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May 25, 2026



City Council irons out final language on West Waltham zoning districts



Tobacco and rats take over discussion at Board of Health meeting



Bentley stuns Molloy in dramatic walk-off to reach Division II World Series



Boy Scouts place flags at Mount Feake Cemetery for Memorial Day tribute

Boy Scouts place flags at Mount Feake Cemetery for Memorial Day tribute

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • MAY 24, 2026



A flag-placing ceremony at Waltham's Mount Feake Cemetery was among the weekend's Memorial Day events. National Guard veterans as well as Waltham Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts gathered Saturday morning for a brief service before placing American flags on the graves of veterans. It is an annual tradition that pays tribute to those who served.

Photos courtesy of Robert Logan, president of Waltham Friends of Scouting Inc. and Advancement Chair with Scout Troop 250 Waltham. Logan is also the Ward 9 city councilor.





City Council invites residents to submit nominations for public service award

BY NEWSROOM • GOVERNMENT • MAY 24, 2026



Waltham City Council is seeking nominations for the annual Kevin M. Ritcey Award for Outstanding Public Service, an honor recognizing exceptional contributions to the city and its residents.

Established in 2016, the award commemorates Kevin M. Ritcey, a longtime community leader known for his dedication to public service in Waltham. The council presents the award each year to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary service to City Council, the city or the broader Waltham community.

The recipient will be recognized at a special meeting of City Council.

Residents are invited to submit nominations by providing a one-page narrative detailing the nominee's public service contributions. Submissions must also include the nominator's name, phone number and email address.

Nominations and questions should be directed to Tom Magno by email at tmagno@city.waltham.ma.us. Materials may also be delivered in person to the Treasurer's Department at City Hall, 610 Main St., Waltham, MA 02452.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 12.

City Council irons out final language on West Waltham zoning districts

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 25, 2026



City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee has refined the requirements and language in a zoning amendment creating three new mixed-use residential neighborhoods in west Waltham.

At its meeting last Monday, the committee went through the amendment's final language with representatives of BXP Inc. and 1265 Main Street LLC, the companies that proposed the new districts and own the land under discussion. The city's Law Department also took part in the working session.



Jones Road BXP development zone. Google image.

Representatives of the two companies said their proposals for the two sites could change, because their future plans for what and when to build depend on market conditions.

Committee members tried to create flexibility in the zoning amendment while also introducing clauses to ensure the companies deliver on their promises to the city. Many of the proposed changes the committee considered came from the Law Department and were based on the recommendations of contractor CommunityScale, which the city [hired to conduct an independent review of the three districts](#).

For example, the new language acknowledges the two companies' [contributions to local infrastructure projects](#) but doesn't bind the city to how much those contributions will factor into mitigation for the municipal resources these new neighborhoods will require.

It also allows the companies to keep minimal regulations on internal setbacks for maximal flexibility. Councilors accepted Law Department suggestions to set some minimal dimensional requirements on the three lots and compromised on a definition of building height that takes the lots' significant slopes into account.

BXP and 1265 Main St. had requested lowering the districts' standard parking minimums, under the premise that commercial and residential developments on their properties would share some parking and therefore require less in total. The committee agreed to most of those parking reductions, with an exception for restaurants, which the companies agreed would require a larger amount of dedicated parking.

Committee members discussed ways to ensure the companies actually built mixed-use buildings that include residential housing — as was the stated purpose of this zoning change — while still allowing them to respond to market conditions by allowing them to build other parts of their plan first. They eventually arrived on a clause requiring the lands' owners to explicitly justify any development proposal that does not include housing as part of the City Council special permit process.

The committee and BXP agreed to ban all retail construction among the lower density townhome area proposed for the north side of the Bay Colony site, based on [previous neighborhood requests](#).

Councilors also agreed to language allowing both companies to build lab spaces, including accessory manufacturing buildings Waltham doesn't usually allow in commercial or business developments. Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan said these regulations were outdated and didn't reflect the low local impact of manufacturing processes for products such as medication prototypes.

Fantastic menders

BY NEWSROOM • AROUND TOWN • MAY 24, 2026



Photos by Rachel Parzivand

The Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation hosted a Repair Cafe on Saturday. This popular monthly event brings together dozens of residents and volunteers who work together to fix everything from moth holes in a favorite sweater to broken switches on electrical appliances.



MacArthur's color run mingles fun, fitness and fundraising

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • MAY 24, 2026



MacArthur Elementary School's parent-teacher organization will host its first color run fundraiser Tuesday, May 26, combining a week of character education with a communitywide event aimed at supporting school programs.

The fundraiser is part of an initiative called "Star Quest 5," a weeklong program designed to promote personal development among students.

Each day highlights a different character trait: courage, curiosity, teamwork, resilience and humility. Organizers said the daily themes are intended to encourage students to try new things, collaborate with peers, and demonstrate kindness and perseverance.

The week culminates in a color run, a family-friendly event in which students walk or run a course while volunteers toss brightly colored, nontoxic powder on students as they run past designated stations. Participants begin the run in white T-shirts and finish covered in vibrant colors.

"The event brings students, staff and families together in a fun and energetic celebration," MacArthur PTO president Joe LaFauci said. "We are proud of the enthusiasm, positivity and school spirit shown by everyone involved."

In addition to promoting school spirit, the color run aims to raise money for school programs and activities. Families and community members can contribute by sponsoring participants or [making donations online](#).



A school color run. Courtesy of Booster.

Public Safety Report: Jewish Family & Children's Service receive 'bizarre and offensive' emails

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 24, 2026



A series of emails received by Jewish Family & Children's Service in Waltham garnered police attention this week.

On May 14 at 1:58 p.m., police responded to the organization's offices at 1430 Main St. According to the police report, the organization had received "bizarre and offensive" emails talking about various political topics. None of the emails had to do with religion.

Police were able to contact the sender of the emails, who said he felt the emails were a good way to protest current political events in the world. While it isn't illegal to send these emails, JFCS wanted to make police aware of the activity because of the nature of their content.

Additional recent police and fire activity

On May 14 at 1:22 p.m., police responded to Barbara Road, where a caller reported that six rose bushes were missing from the caller's property. Police investigated upon arrival but did not find any recently disturbed ground that would indicate the bushes were stolen.

On May 14 at 7:16 p.m., police responded to Garden Circle, where a car and electric scooter had made contact. The car was pulling out of a parking lot and struck the electric scooter and its operator. The scooter operator was taken to a local hospital with injuries that were not considered life threatening.

On May 16 at 6:55 a.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious incident at Wilson's Diner on Main Street. A caller reported seeing a person carrying several backpacks put one on the ground and beat it with a stick. Officers located and spoke to the backpack owner, who said the bag was beaten to drive off a bee that wouldn't fly away.

On May 16 at 9:27 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Crescent and Moody streets. According to the police report, a car had been turning onto Moody Street when a cyclist came up on one side of the car, attempting to beat the vehicle across the intersection. The car ended up making contact with the cyclist. Upon investigation, the cyclist was found to be at fault. The cyclist was taken to a local hospital for injuries sustained in the collision.

On May 17 at 4:55 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Dale and Lexington streets, where a car had reportedly made contact with a motorcycle. According to the police report, the motorcycle had turned out of the Domino's parking lot onto the street and was rear-ended by a car that had the right-of-way. The motorcycle operator sustained scratches to both arms. Officers investigated but were unable to determine who was at fault.

On May 18 at 4:34 a.m., fire crews responded to reports of a fire at 50 Christopher Road. Upon arrival, crews discovered a pile of clothes and paper towel debris under a plugged-in curling iron had ignited. The fire was extinguished with a water can, and the building was ventilated. There were no injuries.

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

The week ahead: National Grid requests to open up Main Street for gas main replacement

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 24, 2026



This week City Council will hear a request from utilities company National Grid to open up parts of Main Street and surrounding roads to replace gas mains.

The company wants to install around 2,105 feet of plastic piping on the north side of Main Street between Weston Street and the Main Street post office and around 205 feet of pipe on side streets along the corridor. The new piping would replace older cast iron and plastic pipes installed between 1904 and 2018.

