed overlay districts [on nearby Jones Road](#).

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

## Historical Commission

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

This week the commission will discuss restoring some of the city's Revolutionary War monuments as well as its First Book of Town Records. It will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, May 11, via Zoom. The details to join online can be found [on the commission's page](#) within the city site.

## City Council

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In addition to the request for a zoning change, City Council will discuss a resolution from Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley and Council President Robert G. Logan to thank Boston Dynamics and its former CEO for the company's presence in Waltham and "valued partnership with the community."

The council will receive a list of applications for city license renewals, outdoor dining permits and recommendations from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, most of which will be referred to the council's committees for discussion at their meetings next week.

McCarthy's requests include a loan authorization of \$8.64 million to purchase a building at 600 Main St.; a request for \$50,458.50 to help fund body armor and weapons utility vests for the Police Department; the acceptance of two state grants, for the Council on Aging and Office of Public Safety, respectively; a request from the Disability Services Commission to donate \$2,500 to Opportunities for Inclusion; two requests for named benches memorializing community members; and the receipt of a letter to the council from Margaret Cannon in favor of renaming Northeast Elementary School [after former Waltham Public Schools Superintendent John Daddona](#).

The council will meet at City Hall tonight, Monday, at 7:30 p.m.

## Housing Authority

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

It will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, May 12, at 4:30 p.m. [over Zoom](#) and in person at 110 Pond St. Participants can request further meeting information from Assistant Executive Director Mark Johnson at [markj@walhouse.org](mailto:markj@walhouse.org).

## Zoning Board of Appeals

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

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

This week it will continue a public hearing on a [323-unit residential development at 245-265 Winter St.](#) proposed under [Chapter 40B](#) of the state's general laws, which allows developers to fast-forward the zoning process in order to create more affordable housing. This hearing has been ongoing since [last July](#); last week, the board [approved a similar-sized development at Totten Pond Road](#) after initially [rejecting the same building's Chapter 40B application](#) in April.

The ZBA will also revisit a case from 719-723 Main St. owner Paul Yu, who is seeking to [renovate his building into seven residential units](#) and is requesting a parking variance as he would not be able to fit the number of parking spaces the city requires.

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

## Community Preservation Commission

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Waltham's CPC is charged with implementing the requirements of the Community Preservation Act. The commission is composed of four at-large residents of Waltham as well as representatives of five other city administrative bodies: the Board of Survey and Planning, the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Housing Authority and the Parks–Recreation Board.

Among other duties, the commission reviews applications to use CPA funding to renovate properties that serve historic, recreational or community housing functions.

The CPC meets quarterly and once a year holds a large annual meeting and public hearing. At its annual meeting this week, it will give an update on the city's CPA funding, discuss the purpose of the committee and explain the types of projects it funds.

The committee will also discuss applications to restore some of the city's Revolutionary War monuments and its First Book of Town Records, totalling \$15,395; the acquisition of the parcels of land at 48, 48 BEF and 50 Mount Walley Road for a total of approximately \$1.75 million; an application for \$1.3 million for the Northeast playground; and \$1 million for treatment and shelter costs from the Middlesex Human Services Agency.

The CPC will meet over Zoom at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Details for joining the Zoom meeting are provided [in its agenda](#).

## Library Board of Trustees and Building Committee

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The Board of Library Trustees is a five-person board appointed by the mayor and charged with establishing policies for the Waltham Public Library.

It will hold its regular monthly meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 14.

# Waltham turns wonderfully weird as Steampunk Festival takes over the common

 [walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/waltham-turns-wonderfully-weird-as-steampunk-festival-takes-over-the-common](https://walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/waltham-turns-wonderfully-weird-as-steampunk-festival-takes-over-the-common)

June Kinoshita

May 11, 2026

Waltham Common turned into a sea of brass goggles, brocade and lace, corsets, fancy hats, feathers and pocket watches as the [2026 Watch City Steampunk Festival](#) swung into full gear on Saturday afternoon. The free outdoor event was centered around steampunk, a genre that blends Victorian-era style with retro futuristic technology.

The festival brought costumed performers, vendors, children’s activities, food and community groups to downtown Waltham. Lining the walkways were tents overflowing with genre fashions, jewelry, antique machinery and tools, aromatic soaps and candles, exotic teas and potions appealing to the steampunkers.



A fanciful Steampunk Roadster conveyance.

A gentleman towering on stilts, clad in red and yellow stripes, delighted the crowd with feats of juggling. Aerial artists Baechtold and Abel entranced spectators with their balletic midair moves. Two dozen performers, with fanciful names such as Mary Puppets, Trevor “The Games Man,” Athena School of Arms, The Cropper Lads, The Harlot Queens and Lucretia’s Daggers, kept up a steady stream of entertainment.

There were games, magic tricks, artisans and curiosities to investigate, such as Dr. J.R. — King of the Impossible, Harmonographica, New England LEGO User’s Group, Prospect Hill Forge, The Great American Street Organ Magic Show, the Museum of Interesting Things and The Steampunk Roadster.



The Harlot Queens singing group takes over the Gazebo stage. <https://www.theharlotqueens.com/>



A puppeteer from Rosalita's Puppets entertains the littles. <https://rosalitaspuppets.com/>.



Trevor the Games Man has many tricks on his beltloops. <https://trevorthegamesman.com/>.

Festival goers could choose from an eclectic array of foods, from Brazilian and pan-Asian treats to barbecue, cannolis and Brelundi's succulent arancini.

Because of the newly imposed four-hour limit for events on Waltham Common, festival organizers arranged for an array of before and after events, ranging from a Red Cross blood drive at First Parish to open mics, a "Make Your Own Golem" at Temple Beth Israel and a pub and chanty sing-along at In A Pickle.



A number of local dignitaries stopped by, including Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, city councilors Tim King and Sean Durkee and Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian.

The Watch City Steampunk Festival has been part of Waltham's community calendar since 2010 and is described by organizers as one of New England's largest outdoor steampunk festivals.



*Baechtold and Abel Aerial Artistry put on a dazzling performance. Photo by The Waltham Times.*

# Zoning Board hears resident pushback on additional Watch Factory apartments

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 10, 2026



Immediately after Watch Factory Lofts management firm Berkeley Investments [met with neighbors](#) about adding a new building to its mixed-use development, it returned to the Zoning Board of Appeals to continue discussing the project with the city.

At its special meeting on Thursday, April 30, the board refrained from taking a final vote on whether or not to approve zoning variances Berkeley requested, but tentatively scheduled a site visit on Thursday, May 21 that would be open to the public. A representative of the project will attend the ZBA meeting on May 19 to confirm the date of the site visit.

Project attorney Michael Connors of Connors & Connors LLP told board members about the ways in which the team had made changes to its plan to accommodate neighbors, including details about the physical design and soundproofing of the building. He also said Berkeley was committed to funding neighborhood improvements such as a pedestrian path to the river, crosswalk improvements, and possible contributions to a local park on the site of the former Fitch School — although Recreation Director Kim Hebert says the city [plans to leave that lot empty for the next five to 10 years](#).



*An earlier version of the Watch Factory architect's rendering. Courtesy of Berkeley Investments.*

Chair John Sergi said the ZBA had received letters [both in favor of and against the new building](#). Four residents attended to speak against it, raising concerns about the project's size, its affordability, whether it fit statutory requirements for being exempted from certain zoning requirements and its potential traffic and parking impact on the area.

The developer's traffic study, which posits that the project will not substantially impact local traffic, has already been [approved by the city's Traffic Commission](#), and Berkeley recently redid a study demonstrating that [significant parts of the Watch Factory campus' available parking is underused](#). The study estimates that even with these new units, the campus will maintain around 250 empty parking spaces at peak occupancy.

