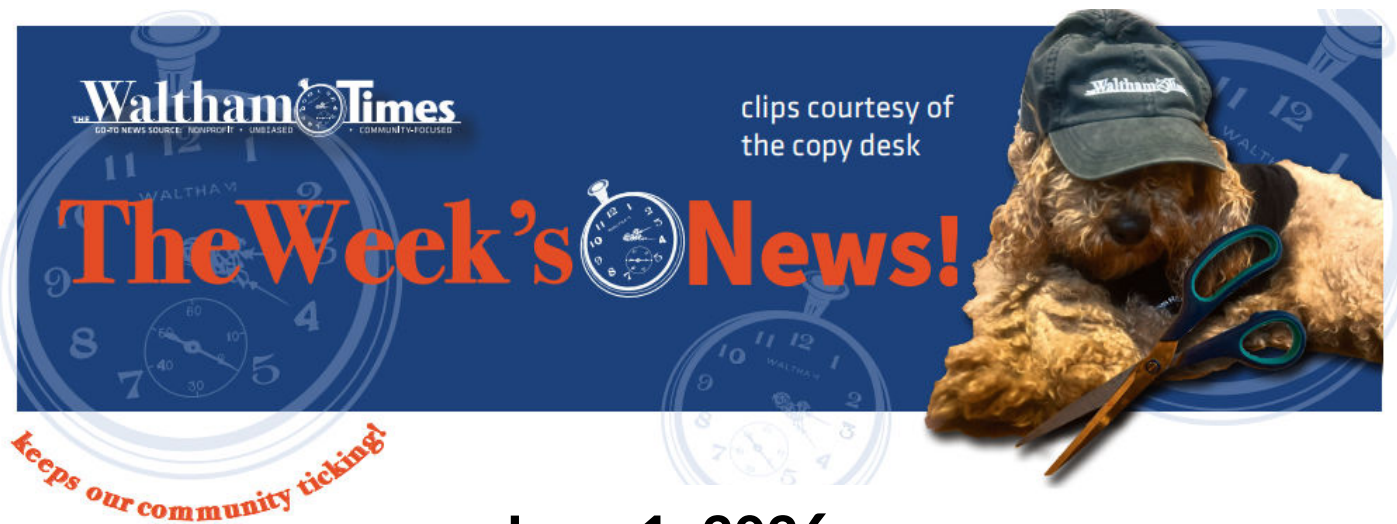




June 1, 2026



**Outdoor dining approved
for five restaurants, more
applications in the works**



**Whittemore Elementary
celebrates 100 years of
learning and community**



**Public health report: 45% of
inspections come back with
minor violations**



**City budget up 28% in four years,
driven by schools, city benefits**

Waltham Partnership for Youth 2026 celebration

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/28/waltham-partnership-for-youth-2026-celebration

June Kinoshita

May 28, 2026



Staff and board members of the Waltham Family School receive the Community Impact Award. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Around 200 community leaders and sponsors of Waltham Partnership for Youth gathered on Wednesday evening to celebrate the young people who have taken on internship roles throughout the city along with the sponsors who fund WPY programs. Guests enjoyed samosas, dumplings and charcuterie while listening to inspirational speeches.

Waltham High sophomore Liliana Hernandez Ramirez impressed the audience with her heartfelt account of coming to the United States from Guatemala. She has completed three WPY internships to date, an experience that has changed her from an insecure preteen into a poised public speaker.

The Waltham Family School received WPY's Community Impact Award for making a positive difference in the lives of Waltham's immigrant children and parents.

Rain and remembrance: Waltham honors fallen service members

Waltham community members gathered Monday morning on the common for the city's annual Memorial Day observance honoring fallen United States service members.

Under steady rainfall, dozens attended the ceremony, including Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, City Councilors, other elected officials, veterans and members of the police and fire departments. The assembled crowd stood together somberly under umbrellas.

The annual observance was organized by the Waltham Veterans' Services Department. Waltham's American Legion Band played patriotic music.

The Waltham Police and Fire Honor Guards stood resolutely in uniforms darkened by rain. McCarthy placed a red, white and blue wreath in memory of generations of Waltham residents who gave their lives in service to the country. As the rain beat down, the community united in reflection and remembrance.



Public health report: 45% of inspections come back with minor violations

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/31/public-health-report-45-of-inspections-come-back-with-minor-violations

Artie Kronenfeld

June 1, 2026

The Health Department found violations at 63% of the restaurants it inspected in April and early May, including 18% of total inspections that it identified as critical. All of these violations have since been addressed on reinspection.