National Grid originally [discussed this work in March with the city's Traffic Commission](#), which refused to give the company the go-ahead without receiving a comprehensive list of gas main replacement projects planned for the next two years.

Some commissioners warned that the project would be problematic given the expected higher volume of traffic on Main Street that would result from [National Grid's ongoing Felton Street work](#). Others, including Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan, complained about National Grid's track record on previous construction projects, saying the company had left materials and vehicles on roadways and caused damage to city equipment.

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled this week, May 25 through 29.

Housing Authority

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

It will meet Tuesday at 5 p.m. [over Zoom](#) and in person at 110 Pond St. to discuss the recently released annual budget of the state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

City Council

In addition to discussions on National Grid's Main Street gas line work, City Council will hold two other public hearings: It will revisit special permit discussions for [a proposed hotel at 220 Moody St.](#) and hear a request to open Greer Street to install water, sewage and gas connections for a new single-family house.

The council plans to discuss a series of resolutions: Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur has submitted an annual resolution for Pride Day; Councilor-at-Large Tim King, Ward 2 Councilor Caren Dunn and Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley have submitted a resolution to hear from the Public Works and Engineering departments on road and utility work around the city this construction season; and the council will discuss two resolutions acknowledging the work of Waltham elementary school basketball teams.

It will also hear a handful of requests from McCarthy, most of which the council will likely send to its committees to discuss at their meetings next week. McCarthy is requesting \$151,420 to fund union negotiations over the next three years; acceptance of a \$289,982 state grant to install a sidewalk on Beaver Street; \$20,000 in funding for the Building Department to purchase two noise meters; and \$59,000 in funding for the city's Illicit Discharge and Detection Elimination program.

As Memorial Day fell on its normal Monday meeting day, the council will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The LEPC is a city committee [mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency](#) to monitor the storage and use of hazardous chemicals in Waltham and maintain emergency response plans. It's chaired by the Waltham Fire Department's Lt. James Perry.

The committee plans to meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday in Room 325 of Bentley University's LaCava Center.

License Commission

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

It will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Clark Government Center at 119 School St. to discuss two requests for event alcohol permits, one from the Waltham Boys & Girls Club and the other from Bentley University; a request for an entertainment permit for regular live music and dancing from the Aegean Restaurant; requests for five outdoor dining permits; and an application to transfer an alcohol and restaurant license from the recently closed Taste House to J&C Kitchen. The commission will also discuss four recent incidents at Franco's Pizzeria & Pub and Tempo restaurant.



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.

Traffic Commission designates Lowell Street as safety zone

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 24, 2026



In the latest update in a six-year discussion about [traffic safety on Lowell Street](#), the Traffic Commission designated the area as a 20 mph traffic safety zone.

The commission at its Thursday meeting decided to create the 20 mph zone down the entirety of Lowell Street to address residents' safety concerns.

Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin had opposed the move, saying the average speed on the street was already under 25 mph and the change wouldn't significantly affect driver behavior.

The only other traffic safety zone in Waltham is along a portion of Moody Street, which Garvin said was unique because of its high volume of pedestrian crossings and significant commercial presence.

Ward 8 and 9 councilors Cathyann Harris and Robert G. Logan challenged Garvin's assertions. They argued that as a densely populated area close to a school zone and the Recreation Department headquarters, Lowell Street required a similar designation.

"To say Lowell Street doesn't experience the same [degree] of pedestrianization as Moody Street is a fallacy," said Harris.

They said the safety zone designation was a last resort to address residents' concerns.

"The fact of the matter is a number of things were proposed ... all but one of the multidirection stops were not approved. The speed bumps were not approved. So what does that leave us with?" Logan added. "The safety zone. If we don't do the safety zone, what are we doing?"

The commission considered other safety improvements to every intersection on the street.

These included adding crosswalks at two intersections – one at Brown Street and the other at Wadsworth and Fuller streets; moving stop lines at Myrtle, Robbins and Crafts streets to improve drivers' sight distance; creating sidewalk bumpouts into the parking lane at Taylor, Cushing, Chestnut and Ash streets to improve pedestrian visibility; installing rumble strips to discourage narrow left turns at Pine, Chestnut and Alder streets; and adding stop signs at Chestnut Street and facing traffic coming from Cushing Street.

Commissioners rejected an all-way stop at Robbins Street for which Harris also advocated. Garvin said the department could technically install an all-way stop because of the intersection’s relatively balanced traffic flow but argued the sign wouldn’t be very effective.

The commission tabled discussions on speed bumps on the street until after it makes a decision on a general speed bump policy for the city. Harris acknowledged that first responders have expressed a dislike for speed bumps because they slow down response vehicles.

Commissioners agreed to install additional no parking signs and improve road striping at some locations along the corridor. They asked the Traffic Engineering and Public Works departments to narrow sidewalks to their minimum of 5.5 feet on northern Lowell Street in order to widen the parking lane, which is too narrow for most cars.

Logan described the current parking lane as “ridiculous,” adding that the change would in fact make pedestrians safer, given that many cars park partially on the curb.

Last week’s Traffic Commission decisions come six months after Harris and Logan [held a neighborhood meeting](#) with the Traffic Engineering Department for residents to weigh in on the Lowell Street corridor. The event drew around 100 people, and many residents voiced concerns that traffic on the street was unsafe for pedestrians and residents.

The plans proposed in October primarily involved additional crosswalks and permanent curb extensions near intersections. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy has asked the Traffic Commission to consider Lowell Street as part of a broader plan to improve traffic on the South Side.



Author



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Traffic Commission in brief: Councilors discourage multiday parking, parking near driveways

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 24, 2026



The Traffic Commission voted to clarify and refine Waltham's rules for on-street parking at its meeting Thursday.

At the request of Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris, the commission agreed to post 17 signs around the city displaying the regulation that drivers cannot keep a car parked in a single space for longer than 24 hours.

"New people [are] moving into the area not knowing that we have a 24-hour parking rule," said Harris. "I just think we need to communicate it and get it out there so we can enforce it."



Councilors Robert G. Logan and Cathyann Harris present on Lowell Street at the Traffic Commission meeting. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.

In response to a request by Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan, the commission passed an amendment to the code to prevent people from parking within 2 feet of a driveway.

Logan had proposed a 5-foot distance. However, Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin recommended the 2-foot distance. He said studies found that the 5-foot distance would reduce on-street parking spaces in some areas of the city by nearly 23%, saying that would be too significant a loss. He said the 2-foot rule, by contrast, would only reduce it by about 10%.

Logan contended the regulation would cause even less of a reduction, because the majority of residents have been leaving such space when parking. "Most people are considerate enough that they don't park that close to a driveway ... It would be a 10% reduction in theoretical maximum ability to park vehicles, but in actual reality on the ground, I don't think it's going to really have that kind of an impact."

Commissioners discussed how best to publicize this change, such as posting it on social media and adding striping to indicate it on well-trafficked thoroughfares. Logan said he wasn't too worried about publicizing it, noting that "word gets around" and other municipalities have similar regulations.

"My attitude is, even in the absence of such a regulation, when people do something like that, they're a jerk. So they deserve a ticket," he added.

The commission also voted to add "no parking" signs on Weston Street and officially ban street parking on South Street. South Street's parking regulations, which haven't been changed since the 1960s, allow parking at least during some periods along most of the street.

Additionally, the commission

- Agreed to move one flashing beacon post at Moody Street and rotate some push buttons and cabinets on other posts along the Riverwalk. Logan had requested the commission study how to make the buttons more accessible, especially for bicyclists; Garvin said most posts were compliant with accessibility regulations and would be prohibitively expensive to move.
- Analyzed the results of [a trial of a flashing stop sign](#) at Cedarwood Avenue and Villa Street. Garvin said he had seen after four months a slight increase in the number of cars ignoring the stop sign. The commission agreed part of the problem was vehicles' insufficient sight distance from the current sign. It voted to ask the Building Department to ask an adjacent private lot owner about a large tree that blocks the intersection, and asked Garvin to design options to reconstruct the intersection to improve visibility.
- Approved a request from the Waltham Public Library for a city parking placard for a new employee.
- Approved no parking signs around Bentley University in anticipation of heavy traffic as the French National Soccer Team trains [there during the World Cup](#).
- At the request of Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley, approved a Halloween-themed parade and trick-or-treating event on Oct. 24 for the Waltham Lions Club.
- At the request of Ward 7 Councilor Paul Katz, heard [an update on the West End Traffic Study](#). Garvin said the commission had [only authorized him to work on synchronizing signals](#) along Main and Prospect streets to improve overall traffic flow. He said he has been working with the Purchasing Department to collect necessary data and would soon be putting the project out to bid.
- Authorized Garvin to study installing a stop sign at Thornton Road at its intersection with Florence Road and Flagg Circle.