Still, neighbors raised concerns that some of that vacancy is due to residents taking up street parking. Local resident Mark Lasoff proposed that the developer should study parking on nearby streets or consider opening its parking lots up to residents of neighboring streets.

Multiple nearby residents argued that the development was overly tall and had too many units, but development team members emphasized that the new building's unit count was misleading, since it would mostly consist of smaller studio and one-bedroom apartments.

Esther Chung Byun, Berkeley's senior director of development, said the company had focused on compactness and sustainable design, but that in light of current economic building conditions, it required a significant number of units to be economically feasible to build. "That size of 140 units is the sweet spot. It's what we need for the overall economics of the project to get done," she said.

Some residents suggested that the company could build on other parking lots across Crescent Street to avoid blocking the neighborhood's view of the river. Connors said any such buildings would require a complete zoning change, and that in previous community meetings, neighbors expressed distaste for buildings on the company's other parking lots as well.

Board members expressed mixed feelings on the project. ZBA member Matthew Deveaux emphasized that he was not in favor of the project's proposal to contribute approximately \$4 million to the city's Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund instead of pricing some of its new units more affordably. He pointed to [the recent permit for Cardinal Cottage](#) as proof of the fund's insufficiency: "We just found out that all the city can build with \$2.8 million is two affordable units."

The project will return to the board for another installment of the public hearing on June 2.

#### **Additionally, at the ZBA's regular April 5 meeting, the board:**

- Granted the owners of a house on Hillcroft Road permission to build a second-floor addition to their house and first-story mudroom, which would encroach into required front and back yard setbacks, because of the lot's unusual rounded shape.
- Postponed a hearing for a comprehensive special permit for a [323-unit residential development at 245-265 Winter St.](#) proposed under [Chapter 40B](#) of the state's general laws to its next meeting on May 12.



## 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.

# Rat control will require action by both residents and the city

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 7, 2026



According to the city Health Department, inspectors saw 63 fewer rat complaints in 2025 than in 2024. Although the department has generally seen rodent activity increase year over year, it's optimistic that this year's cold winter and [heavy snows](#) may have helped further curb Waltham's rat population.

Still, in a presentation to the City Council, department leaders insisted that addressing the city's rat problem would take collaboration between multiple departments, as well as significantly more resident buy-in — otherwise, their efforts are like “taking buckets to the ocean.”

“This is not just a city problem. It's a resident problem as well. It's how people store their trash,” emphasized Health Director Michelle Feeley.



Feeley, along with Deputy Health Inspector Tommy Creonte and City Engineer Robert Winn, attended the City Council's Economic and Community Development Committee meeting this week to talk rat strategy. Councilors invited them to give updates on the city's rat extermination efforts and needs in advance of budget season; the committee also anticipates hearing from Building Inspector Brian Bower and Director of Public Works Michael Chiasson in upcoming weeks about rat mitigation in their respective departments.

Creonte told councilors the Health Department primarily sets “snap traps” to catch rats around the city. He said the traps are expensive, but they work, albeit not very well, especially when placed along public ways such as sidewalks instead of near food sources. He said carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide treatments can be much more effective strategies in [places like parking lots](#), but can't be used directly beside residences.

In a letter, the Health Department recommended the city not spend its funding on exterminators; instead, it suggested the city should invest more heavily in preventative strategies such as hiring a full-time city pest control expert, raising fines for incorrect garbage disposal, providing city-approved garbage bins, and collecting trash multiple times a week in areas like the South Side that have been hit heavily by rats. Creonte also said that limiting chicken coops, or at least [requiring Health Department inspections and approval for them](#), could reduce rat activity.

Feeley indicated that the Health Department still has funding available for its rat mitigation efforts. The department is requesting more resources, however, in the form of a full-time office administrator. The letter emphasized that records of inspections and tickets are kept by hand and not centralized, making it difficult to track trends in rodent activity.

The letter also recommended the city approve use of rodenticides in limited areas of city property. City Engineer Winn added that the city is still using rodenticide-based traps in some capacities, and contractors may be using them even more often. He indicated that the engineering department uses bait traps around sewer manholes, which it checks weekly and only installs rodenticide if the inspections indicate rodent activity around the traps.

Ward 5 Councilor Joey LaCava emphasized that the council has been discussing rat activity for many years. “From the last 40 minutes, everyone seems like they’re on the same page,” he said. “[But] we tiptoe, we talk about doing some real changes, but it never really happens. We don’t do anything to solidify it.”

To actually make progress, he argued, the council needs to make more significant — and potentially unpopular — decisions. He suggested buying city garbage bins, which he said might save the city money on its garbage contracts, putting more responsibility on residents for managing trash, and allowing [the use of rodenticide on city property](#).

Other councilors asked about where and how the city could implement multiple weekly trash pickups and a central composting program. Feeley told them the Public Works department would be able to give more useful insight on those issues.

“We have to do this together. Don’t just rely on the city to take care of it,” Feeley emphasized to residents.

Still, she said, despite her desire to see more engagement with and ownership of the issue from residents, her department tries to work collaboratively with people who get citations for improper garbage disposal to encourage education and better planning for the future. “What we like to do is work with people. We’ll say to them, ‘Take that \$50, get a [trash] barrel — we’ll make that [fine] disappear,’” she said.

The rat problem caught the attention of the NBC10 Boston news team in this segment aired on May 4, 2026.



MICHELE • MAY 8, 2026 AT 3:29 PM

I appreciate the Health Department recommending the city focus on preventative strategies such as providing city-approved garbage bins. Several of our neighboring communities already do this. Hopefully this would encourage residents to do their part by securing their trash. I’m also curious if the city is enforcing the new(ish) dumpster ordinance – or whether additional staffing is needed: [https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif12301/f/uploads/new\\_dumpster\\_ordinance.pdf](https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif12301/f/uploads/new_dumpster_ordinance.pdf)

**Reply**



ELISABETH HOLDER • MAY 8, 2026 AT 2:53 PM

I urge the city to address this promptly and seriously. There should be follow-up visits, fines, and real repercussions for repeat offenders who leave their garbage exposed as rat dining buffets. Just a few incidents where people confront rats while coming for a nice evening out in our city will serve to spread the word that Waltham is scary or disgusting, depending on those people’s attitude toward the rodents. It will not be possible to eliminate this problem, but it should be possible to reduce their presence, starting with the city setting a good example with its own garbage containment practices.

**Reply**



MAUREEN • MAY 8, 2026 AT 9:08 AM

The old Elks building on corner of School St is now city property. The dumpster there is wide open. Veterans field has a large dumpster which is constantly open. The city is no better than the people who put garbage out in bags. Fines need to be handed out.

**Reply**

# Three finalists named in search for next Waltham High principal

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • MAY 7, 2026



School officials have named three finalists in the search for the next Waltham High School principal, with candidates scheduled to visit the campus May 12 and May 13 as part of the final stage of the selection process.

The finalists advanced through two rounds of interviews. They next will make in-person visits to WHS that include meetings with students, faculty and caregivers, classroom walkthroughs and time with Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa.

A virtual community forum is also planned for 5 p.m. May 13, where residents will have an opportunity to meet the candidates and provide feedback.

The school district in an email to WHS families shared information on the three candidates, which is as follows:

## Candidate: William T. Conard

William T. Conard is an experienced educational leader with nearly 30 years of service in public education including 10 years as a high school principal and 10 years as a middle school principal. He has a strong commitment to supporting diverse and inclusive school communities. He currently serves as principal of Roosevelt Middle School in New Bedford, where he has led efforts to strengthen school culture, expand academic opportunities, and improve student outcomes. During his tenure, the school has implemented a dual-language program, increased access to advanced coursework, and was designated an International Baccalaureate School in 2025.



