



May 18, 2026



Waltham Times team faces the ultimate fact-check



Senate challenger Seth Moulton brings listening tour to Waltham



Council on Aging luncheon brings together African immigrant seniors



Waltham lacrosse athletes to showcase international flair at upcoming Heritage Cup

‘Blues Jam’ brings out supporters of Waltham’s green spaces

BY NEWSROOM • AROUND TOWN • MAY 18, 2026



[Waltham Land Trust](#) hosted its 22nd Annual Green Space Blues Jam on Friday, May 15. Dozens of supporters gathered at the historic Robert Treat Paine Estate to bid on auction items, sample charcuterie and enjoy live music by blues vocalist Michelle “Evil Gal” Willson and keyboardist Shinichi Otsu.

The funds will support green infrastructure projects suggested by the Charles River Watershed Association for the Lakeview Preserve on Hardy Pond. These improvements will help treat stormwater before it flows into Waltham’s only great pond.



WLT board president Nadene Stein, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and WLT executive director Sonja Wadman.
Photo by Linda Haas.

Senior Center this week: Meditation, healthy brain habits, book group, leather crafting and a movie

walthamtimes.org/2026/05/17/senior-center-this-week-meditation-healthy-brain-habits-book-group-leather-crafting-and-a-movie

Priscilla Elliott

May 18, 2026

Kingsman THE GOLDEN CIRCLE



"The Kingsman: The Golden Circle" will be screened with and without subtitles. Courtesy photo.

Check out what's happening at the Senior Center this week. Council on Aging programs at the Senior Center are free (unless otherwise noted) but those interested should register in advance by calling 781-314-3499.

Wednesday, May 20, 11:00 a.m. Money-smart scams that target homeowners. Have you been approached by scam artists? Are you curious about scam-avoidance? Learn how to protect yourself.

Wednesday, May 20, 1:30–3:00 p.m. Leather art of the Silk Road: Zodiac signs. Created and curated by artists specializing in Silk Road art, this workshop invites you to explore the ancient craftsmanship and culture of the Silk Road. Participants will not only learn about the historical background of leather art but will also engage in hands-on experience with traditional techniques. Together, we will combine symbolic blessings of the Lunar Year of the Horse with the ancient Silk Road arts spanning Eurasia to create a unique piece of art work. Materials will be provided.

Thursday, May 21, 1:00 p.m. Building brain-healthy habits. Norma Milligan, senior regional manager from the Alzheimer's Association, provides practical tips from research, using diet, exercise and cognitive engagement to help reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

Friday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. (with subtitles) and 1:00 p.m. (no subtitles) May movie: The Kings Man: The Golden Circle. \$0.50 donation requested. The film follows Eggsy and the surviving Kingsman as they join forces with an American spy organization, The Statesman, to face a charismatic but deadly new villain threatening the world. Packed with slick action, outrageous humor and star-studded cameos, it expands the franchise's globe-trotting espionage with inventive set pieces. While some critics found it overstuffed and less fresh than its predecessor, it remains an entertaining, stylish ride for action-comedy fans. With Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Taron Egerton, Halle Barry, Elton John, Channing Tatum and Jeff Bridges. Rated R. 2 hours and 22 minutes.

Council on Aging luncheon brings together African immigrant seniors

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • COMMUNITY • MAY 12, 2026



About 30 seniors from Waltham’s African immigrant community gathered May 5 at the Waltham Council on Aging for a luncheon featuring Ugandan specialties and social connection.

The event was coordinated by the Africano Senior Group, led by Jolly Kabatoro, and Council on Aging staff, including director Patrick O’Brien. “We had a great time,” he said. The gathering connected older residents with community resources while celebrating cultural traditions.

Although it was primarily a social event, organizers also used the May 5 luncheon to share information about digital literacy programs available through the Senior Center. Betsy Leutz of Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging noted that several attendees had participated in the “Welcome to the Digital Age” program this spring and encouraged others to enroll in the next session, scheduled for fall 2026.

Since 2021, the program has provided low-income seniors with free Chromebook computers, Wi-Fi access and training to help them build digital skills. Organizers said the upcoming session will place greater emphasis on smartphone use.

Leutz said additional support may come from local partners, including volunteers from The Waltham Times, who have offered to assist seniors in learning how to subscribe to and navigate the publication’s newsletter.

Outreach efforts lead to greater participation

The Council on Aging has expanded its outreach to immigrant communities through ongoing partnerships with local groups. Staff meet every two weeks with representatives from the Ugandan and Latino communities through Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging to strengthen collaboration and coordinate programming.

The May 5 luncheon followed other recent cultural events, including a February celebration marking the two-year anniversary of “Hora del Café,” a regular gathering for Latino seniors. Last year, the Council on Aging also hosted a joint luncheon for Ugandan and Latino seniors and secured a Service Incentive Grant from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging to support outreach efforts.

The grant has funded outreach workers, weekly group activities, individual assistance and informational sessions with partner organizations such as SHINE, Springwell, and local police and fire departments. More than 100 seniors from the two communities have participated in these programs.

“We’ve formed a close partnership with both communities,” O’Brien said. “We see more people coming to the Senior Center, bringing their friends.”



Pictured from left are Patrick O’Brien, Council on Aging director, Betsy Leutz of Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging and Jolly Kabatoro, leader of the Africano Senior Group. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Brandeis University takes bold step to demystify college costs

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/17/brandeis-university-takes-bold-step-to-demystify-college-costs

William Holder

May 18, 2026



Brandeis University has announced a significant change in the information students and families have about the cost of attending the prestigious university, according to a recent New York Times article.

In his May 10 article, [“With Just One Word, Brandeis Is Trying to Change College Shopping,”](#) New York Times personal finance columnist Ron Lieber reported that the Waltham-based university has introduced a new financial aid tool called Faye that asks questions, analyzes personal financial data and then states “what your Brandeis cost will be” before a student applies.

It’s the word “will” that could be game changing, Lieber said, because most current financial aid calculators provided by colleges give estimates that can be way off – and for much more than the actual offer upon admission. The frequent result is sticker shock.

Although Faye does not offer a guarantee, and complications can crop up, that one word suggests a good-faith effort on the part of Brandeis to tell students their actual cost to attend Brandeis. That level of transparency is desperately needed in college admission, according to Lieber, who has written extensively about financial aid.

“I don’t know of any schools that do what Brandeis is trying,” Lieber said. “It may not work, and it may backfire in a couple of different ways. But the fact that the school is even trying it is a kind of victory for anyone who has ever wailed in agony over the complexity of college pricing and the futility of trying to figure it out.”

An article on the Brandeis website noted that as students provide more detail about their family financial situation, Faye’s calculation becomes more precise, “moving from a broad estimate to a clear, individualized figure.”

University officials hope that providing a cost upfront will deter students from assuming that the sticker price makes Brandeis unaffordable. A recent study by the Brookings Institution found that only about 12 to 16 percent of students at private colleges pay the full published price.

“Today, one of the greatest barriers is family income,” said Brandeis President Arthur Levine. “Faye is about showing that a top-tier university can be accessible to far more students than they may think.”

Faye is currently in beta testing with a full rollout planned for Aug. 1, according to the university.

'Voices' storytelling show spotlights South Asian perspectives

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/17/voices-storytelling-show-spotlights-south-asian-perspectives

Cyd Abnet

May 18, 2026



*We are Waltham founder Chandreyee Lahiri at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation on Sept. 27, 2024.
Photo credit: We are Waltham.*

A storytelling show brought to life by experimental theater group [Off-Kendrik](#) in collaboration with [We are Waltham](#) creator Chandreyee Lahiri is coming to Waltham on June 5. The show, called "Voices," will feature perspectives from the South Asian community in a style reminiscent of [The Moth](#).

"Voices" is a biennial production themed around sharing South Asian immigrant experiences with the community.

"Our goal is to help everyone else understand what it means to be a South Asian immigrant in America," Lahiri said of the production.

The show has taken place in various cities in the Greater Boston area. This is the second time it has come to Waltham. Sankha Bhowmick, the artistic director of Off-Kendrik, came up with the concept of the show. Bhowmick leads the show's production while Lahiri curates and promotes it.

Curation and creation

Sometimes the storytellers Lahiri finds for the show volunteer themselves, and sometimes she hears about a story from someone else and recruits the storyteller. Storytellers range in age from teenagers to the elderly.

Lahiri then coaches storytellers through their story, similar to the role she takes during her storytelling workshops. "There's a craft to storytelling," Lahiri said. "It's not formulaic, but there is a craft."

Lahiri along with two other coaches help the participants craft their stories, which typically run five to eight minutes in length. The process starts with a brainstorming session and moves into multiple rounds of editing to shape the story. Coaches ask the storytellers questions about their tale to help them refine the

details and create a clear, polished narrative.

This year's lineup

This year's "Voices" lineup features seven participants sharing distinctly different tales.

One storyteller is a doctor who plans to share how doctors not only evaluate the physical needs of a patient but also keep in mind the patient's life experience as part of a multifaceted care plan.

Another storyteller will share her experience moving to complete an internship. While feeling homesick, she calls into a Bollywood radio station and whistles along to a song. Through this, she is able to find her footing and cultivate a feeling of community in her new home.

This year's line-up also includes a panel of Iranian immigrants who will be discussing their experiences, an addition to "Voices" due to the Iran War.

Past stories have revolved around participant experiences ranging from the experience of growing up in America with immigrant parents to running a domestic violence shelter for Asian women.

Lahiri said she hopes such stories challenge audience members' preconceived notions of the South Asian community and help them recognize the expansive array of identities, experiences and cultures it encompasses.

Individual and community impacts

Audience members aren't the only ones changed by "Voices," however. Lahiri said the storytellers are, too. "Some tellers really find a sense of closure from being seen and heard, from having shared," she said, adding that she has also observed increased self-confidence in many participants.

Lahiri said the audience can expect to both relate to the storytellers and learn something new from them.

"A lot of non-Asian people in the audience have told me that they feel like they have an insight into immigrants now that they didn't have before," said Lahiri.

"More than ever before it's important to learn about other cultures in a time when people are being isolated and judged for their race or their culture," she added. "Different isn't bad, different isn't scary. Different is just different."

Lahiri also hopes the show will inspire others. "It's really important for people to tell their own stories. If you don't tell your own stories, someone else will and it won't be right," Lahiri said.

"Voices" will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 5 at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation in Waltham. Tickets for the show can be bought online through the [Off-Kendrik website](#).

The week ahead: City Council will discuss buying 600 Main St. building

walthamtimes.org/2026/05/17/the-week-ahead-city-council-will-discuss-buying-600-main-st-building

Artie Kronenfeld

May 18, 2026



Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy is to present a pitch for the city to buy this building at 600 Main St. Google Street View.

City Council's Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee at its meeting this week will hear Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy's pitch for why the city should acquire the building at 600 Main St.

McCarthy has asked to borrow \$8,640,291 to purchase the building and the lot on which it's located. The property is located next to City Hall, with Elm Street running between the two parcels. The building houses BrightBridge Credit Union.

At McCarthy's request, City Council had preliminarily approved a first reading of the loan authorization [at its meeting last week](#) to ensure the council discussion meets purchase deadlines; the city solicitor's office is already in negotiations with the building's legal team.

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled this week, May 18 through May 22.

Council on Aging

The Board of Trustees for the Council on Aging, which organizes services for older Waltham residents and advocates for legislation that includes and protects them, will meet in the conference room of the William F. Stanley Senior Center at 10 a.m. on Monday.

City Council committees

Many of the council's other committees that don't regularly meet will convene this week.

Its Veterans Services Committee will discuss [naming a park after author, civil servant and World War II veteran James J. Fahey](#) and [revitalizing the city's Revolutionary War monuments](#).

The Kevin Ritcey Award Committee will open nominations for the public service award.

The Ad Hoc Cable Access Committee will discuss reimbursements for the Waltham Community Access Channel for \$108,500.47 in equipment costs.

The council's Public Works and Public Safety Committee also plans to meet for the first time [since February](#).

The Committee of the Whole will meet to consider [acquiring 14-16 Spring St.](#), which is adjacent to the library, for the latter's [ongoing renovation](#).

The Ordinances and Rules Committee will discuss results from a third-party review by contractor CommunityScale of [three proposed zoning districts](#) in West Waltham and consider extending the timeline for a special permit at 1265 Main St., the site of one of the zoning district proposals, after [plans for a hotel fell through](#).

The Finance Committee will receive requests from McCarthy to help fund police body armor and accept multiple state grants, as well as a request from the Disability Services Committee for a donation to Opportunities For Inclusion's A Special Day in Waltham event. The Licenses and Franchises Committee will meet to consider outdoor dining permits, a used car sales license renewal and requests to name benches in the city after Waltham residents.

These City Council's committees will meet Monday beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Retirement Board

The Waltham Retirement Board will meet to review the first quarter of the city's retirement fund investments; to discuss new city hires, retirements, and refunds; and to address cost of living adjustments.

The board will meet Tuesday at 4:45 p.m. in the Hoover Meeting Room at City Hall and will stream the meeting via [Zoom](#).

Zoning Board of Appeals

The ZBA is a five-person board charged with reviewing new and existing buildings that might violate the city's [zoning code](#). The board has the power to grant project-specific variances to the code, overrule judgments made by the building inspector and grant specific types of special permits.

This week it will hear an appeal from Healthy Waltham of a building inspector decision that prevented the organization from constructing an accessory cooler at 123 Felton St.. The inspector has asserted that the cooler would encroach on the lot's setback from the street and create a higher-than-average lot coverage ratio. It will also hear from the owner of a house on Villa Street who wants to construct a three-story extension in a district zoned for 2.5 stories.

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

Board of Health

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

This week board members will discuss two tobacco violations from Safe House Vapors and Blue Moon Smoke, both [tabled at last month's meeting](#) because representatives of the shops didn't attend.