- Denied a request to reduce the no parking area on Gardner Street near a [recently approved crosswalk](#); Garvin said allowing the additional parking would be a safety hazard, impairing drivers' ability to see crossing pedestrians.
- Designated Lowell Street [a 20 mph safety zone](#) and considered improvements to the street, intersection by intersection, to improve pedestrian safety.
- Heard a report on the Traffic Department's progress in the last month. The department updated the light cycle at Main and Linden streets, installed flashing beacons for pedestrian crossings at Farwell and Sherwood streets and put in a blind driveway sign at Totten Pond Road.
- Heard a report that the Parking Department was making slightly more in revenue than this time last year. The commission voted to authorize the department to seek an additional \$18,000 from its revenue before the end of the fiscal year in June to cover increased parking lot lighting costs.
- Rejected a request to ban parking across from a driveway on Hammond Street.
- Revisited a previous signal phasing change at Lexington and Beacon streets. Last year the commission voted to [move southbound turns from Lexington Street to the end of the light cycle](#) to reduce accidents. In fact, overall accidents at the intersection increased slightly from the previous two years. Garvin referred to this as a "cautionary tale" but didn't suggest the commission take any action at least before getting another year of data, saying the most important factor in the intersection's safety was consistency.



Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

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Waltham remembers Pfc. John “Butch” Sullivan ahead of Memorial Day

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • COMMUNITY • MAY 24, 2026



Veterans, residents and city officials gathered Sunday morning in the rain for the annual John M. Sullivan Memorial Service at the corner of Lincoln and Lake streets, ahead of Memorial Day observances across the city.

The ceremony honors Private First Class John Miller “Butch” Sullivan, a Waltham native and U.S. Marine who was killed in action during the Vietnam War on Jan. 14, 1967. He was 20 years old and serving with C Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Sullivan grew up in Waltham’s Lakeview neighborhood and continues to be remembered by the community for his service and sacrifice. The annual memorial has become a long-standing tradition,

bringing together veterans organizations, residents and local leaders to honor those who died in military service.

Under steady rain, attendees saluted as wreaths and flowers were placed at the memorial site.

Additional Memorial Day ceremonies are scheduled across Waltham on Monday.



Author



JOSEPH SHARKEY

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

School district gets mixed marks on special needs assessment, recommendations for improvements

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • MAY 21, 2026



A districtwide assessment on Waltham Public Schools' special needs programming found a wealth of diverse programming and devoted staff but systemic problems with how those resources are delivered to students.

The School Committee heard the results at its May 20 meeting from Jessica Thompson, a board-certified behavioral analyst and education consultant.

Despite finding an unusually high rate of staff cohesion and retention at Waltham's schools, Thompson said there were structural issues with student placement processes. With seven specialized programs spread across the district, students were commonly shuffled between placements when they encountered challenges, rather than given the chance to grow, she said.

"It's not that you need more programs or more people," Thompson told the committee. "We need to ensure ... that it's the most efficient way for support to be delivered."

Thompson was initially contracted at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year to support training for students with autism and the staff educating them. In the process of designing a training program, she recognized a need for a more in-depth analysis of the entire special education system at Waltham Public Schools.

She said allocation of support across all the programs is another issue. She said when students are hastily placed, support is diluted. High-needs learners may not get access to the care they require if classrooms are crowded with students who could thrive in less restrictive settings, she added.

Thompson recommended placing applied behavioral analysts, who are mid-level professionals and work under registered board-certified behavioral analysts, throughout the district. ABAs can handle day-to-day operations within special ed programs. This allows BCBA's, who are expensive to hire and harder to come by amid a [nationwide shortage](#), to work and plan from the senior level they're trained for.

Having that extra support can help teachers in these programs navigate complex situations, Thompson said.

If a student appears to stagnate, staff shouldn't always rush to place them in a different environment. Instead, Thompson thinks more time and more focused educational strategies can pave the way for growth.

“There's a bit of a misconception at times that students that may have a different learning trajectory should be in a different setting. Really, the type of instruction that they're receiving and the amazing community that they're supported by [is] actually just what they need,” she said.

Thompson encouraged district leaders to ask what students need rather than where they should be placed.

The school district will pilot the ABA model, wherein a mid-level analyst works full-time with educators and is guided by a part-time BCBA, at Plympton Elementary's special needs program next year.

This is one part of Thompson's recommended structural realignment phase and will be followed by an analysis of student success data.

Thompson emphasized that the goals of her strategy for all of WPS include reducing out-of-district referrals for special needs students, which are costly. Additionally, she hopes that with more support, staff will be able to spread their workload more evenly and students can receive care more proportional to their needs.



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.

Tobacco and rats take over discussion at Board of Health meeting

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 22, 2026



The Board of Health addressed two tobacco violations as well as recent [news coverage](#) of rats on Moody Street during its Wednesday meeting.

The first tobacco violation brought in front of the board was levied against Safe House Vapors on Main Street. A compliance officer from the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, the organization contracted by the city for compliance checks, was present at the meeting.



Safe House Vapors on Main St. Courtesy of Google Street View.

She said that on March 29 a youth buyer from the association was sent into the store and was able to ask to purchase a product before the clerk asked for the buyer's ID. Despite the fact that the buyer's identification was ultimately checked and the sale was denied, this is a violation for an adults-only tobacco establishment in Massachusetts. The violation was the first violation for Safe House Vapors.

The owner of Safe House Vapors said he was not aware of the law and had installed a turnstile at the store to prevent customers from coming into the store before having their identification checked.

The Board of Health voted to apply the mandatory \$1,000 fine for the violation but did not suspend the store's tobacco sales because the sale of a tobacco product did not take place.

Blue Moon Smoke Shop on Moody Street was called in front of the board for a similar violation, which took place June 17, 2025. A lawyer representing the smoke shop said the store wasn't notified of the violation until April 27, 2026, which violated the due process rights of his client, who wasn't able to properly address or investigate the incident due to the delay. The delay in notification was due to the case being investigated by the city's Law Department.

The board voted to apply the \$1,000 fine to the shop but did not suspend the store's tobacco sales.

Rats on Moody Street

Board member Mary Baker brought new business in front of the board regarding an NBC10 Boston news story featuring a video of rats on Moody Street. Public Health Director Michelle Feeley said the featured incident had taken place behind the Cronin's Landing Apartments complex near the patio of Margaritas Mexican Restaurant. The Health Department told Margaritas it wouldn't be able to serve customers on the patio if the rats were still present.

After a round of carbon monoxide extermination at 9:30 p.m. on May 4 and a subsequent round at 8:30 a.m. on May 5, there were no more rats present and the Margaritas patio was re-opened, according to Feeley's account. Feeley added that because the city is unable to use rodenticide, eliminating rats takes a lot longer.



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.

Tree falls on Ravenswood Road home

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 21, 2026



Tuesday's high heat brought thunderstorms, which may have sent a large tree crashing onto a home on Ravenswood Road in Waltham. A 95-year-old man was in the home at the time but fortunately was not injured, said his son, Patrick O'Brien. The home, however, will need repairs.

Author



JUNE KINOSHITA

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

Waltham students earn top honors at statewide STEM showcase

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • EDUCATION • MAY 21, 2026

Students from Waltham Public Schools earned statewide recognition at the [2026 One8 Applied Learning Student Showcase](#) on May 8.