Department of Health Inspector Ivan Colon said that as of May 18, the department only had one open housing, trash or rodent complaint from the period between March 27 and May 18: a complaint about rodent activity behind Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, which was addressed further in an inspection. The restaurant passed a follow-up inspection.

During that period, inspectors at the department visited a total of 64 restaurants and nine other locations.

Restaurants and other institutions

Below is a summary of the violations at each of the five retail establishments and restaurants where inspectors found violations between March 27 and May 18. Violations that inspectors designated as critical are marked with an asterisk.

Deep Ellum, 467 Moody St., on March 30

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- The hood vent required cleaning.
- The ice machine needed to be drained and cleaned.
- The restaurant needed to exterminate rats near its dumpster.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Pho & Spice Waltham, 457 Moody St., on March 30

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant needed to exterminate mice.
- The fume hood over the wok and the walls behind the stove area required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Vinotta Restaurant, 361 Moody St., on March 30

Inspectors identified the following instance of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.

The owners were given 10 days to address this issue, which was corrected by the time of publication.

Salgueros Market, 344 Newton St., on March 31

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- A ceiling air vent required cleaning.
- There was food in the meat room not properly elevated off the floor.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

La Castellana Bakery, 442 Moody St., on April 1

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The area around some mixers required cleaning.

- The restaurant needed to clean mice droppings from a floor area and some sticky traps and provide current pest control information to the Health Department. *
- There were bags of trash in the kitchen being kept on the floor instead of in barrels.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Chepes Bakery, 428 Moody St., on April 1

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- There was food in the walk-in refrigerator and freezer not properly elevated off the floor.
- The wall behind the grill and deep fryer required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Joe Sent Me, 849 Main St., on April 1

Inspectors identified the following instance of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The soda gun holsters required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address this issue, which was corrected by the time of publication.

Copper House Tavern, 380 Winter St., on April 5

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- There were cooking utensils improperly stored behind the sink.
- The floor under the deep fryer required cleaning.
- There was a can opener that was not cleaned on a regular basis. *

The owners were given 10 days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Anjitos Cafe, 489 Moody St., on April 6

Inspectors identified the following instance of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The handwash sinks were not adjusted to the correct temperature. *

The owners were given 24 hours to address this issue, which was corrected by the time of publication.

Bertucci's, 425 Winter St., on April 6

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The ceiling area over the dishwasher and grill area in the kitchen, the wall behind the deep fryers and the area around the external grease bin required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

El Sabor Salvadoreño Restaurant, 139 Prospect St., on April 6

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The floor area and wall around the deep fryer and grill required cleaning, as well as the top shelf of pots and pans.
- The restaurant was covering food with dish towels instead of an approved covering. *

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Benchmark Senior Living at Waltham Crossings, 126 Smith St., on April 7

Inspectors identified the following instance of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

Some ceilings required dusting.

The owners were given five days to address this issue, which was corrected by the time of publication.

Pini's Pizzeria of Waltham, 85 River St., on April 7

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- There was food in the walk-in refrigerator not properly elevated off the floor.

The owners were given 10 days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

La Campania, 504 Main St., on April 8

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- The floor area under the grill, oven and deep fryer as well as a ceiling air vent required cleaning.

The owners were given 10 days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Casa d'Italia, 203 Newton St., on April 9

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The handles of a food prep sink and a wall in the food prep area required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

The Fika Spot, 619 Main St., on April 9

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The floor area under the deep fryer and the curtain leading to the kitchen required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Panela de Barro Restaurant, 229 Newton St., on April 9

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The ceiling above the kitchen exhaust fan and the floor area under an oven required cleaning.
- There was food in the basement walk-in freezer not properly elevated off the floor.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Tempo, 474 Moody St., on April 9

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The handwash sinks in the kitchen were not adjusted to the correct temperature *
- The fan in the walk-in required dusting.

These issues were corrected by the time of publication.