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

School Committee

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

The committee this week will discuss funding for the district's special education programs over the next year, voting on a cost increase for special education and discussing key findings about the programs' needs.

It will also hear updates on Waltham High School's National Honor Society.

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

ZBA Watch Factory site view

The ZBA will hold an additional special meeting on Thursday between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. for a site view in its ongoing Watch Factory Lofts case.

Berkeley Investments, owner of the historic Watch Factory complex, has proposed adding an additional six-story, 140-unit mixed-use building to the current campus. The new building will be sited on an underused parking lot; a 2024 study by the company found that the complex saw a peak of only 40% parking occupancy across all its parking lots and [only 8% at the lot in question](#).

Nearby residents have complained that the development has the potential to worsen traffic in the area and block riverside views, and the project has [received pushback at multiple meetings](#). Board members, who have expressed mixed feelings on the project, [at their last hearing on the matter](#) asked the developer to schedule a site view so they could better understand the proposed building's scope.

Traffic Commission

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

This week the commission is scheduled to discuss parking solutions at Bentley University during events for the upcoming FIFA World Cup; parking regulations at Gardner Street and Hammond Street; a new stop sign on Thornton Road; the results of a flashing stop sign trial on Cedarwood Avenue and Villa Street; rapid response flashing beacons along the riverwalk; general improvements to traffic around the South Side; and regulation and signage changes for parking in driveways and city spaces.

The commission will also hear a request for a parking placard for a new library employee and for the Waltham Lions Club parade in October.

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

Conservation Commission

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

The commission will hold the annual meeting for the city's Conservation Trust Fund this week, where it will elect a new chair of the fund's Board of Trustees, report activity from the fund over the past year and discuss proposals for the new year.

It will also hold a regular meeting, where it will discuss invasive species management at Beaver Brook reservation. It will also discuss a previous proposal for a driving range at the site of the former Fernald State School; the commission noted in its agenda that the city has withdrawn its original Notice of Intent for the project but is considering proposing a new project.

It will meet over Zoom at 7 p.m. Thursday. Information for joining the meeting can be found [on its agenda](#).

Flight 5K raises nearly \$8,000 for Waltham Boys & Girls Club

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • AROUND TOWN • MAY 17, 2026



The inaugural Flight 5K on May 9 drew 135 runners from 160 registrants and raised nearly \$8,000 for the Waltham Boys & Girls Club, organizers said.

“Thank you to every runner who showed up, every vendor who supported the event, and everyone who helped make the day what it was,” said Jared Collinson, co-owner of Flight Performance & Fitness. “The energy, the community, and the willingness to show up for something bigger than ourselves is exactly what this was about.”

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There are no comments on this article.



Lecia Whitlock races to the finish line. Photo by Karson Mui.

Senate challenger Seth Moulton brings listening tour to Waltham

BY STEVE MILMORE • GOVERNMENT • MAY 17, 2026



U.S. Representative Seth Moulton was in Waltham Sunday afternoon to host a town hall at the American Legion Hall as part of his statewide Listening Tour.

Moulton is a Democratic congressman from the Massachusetts 6th Congressional District, covering the state's North Shore. In October, he announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate, challenging Ed Markey, the long-term incumbent who has served in Congress since the 1970s.



Congressman Seth Moulton speaks at the American Legion Hall in Waltham on May 17, 2026. Photo by Steve Milmore.

Before a large and supportive crowd, Moulton framed his campaign around generational change, stating that the Democratic Party needs younger leadership.

“I don’t think we can wait six more years for new leadership,” Moulton said. “The status quo is just not getting it done ... there comes a time to pass the torch to the next generation.”

As part of his talk, Moulton addressed two topics that relate to Waltham: affordability and work opportunity.

“I think it’s true not just in Waltham, but across Massachusetts the middle class is getting squeezed,” he said. “People can’t afford a place to live. Electricity bills are way too high. The Democratic establishment has had a long time to fix this but hasn’t gotten it done.”

Moulton's vision is to increase density in places people want to live and improve transportation options to match housing and jobs.

For example, he's championing a plan to transform the MBTA commuter rail into a high-speed East-West regional rail network. The idea is that faster rail access will allow for more concentrated, walkable and sustainable communities and increased work opportunities.

His plan to achieve affordability includes instituting a national wealth tax on mega-millionaires and closing tax loopholes that favor corporations. He also proposes banning private equity firms from buying up private property and raising prices.

Moulton promised to fight for policies to help working people, such as universal healthcare. "Housing, healthcare and education – they're just human rights and not debateable," he said.

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The advertisement features a green background with a faint clock face. On the left, there is a small image of the Waltham Times website. A red button with white text says "CLICK to DONATE". The main text reads "Support local news!". Below this, on a dark blue background, it says "Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information." and "While our news is free to readers, it is not free to produce. Help keep it flowing! Thank you. Your support matters." The Waltham Times logo is in the bottom right corner.

During the Q&A at the end of the town hall, a participant quizzed Moulton with a history question, asking what Waltham, Lawrence and Lowell had in common with Patterson, New Jersey.

Moulton answered "Mill towns?" which was close. The answer: they all celebrated hydro-electric power, which early industrial mill towns viewed as the transformative technology of their time, the AI of their day. "I should get half credit," he said.

The Senate race has become surprisingly competitive. A [recent poll](#) shows Markey leading by only about five points among likely Democratic primary voters in Massachusetts.

Hawks Sports roundup – Key tennis showdowns with Watertown this week

BY NEWSROOM • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 17, 2026



Waltham teams face another busy week packed with league matchups across the board. The Hawks will be on the road and at home in baseball, lacrosse, volleyball, softball, and track and field, highlighted by key tennis matches against Watertown.



Monday, May 18

- Boys and Girls Varsity Track & Field vs. Westford Academy 4 p.m. (Westford Academy HS)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Bellingham, 4:30 p.m. (Weston High School)
- Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Bellingham, 6 p.m. (Weston High School)
- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Arlington, 4:30 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Arlington, 6 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Saugus, 4:30 p.m. (Belmonte School/Saugus)

Tuesday, May 19

- Boys JV “B” Baseball vs. Somerville, 4 p.m. (Trum Field/ Somerville)
- Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Burlington, 4 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)
- Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Lexington, 4:15 p.m. (Lexington HS)

- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Wakefield, 4:30 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Wakefield, 6 p.m. (WHS Field)

Wednesday, May 20

- Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Watertown, 3:30 p.m. (Victory Field/Watertown)
- Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Watertown, 3:30 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Belmont, 4 p.m. (Belmont HS)
- Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Belmont, 5:15 p.m. (Belmont HS)
- Boys and Girls Varsity Track & Field vs. OPEN 4 p.m. (TBD)
- Boys JV "B" Baseball vs. Concord-Carlisle, 4 p.m. (Yetten Field)

Thursday, May 21

- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Winchester, 4 p.m. (Veterans Memorial Field)
- Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Action-Boxborough, 4 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Boys JV "A" Baseball vs. Lexington, 4:30 p.m. (Yetten Field)
- Boys JV "B" Baseball vs. Lexington, 4:30 p.m. (Cacciatore Field)
- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Lexington, 4:30 p.m. (Lexington HS)

Friday, May 22

- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Watertown, 6 p.m. (Elise Turner Field)
- Boys JV "A" Baseball vs. Newton North, 4 p.m. (Yetten field)
- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Newton North, 7 p.m. (Yetten field)

Saturday, May 23

- Boys and Girls Varsity Track & Field vs. OPEN, 9 a.m. (Leary Field)

Waltham lacrosse athletes to showcase international flair at upcoming Heritage Cup

BY GREG LEVINSKY • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 17, 2026



The red, blue and orange colors of the Armenian flag worn by Nick Babigian this weekend represent a lot: his family, his heritage and, of course, himself.

Babigian is one of five Waltham Public Schools lacrosse players who will represent their families' lineage at [The Heritage Cup](#), a lacrosse tournament fielding more than 120 teams representing more than 40 countries at Rider University in New Jersey from May 22 to May 25. That time coincides between the regular season and MIAA Tournament, resulting in just a missed practice or two.

“It just feels like I’m playing with a bunch of people that are my family but aren’t,” Babigian said. “Everyone just feels like a family playing with team and country pride.”

Babigian’s paternal grandparents and maternal great-grandparents were born in Armenia. His parents were born in the United States.



Ben Villafane, Eddie Villafane and Nick Babigian at last year’s Heritage Cup. Courtesy photo.

Babigian attended Armenian preschool where he learned how to speak, read and write in Armenian. He can still speak and understand the language, which he speaks with his father and some extended family members. He hasn't been to Armenia but would like to visit in the near future

"It's just my family and how we grew up," Babigian. "We have Armenian traditions on holidays, food, all that stuff."

Garo Gebeyan will join Babigian on the Armenian U-19. Teammate and classmate Ben Villafane will play for the Puerto Rican U-19. Youth players Eric Villafane, Ben's younger brother, and Xander Rivera will represent Puerto Rico at the U-13 level.

While most participants are U.S. citizens, the tournament, which began in 2013, develops lacrosse internationally by raising awareness of the sport, fundraising and collecting equipment.

"You don't really see a lot of Puerto Rican lacrosse players, it's really special to see my heritage on the field," Ben Villafane said. "I want lacrosse to grow as a sport."

He has been to Puerto Rico twice. Villafane's paternal grandparents were born and raised in Puerto Rico. Playing with others with similar roots builds bonds quickly.

Eddie Villafane, the Waltham High School head coach, introduced Babigian to the tournament. Babigian's cousin, who coaches at Dexter Southfield and club lacrosse, helped create the team and find a spot for Babigian.

Babigian's father, Vasken, and cousins who live 45 minutes away from the tournament plan to come. They'll be decked out in Armenian gear.

"At the tournament, everyone goes crazy," Babigian said. "It's a big tournament ... it's very fun."

Author



GREG LEVINSKY

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

Capital improvements for asbestos removal, flooding abatement and more set for city's public housing

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 17, 2026



The Waltham Housing Authority this year plans to test for and remove asbestos at some of its properties; replace some windows with more energy-efficient thermal panels; replace doors, electrical panels and breakers; update its technology; and work to prevent flooding in below-grade apartments.

Those plans got the go-ahead after the WHA's Board of Directors this week approved the organization's major expenditures slated for the next five years.

Assistant Director Mark Johnson explained that the organization passes three plans every year: a policy plan, an update to a rolling list of major projects it will tackle over the next five years, and a more specific breakdown of its projects for the upcoming year. Most projects that cost more than \$10,000 — including, for example, property purchases, renovations and equipment upgrades — are listed as capital projects in the organization's budget and must be approved by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development before the WHA can begin them.

The WHA plans to continue upgrading windows, electronics and electrical systems in the next few years. It also plans to replace drainage and waste pipes, keycode systems, hot water storage tanks and fire alarms. By 2030 it plans to repave some of its parking lots, install waterproof membranes on some foundation walls to prevent flooding, replace the pneumatic exhaust fire system in building stairwells, and make structural repairs to some apartments.

The five-year plan also includes payments to cover smaller expenses in its organizational and administrative budgets.

Additionally, the WHA plans to implement more surveillance at its properties, which Johnson said can help the organization lower insurance costs.

The organization recently held a 45-day comment period for residents to comment on the plans but received none.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy now needs to sign off on the plans before the WHA can send them to HUD for approval.

Furthermore, the WHA wrote in its plans that it hopes to “correct the deficiencies found in selecting applicants from the wait list” in the next year. It wrote that it recently hired new employees to fill staffing gaps, and hopes to provide them with many training opportunities, since the organization is leasing “at a more frequent pace than in the past.”

Additionally, the WHA

- Accepted \$2,679,227.54 in the form of a state contract amendment. This funding, over a quarter of which was appropriated from the organization’s budget for 2029, will mostly be used to cover accessibility upgrades at Beaver Brook apartments.
- Approved a change of \$4,200 in a work order for asbestos detection and abatement in flooring at properties at Pond Street because the original work order didn’t include two buildings.
- Heard a vacancy report from Maintenance Director Sharif Omer. Omer said the WHA had filled all units that became vacant in 2025 and the oldest current vacancies were from February. He added that the organization had taken a property at Grove Street offline for construction.
- Introduced Bianca Levarity, who is running a self-sufficiency program with the Waltham and Arlington housing authorities to help some housing authority residents build savings and work toward long-term financial and career goals. The two organizations have received a grant to run the program together, with Levarity serving as its coach.
- Received an update that the WHA still hasn’t heard back from the state Executive Office of Housing and Liveable Communities about scheduling a meeting to discuss renewing the authority’s lease for [two houses on Marguerite Avenue](#).
- Updated the board on the WHA’s funding, noting a profit of \$149,261 for the year so far. Director John Gollinger said the board’s profit margin fluctuates through the year as the organization takes on large costs and receives state and federal grants. He characterized the WHA as being “right about even as it stands right now.” He said the organization anticipates hearing from the EOHLC soon about the latter’s annual budget.



ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is a 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.

Public safety report: Man arrested after alleged altercation involving a soda bottle

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 17, 2026



Holiday Inn Express in Waltham was the scene on an alleged assault and armed robbery. Courtesy photo.

Joseph Stallings, 46, of Waltham, was arrested on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and armed robbery after an incident at a local hotel.

On May 11 at 4:06 a.m., police responded to reports of two men fighting at the Holiday Inn Express on Winter Street. Upon arrival, officers reportedly observed two men yelling at each other in the hallway, one of whom was identified as Stallings. According to the police report, the argument began after Stallings was accused of taking \$93 from another man at the hotel. During the

argument, Stallings allegedly attempted to strike the other man with a soda bottle but did not make contact.

After speaking to both men and an additional witness, officers arrested Stallings on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon (the soda bottle) and armed robbery.