The annual showcase brings together students from across Massachusetts to present project-based work and receive feedback from professionals in fields including engineering, medicine, finance and public policy. More than 500 industry professionals reviewed projects this year.

Teams of students submitted projects in various followed categories as established by Project Lead The Way, an American nonprofit organization that provides schools with hands-on, career-focused STEM and career and technical education curriculum.

A McDevitt Middle School team of seventh-graders Kiley Cunningham, Jezreel Kafureeka and Valentina Tutiven won the top project award in the Gateway category for “Haley’s Tea Party Spin Game.” The project was developed in Scott Smith’s PLTW Design and Modeling class.

“The lead-up to the showcase is full of focus, chaos and determination,” Smith said. “Watching the students come together as a team led to a very successful day.”



McDevitt Middle School 7th grade students Kiley Cunningham, Jezreel Kafureeka and Valentina Tutiven were named winners in the PLTW Gateway category. Photo courtesy of WPS.

As part of the award, the students will receive a behind-the-scenes experience at Vecna Robotics headquarters in Waltham, offering exposure to robotics and engineering careers.

At Waltham High School, senior Grace Colao and junior Nathan Dalliare earned a Project of Distinction award in the Computer Science category for “Smash Brothers Analysis,” created in Thomas Wester’s Computer Science A class.

“These recognitions reflect the creativity, collaboration and persistence our students demonstrate,” said Val Alfeo, the district’s math director. “Events like the One8 Showcase allow students to present their ideas to professionals and see themselves as problem solvers.”

The district continues to expand Project Lead The Way programming. New offerings include Medical Detectives for eighth grade and Computer Science for Innovators and Makers for sixth grade beginning in the 2027-28 school year. This expansion is part of the district’s plans to build a more comprehensive and equitable STEM pathway for students in grades six through 12.

Waltham High School students have access to a range of PLTW and advanced computer science opportunities that emphasize problem solving, collaboration, design thinking and real-world application of technical skills.

Teachers involved in PLTW programming also participate in extensive professional learning through PLTW and the One8 Applied Learning Hub, including nationally recognized training, statewide educator networks, curriculum implementation support and opportunities to connect students with authentic industry experiences. These partnerships help ensure students are engaging in rigorous, hands-on learning experiences aligned to high-demand STEM fields.

Participants in this year’s One8 Student Showcase. Courtesy photo.



Waltham High School students Nathan Dalliare and Grace Colao earned a Project of Distinction award in the PLTW Computer Science category. Courtesy of WPS.

Healthy Waltham gets the go-ahead for final stages of new headquarters

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 21, 2026



The Zoning Board of Appeals this week granted Healthy Waltham permission to build an accessory cooler in its yard.

Healthy Waltham, a community pantry and nutrition education group, has been refitting its new headquarters at 123 Felton St. since 2023. The group reports that construction on the building is about 90% complete.

Healthy Waltham previously operated out of the former Fitch School, which the city has [recently mostly demolished](#).



123 Felton St. in a photo from 2022. Google Street View.

Healthy Waltham visited the Zoning Board of Appeals on Tuesday to appeal a decision by Building Inspector Brian Bower. Bower ruled that the organization was not permitted to construct an outdoor 10-by-12-foot cooler building due to its placement and the site's many existing zoning nonconformities. Healthy Waltham Executive Director BJ Osuagwu said the cooler building is standard for food pantries.

The existing building at 123 Felton St. was built in 1925, before Waltham adopted its zoning code, and in many ways doesn't conform to the current code. By building a new freestanding structure, the organization is required to address all of those nonconformities, including the building's

position too close to the road, insufficient landscaping buffer and significant square footage, according to Michael Connors, an attorney representing Healthy Waltham.

Healthy Waltham had asked for an exemption from the city's zoning laws through a state law known as the [Dover Amendment](#). The law protects some religious and educational buildings from local zoning regulations, although it allows municipalities to subject them to "reasonable restrictions" on criteria such as size. The state uses a broad definition of "education" for this law: A [memo from the Office of Attorney General Andrea Joy Cambell](#) says many of the amendment's targets "include elements other than traditional classroom education, such as housing, detoxification supports, or social and recreational activities."

Still, the organization's educational designation was initially a point of contention for ZBA member Glenna Gelineau, who repeatedly said she believed in Healthy Waltham's mission but didn't see it as a primarily educational organization.

Osuagwu emphasized that Healthy Waltham's mission involved education on nutrition, cooking and navigating food resources such as the SNAP program.

"Healthy Waltham originally was started as an organization that was strictly education. We were in schools," he said. "It's really easy to see Healthy Waltham as a food pantry, and that's where things stop. But we truly are an organization that believes in the holistic well-being of all people who come through our doors, and part of that is the education."

Osuagwu told the ZBA that Healthy Waltham hasn't received any objections from neighbors during the renovations process, saying the neighborhood has been "helpful and kind."

The board voted unanimously to grant the requested relief.

Additionally, the ZBA

- Granted a second extension of time for variances it previously granted to the owners of a house on Cedarwood Avenue.
- Granted a variance for a homeowner on Villa Street to expand his single-family house with additions to its two floors and a basement. This would violate the zone's restriction that houses must be no more than two and a half stories; although most basements count as half a story under Waltham's zoning code, this basement counts as a full floor because it sits partially above ground.

Waltham fire lieutenant injured by falling tree limb

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 21, 2026



Lt. Selvin Sandoval at his swearing-in ceremony in 2025. Courtesy of Waltham Fire Department.

An off-duty Waltham firefighter was injured in Framingham on Wednesday after a tree limb fell on him, prompting an outpouring of support from the department and community.

Lt. Selvin Sandoval, assigned to Engine 3 in Fire Suppression Group 2, was hurt May 20, according to Waltham Fire Chief Andrew R. Mullin.

Sandoval was out walking his dog when he saw a large tree coming down, according to a [CBS Boston report](#). He ran toward the tree to warn a Department of Public Works truck driver parked near it. The truck moved out of harm's way, but Sandoval was pinned by the tree. He suffered a concussion and is now recovering.

"The Waltham Fire Department was shocked and saddened to learn about the accident involving our member Lt. Selvin Sandoval," Mullin said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Lt. Sandoval and his family at this challenging time. We wish him a quick and full recovery."

Sandoval joined the department Aug. 14, 2011, and was promoted to lieutenant on June 8, 2025. In addition to his operational role, he is a key member of the department's Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program, where he teaches fire and life safety to students from prekindergarten through grade 12 and to seniors in the community.

He also provides bilingual programming in Spanish throughout the year.

Homeless man pleads not guilty to charges after alleged assault

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 21, 2026



Michael J. Degrandis, 46, homeless, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on May 18 to charges of assault and battery, breaking and entering for misdemeanor and trespassing.

The charges stem from an incident three days earlier.

The police report detailed the incident:

On May 15 at 7:03 a.m., police responded to the Hyatt House Hotel on Fourth Avenue for a wellness check. The caller had spoken with a woman at the hotel via FaceTime who said Degrandis was “threatening her for asking other people for money and ‘using guys.’” The caller also said the woman had bruises on her face.

Police were not able to meet with the woman in person but made contact over the phone. She told police Degrandis had punched her in the face multiple times and knocked her front teeth out. The woman directed police to Degrandis’ approximate location within the ReNew Waltham apartment complex. A tenant at the complex told police Degrandis had been staying in vacant units on the property.

Police located Degrandis lying on the floor in a vacant unit in the complex. Degrandis told police he and the woman had gotten into an argument but nothing physical had happened. He said the woman’s ex-boyfriend knocked her teeth out. Police spoke to the ex-boyfriend, who denied those claims.

Police arrested Degrandis and learned he also had a warrant for a larceny out of Dedham.



Hyatt House on Fourth Avenue was the scene of an alleged assault. Courtesy photo.

Degradis began to fall asleep standing up while being booked at the police station. When asked, he said he believed the woman he was with had drugged him. He was taken to Newton-Wellesley Hospital for treatment.

It is unclear from MassCourt entries whether Degrandis remains in custody or out on personal recognizance after pleading not guilty to the charges. A pretrial hearing for his case is set for July 6.