Conard previously served as principal of Randolph High School and Galvin Middle School in nearby Canton, where he focused on building strong relationships with students, staff, and families while advancing college and career readiness. His leadership has emphasized equity, inclusive practices, and the development of meaningful learning experiences for all students. His work has been recognized statewide, including presentations at Harvard University on effective school improvement and closing opportunity gaps.

He began his career in the Chicago Public Schools, where he served as an assistant principal and helped develop small learning communities to better support students academically and socially. During his time at Roberto Clemente High School, they were recognized by the International Center for Leadership in Education as one of the 75 most promising high schools in America.

Conard holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from DePaul University. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, he brings a global perspective and a deep commitment to service. He lives in Canton with his wife and three daughters and is extremely excited about the opportunity to partner with the students, families, and staff of Waltham High School.

## Candidate: Joel Stembridge

Joel Stembridge is a Massachusetts educator with more than 25 years of experience, including 18 years as a high school principal in urban and suburban settings across the Commonwealth. He currently serves as a curriculum and intervention specialist at Holliston High School, supporting instructional practice and school leadership.

Stembridge served as principal of Newton South High School from 2009 to 2020, where he worked to expand access to rigorous coursework for students of color, narrow achievement gaps, and build a Tier 2 intervention system that identified students needing additional support on a weekly basis and ensured a timely, coordinated response.



From 2020 to 2022, he served as principal of Charlestown High School in the Boston Public Schools, leading the school through the COVID years with attention to both academic outcomes and building a school where students and adults worked together to create a culture of belonging. Earlier in his career, he served as principal of the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in Boston, where he deepened academic programming and expanded student access to Advanced Placement coursework.

Stembridge holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Chicago, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Willamette University, and administrative certification from Boston University.

## Candidate: Robert Rametti

Robert Rametti is an educational leader with over two decades of experience in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He currently serves as chief academic officer at Boston Prep in Hyde Park, where he oversees teaching, learning, and curriculum for 700 students. Under his leadership, the school has risen six percentile points in the state's school ranking system, progress driven by stronger classroom instruction, better support for teachers, and a sharper focus on student results.



Rametti grew up in Trenton, NJ. Through SEEDS–Access Changes Everything, a local nonprofit, he was awarded a scholarship to attend a highly regarded independent secondary school, an experience that transformed the trajectory of his life. That opportunity instilled in him an enduring belief in the power and responsibility of public education, because no child's future should be left to chance.

Rametti has spent his career working alongside students, families, and educators with a deep commitment to equity. Before his current role, as principal of Juanita Sanchez Education Complex in Providence, he helped increase the graduation rate by 15 percentage points in just two years. Earlier, he served as head of school at Brighton High School in Boston, where he led a turnaround effort that cut chronic absenteeism nearly in half and reduced student suspensions by 40% by strengthening school culture and accountability systems.

Rametti holds a doctorate in PK–12 Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Boston University, where his research examined how schools can better serve all students through more culturally responsive teaching practices.

# Bentley ready for postseason push in NE10 tournament

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 5, 2026



The Bentley University baseball team is making a bid for the NCAA championship at the Northeast-10 conference tournament, which kicks off May 7 at Southern New Hampshire University. If the Falcons win the tourney, they're automatically in the NCAA Division II Baseball Championship playoffs.

After grinding through a competitive regular season in one of Division II's toughest conferences, the Falcons put themselves in position for a postseason run last week. A four-game sweep of Adelphi gave Bentley 36 wins for the season, which is the most in program history.

The Falcons (36-13, 28-8 NE10) earned the No. 2 seed for the Northeast 10 Championship.

Bentley has relied on a balanced approach throughout the spring, combining timely hitting with steady pitching, led by junior Brendan Sencaj's 14 home runs and key wins by Falcons pitcher and Waltham native Sam Belliveau.

That consistency will be critical in a tournament setting, where quick turnarounds and high-pressure moments often determine who advances.

With their NCAA hopes on the line, the Falcons will look to capitalize on the opportunity and extend their season.



*The Falcons' Jimmy Mitchell congratulates teammates after a win. Photo courtesy of Bentley University.*



Pizzi's lawyer, Joseph M. Connors Jr., argued that it was unlikely for all homeowners to create ADUs on their lots. He pointed out that neighboring single-family zones contained many nonconforming multifamily houses, and the proposed lots were larger and more spacious than the requested Residence B zoning designation required.

Board chair William Creonte, Jr. and board member M. Justin Barrett, Jr. agreed that the development was consistent with the character of other nearby neighborhoods. "I don't think [they're] asking for the world, as most people do," Creonte said.

Keefner, like Moroney, expressed reluctance specifically with the mechanism by which Pizzi was proposing to redevelop the land. "I think zoning changes should be very rare, and they should be based on something other than development potential," he said.

Multiple board members said they regretted Pizzi was closing the ice cream store, and Connors assured board members the Pizzi family was not done with ice cream: "He's looking for an alternative site in the city of Waltham," Connors said.

Additionally, the Board of Survey and Planning:

- Voted unanimously to recommend the City Council approve an amendment to the city's zoning code allowing businesses to [open pet-related businesses by-right in commercial areas](#) without a kennel permit.
- Voted unanimously to recommend the City Council approve an amendment to the city's zoning code [decreasing affordable housing requirements for new residential construction](#). Taralo expressed worry that much of the affordable housing created in Waltham wasn't truly affordable to residents, but said if the amendment created more housing, it would be better than the status quo: "If nobody's building anything, I think plan B would be good." Barrett added that he'd prefer the city get rid of developers' option to pay into the Municipal Affordable Trust Fund instead of building affordable housing.
- Agreed again to delay a hearing on [repaving a private section of Fir Avenue](#) until June. Philip McCourt, the project's lawyer, said the petitioner was waiting for a response from the city's Law Department on previously-submitted documents and investigating better drainage plans to address neighbors' concerns.



## 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.

## Comments (1)

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BRAD ONKEN • MAY 9, 2026 AT 8:28 AM

As noted in the section on additional Board actions, I appreciate the Board of Survey and Planning's recent vote to recommend reducing affordable housing requirements to encourage new construction. As members of Waltham Inclusive Neighborhoods (WIN) have noted, making projects economically feasible is key to actually getting homes built. This is a great step toward addressing our local housing needs and I commend the board for taking this action.

**Reply**

# Charles River Watershed Association praises Waltham for leadership on storm preparedness

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 5, 2026



Waltham is a local leader on stormwater legislation, something that will help the city stay prepared for local flooding, according to the Charles River Watershed Association.

The CRWA is a local organization that works to monitor, restore, protect and educate people about the Charles River, its surrounding environments and its watershed area — that is, all the land in Greater Boston and beyond that drains into the river. This area covers 35 municipalities and more than a million total residents.

Arrianna Proia, a senior community organizer for the CRWA, visited the City Council’s meeting of the Committee of the Whole this week to discuss the organization’s insights into how Waltham can make itself more resilient to effects of the global climate crisis.



**Arrianna Proia, a senior community organizer for the CRWA, speaks before City Council about climate resilience. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.**

Proia said that two of the biggest climate-related threats facing the region are [flooding](#) and extreme heat.

When it comes to flooding, Proia praised Waltham’s existing stormwater policies, which require developers to prepare their buildings to handle catastrophic once-in-a-century storms when designing any new construction. She also noted Waltham’s tiered system of stormwater responsibility for different intensities of construction, which means all properties contribute to storm preparedness.

Still, she said more than 37% of the city is covered by materials impermeable to water such as asphalt, concrete and roofing. Proia suggested Waltham implement a stormwater utility fund to cover future anti-flooding stormwater management and infrastructure, collected as an annual fee for all properties based on the amount of their surface that is impermeable. This is a tool the organization has implemented with [municipalities like Franklin](#), where the average homeowner pays around \$60.72 a year.