Additional police and fire activity from May 6 to 12:

On May 6 at 5:41 p.m., police responded to reports of a cryptocurrency scam on Crescent Street. Someone claiming to be from the sheriff's office called a woman and told her there was a warrant out for her arrest for missing a court date. The woman was told she could clear all charges by depositing money in Bitcoin. After making the deposits, she realized it was a scam and contacted the police.

On May 8 at 5:11 p.m., fire crews responded to reports of a fire on Woodcliff Drive. A small area of mulch near a residence had ignited, and the fire spread to a deck attached to the house. Crews extinguished the fire before it reached the house, and damage was limited to a small portion of the deck.

On May 9 at 10:06 p.m., an officer observed a moped operator in the area of Elm Street swerving erratically and not wearing a helmet. The officer attempted to stop the moped but was unsuccessful. The officer later found the moped parked on a side street near the area. It didn't have an ignition and had damaged handlebars, which led the officer to infer it was stolen. Police are investigating the incident.

On May 11 at 3:29 p.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious incident on College Farm Road. A woman said she found a bag with a white, powdery substance that appeared to be drugs. Officers located the bag, which appeared to contain a substance resembling cocaine. The bag and its contents were taken to the police evidence department to be destroyed.

On May 12 at 12:30 p.m., police responded to a call from Cutter Street reporting two vehicles parked next to each other with identical license plates. After a brief investigation, officers learned both vehicles were owned by the same person. The owner was cited for attaching plates to an unregistered motor vehicle.

On May 12 at 3:31 p.m., police responded to reports of a man masturbating in his vehicle on Moody Street. Officers located the car and observed the man inside pulling up his pants and showing signs of having performed significant physical activity. After speaking to the man and a witness, police arrested David F. Keefe, 57, of Newton on charges of open and gross lewdness.

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.

First Lutheran Church marks 25 years of free summer program

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • MAY 12, 2026



First Lutheran Church will host its 25th annual Vacation Bible School July 6-10, offering a free week-long summer program that has evolved from a modest morning session into a full-day community resource.



Campers of all ages attend the First Lutheran Vacation Bible School. Courtesy of First Lutheran.

When the church first launched VBS in 2000, the program ran from 9 a.m. to noon. That changed when local parents—none of whom were church members—asked if their children could stay longer. The church responded by adding afternoon activities including lunch, art, science and games, extending the day until 3 p.m. for grades K-6.

“Over the years the program grew; all along participants have come from a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds,” said Pastor Tom Maehl.

Before COVID-19, the program was “bursting at the seams,” according to Maehl. After pausing for several years

during the pandemic, the church is now rebuilding enrollment.

This year’s “Snowball Mountain Challenge” program will serve children from pre-K through sixth grade. Pre-K students attend from 10 a.m. to noon, while older children participate from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Instead of charging fees, the church invites participating families to donate art supplies. Children in the program then assemble these materials into art kits that are distributed to all incoming families at Waltham Family School each September.

Registration is [available here](#). For more information, email firstlutheranvbs@gmail.com.

First Lutheran Church is located at 6 Eddy St., Waltham.

Bentley secures home field, No. 1 seed in NCAA baseball tourney

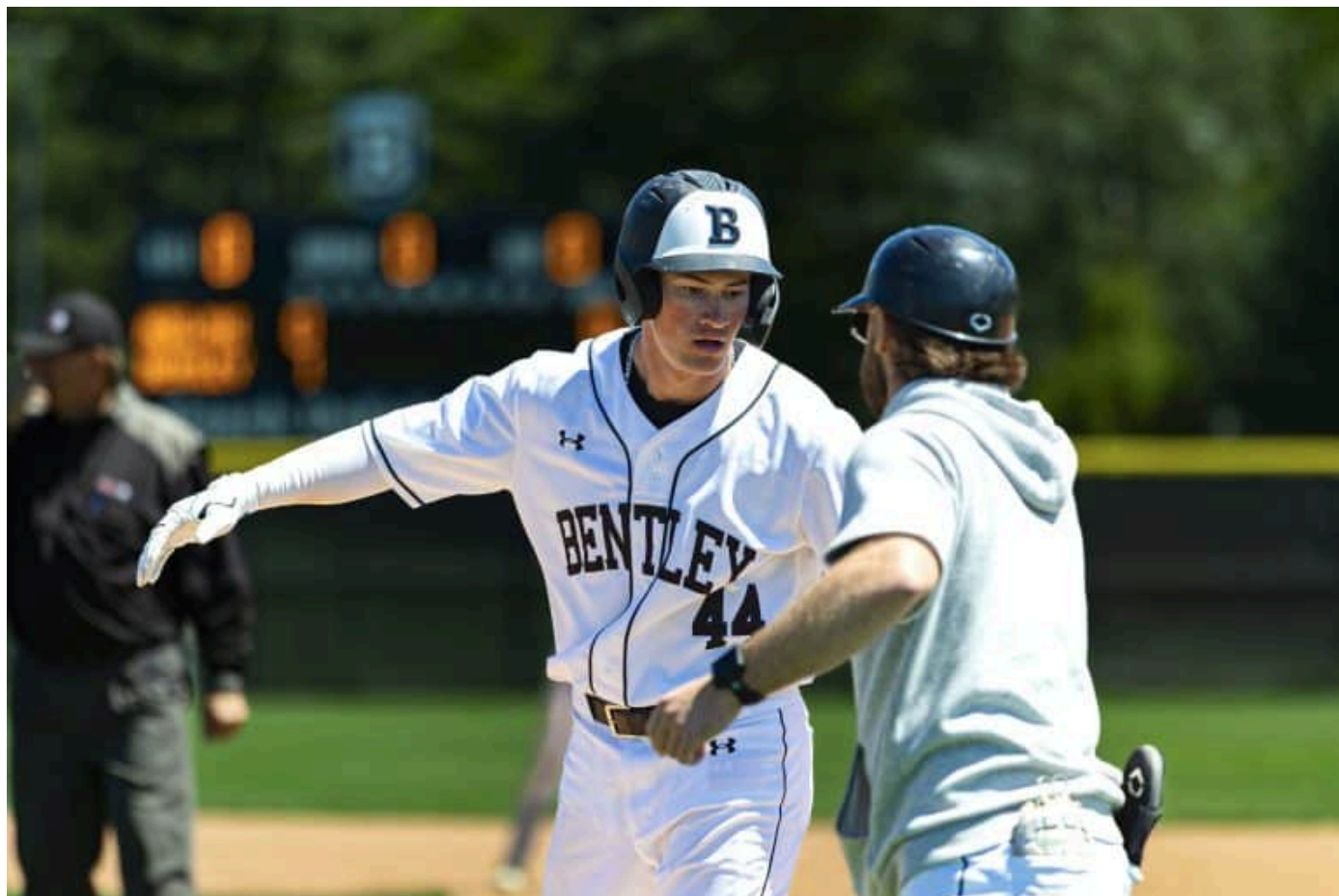
BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 12, 2026

The baseball Falcons are still soaring after Sunday's big Northeast-10 championship win, the first in school history.

On Sunday, Bentley was named the No. 1 seed in the NCAA DII East Region playoffs by the NCAA Division II Baseball Selection committee.

The Falcons earned a bye for the first game of the double-elimination bracket. The team will play its first game on Thursday, May 14, at 2:00 p.m. at home against the winner of No. 4 Wilmington (Del.) and No. 5 Goldey-Beacom College (Del.).

Bentley earned the NCAA automatic qualifier by winning the Northeast 10 Championship for the first time in program history. The Falcons enter the NCAA Championship with a record of 39-13, the most wins in program history.



Bentley right fielder Nick Pappas is safe at first against Adelphi. Photo courtesy of Bentley University.

Waltham's John Farago named Massachusetts School Resource Officer of the Year

BY STEVE MILMORE • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 12, 2026



Waltham officer John Farago has been named the 2026 School Resource Officer of the Year by the Massachusetts Juvenile Police Officer's Association. He was presented with the award during the [MJPOA's](#) 20th Annual New England School Safety Conference on May 5.

Farago joined the WPD in 2000 and worked in the Patrol Division for 12 years. During this time, he was assigned to various sectors in the city and responded to many calls for service in assisting the public.

In 2012, officer Farago was assigned as a School Resource Officer at Waltham High School. For the past 14 years, he's worked closely with students and staff, handled and assisted on calls and developed positive and long-term relationships.

His nomination letter states: "We all know that some calls are easier to handle and others are more difficult, like when students are in crisis, SRO Farago has always held the same standard in showing his compassion and professionalism."

Farago is known for going above and beyond and attending numerous after-school activities in supporting clubs, teams and organizations associated with WHS as part of this SRO role.

While assigned at WHS, Farago took the lead in coordinating the WPD Youth Academy, where students learn about criminal law, computer forensic investigations, defensive tactics and social media safety.

Farago also assisted with the WPD Summer Gang Resistance Education and Training Program, which focuses on mentorship, leadership, recreation and positive relationship-building between local police officers and local youth.

SRO Farago is retiring this month after 26 years on the force.



Massachusetts SRO of the Year John Farago with WPD Chief O'Connell. Photo courtesy of WPD.

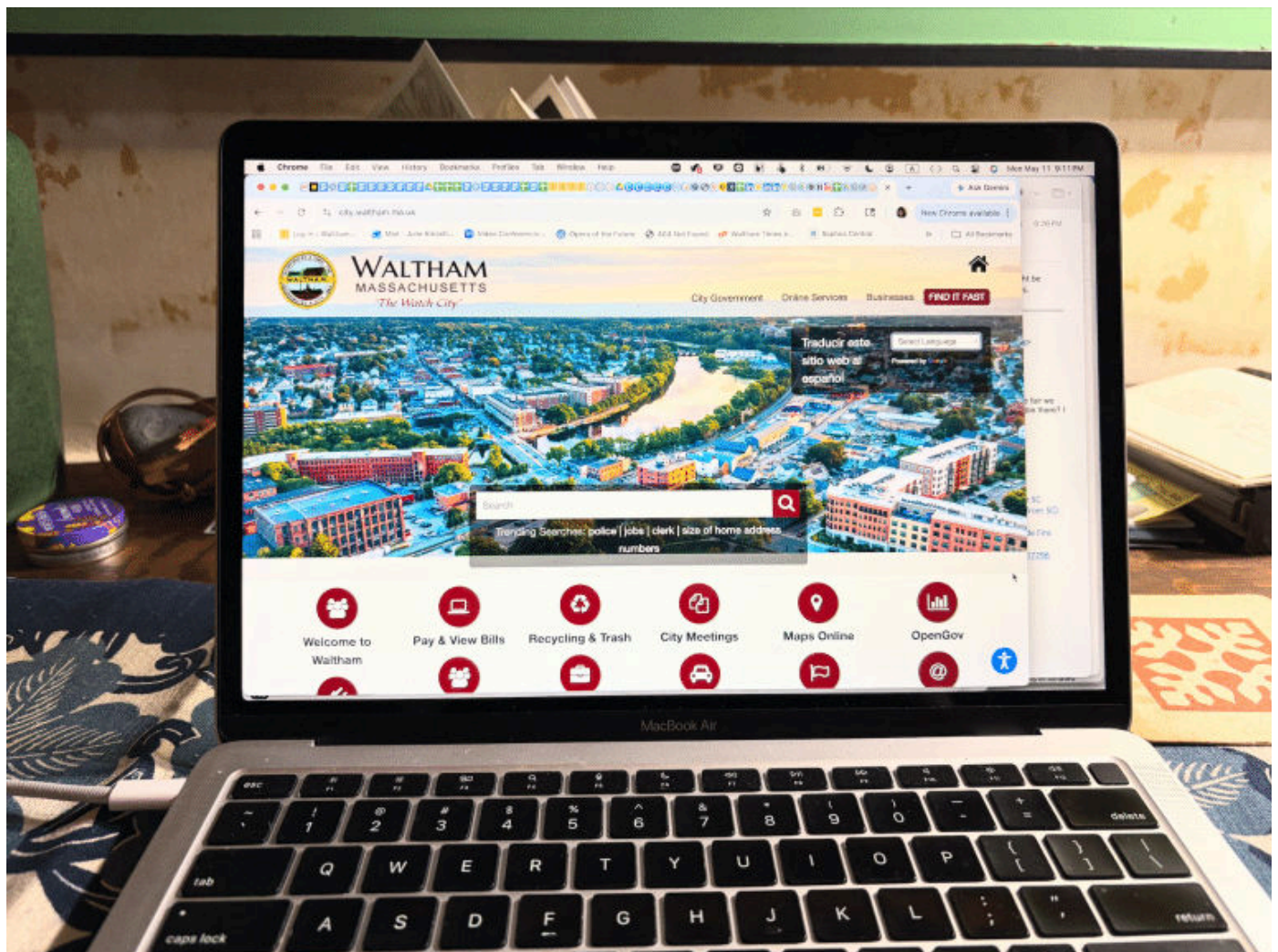
A new look for the Waltham city website

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 12, 2026



Users of Waltham’s city website will see a significant change to their experience this spring as the city updates the system it uses to manage its website’s content.

The new homepage will keep most of its structure but look “a little less overwhelming,” said Abby Auld, the city’s social media coordinator.



Homepage of the City of Waltham website. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Most of the changes will come on the website’s back end. CivicPlus, the company that provides the underpinnings of Waltham’s website, is migrating to a new content management system to

improve security and efficiency.

Auld said the migration was scheduled for completion by May 1, but users won't see its effects immediately: CivicPlus will spend time training employees on the new website before rolling it out to users. Auld did not know when the new website would be live.

This migration comes in the context of a push from the IT Department to ramp up accessibility features to comply with federal deadlines. And it coincides with the addition of an AI-based PDF accessibility tool called DocAccess, which creates searchable transcripts of all PDFs on the site and offers immediate translation options.

In a March 16 presentation to the City Council's Committee of the Whole, IT Department Director Donald Aucoin assured councilors that DocAccess cannot access personal documents such as tax information or bill payments.