Additional court activity

David Keefe, 57, of Newton, pleaded not guilty on May 13 to a charge of open and gross lewdness. MassCourts has not been updated with Keefe's conditions of release. A pretrial hearing for Keefe's case will take place June 24.

Michael J. Hurley, 37, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on May 18 to a charge of violating an abuse prevention order. The alleged incident took place in the parking lot of 85 River St. on May 17. Judge Sarah Kennedy released Hurley on personal recognizance. A pretrial hearing for the case will be held June 9.

All information for this story was gathered from official court documents found at the Waltham District Court and case information from [masscourts.org](https://www.masscourts.org).

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.

Memorial Day in Waltham carries deep historical roots

Waltham will honor fallen service members Monday with Memorial Day ceremonies at the Prospect Street Bridge and the Waltham Common. The observances also highlight the city's deep connection to the history behind the holiday.

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • MAY 21, 2026



Waltham residents will come together on Memorial Day to honor the sacrifices of U.S. service members and remember those who never returned home.

At 9 a.m. a Gold Star Mothers memorial ceremony will take place at the Prospect Street Bridge, honoring families who lost loved ones in military service.

Immediately following, the City of Waltham will hold its official Memorial Day services from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Waltham Common at 610 Main St. The ceremony will include speeches, remembrances and the laying of wreaths.



A group of Waltham's Civil War, Spanish American War and World War I Veterans gather on the Common, Memorial Day 1929. Photo courtesy of Waltham Museum.

The observance will continue a tradition that has been observed in communities across the country for more than 160 years.

While Memorial Day now honors all U.S. military members killed in service, the holiday actually began after the Civil War ended in 1865 as "Decoration Day," created to remember fallen Union soldiers. Communities decorated graves with flowers, flags and wreaths in tribute to those who died in battle.

According to records at the Waltham Museum, about 700 Waltham men fought for the Union, including soldiers who served in Company H of the 16th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Among them were brothers 1st Lt. George F. Brown and Sgt. Charles L. Brown of Waltham, both of whom died from wounds suffered during the Battle of Gettysburg. Local resident Leonard Greene later traveled to Pennsylvania to recover the bodies of Waltham's fallen soldiers and return them home for burial at Mount Feake Cemetery.

Waltham native George H. Maynard served in the 13th Massachusetts Infantry and later the 1st Florida Cavalry, eventually receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing a wounded fellow soldier under heavy fire during the Battle of Antietam.

Another prominent Waltham figure, Nathaniel P. Banks, served as governor of Massachusetts before becoming a major general in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Waltham also contributed on the home front. Mary Phinney of Waltham served as a Civil War nurse and later became the second superintendent of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses.

As Waltham residents gather on Memorial Day to honor those who died in military service, they may reflect on the city's long ties to the history behind the holiday.



Sgt. Charles L. Brown of Waltham. Photo courtesy of Waltham Museum.



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.

Manzon family scholarships open doors for WHS graduates

Thanks to the Manzon family of Waltham, seven students will receive thousands of dollars in scholarship support as they pursue careers in nursing and technical fields.

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • MAY 21, 2026

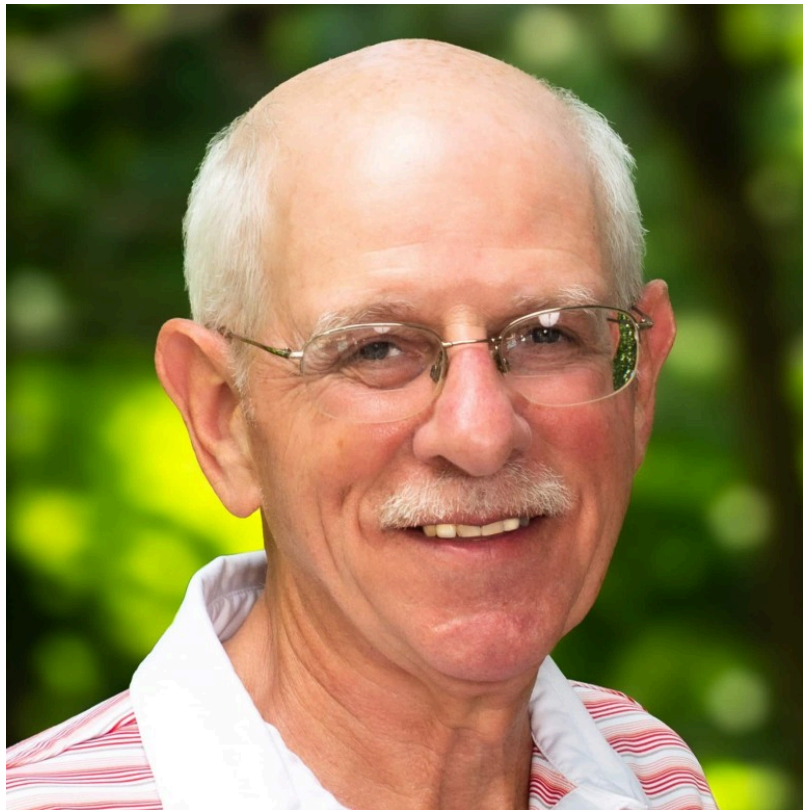


As caps fly in the air at Waltham High School's June 7 graduation, a number of seniors will have even more reason to celebrate.

Thanks to the Manzon family of Waltham, seven students will receive thousands of dollars in scholarship support as they pursue careers in nursing and technical fields.

"My mother grew up during the Great Depression and had to leave high school in her junior year to help support her family," Nancy D'Ercole said. "She never completed school, but education remained extremely important to her."

As a result, the Marion and Joanne Manzon Scholarship was created in her mother's memory in 2002 and later expanded to honor D'Ercole's sister Joanne, who passed away in 2022.



Peter Manzon has awarded scholarships to 35 WHS graduates over the last seven years. Courtesy photo.

Marion Manzon spent a decade in a memory care facility while living with dementia later in life. According to D'Ercole, the family was deeply moved by the quality and compassion of the nursing care she received. Years afterward, Joanne faced her own battle with cancer and similarly experienced exceptional nursing care during her illness.

The scholarship supports a deserving student with financial need who plans to study nursing. What began more than two decades ago as a \$1,500 award has grown to \$10,000 this year.

“The scholarship has become a way of keeping our extended family connected,” D’Ercole said. “They’ve all contributed to and supported the effort over the years.”

Second scholarship

A second Manzon scholarship was established in 2019 by Marion’s son Peter.

The Peter Manzon Scholarship, which supports students pursuing technical or vocational careers, will grant six \$12,000 scholarships to graduating WHS students.

The program has expanded steadily since its first year, when two \$10,000 scholarships were awarded. By the end of this graduation season, the Peter Manzon Scholarship will have distributed roughly \$322,000 to 35 graduates over seven years.

Peter, himself a lifelong Waltham resident, said the scholarships are intended to help students pursue their goals regardless of their financial circumstances.

“No one said life is inherently fair. The opportunity to help someone make the pursuit of their hopes and dreams a bit easier is a joy. My scholarship is an attempt to do just that,” he said.



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.

Annual Charles River herring run in full swing, documented with help from volunteers

BY CYD ABNET • ENVIRONMENT • MAY 21, 2026



A blue heron plucks a fish from the Charles River near Moody Street. Photo by Emily Szczypek.

The annual spring migration of herring from the Atlantic Ocean through the Charles River began earlier this month. The migrating fish include alewife herring and blueback herring, as well as rainbow smelt and American shad. These fish make their way upstream from the Atlantic to spawn in the Charles each year.

The indigenous people of Massachusetts historically used the herring run as not only a sign of spring but as a sign of the environment's health. The migration isn't as prolific as it once was as dams, incorrectly built fish ladders and pollution prevent fish from getting upstream. For example, the Moody Street Dam in Waltham has a fish ladder, but it is unclear how well it works.

Also unclear is how far the fish are able to make it up the river, although ecologists assert that installing more fish ladders would let the fish make it farther upriver.