One mechanism by which municipalities can regulate both stormwater and heat is increasing their local tree cover, since trees can retain or distribute water in the soil easily and provide significant shade. By the CRWA’s metrics, however, Waltham is falling behind on tree cover, Proia showed a chart that placed Waltham’s tree cover as the sixth-lowest among regional municipalities.

Proia encouraged Waltham to consider more policy options to protect local trees. She suggested the city require permits for private landowners to remove trees on their lots; define trees with diameters of over eight inches, which contribute even more significantly to shade and water management, as “significant trees” with additional legal protections; and create a municipal tree fund where developers would contribute mitigation funding whenever they removed trees during construction, which the city could later use for targeted tree plantings.

# City Council in brief: Hour-long fence argument stalls Waltham Fields license

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD & LEA ZAHARONI • GOVERNMENT • MAY 5, 2026



The City Council is split on how to act on a three-year license proposed by Mayor Jeanette A. McCarthy for Waltham Fields Community Farm’s use of city land.

In a presentation to the Committee of the Whole on Monday, Mayor McCarthy told councilors it has taken over 16 months to reach this proposed license agreement. McCarthy mentioned that the WFCF rejected a previous lease proposal, although the organization’s executive director, Stacey Daley, clarified that this event happened in 2023 after the city first purchased the property. Daley said the 2023 proposal required the WFCF to manage hazardous material abatement in historic buildings on the property, which she said was “overly onerous” for her organization.

The WFCF is currently operating without a leasing agreement. Daley added that the organization received both its invoice for occupancy of the farm throughout 2025 and the new license agreement in April.

The mayor repeatedly told councilors the city was allowing the organization to stay on the land in the meantime. “Even though everybody thinks I’m a big bad landlord over here, I haven’t bothered them.”

The mayor’s license agreement is very similar to the one the organization previously agreed to, with the same rent of \$8,472 per year for the land. There are a few new additions requested by the WFCF pertaining to the organization’s ability to serve alcohol, operating hours and driveway use.

The most controversial new lease term, however, was added by the mayor, requiring the WFCF to repair the fence around three sides of the land to improve security and discourage theft. “When you look at all the money for [its] cleanup... the City of Waltham has made major investments in that property,” she said. “What I’m saying is, ‘I want you to fix the fence.’”

Not all councilors agreed. Ward 6 Councilor Bradley-MacArthur argued that because the requirement showed the city was difficult to work with for local businesses. Ward 7 Councilor-at-Large Colleen [redacted] argued, and Councilor-at-Large Colleen [redacted] may to maintain it. They said this

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Others, such as Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris and Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci, said that because the WFCF is using the land and it's their crops that are at risk of theft, it's entirely reasonable for the nonprofit to pay for fence repairs, pointing out that the WFCF was voluntarily paying for the permanent addition of a pergola to the property.

Ward 2 Councilor Caren Dunn and Councilor-at-Large Emma Tzioumis argued that the proposal didn't contain enough information on the fence repairs for councilors to be able to make an informed decision.

"I'm not going to approve [the license] if I don't have the information. Just now, I have learned a number of things... that are nowhere in here," said Tzioumis. Dunn asked for the mayor to provide documentation of the repairs the fence required and a cost estimate from the WFCF for the repairs, but the mayor did not directly engage with the suggestion.

The discussion got heated, with the mayor saying she was not prepared to negotiate further on the document. "If you're not going to agree to it, I'm going to go back in my office," she said. When Durkee asked her questions about the fence, she suggested those questions were fed to him by WFCF staffers and alleged that he had a disqualifying conflict of interest.

As time wound on, councilors expressed frustration at the length of the discussion. "It could be \$100 to fix the fence. We've gone down this rabbit hole for an hour about the cost of fixing a fence, and we don't know anything about how much [it would entail]," said LaFauci.

Councilor-at-Large Carlos Vidal asked to amend the license agreement to require the WFCF to send its annual reports on the organization's benefit to Waltham directly to the City Council; this passed with three votes against it, from Bradley-MacArthur, Durkee and Tzioumis.

The council was unable to come to a conclusion on the license agreement before the end of the meeting. It ultimately voted to table the matter, although four councilors voted against the motion — Councilor-at-Large Paul J. Brasco, Harris, LaFauci and Vidal.

The council further agreed to the mayor's request to table two other license agreements for Waltham community farms, from Green Rows of Waltham and Healthy Waltham.

#### **Additionally, the City Council's committees:**

- Heard a presentation from the Charles River Watershed Association on how Waltham can become more resilient to environmental harms in the ongoing climate crisis. (Committee of the Whole)
- Heard a report from the Health and Engineering Departments about what Waltham is doing to reduce rodent activity. (Economic and Community Development)
- Heard a short presentation from 22Mohawks, a group that does suicide prevention work for veterans and first responders. The organization pairs at-risk individuals with dogs, holds parachuting retreats for patients to bond and operates a daily check-up app that can connect users with mental health professionals. The committee asked organization leaders to return in two weeks to discuss their work in more detail. (Economic and Community Development)
- Accepted donations for the City Hall Museum Room of a pair of wooden skate guards from Richie Dagostino; a Nov. 16, 1943, edition of Boston American and a 1984 Centennial Edition of the News Tribune from Julia DeCola; and Yasmin Azid's "Stay, Daughter: a Memoir of a Muslim Girlhood" from Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley and Council President Robert G. Logan. (Finance)
- Approved an additional \$1.2 million of funding for the Department of Public Works for snow and ice removal over the past winter. Much of this funding will go toward paying overtime for contractors. This brings [total spending on snow removal this fiscal year](#) to \$5.1 million. Although the city only budgeted \$1.4 million for the year, councilors noted that snow and ice removal is unpredictable and "the only line item we're [allowed to overspend on](#)," further professing trust in the DPW's work. (Finance)
- Approved an outdoor dining permit for \

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- Approved secondhand dealers’ license renewals for Milano Gold, ReChic and L&V Collection Jewelry, LLC. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Approved two old docket items, the Handicap Resolution and a resolution to create a checklist for best practices in high-intensity development, which councilors judged they had already successfully implemented; filed away a resolution about solar energy by former councilor George Darcy; and suggested new language to [amend a council budgeting rule](#) that doesn’t align with council procedures. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Asked the Law Department for guidance on [a request from City Engineer Robert Winn](#) to amend the City Council’s zoning amendment process. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Received new designs for the outside facade of the [proposed hotel at 220 Moody St.](#), which McCarthy said she preferred to the hotel’s original design. Councilors also asked the mayor about her thoughts on the air rights easement the developer had requested. She said she wanted clarification whether the developer was seeking a lease or an easement for the air rights. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Received updates from BP Inc. on next week’s public hearing for the three proposed mixed-use zoning districts in west Waltham. Vice-President of Development Kier Evans said the company had sent notice of the hearing to three neighbors who it had failed to notify earlier, and said next week’s discussion would involve multiple concessions to neighbors, including creating a larger setback from and moving a multifamily building away from the Lincoln Woods neighborhood. (Ordinances and Rules)



### 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.



### 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.

## Comments (3)

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MAUREEN KING • MAY 7, 2026 AT 11:42 AM

Well written story. Not easy .

**Reply**



CARL CINCOTTA • MAY 7, 2026 AT 7:56 AM

This farm is the biggest waste of Waltham taxpayers money I’ve ever seen.

18 million dollars to purchase and own a substantial valuable piece of land that benefits very few, many who don’t even live in Waltham.

Members pay hundreds of dollars a year to purchase vegetables that they can just as well purchase at any supermarket in Waltham or if they wish, at our local Farmers Market.

I part company with the Mayor and the City Council for continuing this huge waste of money.

**Reply**



ERIC MUNIZ • MAY 6, 2026 AT 12:51 PM

Time for Term Limits.