The DocAccess update will cost \$2,000 to set up and adds an additional \$15,895 in annual website upkeep fees. Aucoin told councilors it was an important step in keeping the website compliant with evolving accessibility standards.

New ADA standards

The federal government in April extended its deadline from April 24, 2026, to April 26, 2027, for larger municipalities to bring their websites into compliance with the most recent standards of accessibility mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. These standards, adopted in 2024, include requirements to ensure pages are readable to users with visibility barriers, include audio transcripts and captions and can be navigated by assistive technologies.

Aucoin told councilors that his department has been working to improve site accessibility for the last two years. This extension is still a welcome relief for the department: Aucoin said third-party services on the website still don't comply with ADA regulations, and the city could potentially have been hit with fines for noncompliance with the original April 2026 deadline.

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All the same, because the department has consistently worked on site improvements, and the website has been over 85% ADA-compliant for the past six months, Aucoin thought such penalties were unlikely. “We’re in good shape for the shape we’re in,” he told councilors. “We’re way ahead of [other communities]... If we’re gonna get penalized, there’s gonna be a lot of communities penalized.”

Auld later indicated the city is in better shape for the new April 2027 deadline. She said the city was in talks with all of its third-party website software partners, who provide functions such as audit reporting and mapping services, about working toward full ADA, and nearly all were on track to meet the deadline.

Aucoin told councilors that switching to new service providers might be prohibitively costly and difficult but added in an email that the city might have no other choice if its partners are not able to meet accessibility requirements by the deadline.

Aucoin drew attention to the state’s [recent announcement](#) that it will distribute grants of up to \$250,000 to municipalities in FY2027 under the Municipal ADA Improvement Grant program, which funds both physical and digital infrastructure accessibility projects. He said his department hasn’t applied for the grant previously, but could apply in the future to cover any further website accessibility costs.



Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is a 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.

Waltham Public Library to host free Citizenship Day event

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • MAY 12, 2026



Agencia ALPHA is offering free application assistance at its 2026 Citizenship Day on May 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Waltham Public Library.

Staff and trained volunteers will help eligible applicants and families fill out and complete N-400 applications to become U.S. citizens.

Common eligibility requirements for U.S. naturalization include:

- Being at least 18 years old
- Permanent resident for five years (or three years if married to a U.S. citizen)
- Basic English ability
- Required identification and immigration documents

Agencia ALPHA is a Boston-based nonprofit organization that helps low-income immigrant communities with immigration services, citizenship support, education and community advocacy. It serves more than 1,000 immigrants annually and works with people from more than 65 countries.

To make an appointment for Citizenship Day, scan the QR code in the post or contact Agencia ALPHA at 617-522-6382.

Citizenship DAY

**SATURDAY
MAY 23
2026**

9:00AM - 5:00PM

Waltham Public Library
735 Main St. Waltham,
MA, 02451

**CONTACT US TO
MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT**

FREE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

• And other available resources for legal permanent residents.

617-522-6382 | info@agenciaalpha.org | www.agenciaalpha.org



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.

Massachusetts investors deserve protection, not press releases

BY HELENE GROSSMAN • IDEAS • MAY 12, 2026



In Waltham and across Massachusetts, seniors are encouraged to trust established institutions with their life savings. But when bank-affiliated advisers profit from sales-driven recommendations, when customers are barred from court and pushed into forced arbitration, and when state regulators fail to act, that trust becomes a trap.

My father, a longtime Waltham resident, trusted his bank. It cost him half his life savings – and ultimately his life.

My parents were nearing retirement when their local bank steered them to work with a financial adviser. My parents agreed to pay substantial advisory fees, believing they would receive objective guidance in return. Instead, they were sold advice shaped by conflicts of interest – investments that generated hidden sales commissions for the adviser while inflicting devastating losses on my parents.

When my father learned the truth, he wanted to fight back. But like most Americans, he had unknowingly signed a forced arbitration agreement, leaving him with no right to go to court. His only option was a private forum controlled by the financial industry itself.

The loss of his savings was crushing. The loss of his legal rights was worse. He took his own life before he could see me get married or meet his grandchildren.

After his death, the Boston Globe reported our family's story in March 2011. In response, Massachusetts' top securities regulator, Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, publicly vowed to investigate the broker involved. We believed accountability would follow. We believed Massachusetts had one of the toughest securities regulators.

We were wrong.

Over the next eight years, Secretary Galvin and the Securities Division sat on the case. They never interviewed our family or reached out with a single question. I spent hundreds of hours compiling evidence – account records, expert reports and legal analysis prepared by a former securities regulator – yet access logs showed they never even opened most of what we sent them.

In February 2019, the case was quietly closed.

Over the following year, I repeatedly followed up – calling, emailing and personally going to the State House – but not a single person in Galvin’s office would meet with me. The public pledge to protect Massachusetts seniors from deceptive financial practices quietly evaporated.

Galvin is now seeking a ninth term.

Secretary Galvin has cultivated a reputation as one of the toughest securities regulators in the country. He has appeared in taxpayer-funded advertisements encouraging residents to file complaints, and he has touted his enforcement victories in voter guides.

But the results tell a different story.

Massachusetts has roughly 26,000 registered financial advisers. They are expected to act in their clients’ best interest when giving advice – and customers assume they do. But most are licensed as brokers and can collect commissions on the very products they recommend. These built-in conflicts, largely invisible to consumers, often lead to biased advice and financial harm.

Yet oversight is minimal. In all of 2025, the Securities Division, with roughly 20 attorneys, brought just three enforcement actions statewide. All of them were settled out of court, with the largest returning just a few hundred thousand dollars to Massachusetts investors – roughly \$17 of restitution per customer. That was the full extent of securities enforcement in Massachusetts last year.

The gap between appearance and reality runs deeper. In a public-records response, the Securities Division admitted that it had “no way of tracking and/or storing the online complaint forms” – the very complaints it urges residents to file through taxpayer-funded ads. Encouraging the public to report wrongdoing, while failing to track or act on those reports, is not accountability. It is inexcusable.

My family’s experience is not an isolated failure. Financial advisers operate in a system where conflicts of interest are routine, disputes are funneled into industry-controlled arbitration, and outcomes are hidden behind hush agreements. This is exactly where strong enforcement matters most. Instead, Massachusetts seniors have gotten public relations in place of public protection.

If Secretary Galvin truly wanted to protect investors, he would ban the conflicts of interest that corrupt financial advice: commissions, revenue-sharing and other kickbacks that reward advisers for steering clients into particular investments.

This is not radical. Countries including the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Australia already ban these kinds of sales incentives for financial advisers. Other professions recognize the same principle. In medicine, kickbacks can be felonies. Lawyers can lose their licenses for paid referrals. Investors deserve the same protection.



And Galvin should enforce those rules – not with press releases, but with real

Bill Galvin, Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. From Facebook.

investigations, real accountability and real consequences for misconduct.

Until then, investors should think twice before entrusting their life savings to financial advisers.



Author



HELENE GROSSMAN

Helene Grossman grew up in Waltham. She now lives in California and works in data science. She has spent years researching the financial industry and advocating for stronger protections for seniors.

Rep. John J. Lawn wants to end the statute of limitations for child sex crimes, reveals personal history of abuse

BY LEA ZAHARONI • GOVERNMENT • MAY 12, 2026



Representative John J. Lawn. Courtesy of the office of Rep. John J. Lawn.

Waltham’s state representative John J. Lawn revealed in a May 6 [op-ed](#) for The Boston Globe that he was sexually abused by two adults as a child, and expressed his support for new bills that would end the statute of limitations for reporting child sex crimes in Massachusetts.

“The men who abused me followed a path now all too familiar: minimal consequences, quiet transfers, and systems that allowed the abuse to continue,” Lawn stated in his piece.

Lawn wrote that he had been abused by a “trusted leader” in his community and by a Catholic priest, both of whom have died.

The representative argued that “trauma does not operate on a legal timeline,” calling for the Legislature to use its power and allow survivors to seek justice at any point in their lives. He also argued that removing the statute would keep perpetrators from evading punishment, like his own abusers did.

This isn’t Lawn’s first push on the issue of child abuse statutes. In 2011, he met Waltham resident Roseanne Sliney, who had been unable to seek legal accountability for her abuser. Working together, they helped pass legislation that extended the filing deadline, which had initially given survivors only three years to file suits.

Currently, they can file civil suits regarding childhood trauma until they’re 53. If their memories of the abuse were suppressed, they have seven years following their recollection to file. Now, Lawn is arguing that isn’t enough.

Though there is no vote scheduled for Lawn’s bill, momentum has been building across the commonwealth to abolish the statute entirely. “It’s a necessary step to align state laws with what researchers know about trauma — and to better protect children going forward,” Lawn wrote.



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.



PRISCILLA J ELLIOTT • MAY 14, 2026 AT 5:22 PM

Congratulations to Representative Lawn for his heroic revelations and stance on having limitations of reporting sexual abuse. I agree with the changes in the law that he proposes.

Reply



Luncheon attendees pose for a group photo. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Disability Services Commission votes to fund Opportunities for Inclusion event

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 12, 2026



The Disability Services Commission at its monthly meeting voted to increase the commission's contribution to Opportunities for Inclusion's A Special Day In Waltham event from \$1,000 to \$2,500. The City Council's Finance committee will discuss this donation at its meeting next week.



Participants enjoying the 2025 Special Day in Waltham event.

The commission's funding comes entirely from citations managed by the Police Department through the Handicapped Parking Violators Detail Program. The program, instituted by the city in the 90s and described by the commission as "the first of its kind in the United States," channels fines from unpermitted cars parking in handicap spaces to the Disability Services Commission for its discretionary use.

The Police Department issued a total of \$6,000 in handicap parking violation fines for the month of March. The commission expects significant revenue in April, too, as the department issued 13 citations to residents in the last week of April; vice-chair JT Graceffa wrote in an email that the group will have confirmed numbers for its April revenue by the end of May.

At the May 1 meeting, commissioners elected to reach out to other departments to inform them about the influx of funds, asking about potential citywide targets for accessibility projects.

The commission also briefly discussed [its page on the city website](#) in response to [recent pushes from the IT department and the City Council](#) to keep city information updated. The page is currently missing meeting minutes for all the commission’s meetings since September 2022.

Graceffa, who spearheads the commission’s IT efforts, said he would be meeting with IT department representatives on May 14 to discuss new website updates and Americans With Disabilities Act compliance.

Commission chair Mark Johnson emphasized the importance of clarity on the commission’s webpage: “If we can’t communicate with people, we’re not being as effective as we can be,” he said.

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An advertisement banner for the Waltham Times. The background is green with a large clock face. On the left, there is a screenshot of the Waltham Times website. A red arrow points to a 'CLICK to DONATE' button. The text 'Support local news!' is prominently displayed in white. Below this, on a dark blue background, is the text 'Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information.' followed by 'While our news is free to readers, it is not free to produce. Help keep it flowing! Thank you. Your support matters.' and the Waltham Times logo.

Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is a 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.

Elevated carbon monoxide levels at MacArthur Elementary due to faulty exhaust pipe

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 12, 2026



Elevated carbon monoxide levels detected at MacArthur Elementary School on Monday morning were found to be due to a faulty exhaust pipe attached to a hot water heater.

On May 11 at 8:16 a.m., the Waltham Fire Department responded to MacArthur Elementary School after a carbon monoxide detector activation. The crew checked the entire building with gas meters and found that the highest readings were coming from around a hot water heater that was powered by natural gas. Students and staff were evacuated from that area of the building, and the hot water heater was shut down.



Upon inspection by facilities staff, the exhaust pipe on the hot water heater was found to be faulty. That was promptly repaired. The fire department ventilated the school building with the help of four fans, and took readings after the repair was completed that confirmed that the fix solved the gas leak. There were no injuries as a result of the leak.

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.



“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.



Author



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.

Comments (2)



SARAH JANE CABAN • MAY 11, 2026 AT 2:53 PM

Great story! We love Councilor Katz. He is a wonderful public servant, neighbor, and community member who has invested so much in the Waltham and Metrowest communities.

Reply



GAIL FINNIE RUNDLETT • MAY 11, 2026 AT 9:07 AM

Congratulations on yet another brilliant musical achievement, Paul! As a former cast member of Reagle’s Christmas Spectacular, I appreciated your sense of humor under sometimes stressful conditions.

Reply

Watertown Savings Bank stays rooted in community through changing times

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • BUSINESS • MAY 13, 2026



Watertown Savings Bank's Waltham Center branch is marking 25 years in the heart of downtown this week, highlighting the role of neighborhood banking as Waltham shifted away from its industrial origins toward a more mixed economy anchored by nearby colleges, tech firms, medical providers and professional offices.

Founded in 1875, Watertown Savings Bank is one of Massachusetts' oldest and largest mutual savings banks. Its Waltham Center branch opened on May 14, 2001, at 6 Lexington St. near Moody Street and City Hall, establishing a foothold in a historic and economically diverse city center. Bank officials say the branch has served thousands of customers from Waltham and surrounding communities over the past two decades, navigating economic cycles, regulatory changes and rapid advances in banking technology.

In an era when many banks rout customer relationships through distant call centers, Watertown Savings Bank has remained focused on in-person service and local decision-making, where customer deposits are recirculated into mortgages, small-business loans and community investments.

"As community banking continues to evolve, we're still guided by the same principles that were in place when this branch opened in 2001 — local relationships, responsive service and a commitment to helping customers and communities thrive," the bank's president and CEO Brett Dean said. The branch's managers noted that while customers have adopted online and mobile tools, many still come into the office for advice on mortgages, business lending and long-term financial planning.

Assistant Vice President and branch manager David DeMarco, who has worked in branch banking for 47 years, said that "while the mechanics of branch banking have changed greatly in my 47 years working in it, what hasn't changed is the importance of the human connection."