Volunteers integral to documenting the migration

To help understand the herring migration, the Charles River Watershed Association created a [herring count training video](#) and relies on volunteers to count the herring making their way upstream. The number of fish making the annual run is an indicator of whether the river is running as it should. Those interested in helping to count herring can sign up to [volunteer](#) for a weekly 10-minute time slot at the Watertown Dam.



Blueback herring. Public domain image from Wikimedia Commons.

A white board has been installed on the river bed at the dam so volunteers can see the fish more easily. After taking air and water temperature readings using instruments provided by the CRWA, volunteers count the number of fish that cross the board in 10 minutes. The data is sent to the CRWA, which then sends it to the state Division of Marine Fisheries.

“They use the results to extrapolate the data and estimate the size of the migration each year. It’s really important that volunteers do [this work],” said CRWA volunteer and outreach manager Ryan Smith. “Without this data, we wouldn’t have an accurate sense of the size of the migration from year to year.”

Smith said volunteers counted 78,674 herring last year. This data was used to calculate a migration size of between 145,276 and 449,354 fish. The range will narrow as more years of data make the model more accurate.

Alan Humbert has volunteered with the organization since 2024. He said he enjoys watching the size of the migration grow.

“There’s something elemental about it. The Charles has been important for eons, well before European civilization. It’s cool that we still get the annual cycles of nature doing its thing,” said Humbert, whose 10-minute time slot on May 19 yielded a count of 1,300 fish.

Aside from volunteering, Humbert has done some research on the herring run. “I’ve read a couple things online that say the herring used to make it up to Hardy Pond, and I’m trying to look and figure out how the heck they would’ve done that,” he said. He hopes to visit the pond in the coming weeks to investigate.

Comments (2)



JEFF • MAY 22, 2026 AT 6:36 PM

“Herron” entymology is French.

“Herring” has Germanic roots.

You can almost hear the Herron say, “ bon appetite!” “C’est une tuerie!”

What would the Herring say?

“Bitte nicht essen!” ...maybe?

Reply



SUSAN WEDDIG • MAY 22, 2026 AT 11:27 AM

Yes that is an interesting question. I’m guessing it was s branch of the Charles.

Reply

Bentley baseball hosting Division II Super Regional this weekend

Big weekend in Waltham as Bentley University baseball hosts the NCAA Division II Super Regional at DeFelice Field.

BY GREG LEVINSKY • SPORTS & RECREATION • MAY 21, 2026



Bentley University baseball coach Mike Hill doesn't always take a text message from a player as a guarantee, but graduate student left fielder Nick Pappas hit the skipper with a statement last Saturday night that Hill just had to believe.

Needing to take two games from Wilmington University in the NCAA Division II East Regional round the next day after falling in the opener of a best-of-three earlier that afternoon, the Falcons leading hitter guaranteed a resurgent performance the next time they took DeFelice Field.



Bentley University baseball to host the NCAA Division II Super Regional. Photo courtesy of Bentley.

“When it comes from someone like him, I believe him,” Hill said. “I’ve seen where he’s come from and where he’s at. I truly believed him and so did his teammates.”

That belief turned to reality. Bentley bested the Wildcats in back-to-back games to advance to this weekend’s Super Regionals against Molloy University. Pappas’ RBI double sealed the Falcons victory in the second game after rallying from a 5-0 deficit.

Ranked No. 8 nationally and on the heels of the program’s first-ever Northeast 10 tournament title, Bentley hosts Molloy in a battle of the top two East Region teams. A best-of-three series, Bentley won Thursday’s opener 7-2. Friday’s game is at 2 p.m. If necessary, a third game will be played at the same time Saturday. Admission is free.

“Being able to come back against Wilmington really put into perspective that we have the ability to come back in do-or-die games, and that our lineup can compete at any level,” said senior catcher Tommy Goonan, who threw out five would-be base stealers across the two wins against Wilmington. “The confidence level is high. We’re ready.”

The No. 17 Lions (41-11), a member of the East Coast Conference and the league’s tournament champion, advanced through their own regional last weekend. After falling in the first game to Felician University, Molloy topped Southern New Hampshire University and exacted revenge on Felician to emerge.

Bentley swept Molloy in back-to-back games in early March at the Lynn Invitational hosted by Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. They also faced off twice the last two seasons. It’s an advantage in some ways, Hill said, and a stark difference from zero prior exposure to Wilmington in the prior round.

“Having a little familiarity with at least some of these guys helps,” Hill said. “[But] in the end you’ve got to go play, and you’ve got to go play well.”

Pappas (.400 average, NE-10-leading 22 doubles and 96 hits) joined five other Falcons on the All-NE10 First Team: right fielder Jared Bernardino, designated hitter Stan DeMartinis III (NE-10 leading 23 home runs), second baseman Curt Heath, center fielder Brendan Sencaj (NE-10 leading 78 RBI) and starting pitcher Pat Heber, the league’s innings leader. Two Falcons each also picked up All-NE10 Second Team and NE10 All-Rookie honors.



Bentley beat Wilmington University in back-to-back games to advance in NCAA tourney. Photo courtesy of Bentley.

The senior group has set program records for wins in each of the last three years from 23 to successive high-marks of 29, 33 and now 43 and counting. Their fourth year coincides with the first four of Hill’s campaigns at the helm. Goonan said the group bonded quickly, which paved the way for this success.

“These guys have become family,” Goonan said. “Now we don’t want it to end. Each year you’re pushing each other to get better and better so you’re playing into the summer. This hasn’t been a one-guy-saves-the-season year, each game it seems like someone else is stepping up.”

A program legend as a player — class of 2005 — and two-plus decade assistant under Bob DeFelice, Hill took over from his predecessor at the conclusion of the 2022 season. He has been with the program since entering college.

“The thing that has kept me at Bentley for so long is the brotherhood ... something about the place just attracts a certain kind of driven, self-motivated-type person,” Hill said. “I just think these guys have really bought into believing in each other and having each other’s backs. They’re all tremendously talented, too.”



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.

District names William Conard as new principal for Waltham High School

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • MAY 21, 2026



At the School Committee’s May 20 meeting, Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa announced that [William Conard](#) had been selected to move forward as the new principal for WHS.

Conard has 30 years of experience in public education, spending 20 of those as a principal. During the hiring process, he emphasized equity, inclusive practices and the development of meaningful learning experiences as leadership priorities.

He is currently the principal of Roosevelt Middle School in New Bedford, and will now enter into contract negotiations with Waltham Public Schools.

The decision was informed by an interview committee, in-person focus groups and online public forums.

He resides in Canton with his wife and three daughters. When told he had been chosen for the role, he simply replied, “Go Hawks.”

He is replacing John Barnes, who served WHS for one year as a principal-in-residence, as part of an initiative from the superintendent to mentor less experienced candidates. Barnes ultimately [resigned](#) in March. Conard represents a different approach to leading the high school, having had decades of experience in Illinois and Massachusetts public schools.



Building purchase could consolidate municipal offices around City Hall

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 19, 2026



Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy this week presented to city councilors a proposal to move more municipal offices into the city center.

As part of the proposal, McCarthy asked councilors to approve seeking a \$8,640,291 loan to purchase a building at 600 Main St., which is across Elm Street from City Hall. She said the city is currently in talks with the building owner to purchase it.



McCarthy said the city wants 600 Main St. in part because of its large parking lot but also plans to use the building for municipal office space.

Under the current purchase terms, the city would immediately acquire the top two floors for its use. It plans to continue leasing space to the building's current tenant, BrightBridge Credit Union, for at least the next three years. The city's initial plans involve charging \$732,000 in rent to the bank over the first three years.

According to McCarthy, the square footage of the building is large enough to hold all of the municipal offices currently housed at the Arthur Clark Government Center at 119 School St. She said the Human Resources and Law Department offices could move to the third floor of 600 Main St. but noted she hadn't made plans beyond that. She added that the building should have enough space to house more city offices but noted she has not looked into moving city departments from anywhere other than 119 School St.

The City Council's Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee preliminarily approved McCarthy's request to seek a loan. It requested McCarthy attend a future committee meeting to present the purchase details and a lease agreement with the bank, which she said she hoped to finalize by its next meeting.