Remove Mode (19 removed)

# Demolished Fitch School to be open space for foreseeable future

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • MAY 7, 2026



During its Wednesday night meeting, the Parks-Recreation Board discussed plans for the land where the newly demolished Fitch School once stood.

While there have been rumors about a possible playground, director of recreation Kim Hebert said that there are no plans for the area for the next five to ten years. The area will be seeded and remain as open space for the time being. Hebert said there will be a community input meeting regarding the space in the future.

Hebert also announced that work on the exterior of the Howe and Admin buildings at 200 Trapelo Road will start soon and should be finished by late 2026 if all goes to plan. The Howe building will house a six-lane indoor pool, and the Admin building will contain a bowling alley, classrooms and office space.

In other action, the board:

- Heard a presentation from Waltham Youth Hockey treasurer Paul Aborn, who reported that despite having to raise tuition, the program maintained its strong numbers in the 2025 season. Aborn has been involved with the program for more than 20 years.
- Approved a list of 93 potential summer recreation staff hires. The seasonal hires will fill positions in various areas of recreation programming such as camps, spray parks, park ranger assistants and amusements.
- Discussed the department's Springtacular celebration, which will take place at Prospect Hill Park on May 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature a Touch-a-Truck opportunity as well as other family-friendly entertainment, and is free to attend.
- Announced that the amusements at Prospect Hill Park and the mini golf course at 200 Trapelo Road will be open starting May 30.
- Bid farewell to Ben Kiwanuka, the Recreation Department's inclusion supervisor. A listing for the position of inclusion supervisor will be posted on the city website in the coming weeks.



*The facade of the Fitch School. Photo by Laura Glazer.*

# Healey's Ride Safe Act would set speed-based rules for e-bikes, mopeds and scooters

BY NEWSROOM • GOVERNMENT • MAY 7, 2026



Gov. Maura Healey has filed [legislation](#) that would create a first-in-the-nation, speed-based system for regulating e-bikes, scooters and mopeds in response to rising safety concerns on Massachusetts roads, sidewalks and paths. The proposal, dubbed the Ride Safe Act, echoes warnings raised in a December [Waltham Times report](#) that electric two-wheelers are outpacing existing laws and putting young riders and pedestrians at risk.

Filed May 4, the Ride Safe Act aims to clear up confusion about where electric two-wheelers belong and what safety standards should apply as the devices proliferate across the state. Healey said current rules are “unclear and inconsistent” and that the bill is intended to “protect people and prevent tragedies before they happen” by spelling out clear expectations for riders and law enforcement.



**November 2025 e-bike and car crash in Waltham**

Under the proposal, micromobility devices would be regulated primarily by how fast they can go rather than by their marketing label. State officials say the bill builds on recommendations from the Special Commission on Micromobility convened last year and would position Massachusetts as a national leader in regulating these vehicles.

The legislation would sort devices into tiers based on speed, with lower-speed e-bikes generally treated like bicycles and higher-speed machines facing stricter rules. Lower-speed e-bikes would

follow bike lane rules but be subject to helmet requirements and added protections for riders under 16. Faster devices, such as moped-like bikes and modified machines, could only be ridden by people 16 and older and would require registration, insurance and specific roadway restrictions.

Across the board, the bill would codify safety standards that include minimum age requirements for certain devices, helmet mandates (especially for riders under 16), and equipment such as lights, reflectors and effective braking systems. It would also tighten rules about where different devices may operate, limiting higher-speed vehicles in areas where pedestrians and slower traffic are most vulnerable.

## **Enforcement, data and local impacts**

The Ride Safe Act is designed to give police clearer authority to stop and penalize unsafe behavior, including the use of modified or illegally powerful machines that can exceed manufacturer speed limits. It calls for improved crash data collection even when a motor vehicle is not involved, closing a reporting gap that safety advocates say makes it hard to understand the true scope of e-bike and e-scooter injuries.

The bill would also give the Registry of Motor Vehicles power to respond more quickly to new technologies without waiting for additional legislation, and it would establish a statewide working group to advise on future rules for registration, enforcement and infrastructure. Transportation and public safety leaders, along with municipal officials from communities across the state, have endorsed the approach as a way to reduce confusion and design safer streets and paths.

The proposal arrives less than six months after The Waltham Times published an Ideas column in which the author, John Allen, asserted that electric two-wheelers present “a public safety crisis,” highlighting crashes, near-misses and unsafe riding on city streets and the Mass Central Rail Trail.

# Mighty Squirrel to open biergarten at Gore Place

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • FOOD • MAY 5, 2026



A new seasonal biergarten is set to open this week on the grounds of historic Gore Place, offering outdoor dining, drinks and live entertainment through the fall.

Mighty Squirrel Brewing Co. will launch the 60,000-square-foot biergarten on Friday, May 8, at 4 p.m. on the southern lawn of the 50-acre property, which spans Watertown and Waltham. The operation is scheduled to run through October.



The biergarten will feature a rotating selection of Mighty Squirrel beers, along with hard seltzers, hard smoothies and nonalcoholic options. A food truck will serve a varied menu including lobster rolls, clam chowder, smash burgers, wings, birria poutine, harvest bowls, salads, tikka masala, saag paneer and desserts.

The space will include both shaded seating under a large tent and open-air tables, with live music planned throughout the summer season.

Regular hours are 4 to 9 p.m. Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. The biergarten will also operate from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on select Monday holidays.

Gore Place officials noted that dogs are not permitted on the property due to the site's status as a working farm, though service animals are allowed.



REX BAKER • MAY 7, 2026 AT 10:53 AM

@Tim if it's anything like the setup they had at the Sheepshearing Festival, it will be great. My kids enjoyed the food and nonalcoholic options (and sitting/rolling in the grass).

Really hoping this is successful as we live two blocks away, and we desperately need more amenities within easily walkable distance in the Warrendale/Rangely Acres neighborhoods. Clearing my calendar now so I can show up at 11:00am tomorrow! Hope to see good neighborhood turnout!

**Reply**



TIMOTHY RILEY • MAY 6, 2026 AT 9:32 AM

German Biergartens succeed because of the options they provide for entire families – I hope Mighty Squirrel has plans for this

# Rosé wine: It's not just for summer anymore!

BY LISA FRUITT AND GARY MARKOWITZ • FOOD • MAY 7, 2026



Rosé wines get a bad rap. Damned with faint praise as “great summer sippers,” they are much more than a pink seasonal treat.

Rosés are made from a wide variety of red grapes, whose flavors vary wildly and whose colors range from bubble gum pink to amber to cherry red.

Speaking of cherry red, that's both the color and the name of Magella Lampato Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo, one of our favorite Italian rosé (or rosato in Italian) wines. The name Cerasuolo – pronounced che-ra-SWOH-lo – means cherry red, and that's what you get with this beautiful wine from Italy's Abruzzo region. We order the Magella Lampato every time we're at Vinotta on Moody Street, one of the few restaurants in Greater Boston serving this hard-to-find charmer.

Made from 100% Montepulciano grapes, the Magella Lampato is dazzling to look at and a pleasure to drink. Limestone and grapefruit on the nose lead to a riot of fresh berry and cherry flavors. With its solid structure and bracing acidity, the wine stands up to anything on Vinotta's menu. We recently paired it with the Shrimp Portofino, whose blend of onion, garlic and red pepper flavors did not overwhelm this sturdy rosato. If you're ready to consider rosé a year-round pleasure, the Magella Lampato Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo awaits.



*Italian Roseta Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo. Photo courtesy of L. Fruitt.*



## Author

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### LISA FRUITT AND GARY MARKOWITZ

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

# School Committee declines to recommend changing Northeast Elementary's name, defers to City Council

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • MAY 7, 2026



At its May 6 meeting, the School Committee invited public input on a possible name change of Northeast Elementary to John Daddona Elementary, memorializing the [late educator and superintendent](#). After hearing mixed perspectives, the committee declined to make a recommendation, moving to share the public's feedback with City Council to inform a final decision.