DeMarco said staff members pride themselves on knowing customers by name, understanding local businesses and being accessible when financial questions arise. That approach, he added, is especially important for older residents who may rely on in-person transactions. Small-business owners value the ability to sit down with a banker who understands the Waltham market, he said.

The Waltham Center branch contributes to the vitality of downtown by supporting local commerce and maintaining a visible, neighborhood-based presence. The branch operates during weekday and Saturday hours, complementing the bank's other Waltham branch at Market Place Drive and its main office in Watertown.

Waltham organizations appreciate Watertown Savings Bank as a cornerstone of local support — a visible presence at many charitable events and initiatives. "It's all part of a broader emphasis on being a mutual community bank that does not answer to shareholders," Dean said. We are about "banking built on relationships."



Waltham Center branch of Watertown Savings Bank. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Main Street building owner withdraws ZBA case over parking regulations

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 14, 2026



The owner of a historical building at 719–732 Main St., Paul Yu, has downsized a proposal to create multifamily housing on the property. He appeared in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals at its May 12 meeting to withdraw his previous request for a parking variance.

Back in February, Yu proposed [repurposing the building](#) from its current commercial use to create a mixed-use development with seven residential units on its upper floors. At that meeting, he asked the board to grant him a waiver to provide only two parking spaces at the building instead of the nine required by Waltham’s zoning code so he wouldn’t have to encroach on the building itself, which takes up most of the lot.

At the ZBA’s meeting this Tuesday, Yu’s lawyer told the board his client was decreasing the number of units proposed for the building from seven to four, and had worked out a way to provide five parking spaces behind the building through tandem parking. Since providing five spaces for four units would fulfill the residential parking requirement for the district, he asked to withdraw the case in front of the ZBA.

The board agreed unanimously to allow the withdrawal. Yu will still have to appear in front of the City Council to seek a permit to create four residential units at the location, since he is only able to build three units by right.

Fred Kimberk, who owns neighboring buildings, expressed concerns that parking at the site would still be insufficient if the building only provided tandem parking. Yu’s lawyer said Building Inspector Brian Bower confirmed that sections of Waltham’s zoning disallowing tandem parking didn’t apply to this particular case.

Winter Street apartment buildings

The ZBA approved an extension for a case proposed under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B for [a new apartment building complex at 245–265 Winter St.](#)

Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned told board members she was still in the process of reviewing the petitioner’s most recent proposal for the text of the decision. She added that the development team was planning to arrange a meeting with the Fire Department to discuss additional city requests about the size of the site’s emergency access road. The board agreed to take up the case again on June 2.

The board also heard two complaints from neighbors south of the development asking for the project to be downsized and moved further from their lot lines. Mark Baranski, a representative of the developer, said [the developer had already committed to moving the buildings](#) two to three feet back from the site’s southern lot line, and was unable to move them any further.

Waltham Connections focuses on inclusion for growing senior population

Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging is helping the city's growing senior population age with independence and stronger community ties.

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • MAY 14, 2026



As Waltham's senior population continues to grow, [Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging](#) is taking on an increasingly important role in helping older adults age with independence and a strong sense of community.

Its mission – to make Waltham an aging-friendly community – is based on real research, not opinions. In 2015-2016, a community project led by Brandeis University professor Walter Leutz and his partner Betsy explored how the city could better serve older adults.



Walter and Betsy Leutz from Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging. Photo by Steve Milmore.

The study used a community-based research model, training senior volunteers to help conduct interviews, lead focus groups and shape the findings. The results highlighted strengths already within the community and identified a need to better support seniors who are isolated, low-income or immigrants.

“Most English-speaking seniors, especially those who have been a part of Waltham most of their lives, have some idea where to go for help,” Betsy said. “But that wasn't necessarily true in other communities. There was a need for more inclusivity.”

From that work, Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging was born and the results have been impressive. Through grants and partnerships with agencies and organizations, more than

\$400,000 has been raised since 2017 to support inclusion of low-income and immigrant seniors.

For example, one new initiative to connect different cultural groups to the Stanley Senior Center included hiring a Spanish-speaking coordinator for Latino seniors and funding a leader for a senior group with Africano Waltham.

Programs such as Sage & Seekers and Welcome to the Digital Age are great examples of how Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging is helping all older adults stay connected and engaged.

The Sage and Seekers program fosters intergenerational connections between Waltham seniors and Bentley students. Students (seekers) and seniors (sages) have one-on-one discussions. Both parties learn from each other and have an opportunity to examine issues and topics from different perspectives. Last fall, a Spanish version was added.

Meanwhile, Welcome to the Digital Age helps seniors build digital skills and gain confidence using technology for WiFi access, email and online resources, and provides low-income seniors with free Chromebooks.

“It turns out these programs have a special, added side effect. It’s a way to bring people to the Senior Center who haven’t been coming before,” Walter said. “They feel welcome and tell their friends, and the classes offer an intercultural connection as well.”

Walter and Betsy have been community organizers since they first met in 1969. Their work has always been rooted in staying active in the places they live. “We enjoy getting out, looking around our community and seeing what’s needed,” Walter said. “We meet people we never would have met otherwise.”

Since its inception, Waltham Connections has received core funding for its programs and outreach efforts from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation. Other funders have included Jewish Family and Children’s Service, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Mt. Auburn Hospital, AARP Foundation and Brandeis University,

For more information on Waltham Connections for Healthy Aging, visit www.walthamconnections.org.

Youth Night highlights Waltham girls lacrosse growth

BY LIAM O'BRIEN • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 14, 2026



The Waltham High School girls lacrosse program is making an emphasis on helping the sport thrive at all levels in the city.

Head coach Jill Cannon has instilled the importance of promoting the sport at the youth ranks, and her team is loving the impact they can have on encouraging younger players to develop a passion for the sport. Part of this initiative was the establishment of a youth lacrosse night during the [Crosstown Cup](#), the annual contest between close rivals Waltham High and Watertown High.

As the programs for the elementary and middle school lacrosse players of Waltham and Watertown are combined, the game provides the perfect opportunity to bring both youth lacrosse programs together with a special chance to get involved and watch their high school role models face off.

“One thing that I have always tried to instill in our program is the importance of the youth,” Cannon said. “Our players always love facing Watertown, so we made the Crosstown Cup as an opportunity to recognize the rivalry and the friendships that they have growing up together city to city. One thing that I have always focused on with our players is that we need to show these young girls how fun it is to be a part of the high school team, represent your city, and how lacrosse continues to grow as you get older. We want to keep people in the game that day. We thought Monday would be a fun way to show kids the rivalry while showing that we are all one program.”

This was the second iteration of the Crosstown Cup, and it resulted in a phenomenal turnout by students ranging from first to sixth grade. Youth players had the opportunity to greet the high schoolers during warmups and stand on the field during the national anthem, and the atmosphere was raucous throughout the game.

Monday was not the only chance the younger lacrosse players have had to interact with the Hawks. Over the weekend, members of the WHS team were assigned a youth team to coach for one game, receiving the opportunity to stand on the sidelines and guide future Hawks with the wisdom they have learned playing at the varsity level. The Hawks worked hand in hand with the volunteer coaches that usually coach the youth ranks.

Additionally, WHS hosted a youth clinic earlier in the season where the high school players coached the younger troops through drills.

“They do a great job of building those relationships with the younger players,” Cannon said. “Now, when the younger players see them at the games, they cheer and make posters for them. In the future, we have a bunch of ideas that are in the works. We just want to build the relationships so that the youth players have a mentor, especially the older girls who are coming into high school if they have questions and want to learn how they can prepare and get better. For the younger kids, it is just about the love of the game. We want them to see how cool it will be for them to play for Waltham. The players are like their heroes.”

As for the game itself on Monday, it was a fun evening for the Hawks. Waltham won, 12-5, behind five goals from junior Mia Kearney, a hat trick and two assists by senior Quinn Gavin, and an unbelievable defensive effort from senior Abby Morse, who forced seven turnovers. Junior goalie Leah France stopped nine Watertown shots in the victory.

“Our girls always get the most fired up to play this game,” Cannon said. “The energy was up right from the start. They brought all the passion they could and played some of their best lacrosse.”



Waltham High School 2026 Girls Crosstown Cup winners. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

‘Men’s Shed’ group restores machinery — and community — in Waltham

BY ANDREW LAW • COMMUNITY • MAY 14, 2026



Malcolm Burwell last summer worked with the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation to form a group of mostly retired men who repair old machinery and equipment. Their goal: finding a new sense of purpose while making social connections and contributing to the museum.

“It was a twinkle in my eye at that stage,” recalled Burwell.

Less than a year later Burwell is turning his vision into reality. The group now comprises six regular weekly participants who attend each Friday afternoon and continues to attract more people.

“I figure we hit a critical mass,” said Burwell, adding that he hopes to have 15 or so participants in the future.

Together they are digging deeply into the museum’s extensive archives and finding an array of equipment to fix, ranging from metalworking machines such as milling and lathe equipment, to old-time film strip projectors, coin sorters and cash registers.

This group is one of many around the world that call themselves a Men’s Shed. While the name conjures up a backyard storage structure, in this case it means a crew of guys who regularly commit to work alongside one another in a relaxed, social environment.

The Men’s Shed gets space and support from the Charles River Museum. In return, the men benefit the museum by working directly on its equipment and machines, which may then be displayed in future exhibits.

“If we’re providing a benefit, then the whole system is much more symmetrical,” explained Burwell.

“They’re getting something out of it; we’re getting something out of it.”

“They have a skill set we don’t have,” said Steve Guerriero, the museum’s director of education. “Their work makes these items actionable, relatable and gives people access to the history.”

Identifying the first participants

Burwell introduced the Men’s Shed to those interested by walking them into the basement storage area, which the museum calls the “way back” because “it goes on and on and on.” (He fondly referred to it as the museum’s “Aladdin’s cave.”)

After giving a tour of the premises, Burwell asked what would be fun to restore or understand. He explained that those with initial project ideas have typically wanted to join the group’s regular meetings.

“This is about the passion around old machines. The ‘way back’ is this fabulous fishing pool where you can take somebody around and go, so do you think you could catch any of these fish?” said Burwell.



Malcolm Burwell stood alongside an early 20th century cash register. Photo by Andrew Law.

Chet Michalak read the manual of an old film strip projector. Photo by Andrew Law.

Burwell pointed to Ryan Spoering and Chet Michalak as two early group leaders who were enamored by the possibilities.

“Ryan and Chet, both were balls of energy, and it was very clear they would turn up every week while we tried to figure out what the heck we were,” said Burwell.

Several people have since joined the Men’s Shed, including one earlier this month who picked out a radio receiver as his first project, after first meeting Burwell at a local car show.

“There’s more and more interest, momentum is clearly building,” added Guerriero.

Progress in restoring old-time machines

Because the museum stores a plethora of Industrial Age equipment, there is no shortage of projects to pursue.

“Like all museums, there’s more in storage than we can possibly display at any one time,” explained Guerriero. “It’s in various stages of repair and disrepair.”

On a recent Friday afternoon a local piano restoration expert joined the other Shed participants. They intently studied the inner workings of an early 20th-century player piano, including its air-powered pumps and hammers for pushing down keys. This type of piano is designed to play music on its own, but that functionality no longer worked.



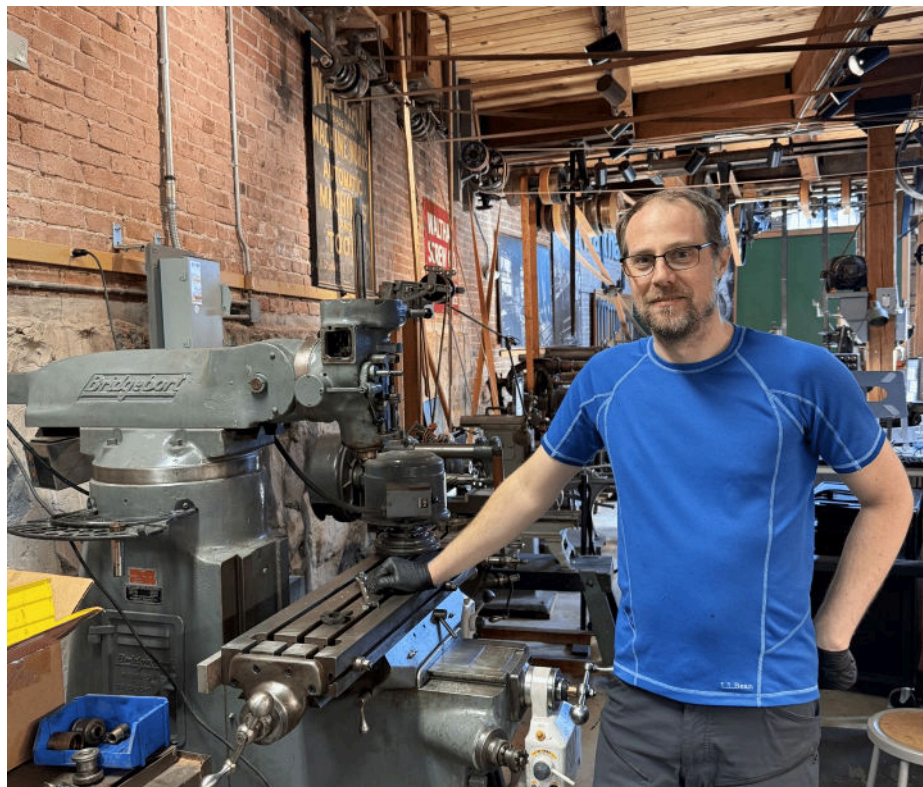
In a recent Men’s Shed meeting, they took off the coverings of a player piano to determine if it could be fixed. Photo by Andrew Law.