Comments (5)



KATHY FONTS • MAY 21, 2026 AT 2:39 PM

I would hope that the individuals who approve this will see the future plans, costs, and timeline before just rubber stamping this.

Reply



DANIEL D MURPHY • MAY 20, 2026 AT 1:20 PM

Curious what the city would then do with the Arthur Clark Government Center?

Reply



PATRICE M MCDONALD • MAY 20, 2026 AT 11:36 AM

Is the Credit Union leaving?

Reply



MARC RUDNICK • MAY 20, 2026 AT 10:04 AM

This building's gigantic parking lot could be a permanent home for the Waltham Farmers' Market — more space; on-site parking, closer to South side and public transit. I hope Mayor McCarthy already has this in mind!

Reply



TIMOTHY RILEY • MAY 20, 2026 AT 9:27 AM

The city should provide strong justification for this expense, given that the nearby Central Square lot is typically underutilized. I was just there this morning just before 9 – it was only 30 or 40 percent full.

Reply

City Council in brief: WCAC warns network funding could run out by 2030

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD & LEA ZAHARONI • GOVERNMENT • MAY 19, 2026



Maryann Pescatore, finance director of the Waltham Community Access Channel, told city councilors this week that the organization was looking at a looming funding crisis.



WCAC van on the common.

WCAC, established in 1985, broadcasts [city meetings](#) and [events](#) to public television, hosts [shows by and for Waltham residents](#) and holds a weekly local television news program called [Waltham Newswatch](#). Its funding comes primarily from cable companies ComCast, Verizon and RCN, who pay part of their yearly revenue to WCAC through grants overseen by the City Council's Ad Hoc Cable Committee.

Pescatore said as cable companies' revenue [has been falling](#), so has WCAC's funding. She projected that the organization's costs may continue rising by 3% to 5% per year while its revenue continues to fall by about 5% annually.

That will put the network in financial peril. "Halfway through 2030, which is only in four years, we are literally out of money," Pescatore said. "We really don't know what to do. And four years is going to creep up on us real fast."

She said WCAC runs lean, leaving little room to cut costs. "Right now we're really at the bare minimum of employees," she added.

Ward 2 Councilor and Ad Hoc Cable Committee Chair Caren Dunn thanked Pescatore for bringing the matter to the committee's attention before an actual financial crisis hits.

Councilors encouraged Pescatore to work with Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and city officials to brainstorm ways to keep the organization funded.

Additionally, the City Council

- Approved a reimbursement of \$108,500.47 to WCAC from its cable company grant money for salaries and for equipment, software and music purchases. (Ad Hoc Cable)
- Opened nominations for the Kevin M. Ritcey Public Service award and set a June 12 deadline for submissions. (Ad Hoc Kevin M. Ritcey Service Award)
- Reassigned the chairship of the Ad Hoc Kevin M. Ritcey Service Award Committee. Ward 3 Councilor Bill Hanley resigned as chair, and Ward 8 Councilor Cathynn Harris took the position. (Ad Hoc Kevin M. Ritcey Service Award)
- Approved three land licensing agreements for Waltham Fields Community Farm, Green Rows of Waltham Inc. and Healthy Waltham Farm. Ward 6 Councilor Sean Durkee said the council's [previous discussion about the terms of the license agreements](#) and their requirement that the WFCF repair its fence were beyond the council's purview, adding that WFCF is in talks with the mayor. (Committee of the Whole)
- At the request of the mayor, went into executive session to discuss [purchasing a building at 14-16 Spring St.](#), which is beside the Waltham Public Library building. The potential purchase ties in with [the latter's ongoing renovation](#). (Committee of the Whole)
- Heard a presentation from Travis Pollack of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council on residential parking supply and demand in Greater Boston.. (Committee of the Whole)
- Accepted a \$4,200 state grant for the Fire Department's Senior Safe Program, which educates seniors about medication safety and slip/choke/fall protocols as well as outfits their homes with smoke detectors. (Finance)

- Accepted the final installment of \$34,689.60 of a multipart state grant for the Council on Aging, which funds community programming for seniors in the city. (Finance)
- Approved \$50,458.50 of funding to purchase 85 new police body armor pieces and 11 bulletproof vests. The funds match a contribution from the state, making a total of \$100,917 in funding. Police Chief Kevin O’Connell noted that these technologies become outdated every few years and that frequent replacements are necessary to keep officers safe. (Finance)
- Appropriated \$2,500 for the Disability Services Commission to fund the Opportunities for Inclusion program. (Finance)
- Approved requests to install and name a bench at Waltham High School in memory of Josephine Finnegan and a bench at Lowell Field in memory of Malcolm Bourgeois. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Renewed the used car sales license of Pilgrim Auto Body Inc. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Approved outdoor dining permits for Sweet Basil, Lizzy’s Ice Cream, Deep Ellum, Rassa, Farmers India Market & Cafe and Amuleto Mexican Table. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Preliminarily approved seeking an \$8.6 million loan to [purchase 600 Main St.](#), a building across the street from City Hall, as a new site for municipal offices. (Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning)
- Approved a two-year extension from June 2026 to June 2028 for a special permit at 1265 Main St., originally granted for a boutique hotel plan that [recently fell through](#), and a one-year extension for the start of construction. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Preliminarily approved [two changes to the zoning code](#) for minimum affordability offerings in newly constructed housing and for pet businesses. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Held a working session with real estate companies BXP Inc. and 1265 Main Street LLC to work out final language for a [proposed zoning amendment](#) that would allow them to build residential and mixed-use properties on three parcels of land. The council will hold a final public hearing on the amendment on June 8. (Ordinances and Rules)
- Tabled discussions about cleaning up Waltham monuments to the Revolutionary War and to Waltham veteran, author and public servant James J. Fahey. Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan asked for some time for committee members to coordinate a plan and requested former Councilor-at-Large Sally Collura attend a future committee meeting on the subject. (Veterans’ Services Committee)

Brandeis celebrates Class of 2026 at 75th commencement

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • MAY 19, 2026



Brandeis University conferred more than 1,600 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees Sunday at its 75th commencement exercises.



Congratulations! Courtesy of Brandeis University.

The May 17 event featured remarks from university leaders, including Board of Trustees Chair Lisa Kranc and President Arthur Levine, who emphasized responsibility and leadership as graduates prepare for life after college.

Rabbi Seth Winberg delivered the invocation, encouraging students to recognize family and community members who helped them reach graduation day.

Sheryl Sandberg, former chief operating officer of social media giant Meta, delivered the keynote address, urging graduates to choose “contribution over self-protection” and “collectivism over tribalism.”



Sheryl Sandberg addresses the Brandeis graduating class. Courtesy of Brandeis University.

Brandeis awarded Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy with an honorary Doctor of Laws at the commencement. The university recognized McCarthy’s educational and leadership accomplishments, including her service in all three branches of Waltham city government and her presidency of the Massachusetts Mayors’ Association.

More information about Brandeis’ commencement is available on [the university’s website](#).

Three WHS seniors earn full-tuition scholarships to Brandeis

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • MAY 19, 2026



Three Waltham High School seniors were awarded full-tuition scholarships to Brandeis University through the prestigious Stroum Family Waltham Scholarship program.

This year's recipients are Erik Yegoryan, who plans to study computer science and business; Jesse Papernick, who will pursue Near Eastern and Judaic studies and mathematics; and Garlene Marecharles, who plans to study engineering and computer science.



Jesse Papernick and Garlene Marecharles. (Erik Yegoryan did not attend). Photo courtesy of Peter Lobo.

The recipients were announced last week during a breakfast ceremony at the university.

The scholarship was established by Samuel N. Stroum, a Waltham High School graduate, businessman and philanthropist, and his wife, Althea. The program provides full tuition for four years to top Waltham High School seniors who are accepted to Brandeis.

Since its creation in 1996, more than 100 Waltham High School students have received the scholarship. The annual award has become one of the city's most notable academic honors for graduating seniors pursuing higher education.