The request to change Northeast's name initially came from 95-year-old Margaret Cannon, a former Waltham school district employee who worked under Daddona when he was superintendent. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy brought Cannon's request to City Council, who sent it to the School Committee for a recommendation. Only City Council has the power to make the change, but wished to hear the perspective of the school community first.

At Wednesday's public hearing on the name change, Cannon's request via email was read aloud. She stressed Daddona's work ethic, kindness and lifelong service to Waltham. Diane Kruger, a Northeast alum, former teacher, assistant principal and parent, whose mother was Daddona's secretary for decades, also spoke in favor of the name change.

Nine other community members, all affiliated with Northeast in some way, spoke against the name change. Kelly MacAvoy, assistant principal at Northeast, said 88.9% of staff opposed the change when surveyed last month. "The city owes a debt of gratitude for the standard of excellence [Daddona] set... but we have history, we have a story, and we have a name."



Several parents also spoke on behalf of their children enrolled at Northeast, who told them "none of our friends want the name change." Members of the school's Parent Teacher Organization pointed out that changing a name meant changing bank accounts, tax statements, signage and merchandise, and would be much more tedious and costly than one might expect.

Some speakers asked that 617 Lexington St., the campus containing the superintendent's office, the Dual Language School and the Valor School, be named for Daddona. They argued this would allow his legacy to live on without stripping an already existing school of its identity.

During the committee's discussion, the mayor gave a lengthy account of Daddona's contributions to the district. She said she wanted to do as Cannon asked, but the decision was ultimately not up to her or the committee.

Ultimately, vice-chair Debra Coleman said she did not feel comfortable making any recommendation for or against the change because it wasn't under the committee's purview. The committee moved to share the emails and in-person public input it had received with City Council and defer to their call.

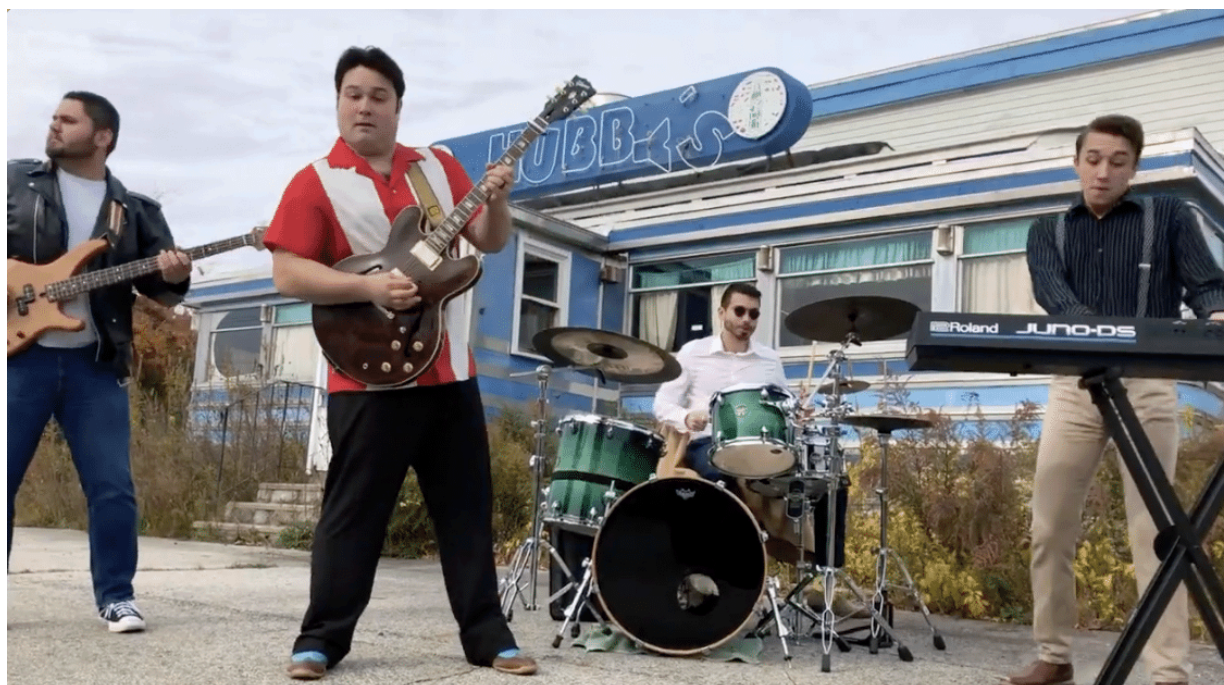
# Senior Center music, dance workouts

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • MAY 7, 2026



Curated by Priscilla Ellis

Friday, May 8 at 1 p.m. The GemsTones will entertain at the Senior Center with live music from the 1950s. The band specializes in faithful renditions of songs by Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Johnny Cash, Bobby Darin, Fats Domino and other music icons from that era. The concert is free.



***The GemsTones will rock out at the Senior Center. Image courtesy of the GemsTones.***

Thursday, May 14. Dance with Parkinson's is offering classes in the Spanish language. Residents with Parkinson's disease can discover how dance can help movement, balance and coordination. The class is designed for participants to enjoy music and community while moving at their individual comfort level, seated and/or standing. Instructor Rafael Rivera is specially trained in teaching those with PD.

Classes will be primarily in Spanish, but all are welcome. The classes are held on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Upcoming dates: May 14 and 28; June 4, 11 and 18. New members are accepted until the last date. Light refreshments will be served.

Please call the Senior Center at 781-314-3499 to register for these events.

# Waltham climbs to No. 2 in statewide hacky sack craze

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 7, 2026



A sudden revival of hacky sack has swept through Massachusetts high schools over the past month, and Waltham is right at the top of its game (almost).

According to a story yesterday in the [Boston Globe](#), what started out as a few TikTok videos quickly exploded into a statewide trend after students returned from April vacation.

The query “hacky sack” went from essentially zero popularity before break, rose a bit during vacation week, then shot straight upward when students returned. Nearly all the online activity is coming from the northeast, centered in Massachusetts and Connecticut, according to the Globe.

Now there’s unofficial “sack teams,” social media accounts, and an unofficial Instagram page called “MIAA Official Hacky Sack Rankings” tracking nearly 100 schools — with [Waltham now holding the No. 2 spot](#).

Whatever the reason, it’s refreshing to see students hanging out outside, moving around and spending time together.

The Waltham Times did some investigating at deadline and found several videos of Waltham hacky sackers [circulating on TikTok](#). You can expect more to come to keep that highly regarded, fiercely defended, second-place position.



## STEVE MILMORE

Steve Milmore has more than 30 years experience in corporate communications and public relations. He started his career as copy editor for Computerworld magazine and has held writing and management positions at leading high tech companies including Oracle, IBM, and Dun & Bradstreet. Steve is a long-time resident of Waltham.

# Waltham Philharmonic wraps season with dynamic final concert

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • ARTS & CULTURE • MAY 5, 2026



The Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra closed its 2025–2026 season Sunday, capping a year marked by ambitious repertoire and continued artistic growth.

The May 3 concert, held at the Government Center in Waltham, revisited themes of darkness and light through a carefully curated selection of works, offering a fitting finale to a season that challenged both musicians and audience.

Under the direction of music director Michael Korn, the orchestra delivered a performance that reflected the players' dedication and openness to adventurous repertory.

"We are fortunate to have such a wonderful audience, and it is always a joy to perform for such enthusiastic supporters of the orchestra," Korn said. "I am equally proud of the orchestra's continued growth."