After group troubleshooting, several participants transitioned to their own projects. Michalak worked on a projector with film strips rolled up into a couple of large reels. Burwell referred to Michalak as “Mr. Optical,” because he initially worked on a piece of equipment that measured the curve around the back of the eye.

Meanwhile, Shed participant Spoering was in the museum’s machine shop, which included milling equipment made by Bridgeport.

Before starting to make repairs on the Bridgeport, Spoering recalled, “I pulled it apart...the machine was locked up like an old person.” He highlighted the machine’s foundational role in metalworking, stating that “Bridgeports have made the world.”

“We’d have groups from machine companies come and recognize these machines by name and by sight,” said Guerriero. “The Men’s Shed is bringing them back to life.”



Ryan Spoering posed in the museum’s machine shop with metalworking equipment called the Bridgeport. Photo by Andrew Law.

Like Spoering, Burwell started repairs by taking apart the equipment. He carefully labeled parts and took pictures so he could later retrace his steps while trying to learn what each part does. He could then test various repairs to see what works.

“I chose things that I thought, ‘Those mechanisms are fascinating,’” explained Burwell. “One of the most fascinating is, in an all-mechanical cash register, how does it remember how much money was spent during the day?”

He has left no stone unturned in his efforts, such as tracking down a former vice president of National Cash Register to obtain an instruction manual. After getting several coin-related machines to work, Burwell and the museum are discussing opportunities to incorporate them into a future children’s exhibit.

While there has been much progress, participants are also benefiting from newly formed bonds with one another.

“We get there at 2 o’clock, we stand around and chat for a while. The British call it the ‘How’s your father’ period,” explained Burwell, adding that at the end of their get-together, “it’s not uncommon for us to then stand around for another 15 minutes, even though we’ve all agreed we’re going to go, and talk about something.”

“Ultimately, this museum is a space for community,” said Guerriero. “These are people who didn’t know each other at first, and now they’re good friends.”

For those interested in more details about the Shed or how to take part in this group, contact Burwell at mcburwell@aol.com.



ANDREW LAW

Andrew Law has held a wide range of in-house and PR agency communications roles since 2003, with deep experience in innovative industries such as the life sciences, healthcare and technology. He has a passion for translating technical information into accessible writing for broad audiences. A Waltham resident since 2019, Andrew spent the first ten years of his professional career working in the city.

Waltham Times team faces the ultimate fact-check

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/14/waltham-times-team-faces-the-ultimate-fact-check

June Kinoshita

May 15, 2026



McBrine Mashup, student champions. From left: Will McBrine, Daniel Proskoczilo, Josephine Proskoczilo, Kevin Groot-Fekkes, Willow Bhargava and Casper Anderson. Photo by Linda Haas.

At The Waltham Times, we pride ourselves on getting the facts right. So it was not without trepidation that we decided to enter a team into the communitywide Civics Trivia Night. The event, co-hosted by the Waltham Public Schools history and social studies department and the League of Women Voters of Waltham, was a chance for students and grownups to put their civics knowledge to the test – at the risk of public humiliation.

At 6:30 p.m. on May 13, the Waltham Times team – Betty Barrer, Sarah-Jane Caban, Deb Herman, Colleen Brennan, Paul Brennan, Chris Daly and June Kinoshita – stepped into the cafeteria at McDevitt Middle School. The tiled surfaces rang with students' shrieks of laughter. Those of us who hadn't set foot in a middle school in decades may have felt a frisson of anxiety harkening to an epoch best left buried deep in our psyches.

Boxes of pizza donated by The Chateau and Waltham Pizza arrived, the melted cheese spreading comforting aromas over the crowd. Derek Vandergrift, director of history and social studies at WPS, welcomed the audience and set out the rules. There would be five rounds, each with questions about local, state and national history and government, as well as about citizenship.

Twelve teams vied for the title – four student teams, five adult teams and three mixed student and adult teams. Some teams opted for straightforward names: McDevitt, Kennedy 1, The Waltham Times, McBrine Mashup. Others showed imagination: The Jury, Blue Mustard, A League of Our Own, Churchmice, Better Ranked Than Never, Waltham Trivia Nerds. Some were aspirational: The Smart Ones and Winners.



Team McDevitt 2 cheers when they hear their score. Photo by Linda Haas.

For each of the five rounds, answer sheets were placed at each team's table. In round one, each team had to answer seven questions. The first was an only-in-Waltham one: Who is the chair of the School Committee? (Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy) The next asked which Waltham Street is named after a Boston Manufacturing Co. machinist. (Moody Street) What two buildings are shown on the seal of the City of Waltham? We were sure about the Boston Manufacturing Co. factory but agonized over the second. City Hall? One of the churches? We guessed it was the most iconic structure, the Watch Factory – the correct answer, it turned out. Phew!

Another tough question: How many electoral votes does Massachusetts have? One of us knew that each state gets as many electors as it has members of Congress. At our cram session (yes, we studied for this), we learned that Massachusetts has nine representatives. Add two for our senators and you get 11 electors. It pays to study, kids.

In round two, we had to match names to clues. One asked which signer of the Declaration of Independence built an estate in Waltham? Why, Robert Treat Paine, of course!

Round three required teams to identify photos. Where in Waltham can you find a sculpture of a beaver on a roof? City Hall. I always thought that lump at the northwest corner was some species of gargoyle.



Team Waltham Times, adult team winners. Photo by Linda Haas.

We had gotten every question right up to this point when we stumbled. The photo showed a great carved codfish. In which chamber of the State House can it be found? The Senate or the House were the only choices. There are 40 senators and 160 representatives. We took a

closer look at the photo, counted around two dozen seats. The room seemed too small to fit 160. It's the Senate, we decided. Wrong!

We were still neck and neck with A League of Our Own. In the next two rounds, we could place wagers on whether we would get the answer right. If we missed, we'd lose the points. We decided to go all in. If we lost, we'd lose with honor.

Vandergrift, together with Ken Borter, an eighth-grade civics teacher at McDevitt, and Kael Pelletier, a seventh-grade teacher for World Geography and Ancient Civilizations II at Kennedy Middle School, served as judges and tallied up the points. They announced the final scores. McBrine Mashup won the student team title. And the adult team winner: The Waltham Times.

Everyone had a fantastic time and learned something new. So we were all winners.



The one that got away. The Sacred Cod hanging above the chamber of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Wikipedia, under Creative Commons 4.0 license.

Proposed zoning change gets more supporters than detractors at hearing

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 14, 2026



A proposal to rezone swaths of west Waltham so two developers could build 1,850 new housing units garnered support from multiple residents at a City Council hearing on Monday.

The rezoning request also faced criticism from a few neighbors who argued the proposals should do more to address concerns from immediate abutters.

BXP Inc., which owns land at the [Bay Colony on Winter Street and along Jones Road](#), and 1265 Main Street LLC, which owns [the former Polaroid campus at 1265 Main St.](#), are seeking to create Residential Commercial Industrial Limited Overlay Districts, or RCIs, over their parcels to [allow for residential development](#). The companies plan to build a total of [1,850 units of housing across the three lots](#), although the 1265 Main St. plan leaves room for future growth.

Fourteen people attending the May 11 hearing stood in favor of rezoning the Bay Colony and Jones Road parcels, and 11 stood to support 1265 Main St.

Nick Pavone, the business manager of Laborers' Union Local 560, endorsed the proposed construction, calling it an opportunity for well-paying union jobs and affordable housing. "Our goal is that the people who build and support this community can also afford to live and raise their families here," he said.

Five other audience members said they believe the developments would make housing in the city more affordable. One of them, Tim Riley, added he would prefer the city have a simpler code that made it easier for smaller developers to build housing instead of having to change zoning to accommodate large companies.

The Bay Colony development, which has immediate residential neighbors on multiple sides, was the only rezoning proposal that met with direct resistance at Monday's public hearing.

Five residents stood in opposition to it, some of them echoing concerns about the [proximity between BXP's proposed housing and their own lot lines](#). BXP committed after recent neighborhood meetings to a [100-ft setback from one of its lot lines](#), but at Monday's hearing

neighbors asked for a 200-foot setback that more closely resembles current buildings' boundaries and larger setbacks on other sides of the property.

Brian Charville of the Ferris Development Group, whose 1432 Main St. property abuts the proposed Jones Road district, called the proposed district's boundaries arbitrary and said the council should redraw them to include similar lots in the area. He said he plans to petition for 1432 Main St.'s inclusion in the RCI.

Timeline for rezoning

The developers told city leaders they're seeking approval for the proposed RCIs in advance of a state construction project.

Kier Evans, BXP vice president of development, said BXP and 1265 Main Street LLC are [contributing to a state project](#) to build a new road called Green Street that will run parallel to Jones Road to mitigate traffic congestion. The road will extend south from Route 117 to Route 20.

Officials from BXP and 1265 Main Street said they want the city to approve the rezoning before the work on Green Street starts.

According to Evans, the state plans to rebuild the Route 117 bridge after the Green Street project is complete, around 2030, and is looking to create a highway onramp near 1265 Main St. after the Route 117 bridge is rebuilt. Additionally, BXP has signed a memorandum of understanding with the state to explore a Jones Road multimodal transit station, which would replace the Kendal Green stop in Weston on the MBTA's Fitchburg commuter rail line.

The Board of Survey and Planning was scheduled to hold a special hearing on the developments on May 14. The City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee will discuss the rezoning proposal review it commissioned from contractor CommunityScale at its next meeting on Monday, May 18.



ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is a 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.

Hotel sector economics tank plans for boutique hotel at 1265 Main St.

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 14, 2026



Plans [to build a hotel](#) at 1265 Main St., the site of the former Polaroid factory, have fallen through, according to parcel owner and developer 1265 Main Street LLC.

The city's Zoning Board of Appeals in July 2024 had approved a proposal to build a six-story boutique hotel on the lot between Prospect Hill Park and Border Road.

Representatives from 1265 Main Street sent the City Council a letter requesting that councilors approve a two-year extension on the special permit previously granted to 1265 Main St. The letter said the hotel plans had fallen through “due to the economics affecting the hotel sector” but that the company still intends to develop the land.

The council's Ordinances and Rules Committee will discuss the hotel in more detail at its meeting next week.

Additionally, the City Council:

- Approved a resolution thanking Boston Dynamics for its longtime presence as a large business in Waltham and thanking former CEO Robert Playter, who [announced in February](#) he was stepping down.
- Forwarded a number of requests by Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy to its committee meetings next week. It sent a request for \$50,458.50 to help fund body armor and weapons utility vests for the Police Department, [a request by the Disability Services Commission](#) to donate \$2,500 to the A Special Day in Waltham event and two requests to accept state grants to the Finance Committee. It sent requests to name two benches after Waltham residents to the Licenses and Franchises Committee.
- In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, recognized the historic Boston Post Road — now Main and Weston streets, where George Washington once passed — as a historically significant place and resolved to better maintain Revolutionary War monuments and support other parts of the city in doing so. This matter was sent to the Veterans Services Committee for further discussion.

- Preliminarily approved a request from McCarthy to seek a \$8,640,291 loan to buy the building at 600 Main St. The council took an initial vote on it before further discussion and then sent the matter to the Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee to examine further.
- Sent requests for six outdoor dining permits and one secondhand shop license renewal to the Licenses and Franchises Committee.
- Voted to confirm committee decisions [from last week](#), including the approval of additional Department of Public Works funding for the winter’s snow removal, assorted donations from the Finance Committee, two secondhand dealers license renewals and one outdoor dining permit from the Licenses and Franchises Committee, and two development-related resolutions from the Ordinances and Rules Committee.



Revolutionary War monument on Waltham Common. From the Historical Marker Database. Photographed by Pete Skillman, August 6, 2021



Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is a 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.

Two Waltham residents arrested on charges of cocaine possession, conspiracy to violate drug law

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 14, 2026



Waltham residents Bernardo Betancourt, 50, and Michelle Courtney, 48, are both facing charges of cocaine trafficking in an amount of 18 grams and less than 36 grams, possession to distribute a class B drug and conspiracy to violate drug law.

Courtney pleaded not guilty in Waltham District Court on May 11 to the charges. It is unclear from court records how Betancourt pleaded.



Waltham Police cruisers. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

The charges stem from an incident on May 10, when at 10:22 p.m. an officer on routine patrol reportedly observed a black Kia Soul that he recognized as being registered to a woman whose license was revoked. After pulling over the vehicle, the officer saw the woman in the passenger seat, Betancourt in the driver's seat and Courtney in the back seat.

According to the police report, the officer observed Betancourt hand something to Courtney, which she promptly put in the front of her pants. The officer also observed a glass pipe in a cupholder. The officer then searched the vehicle and located two baggies of what the officer believed to be crack cocaine and a money fold with crack cocaine folded into it. Police also said that officers later searched Courtney and found three baggies of what is believed to be crack cocaine, which were submitted to evidence having been removed from her person.

In total, 24.6 grams of presumed crack cocaine were seized from the scene. According to police records, Betancourt and Courtney both have faced previous drug charges.

The woman who owned the car received citations for having an uninsured motor vehicle and a suspended registration but was not arrested.

Judge Amanda Ward presided over both Betancourt's and Courtney's arraignments. Betancourt is being held on bail at Middlesex County Jail. Courtney was released on personal recognizance. Both will face a probable cause hearing on June 11.

Additional court activity

Jacob M. Ledlow, 30, of Whitinsville, pleaded not guilty on May 11 to charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, leaving the scene of property damage, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, reckless endangerment of a child, use of a motor vehicle without authority and receiving a stolen motor vehicle. It is unclear from court records whether Ledlow has been released or if he is being held on bail. A hearing to review status on the case will be held May 18.

Nermin Mujezinovic, 44, of Maynard, pleaded not guilty on May 6 to operating under the influence of alcohol, second offense. According to the police report, Mujezinovic was arrested after allegedly falling asleep in his vehicle while parked blocking traffic on Main Street. Police reported smelling alcohol on Mujezinovic's breath and that he had glassy, bloodshot eyes. Judge Ellen M. Caulo released Mujezinovic on personal recognizance. A pretrial hearing for the case will be held June 29.