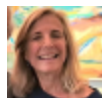
Comments (2)



SUSAN WEDDIG • MAY 20, 2026 AT 9:42 AM

Congratulations to these three students. It's really a great scholarship. For parents and students. My son, Stephen Weddig got a similar scholarship in 1993. We thought it was the school that funded the scholarship. Maybe it was back then. But his biochem teacher told him that Colorado had the most companies doing this work so he went there. And hasn't moved back. We're unhappy about that but he found a nice wife and job there so he is happy. Best of luck to these three. Just don't move too far away.

Reply



LISA FRUITT • MAY 20, 2026 AT 8:31 AM

Very proud of my alma mater for helping Waltham kids excel!

Reply

Make waves by volunteering at the inaugural RiverBeat festival

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • MAY 19, 2026



Organizers of the inaugural Waltham RiverBeat festival are seeking volunteers to support the new community event scheduled for June 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Elana Winkler, lead coordinator and a member of the festival's executive committee, said the event is building its volunteer base in its first year and is inviting community members to sign up for two-hour shifts. Volunteers will assist with tasks such as selling merchandise, checking in vendors and registering participants for activities including boat races and the Parade of Pets competition.

Volunteer applications are available online at [RiverBeatCommunity](https://www.riverbeatcommunity.com). Those interested can also contact volunteer coordinator Aish Ramesh at volunteer@walthamriverbeat.com.

Organizers encourage supporters to share volunteer opportunities with others to help ensure a successful launch of the new event.

Waltham biotech's injectable foam saves first life in clinical trial

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • HEALTH & LIFESTYLE • MAY 19, 2026



An injectable foam product designed to function like a human “fix-a-flat” and developed by a Waltham biotech company has already saved a life while still in clinical trials.

In its first use on a badly injured patient, Arsenal Medical’s ResQFoam saved a 34-year-old man after a car crash sent him to a trauma center with no detectable blood pressure and a weak pulse.

Ronald Farms told CBS Boston that he had a near-death experience after his car flipped upside down. He was suffering from severe abdominal bleeding and lacerations to his liver and kidney, as well as a ruptured spleen, when he got to a hospital in Alabama. ResQFoam is currently undergoing clinical evaluation at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In trauma from motor vehicle accidents, gunshots and falls, mortality for patients increases for every minute that passes without bleeding control. Studies show that as many as 50% of deaths from abdominal trauma are preventable in both civilian and battlefield settings, according to Arsenal, which is located at 100 Beaver St. in Waltham.

ResQFoam consists of two liquids injected into the abdomen using a hand-operated delivery system. When combined, these liquids create a foam that rapidly expands throughout the abdomen to control bleeding. This foam is designed to allow the patient time to reach potentially life-saving surgery, where the solidified foam is removed and the underlying injury repaired.

Farms survived his ordeal and was ultimately discharged from the hospital.

ResQFoam received initial funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and subsequently the U.S. Army to address battlefield trauma, where abdominal bleeding is a leading cause of death.

The efficacy and safety of ResQFoam have been studied extensively in preclinical models, and the Food and Drug Administration has designated it a breakthrough device, according to the company.

Arsenal also is developing a product called NeoCast, designed to treat bleeding in the brain from conditions such as subdural hematomas and tumors.

A chronic subdural hematoma is a type of persistent bleeding that accumulates on the brain's surface, often resulting from a fall or trauma to the head. The accumulated blood can put pressure on the brain and is a significant problem in the elderly.

NeoCast is designed to be injected and block blood flow within the artery and branching vessels that supply the hematoma.

Arsenal Medical was founded in 2005 by entrepreneur-investor Carmichael Roberts and two academics, Robert Langer and George Whitesides, experts in materials science and chemistry. The company has raised a total of \$85 million from institutional investors.

Author



JUNE KINOSHITA

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

Bentley University graduates 1,187 in Class of 2026

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • MAY 19, 2026



Bentley graduates celebrate at the 2026 Commencement. Courtesy of Bentley University.

A total of 1,187 undergraduates in the Class of 2026 graduated from Bentley University on Sunday, celebrating their achievements before a crowd of about 7,500 family members and friends.

The commencement ceremony was held on the university's football field and featured keynote speaker Sarah Iselin, president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

In her address, Iselin encouraged graduates to embrace uncertainty and growth.

“Learning takes courage — the courage to make mistakes, to have an open mind, to try new stuff and look foolish and sometimes break things,” she said. “So I encourage you — be brave enough to learn. You’ll surprise yourself — perhaps even discover yourself.”

Bentley President E. LaBrent Chrite told graduates their education prepares them to make meaningful contributions in their careers and communities.

“You have earned an education that uniquely positions you to impact the marketplace as well as the human condition,” Chrite said. “From here, you will move forward into the world not as passive bystanders but as architects of your life and your career.”

Iselin also received an honorary doctor of commercial science degree during the ceremony.

More information about Bentley’s commencement is available on [the university’s website](#).



Sarah Iselin addresses the Bentley graduates. Courtesy of Bentley University.

Waltham Partnership for Youth to honor community partners at May 27 event

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • MAY 19, 2026



The Waltham Partnership for Youth will host its annual Partner Celebration fundraiser from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, at Bentley University, bringing together community leaders, educators and residents to support youth programs in the city.

The event is expected to draw more than 150 attendees from Waltham’s education, municipal and business sectors for an evening focused on collaboration, community impact and youth opportunity.

Organizers said the celebration will offer attendees a chance to connect with youth ambassadors, staff and members of the organization’s board of directors, while highlighting partnerships that sustain WPY’s work.

The program will include remarks from keynote speaker [Jennifer De Leon](#), the award-winning author of “Borderless,” “Don’t Ask Me Where I’m From” and “White Space: Essays on Culture, Race, & Writing.” De Leon, whose work has been featured on the “TODAY” show, is also an educator and speaker.



Jennifer De Leon will be a featured speaker at the WPY gala. Photo by Matthew Guillory.

Waltham High School sophomore Liliana Hernandez Ramirez will speak about her experiences in WPY programs, representing the student perspective.

WPY will also present its annual Community Impact Award to The Waltham Family School, recognizing its dual mission of educating parents while providing early childhood education and support for immigrant families in the city.

Funds raised during the event will support WPY's efforts to expand opportunities for Waltham youth through education, career pathways and social-emotional programming.

The event will feature catering by Bentley University, including heavy appetizers and dessert.

More information and registration details are available at [WPY's website](https://www.walthampartnershipforyouth.org) or by contacting magali@walthampartnershipforyouth.org.

Waltham Partnership for Youth is a nonprofit organization that serves more than 800 young people annually, working to close opportunity gaps by connecting youth and families with educational resources, career pathways and community support.

Events Calendar

May 26-June 21

For the latest and complete listings, see WalthamTimes.org/events.

25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>9:00 am - 9:30 am Gold Star Mother's Memorial Service at Prospect Street Bridge</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am Annual Memorial Day Services on Waltham Common</p> <p>7:00 pm - 9:30 pm 'Six Days In Spring' North American premiere</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>9:30 am - 11:30 am Free Health Screening</p> <p>6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Sunset Latin Dance Series</p> <p>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Kevin Sherwin presents 'Exchanges: Bridges Unbounded' (a concert for classical guitar)</p>	<p>"Disney's Frozen"...</p> <p>10:00 am - 4:30 pm Native plant sale</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>9:30 am - 4:00 pm Hosta and perennial sale</p>	<p>9:30 am - 4:00 pm Hosta and perennial sale</p>	
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>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>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market</p> <p>9:30 am - 4:00 pm Hosta and perennial sale</p> <p>10:00 am - 4:00 pm Open house at Historic New England's Lyman Estate</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> <p>12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Waltham Pride 2026 Festival On The Common</p> <p>12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Waltham Pride: Show up & celebrate together</p>
<p>15</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>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am Exercise and stroke recovery</p> <p>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Board of Health meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Yoga at the Rose</p> <p>+ 2 More</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am Traffic Commission meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Conservation Commission meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 pm - 9:00 pm "Disney's Frozen" at ACTS</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:30 pm "Disney's Frozen" at ACTS</p> <p>7:30 pm - 9:00 pm "Disney's Frozen" at ACTS</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:30 pm "Disney's Frozen" at ACTS</p>

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