Throughout the season, the Waltham Philharmonic tackled demanding works including Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 3 and George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The orchestra also performed compositions by American composers Morton Gould, Howard Hanson and James P. Johnson, "all 20th-century compositions that demand both technical precision and artistic maturity," Korn said. "The musicians rose to the occasion with notable commitment and skill."

The orchestra also ventured into contemporary repertoire, performing a cello concerto by Turkish composer Fazıl Say, featuring soloist Emmanuel Feldman.

"It's a compelling contemporary work written only a few years ago," Korn said. "Feldman played it brilliantly. The orchestra met the challenges of this modern score with confidence, providing superb musical support."

As the season concludes, Korn said he is already looking ahead.

"I look forward to the fall as we begin our next season and continue bringing new musical adventures to our audience," he said.

The Waltham Philharmonic's next season begins Sunday, Nov. 1. Details will be announced closer to the date.

# Waltham Youth Baseball parade kicks off season

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 5, 2026



Hundreds of families, players and community members filled Waltham’s streets Sunday afternoon as the Waltham Youth Baseball parade returned, marching from MacArthur Elementary School to Lazazzero Playground.

Escorted by the Waltham Police Department, teams from across the league walked the route in full uniform, waving to spectators as they celebrated the start of the season. Players from multiple divisions — including T-ball, Rookie, Minors and Majors — took part in the annual tradition.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and several City Council members attended the event, greeting families and participants along the route. Residents lined the streets to cheer on the young athletes.

The parade concluded at Lazazzero Playground, where teams gathered on the field for a brief ceremony ahead of games scheduled later in the evening.

Organized by Waltham Youth Baseball, the parade marks the official start of the local baseball season and remains one of the city’s most anticipated spring traditions.



The Waltham Pirates. Photo by Colleen Brennan.



Waltham girls softball. Photo by Colleen Brennan.

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# We've lived in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Here's why we're fighting to 'Raise the Age.'

BY COMMONWEALTH BEACON • IDEAS • MAY 5, 2026



by Reese Thompson, Jayden Hernandez, Ethan Shamey and Jason Rankins, Commonwealth Beacon  
April 27, 2026

Is a 17-year-old more deserving of a second chance than an 18-year-old? More than a 19-year-old? Too often, young adults in the criminal justice system are told that the second they turn 18 their mistakes are who they are rather than something they can learn from.

We know this is not true. That's why we support legislation that would raise the age of jurisdiction for juvenile courts to all those under 21 years old. This would show young adults that they are redeemable, that they are worth investing in.

Raise the Age legislation (H.1923/S.1061) is sponsored in the House by Reps. James O'Day of West Boylston and Manny Cruz of Salem and in the Senate by Sen. Brendan Crighton of Lynn. It would raise the age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction from those under 18 to those under 21, allowing young adults aged 18 to 20 to have their cases handled in the more developmentally appropriate juvenile system.

We are youth advocates from the nonprofit More Than Words, a program that teaches young people in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems how to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. More Than Words is a bookstore and thrift shop, with locations in Boston's South End neighborhood, Waltham, and Cambridge.

It is a job training program that allows youth to be supported during their time within the system when they struggle with hearings in court, the Department of Children and Families system, finding stable housing, and more. During a youth's time at More Than Words, they receive guidance in both their personal and professional life as they strive towards a sustainable future. As youth working there, we have personal experience in the state systems of child welfare and criminal justice.

The juvenile system includes education support and doesn't leave a young person with a criminal record for life. The Council on State Governments reported that 18- to 24-year-olds face lower recidivism rates when sentenced through the juvenile system. The difference is staggering, with 76 percent of youth sentenced in the adult system reconvicted of crimes within the first three years of release as opposed to only 26 percent of those sentenced in the juvenile system. But raising the age is not just a sound policy change — it's a moral imperative.

Others argue that 18- to 20-year-olds are adults and should be treated as such. But neuroscience shows that brain development continues into the mid 20s, especially in areas related to impulse control and decision-making. The law should reflect what science already knows: Young people are still growing, still learning, and still capable of change.

The research is clear, yet the political will remains elusive.

When we enter the State House and share our stories in lobbying for Raise the Age legislation, we're praised for our bravery. We're told our voices matter. But praise is not legislative progress; the bill dies. Again and again. Each time, it sends a message: Our pain is powerful testimony, but not powerful enough to shape policy. That cycle isn't just frustrating; it's exhausting.

The truth that we need the world to see is that the justice system preys on us when we're most vulnerable. Our families — disproportionately poor, non-white, and underserved — are hit hardest. Instead of receiving help, we're institutionalized. The

adult justice system favors punishment over healing, fueling cycles of recidivism rather than addressing root causes.

By age 17, more than half of foster youth in a 2004 study had a history of arrest. An arrest once they turn 18 would put them in the adult justice system, a sudden switch from systems meant to protect and help youth to one that incarcerates them. We are young people with full lives ahead of us, and we are being failed by the systems lawmakers refuse to fix.

Massachusetts spends more than twice as much as any other state per incarcerated individual. The state's incarceration rate has fallen dramatically, yet the staffing budget remains the same. This money could be allocated towards reforms in both the juvenile and adult systems but is instead being used to staff facilities in the adult system with fewer incarcerated individuals.

Rehabilitation works. When we are given support, education, and opportunity, we thrive. When we are locked away and labeled as criminals, we are pushed further from the futures we deserve.

Yes, raising the age will take investment and change. It will require more resources, time, and staff. It might require reductions of staff and budgets in the adult system. It will require coordination across agencies and systems. But it will save the state money in the long run. It will reduce recidivism rates, increase public safety, and allow communities to flourish. It will keep youth out of long-term cycles that prevent them from re-engaging meaningfully and productively in the community.

Justice reform is not supposed to be easy — it's supposed to be just. And the cost of inaction is far greater: more lives lost and dollars committed to incarceration, more families broken, more futures denied.

Raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction is not about being soft on crime — it's about being smart about where we invest our public safety dollars. It's about recognizing that young people develop into adulthood well past age 18, and that rehabilitation works better than incarceration. It's about asking the state to see us not as problems to be managed, but as people to be supported. It's about investing in people's futures, not in policy failures.

We're asking lawmakers and constituents to act — not later, not next session, but now. Calling your state legislators and asking them for their support is just one crucial piece of the puzzle. Because every delay costs lives, and every ignored story deepens the harm.

We are asking to be seen, to be heard, and for action to be taken. We're asking lawmakers to offer more than words.

Reese Thompson, Jayden Hernandez, Ethan Shamey, and Jason Rankins are members of the Power is Yours team at More than Words.

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## Author

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### COMMONWEALTH BEACON

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# Woman allegedly sprays labradoodle in eyes with aerosol spray

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 7, 2026

Karina E. Alvarado, 27, of Waltham, was arraigned April 4 on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on a person over 60 years of age, disorderly conduct and animal cruelty. It is unclear whether she has entered a plea yet in response to the charges.

On May 3 at around 2:14 p.m., police responded to reports of a fight at the CVS on Harvard Street. When police arrived on scene, a woman, later identified as Alvarado, walked toward the officers and allegedly informed them that she “didn’t do anything.” Multiple bystanders were pointing at Alvarado and informed officers that Alvarado was involved in the conflict. Officers were familiar with Alvarado due to previous encounters with police.

According to the police report, officers then spoke to the other party involved in the incident. The 66-year-old man said he was in CVS with his small labradoodle picking up a prescription when Alvarado approached them and sprayed the dog in the eyes with a can of Vagisil spray. He said Alvarado was yelling that the dog was going to sexually assault her. The man reported yelling at her, asking her what she was doing.

In response, Alvarado allegedly sprayed him with the Vagisil spray as well. Neither the man nor the dog were injured in the alleged altercation. According to the police report, the manager of the CVS location said she witnessed the incident as well. The manager said she did not see the dog doing anything to make Alvarado uncomfortable.