Michael Owens, 34, of Newton, pleaded not guilty on May 5 to assault and battery on a household or family member, assault and battery on a pregnant victim and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on a pregnant victim. According to a police report, the charges stem from an incident that took place in a Waltham apartment. Caulo released Owens on personal recognizance. A pretrial hearing for this case will be held June 4.

Author



CYD ABNET

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

Paz and Clark make the primary ballot, Samman close behind

BY CYD ABNET • ELECTIONS • MAY 15, 2026



All three candidates for the Massachusetts 5th Congressional District Democratic Party primary race collected the required number of signatures to make the ballot.

On May 5, candidate [Jonathan Paz](#), a Waltham resident, sent an email to his supporters announcing that he had successfully collected the 2,000 signatures needed to be included on the ballot for the Sept. 1 primary. Incumbent [Katherine Clark](#), a Revere resident, also received the required number of signatures.

The third candidate, [Tarik Samman](#), of Cambridge, said he has reached the required number of signatures and is waiting for them to be certified by the city clerk before submitting them to state election officials.

Benjamin Zeledon, who has not announced his candidacy publicly but has pulled nomination papers, has not submitted signatures. He has until June 5 to do so.

The [voter registration](#) deadline to vote in the primary is Aug. 22. The deadline to [apply](#) to receive a mail-in ballot is 5 p.m. Aug. 25. Voters can register and/or request a mail-in ballot online through the [Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts official website](#).

Early voting for the primary will take place Aug. 22 through 28. Waltham has not yet announced the locations for early voting. The regular voting period will take place Sept. 1 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at precinct locations around the city. Residents can use an [online tool](#) on the Secretary of the Commonwealth website to find their polling location.



Author



CYD ABNET

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

Family shelter, affordable housing and Northeast's inclusive playground win CPC funding

BY LEA ZAHARONI • GOVERNMENT • MAY 15, 2026



Funds were allocated to restore the Revolutionary War monument on Waltham Common. From the Historical Marker Database. Photographed by Pete Skillman, August 6, 2021

Middlesex Human Service Agency, which has operated substance abuse treatment and shelter programs in Waltham since 1977, received the full \$1 million it requested in Community Preservation Act funds to complete renovations on a new facility at 118 Prospect St.

It was one of six projects the Waltham Community Preservation Committee unanimously voted to fund at its May 12 meeting.

The MHSA project, tentatively called New Prospects, will provide what CEO Bob Mills described as a critical kind of care: live-in addiction treatment where parents can bring their children with them.

The model is known as family residential treatment and tends to serve women in treatment who otherwise would have no means for childcare. "One of the largest barriers to women seeking recovery is the custody of their children," Mills told the committee.

MHSA's new facility would allow families to stay together in a congregate setting while a parent receives treatment and works toward permanent housing.

CPC will provide \$1 million in funding for the project, and an additional \$750,000 will be raised through private donors. Mills said construction should wrap in early July, with a projected opening in October after the facility receives state licensing.

MHSA had not planned to seek funds from CPC, but unexpected state budget cuts of roughly 25% of the organization's budget forced its hand. The agency serves 149 families per day across eastern Massachusetts and has placed 167 families into permanent affordable housing so far this year.

In other actions, the committee approved:

- \$1,130,000 in funding for Northeast Elementary's new wheelchair-accessible playground. The project has been in the works for several years, driven by the school's principal and parent-teacher organization. Pending final City Council approval on June 8, construction is expected to begin immediately and finish before the start of the 2026-27 school year. Outside of school hours, the playground will be open to the public.
- Acquisitions of 50 Mount Walley Road for \$944,900 and 48 Mount Walley Road for \$804,900 to be used as affordable housing at 80% of the area's median income or below. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy presented the requests for acquisition and noted that both properties will be single-family homes with a veteran's preference. Each unit will be capped at three residents to preserve the character of the neighborhood and offered through a public lottery.
- \$8,500 for the restoration of the Revolutionary War monument on Waltham Common. The granite monument was installed in 1930 and commemorates 293 Waltham patriots who served in the American Revolution but is currently oxidized to the point of illegibility. Restoration is expected to be completed by July 4 in time for the country's 250th anniversary.
- \$6,895 for the preservation of the First Book of Town Records. The city clerk's office received funding to restore and digitize Waltham's oldest surviving municipal record book, covering town meeting minutes from 1737 to 1758. The volume will be cleaned, rebound and digitized by the Northeast Document Conservation Center.



Author



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 (1)



BOB • MAY 16, 2026 AT 12:17 PM

Is that what the community preservation act funds are for? I could be wrong but I thought it was for historical properties and to restore old. Seems like a fund that should have an audit. Nothing against this program but I feel like a million dollars is a lot. Also look at who's doing the work at this building. Same company this city hooks up for all their cpa work. Interesting? Seems like they get a lot of work thru the city. Certain people seem to be the same people that get hooked up with this community preservation act fund. Time for an audit. Pay close attention on who gets awarded and who does the work for the winners. Seems like a be money transfer with our money.

Reply

Family shelter, affordable housing and Northeast's inclusive playground win CPC funding

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/15/family-shelter-affordable-housing-and-northeasts-inclusive-playground-win-cpc-funding

Lea Zaharoni

May 15, 2026

Middlesex Human Service Agency, which has operated substance abuse treatment and shelter programs in Waltham since 1977, received the full \$1 million it requested in Community Preservation Act funds to complete renovations on a new facility at 118 Prospect St.

It was one of six projects the Waltham Community Preservation Committee unanimously voted to fund at its May 12 meeting.

The MHSA project, tentatively called New Prospects, will provide what CEO Bob Mills described as a critical kind of care: live-in addiction treatment where parents can bring their children with them.

The model is known as family residential treatment and tends to serve women in treatment who otherwise would have no means for childcare. "One of the largest barriers to women seeking recovery is the custody of their children," Mills told the committee.

MHSA's new facility would allow families to stay together in a congregate setting while a parent receives treatment and works toward permanent housing.

CPC will provide \$1 million in funding for the project, and an additional \$750,000 will be raised through private donors. Mills said construction should wrap in early July, with a projected opening in October after the facility receives state licensing.

MHSA had not planned to seek funds from CPC, but unexpected state budget cuts of roughly 25% of the organization's budget forced its hand. The agency serves 149 families per day across eastern Massachusetts and has placed 167 families into permanent affordable housing so far this year.

In other actions, the committee approved:

- \$1,130,000 in funding for Northeast Elementary's new wheelchair-accessible playground. The project has been in the works for several years, driven by the school's principal and parent-teacher organization. Pending final City Council approval on June 8, construction is expected to begin immediately and finish before the start of the 2026-27 school year. Outside of school hours, the playground will be open to the public.
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Paz and Clark make the primary ballot, Samman close behind

BY CYD ABNET • ELECTIONS • MAY 15, 2026



All three candidates for the Massachusetts 5th Congressional District Democratic Party primary race collected the required number of signatures to make the ballot.

On May 5, candidate [Jonathan Paz](#), a Waltham resident, sent an email to his supporters announcing that he had successfully collected the 2,000 signatures needed to be included on the ballot for the Sept. 1 primary. Incumbent [Katherine Clark](#), a Revere resident, also received the required number of signatures.

The third candidate, [Tarik Samman](#), of Cambridge, said he has reached the required number of signatures and is waiting for them to be certified by the city clerk before submitting them to state election officials.

Benjamin Zeledon, who has not announced his candidacy publicly but has pulled nomination papers, has not submitted signatures. He has until June 5 to do so.

The [voter registration](#) deadline to vote in the primary is Aug. 22. The deadline to [apply](#) to receive a mail-in ballot is 5 p.m. Aug. 25. Voters can register and/or request a mail-in ballot online through the [Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts official website](#).

Early voting for the primary will take place Aug. 22 through 28. Waltham has not yet announced the locations for early voting. The regular voting period will take place Sept. 1 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at precinct locations around the city. Residents can use an [online tool](#) on the Secretary of the Commonwealth website to find their polling location.

Youth Night highlights Waltham girls lacrosse growth

BY LIAM O'BRIEN • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 14, 2026



Head coach Jill Cannon has instilled the importance of promoting the sport at the youth ranks, and her team is loving the impact they can have on encouraging younger players to develop a passion for the sport. Part of this initiative was the establishment of a youth lacrosse night during the [Crosstown Cup](#), the annual contest between close rivals Waltham High and Watertown High.

As the programs for the elementary and middle school lacrosse players of Waltham and Watertown are combined, the game provides the perfect opportunity to bring both youth lacrosse programs together with a special chance to get involved and watch their high school role models face off.



“One thing that I have always tried to instill in our program is the importance of the youth,” Cannon said. “Our players always love facing Watertown, so we made the Crosstown Cup as an opportunity to recognize the rivalry and the friendships that they have growing up together city to city. One thing that I have always focused on with our players is that we need to show these young girls how fun it is to be a part of the high school team, represent your city, and how lacrosse continues to grow as you get older. We want to keep people in the game that day. We thought Monday would be a fun way to show kids the rivalry while showing that we are all one program.”

This was the second iteration of the Crosstown Cup, and it resulted in a phenomenal turnout by students ranging through first to sixth grade. Youth players had the opportunity to greet the high schoolers during warmups and stand on the field during the national anthem, and the atmosphere was raucous throughout the game.

Monday was not the only chance the younger lacrosse players have had to interact with the Hawks. Over the weekend, members of the WHS team were assigned a youth team to coach for one game, receiving the opportunity to stand on the sidelines and guide future Hawks with the wisdom they have learned playing at the varsity level. The Hawks worked hand in hand with the volunteer coaches that usually coach the youth ranks.

Additionally, WHS hosted a youth clinic earlier in the season where the high school players coached the younger troops through drills.

“They do a great job of building those relationships with the younger players,” Cannon said. “Now, when the younger players see them at the games, they cheer and make posters for them. In the future, we have a bunch of ideas that are in the works. We just want to build the relationships so that the youth players have a mentor, especially the older girls who are coming into high school if they have questions and want to learn how they can prepare and get better. For the younger kids, it is just about the love of the game. We want them to see how cool it will be for them to play for Waltham. The players are like their heroes.”

As for the game itself on Monday, it was a fun evening for the Hawks. Waltham won, 12-5, behind five goals from junior Mia Kearney, a hat trick and two assists by senior Quinn Gavin, and an unbelievable defensive effort from senior Abby Morse, who forced seven turnovers. Junior goalie Leah France stopped nine Watertown shots in the victory.

“Our girls always get the most fired up to play this game,” Cannon said. “The energy was up right from the start. They brought all the passion they could and played some of their best lacrosse.”

Claire Connolly, 1934–2026, longtime resident of Waltham

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MAY 17, 2026



Claire M. (Kennedy) Connolly, of Waltham, died Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Benchmark Senior Living in Acton. She was 91.

Claire was born in Lawrence on May 28, 1934, a daughter of the late Francis and Catherine (Dineen) Kennedy and was a graduate of Lawrence High School and the Katherine Gibbs School.

A lifelong resident of Waltham, she and her family spent many happy summers at their home at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire.

Until her retirement, Claire was an administrative aide at Meadowbrook School in Weston and before that held the same position at Phillips Exeter Academy.

She was a devoted member of Our Lady's Parish in Waltham. A talented dancer, she and her late husband, Pete, were longtime members of the Waltham Ballroom Dance Club.

The wife of the late Irving "Pete" Connolly, she leaves her children, Kathleen M. McClemmy of San Juan Capistrano, California and Peter J. Connolly of Carlisle.; her grandchildren, Sean and Patrick McClemmy and Paul Connolly; and her cousin, Jacklyn Collett Graves.



Edna Bardsley, 1923–2026, loving mother and grandmother

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MAY 14, 2026



Edna G. (Fleury) Bardsley died Friday, May 8, 2026 in the Parlin Hospice Residence in Wayland. She was 102.

Edna was born Sept. 21, 1923 in Nova Scotia, Canada, a daughter of the late William and Claire (Chapman) Fleury and immigrated to the United States in 1944. She was married to the late Lewis H. Bardsley who died in Aug. 1983.

She worked as an assembler for Jarrell Ash Division of Thermo Scientific Corporation for many years before retiring.

Edna enjoyed her friendships and activities from her involvement in both the Waltham Senior Center and the North Waltham Seniors.

In addition to her husband, Lewis she was predeceased by their only child, Gail A. Dennehy, and her siblings, John Fleury and Charles Fleury.

She leaves her son-in-law, Michael S. Dennehy of Waltham; her grandchildren, Matthew P. Dennehy (Shannon), Jeffrey L. Dennehy (Marissa) and Jessica E. Dennehy (Nathaniel Jarnis); her great-grandchildren, Lily Dennehy and Willow Jarnis; and several nieces, nephews and their families.

Funeral services and burial in Mount Feake Cemetery will be private.



Edna Bardsley, 1923–2026

Marion Campbell, 1929–2026, ‘lived with joy, courage and gratitude’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MAY 10, 2026



Marion J. (Fletcher) Campbell, died at home on Friday, May 8, 2026. She was 96.

Marion J. Fletcher was born on Dec. 20, 1929 in Boston, a daughter of the late Arthur and Jane (Quinn) Fletcher. Raised in Somerville she was a graduate of Somerville High School with the class of 1946. She married Somerville native Roderick B. Campbell on Feb. 4, 1951 in Saint Catherine of Genoa Church. Her beloved husband, Rod, died Feb. 7, 1963.

Marion worked as a secretary to Principals Jack Regan and John Graceffa of Waltham High School for over 25 years, retiring in 1992. she had been a resident of Waltham for over sixty-eight years before moving to Youville Place in Lexington.