Officers spoke to Alvarado, who said she thought the dog was going to attack her. While she allegedly admitted to spraying the dog, she was unsure if she had sprayed the man as well. Police arrested Alvarado and charged her with assault and battery of a dangerous weapon on a person over 60 years of age and disorderly conduct. These charges were later amended to include an animal cruelty charge. After being booked, Alvarado was transported to the hospital at her request.

Judge Michael J. Calahan ordered that Alvarado be held without bail at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution in Framingham while she awaits trial. A pretrial hearing will be held for Alvarado’s case on June 11.

## Additional court activity

Cesar Corado, 32, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on April 29 to two counts of assault and battery on a family or household member and two counts of assault to rape. Corado is being held without bail at Middlesex Jail. A hearing to review status for the case will be held May 11.

Roberto Figueroa Berrios, 32, of Ludlow, pleaded not guilty on May 4 to a charge of intimidating a witness, juror, police officer or court official. Judge Ellen M. Caulo ordered that Figueroa Berrios be held on grounds of dangerousness at Middlesex Jail. He has previously served a sentence for 12 counts of intimidation of a witness at Souza Baranowski Correctional Center in Lancaster. A pretrial hearing for Figueroa Berrios’ case is set for June 11.

William F. Bowen, 48, homeless, of Maynard, pleaded not guilty on May 4 to a charge of possession of a class B drug. Bowen was unable to post bail and was therefore committed to Middlesex Jail. A pretrial hearing will be held June 18 for his case.

# Young WHS softball team improving as season goes on

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



Before you start winning consistently at any level of sports, garnering experience is a necessary first step.

This is exactly what the athletes on the Waltham High School girls softball team are gaining on the diamond this season. The promising group is making steady improvements while learning how to win at the varsity level in the Dual County League.

“We are playing better ball than the record shows,” first-year head coach Steve McGovern said of his 3-9 ballclub. “We are in games [and it is a] young team. The future is bright.”



Last Wednesday's defeat at the hands of Bedford High School was a good example of this trend. The game could not have started much better as the Hawks got on base repeatedly with three singles before junior Laila Drouillard belted a pitch deep over the fence for a grand slam in the top of the first inning. WHS took the field in the bottom of the opening frame already sporting a 5-0 advantage.

The situation looked different by the time the Hawks went up to bat in the top of the second inning. Bedford piled on seven runs in the bottom of the first while recording five hits. The Buccaneers replicated this feat in the second inning, scoring another seven runs on five hits to put the game away. WHS eventually succumbed with a score of 18-6.

There were some bright spots to note offensively, as Drouillard, freshman Ava Palao, and Josie Proskoczilo all netted two hits.

This trend continued later in the week. The Hawks jumped all over Concord-Carlisle Regional High School's pitching with three runs in the first inning. Palao got the run party going with a triple, followed up by an RBI single by Drouillard, an RBI double by Olivia Savoy, and an RBI groundout by Alyssa Phillips. The Patriots wound up recovering en route to a 11-7 win, but there was plenty to be encouraged by for the Hawks.

"It was our most competitive game to date," McGovern said. "We are getting stronger each game and both coaches noticed changes compared to last season."

WHS has been able to get the bats going early, resulting in some tumultuous innings for opposing pitching.

"Both of the last two games, we knocked out the other team's starting pitchers in the first inning, causing them to change their game plans against us," McGovern said. "I am very happy with that progress."

The Hawks did fall to Cambridge Rindge & Latin to begin this week, but managed to record 11 runs.

On the mound, the Hawks are continuing to get better. Ace pitcher Proskoczilo takes the hill the majority of the time, but the junior is receiving support from a variety of teammates.

Eighth-graders Reily Fournier and Frannie Letendre have stepped up to help shoulder some of the load and help out Proskoczilo.

"Both are working very hard and doing a great job to the best of their ability," McGovern said. "Proskoczilo is doing most of the innings on the mound this year but it's great that she does have the help for some time-to-time rest."

Additionally, Palao and another eighth-grader, Jiara Tchaprastian, are receiving repetitions pitching in games. These moments will pay massive dividends as the Hawks' careers continue.









The team takes on Lincoln Sudbury at 4 p.m on Monday, May 11, at Lincoln Sudbury High School.



### **LIAM O'BRIEN**

Liam is a local writer with a passion for covering high school and college sports. He grew up playing AAU basketball at Kennedy Middle School and the old Waltham High gym. He loves a Saturday lunch with his family at Amuleto Mexican Table and watching football with his buddies at Joco's Bar & Kitchen on Sundays.

# Waltham new home sales, April 27–30, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	4/27/2026	31 Potter Road	\$850,000	2/2	1349 sf
	4/28/2026	69 Jennings Rd	\$1,125,000	3/1.75	1855 sf
	4/28/2026	51 Warren St Unit 1-3	\$420,000	2/1	730 sf
	4/28/2026	1105 Lexington St Unit 6-4	\$425,000	1/1	725 sf
	4/29/2026	170 Clocktower Dr Unit 103	\$570,000	2/1	960 sf
	4/30/2026	17 Wadsworth Ave Unit 2	\$1,230,000	3/3.5	2507 sf
	4/30/2026	19 School Ave Unit 2	\$1,099,000	3/2	2239 sf
	4/30/2026	51 Warren St Unit 1-1	\$425,000	2/1	726 sf

# Events Calendar

May 11-June 7

For the latest and complete listings, see [WalthamTimes.org/events](http://WalthamTimes.org/events).

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Flooding in Waltham</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  Historical Commission meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:30 pm 'Six Days In Spring' North American premiere</p> <hr/> <p>+ 1 More</p>	<p>10:00 am - 4:30 pm  Waltham Clothing Exchange now open on Tuesdays</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Community Preservation Committee meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</p>	<p><b>Green Space Blues Jam—online auction</b></p> <p>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Community-wide civics trivia night</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Free outdoor Zumba class</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Bike Together Waltham—May evening group ride</p>	<p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  Board of Library Trustees meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham Rotary Club 100th Anniversary Gala</p> <p>6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Waltham Pride presents: Clothes mending workshop</p> <hr/> <p>+ 4 More</p>	<p>9:00 am - 3:00 pm  Farmer Scott's Plant Sale weekend</p>	<p>9:00 am - 5:00 pm  Farmer Scott's Plant Sale weekend</p>	<p>9:00 am - 12:00 pm  Farmer Scott's Plant Sale weekend</p> <p>9:00 am - 11:00 am Coffee social at the Café</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  Waltham City Council committee meetings</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  Watch City Ukers Every Month at the Waltham Museum</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:30 pm 'Porte Bagage' North American premiere</p>	<p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</p>	<p>10:00 am - 11:00 am Training for strong bones</p> <p>11:00 am - 12:00 pm Training for strong bones</p> <p>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  Board of Health meeting</p>	<p>10:00 am - 11:00 am  Traffic Commission meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  Sunset Latin Dance Series</p> <p>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  Conservation Commission meeting</p>		<p>3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Salsa social day party at Tempo Bakbar</p>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	<p>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm  Waltham City Council meeting</p>	<p>5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Waltham Partnership for Youth's 2026 Partner Celebration</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  License Commission meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Free outdoor Zumba class</p>	<p>6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  Sunset Latin Dance Series</p>			
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  Waltham City Council committee meetings</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:30 pm 'Enzo' North American premiere</p>	<p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</p>	<p>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  Parks-Recreation Board meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  School Committee meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Free outdoor Zumba class</p>	<p>6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  Sunset Latin Dance Series</p> <p>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  Conservation Commission meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Waltham Cultural Council meeting</p>		<p>9:30 am - 2:00 pm  Waltham Farmers' Market</p>	<p>9:00 am - 11:00 am Coffee social at the Café</p>



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