Marion’s life was grounded in her faith and her family, the two pillars that guided everything she did. She embraced life fully and loved the people in it with an open, generous heart. Her sense of adventure never faded—whether traveling, exploring new places, or zip-lining at 85 and jet-skiing at age 80 with a smile that said she was just getting started. She lived with joy, courage and gratitude, leaving behind a legacy of love and a reminder to savor every moment.

In addition to her husband, Rod, she was predeceased by her siblings, Margaret Roderick and Shirley Banks, and her grandson, Richard Campbell.

She leaves her children, Jane A. Campbell-Villarreal (Dr. Arturo) of Watertown, Richard A. Campbell (Denise) of Waltham, Stephen A. Campbell (Mona) of Seattle, Washington and Paul R. Campbell of Pinehurst, North Carolina; her grandchildren, Jennifer Ling (Aaron), Stacey Campbell, Mark Campbell-Foster (Jason), Katie Luther, Kristen Curley, Taylor Flett (Capt. Thomas) and Paige Campbell; her great-grandchildren, Jared, Harrison, Britnei, Isabella, Ava, Evan, Campbell, Smith, Tessa, Will, John, Avery and Orion; and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor and remember Marion’s life by gathering for a morning wake from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12 at Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street, (Rt. 20) Waltham before leaving in procession to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, 880 Trapelo Road where her funeral mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Waltham.



Marion Campbell, 1929–2026

Mary Brennan, 1939–2026, lifelong Waltham resident

walthamtimes.org/2026/05/05/mary-brennan-1939-2026-lifelong-waltham-resident

Waltham News Team

May 6, 2026



Mary Ellen (Scott) Brennan, of Waltham, died Thursday, April 30, 2026 at Lahey Hospital in Burlington. She was 86.

Mary Ellen was born in Waltham on Nov. 10, 1939, a daughter of the late Gilbert and Helen (Statkus) Scott and had been a lifelong resident. She was a graduate of Waltham High School.

Until her retirement she worked for years as a lab technician at Waltham Hospital where she loved her work and the people and patients that she worked with.

For many years she and her husband Don spent many happy summers at their camp in Watson in the Adirondack region of upstate New York and winters at Big Pine Key in Florida.

She leaves her husband, Donald M. Brennan; her son, Donald M. Brennan, Jr. (Estelle) of Natick; her grandson, Donald M. Brennan, III; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

Mary Ellen was also the mother of the late Matthew E. Brennan and sister of late Elizabeth Cusack, Gilbert Scott, Gloria Champion and Patricia Scott.

Family and friends will honor and remember Mary Ellen's life by gathering for an evening wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham on Friday, May 8 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday morning in Mount Feake Cemetery, 203 Prospect Street, Waltham where graveside services will be held at 11 a.m.

Mary Lou MacLeod, 1948–2026, lifelong Waltham resident

walthamtimes.org/2026/05/10/mary-lou-macleod-1948-2026-lifelong-waltham-resident

Waltham News Team

May 11, 2026



Mary Lou (Beck) MacLeod passed away peacefully at her home on May 7, 2026. She was 77.

Born in Waltham on July 15, 1948, Mary Lou was the beloved daughter of the late Arthur J. Beck and Shirley M. (Harrington) Beck and the eldest of eight children. She was always there for her siblings, both while growing up and throughout her adult life, and the strength of those bonds was evident in how remarkably close the entire family remained.

A graduate of Waltham High School, she married the love of her life, Bruce A. MacLeod, on Oct. 27, 1968 at Saint Mary's Church in Waltham. Together they shared fifty wonderful years, raising their family in Waltham, enjoying time in Harrisville, New Hampshire, and later Zephyrhills, Florida until Bruce's passing in 2018.

Mary Lou was a wonderful wife, a great mother and the best grandmother; her favorite pastime was whenever everyone got together. She loved to play cards, bingo and LCR, she also had a knack for crocheting and delighted in sharing her hand-crafted creations with family and friends.

Mary Lou was definitely a hugger! A truly special, kind, beautiful soul who would do anything for you. One of those rare people where nobody had a bad word to say about her. That's because she found and brought out the best in people with her grace and kindness. With a gift for making everyone feel welcome, she could (and would!) talk to anyone; strangers were just friends she hadn't met yet, but after ten minutes of talking with Mary Lou, they'd often find themselves sharing their life story. Her magnetic, vibrant personality made every gathering a fun time, filled with laughter. Above all, Mary Lou was all about family and love. She supported her entire family in countless ways and loved making people happy, especially her grandchildren whom she cherished.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband Bruce in 2018. In addition to her husband, she was also predeceased by her parents Arthur and Shirley, sister Gail Frizzell and brother in law Douglas Frizzell, and her in-laws Lewis and Lela MacLeod.

Mary Lou is survived by her daughters, Kelly A. Sabatino and her husband Wayne, and Sheila J. Sabatino and her husband Richard; her grandchildren Alexa, Erika and Jordan; her siblings Karen LaFountain (late David), Deborah McNulty, Barbara Sarazen and her husband Donald, Robyn LaFrancis, Arthur J. Beck Jr. (late Deborah) and Joan Battcock and her husband Garry; her sister-in-law Cheri Wade (late John); and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor and remember Mary Lou's life by gathering to visit in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham, on Saturday May 16 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. followed by her funeral service at 11 a.m.

Pamela Jones, 1956–2026, former Waltham city official and lifelong resident

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MAY 14, 2026



Pamela M. Jones died Thursday, May 7, 2026, in Care Dimensions Hospice Residence in Lincoln. She was 69.

Pamela was born June 13, 1956, in Waltham, a daughter of the late Alfred A. and Marie H. (Mulligan) Jones. A lifelong Waltham resident, she was a graduate of Waltham High School with the class of 1974.

Pam worked as the Occupancy Manager for the City of Waltham in the Housing Department for over 32 years, retiring in 2019.

She served as an advocate for those with disabilities and as secretary for the Waltham Board of Disabilities. An avid reader, she also was a New England sports fan, especially her New England Patriots and Celtics. Pam treasured all opportunities to spend time with and enjoy her family and friends.



Pamela Jones, 1956–2026

Pam leaves her brother, Peter M. Jones and his wife Ellen of Marlborough; her sister-in-law, Jean Jones of Northbridge (late Alfred); her nieces and nephews, Alfred A. Jones IV (LuciAnne) and Ann Caso (Christopher), all of Uxbridge, Peter M. Jones, Jr. (Megan) of Worcester and Sean P. Jones of North Attleborough; and her great-nieces and nephews, Alexandra and Zoe, Colin and Cameron and Peter III.

Family and friends will honor and remember Pamela's life by gathering for a morning wake from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Monday, May 18 at Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street, Waltham followed by her funeral service at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in Mount Feake Cemetery, Waltham.

Sally Cormier, 1945–2026, loving mother and grandmother

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MAY 17, 2026

Sally A. (McKenzie) Cormier, recently of Framingham, a former lifelong Waltham resident, died Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She was 80.

Sally was born in Waltham on May 28, 1945. While still teens she met her husband, Arthur R. 'Artie' Cormier, and the pair courted for nine years before marrying on May 8, 1971 in Our Lady's Church in Waltham. They were inseparable best friends and would have celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary this month. Artie died on Feb. 20 of this year; their time apart was short.

Following her graduation from Waltham High School, she attended and graduated from Chandler Secretarial School in Boston. Before having children, she worked as a secretary at Volkswagen and as a chambermaid at a Waltham motel. When her children were little, she cared for them full time. Later she worked for several years as a deputy tax collector for the City of Waltham, a part-time job that allowed her to work from home and earn some extra money for the family.



Sally was a devoted wife, mother, sister and "Nana." While her husband worked long hours, Sally was home with their two children Artie Jr. and Holly. She effortlessly did all the countless things mothers do – the quiet, often overlooked acts of care and love that hold a family together. She took immense pride in caring for her children and keeping the home beautiful. She loved the addition of her daughter-in-law Julie-Ann and son-in-law Ron to the family and especially loved her four grandchildren.

Family was everything to Sally. She loved her sister, Joy, and her husband, John. She would often reminisce about the fun times she and Joy shared growing up on Trapelo Road in Waltham. In her younger years, Sally sometimes babysat Joy's children, Jill, Jack, and Judy, and later even helped watch their children at different times. She also, together with her husband, helped care for her grandchildren, particularly her two granddaughters when they were under four.

Aside from the family home on Lord Street, Sally's favorite place was Hampton Beach. She grew up vacationing there with her parents and her sister Joy. She and her husband took their children there every summer, and when the grandchildren came, the tradition continued with grandparents, children and grandchildren all going together every year.

Sally leaves her children, Arthur R. Cormier, Jr. (Julie-Ann) of Weymouth and Holly E. Soulliard (Ronald) of Framingham; her grandchildren, Olivia and Owen Cormier and Allison and Matthew Soulliard; her sister, Joy Clark (John) of Southborough; her siblings-in-law Peter Charbonneau of Royalston, Mary-Anne Bennett (Austin) of Pelham, NH, Lorraine Dowcett (late Frederick) of Waltham, Joan Utley (late Timothy) of Hudson, Patricia Donahue (Richard Fura) of Attleboro, Linda Trainor (James) of Reading, Laura Flaherty (Wayne) of Waltham, Ann Foucher (Robert) of Waltham and Jerome Cormier (Maria Melaxroinou) of Warwick, RI; and numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

In addition to her husband Artie, she was predeceased by her parents, Daniel and Helen (Dacey) McKenzie, and her siblings-in-law Elizabeth 'Betty' Charbonneau, Margaret 'Peggy' Jigarjian (late Charles), and Michael Cormier.

Thomas Sanders, 1957–2026, army veteran and ‘adamant fisherman’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MAY 14, 2026



Thomas A. Sanders, of Waltham, died Sunday, May 10, 2026 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. He was 68.

Tom was born in Cohoes, New York, a son of Clarence and Udora (Gagnon) Sanders and was raised in Troy and Mechanicsville, New York. He was a Waltham resident for the past twenty-six years.

Tom was a veteran of the U.S. Army. After serving, he was self-employed as a carpet installer. When he relocated to Waltham, he worked at F.W. Webb in Woburn until his retirement.

At home he was a great cook and an adamant fisherman. He loved fishing whether in fresh water, deep sea or surf casting but fly fishing was his favorite. His claim to fame was catching a whale.




He leaves his wife, Stephanie T. (Shaw) Sanders; his children, Tonya L. Sanders (Debbie Grace) and Thomas A. Sanders, Jr. (Katrina Brammer) all of Troy, New York; his grandchildren, Kyle Brammer (Caitlyn Stuto), Kaylee Brammer and Christopher Sanders; his great-grandson, Kyler Brammer; his sisters, Gloria Robbins (Charles “Buzz”) of Idaho and Rosemary Parker of North Carolina; as well as many nieces and nephews located across the country.

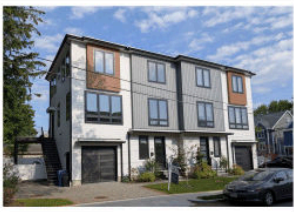





Tom was also the brother of the late Raymond, Judy, Joseph, David and Tina Sanders and Sandra (Sanders) Rose.

Waltham home sales, May 11–15, 2026

BY NEWSROOM • HOME SALES • MAY 18, 2026




	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	5/11/2026	20 Jennings Rd	\$595,000	2/1	1475 sf
	5/11/2026	50 Hammond St	\$940,875	4/3.5	1936 sf
	5/11/2026	291-293 School St	\$1,310,000	5/4	3343 sf
	5/13/2026	23 Palmer St Unit 1	\$1,000,000	3/2.5	3237 sf
	5/13/2026	21 Lakeview Ave	\$698,000	3/1	1104 sf
	5/13/2026	17 Tennyson Rd	\$884,000	3/1	1152 sf

	5/13/2026	24 Tolman St Unit 1	\$1,147,000	4/4	2510 sf
	5/15/2026	17-19 Robbins St Unit 2-2	\$505,000	1/1	800 sf
	5/15/2026	203 College Farm Rd	\$550,000	1/1	849 sf
	5/15/2026	28 Hillcrest St	\$635,000	3/1	1509 sf
	5/15/2026	100 Shirley Rd	\$813,300	3/2.25	2068 sf
	5/15/2026	45 Beaver St	\$656,000	3/1.5	1829 sf















Events Calendar

May 18-June 14

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

<p>18</p> <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>19</p> <p>5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Cedar Hill Woodlands walk</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</p>	<p>20</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> <hr/> <p>+ 4 More</p>	<p>21</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> <hr/> <p>+ 1 More</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Devil's in the Details evening tour</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00 am - 7:00 pm  WLT Wagon Wheel farm stand fundraiser</p> <p>11:00 am - 3:00 pm Waltham Repair Cafe at the Charles River Museum</p> <p>3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Salsa social day party at Tempo Bakbar</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00 pm - 8:00 pm West Newton Cinema Reads: Perrotta and Phillips</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm  Waltham City Council meeting</p>	<p>27</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>28</p> <p>6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  Sunset Latin Dance Series</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 am - 7:00 pm  WLT Wagon Wheel farm stand fundraiser</p> <p>9:00 am - 12:00 pm A Special Day in Waltham</p>	<p>31</p>

< > This Month Jun 2026 ▾

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<p>1</p> <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>2</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</p>	<p>3</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>4</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> <hr/> <p>+ 1 More</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am - 2:00 pm  Waltham Farmers' Market</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 am - 11:00 am Coffee social at the Café</p>
<p>8</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  Historical Commission meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm  Waltham City Council meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Free outdoor Zumba class</p>	<p>11</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  Board of Library Trustees meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am - 2:00 pm  Waltham Farmers' Market</p>	<p>14</p>

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P.O. Box 540109 | Waltham, MA 02454
WalthamTimes.org | info@walthamtimes.org