Waltham Pizza, 168 Lexington St., on April 13

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The wall and pipes behind a grill and deep fryer, the door runners on a refrigerator and the cutting board on a condiment refrigerator required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Peppino's Dosa, 434 Moody St., on April 14

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The floor area under a deep fryer, the ice guard on the inside of an ice maker and the ceiling of the meat kitchen required cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to remove ice buildup in the walk-in freezer in the basement.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Solea Restaurant and Tapas Bar, 388 Moody St., on April 14

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- A handwash sink was cluttered and needed to be cleared.
- The pipes behind a grill, the grill's sides and a fan in the dishwashing room required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Carl's Steak Sub, 55 Prospect St., on April 15

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The bottom shelf of a freezer and the door gaskets on the walk-in refrigerator and freezer required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Tree Top, 53 Prospect St., on April 15

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The area around the outside grease barrels, the floor under a deep fryer and the steps leading to the basement required cleaning.
- The restaurant was improperly storing food above correct temperatures in condiment trays. *

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

New York Taco & Pizza, 47 Lexington St., on April 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The grease barrel behind the building, some kitchen ceiling tiles, the floor under a deep fryer and the floor of the basement walk-in freezer required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Waku Waku Ramen Waltham, 456 Moody St., on April 16

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant needed to exterminate mice in the basement.
- The area under some basement racks required cleaning.
- A handwash sink was cluttered and needed to be cleared.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Brewer's Tap & Table, 256 Moody St., on April 17

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The area under a deep fryer and oven required cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to continue exterminating mice in the basement.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

The LOCAL Kitchen & Drinks, 99 Third Ave., on April 17

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- The floor area under a deep fryer required cleaning.

The owners were given 10 days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

The Painted Burro, 99 Third Ave., on April 17

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

Some deep fryers vents, some fume hood lights and the bar's beverage dispenser gun and hose required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

BJ's Wholesale Club, 66 Seyon St., on April 21

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- Some fan covers in the meat-cutting room required dusting.
- The store had a tomato sauce spill that required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Boston Kebab, 146 Lexington St., on April 21

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- The restaurant was storing food in tin cans. *
- A ceiling air vent and some ceiling tiles in the rear food prep area as well as the floor under a deep fryer and grill required cleaning.

The owners were given 10 days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Shasha's Caribbean, 33 Lexington St., on April 21

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- A handwash sink was cluttered and needed to be cleared.
- There was food in the basement not properly elevated off the floor.
- The floor area under a deep fryer required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Sweet Basil on Moody, 269 Moody St., on April 21

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The floor underneath some service fridges and stoves in the kitchen required cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to continue exterminating mice in the basement.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Shanghai Cuisine, 11 Pine St., on April 22

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to replace broken ceiling tiles in the kitchen.
- The restaurant's freezers contained meat and seafood that wasn't properly labeled. *
- The front doors of a condiment refrigerator, the top of a grill and the wall behind a grill required cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to clean mice droppings in the basement and provide current pest control information to the Health Department.

The owners were given 10 days to address these issues. The restaurant is currently closed for renovations.

Sakura Japanese Restaurant, 5 Pine St., on April 23

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The floor under a deep fryer, the steps leading to the basement, and the exterior of the outside grease barrel required cleaning.
- The freezers contained meat and seafood that weren't properly labeled. *

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Guanachapi's Bar and Grill, 154 River St., on April 24

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The exterior of the restaurant's outdoor grease barrels required cleaning.
- A floor drain in the kitchen was missing a cover.
- The restaurant was improperly storing food above correct temperatures in a condiment refrigerator. *

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Jose's Bar and Kitchen, 450 Moody St., on April 24

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- Some trash barrels were overfilled.
- The outside area was cluttered with empty kegs and cardboard.
- The grease barrel needed cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, 211 Moody St., on April 25

Inspectors identified the following instance of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

The restaurant needed to exterminate rats outside the building.

The owners were given five days to address this issue, which was corrected by the time of publication.

Honest Waltham, 475 Winter St., on April 27

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- The front of a large wok grill, the wall behind a grill, the stairs leading to upper-floor storage and the floor under a deep fryer required cleaning.

The owners were given 10 days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Umi Fine Japanese & Asian Cuisine, 425 Winter St., on April 27

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- Both of the restaurant's handwash sinks were not accessible. *
- The walk-in freezer was overfilled.
- A fume hood on a grill, the floor under the deep fryer and the curtain leading into the kitchen required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Peshawri Kebabs, 603 Main St., on April 28

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant's fume hood vent was due for a professional cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to repair the hot water handle on a vegetable sink. *
- The corners of a fume hood and a cutting board on the condiment refrigerator required cleaning.

The owners were given eight days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Pho 1 Waltham, 374 Moody St., on April 28

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The floor under a deep fryer and in the walk-in in the basement required cleaning.
- The restaurant was improperly storing food above correct temperatures in condiment trays. *
- The basement freezer had fly strips that the restaurant needed to remove.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Shaw's, 130 River St., on April 28

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

Some air grids in the vegetable storage, egg storage and fruit food prep areas as well as some shelving in the frozen-fruit freezer required cleaning.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

99 Restaurants, 110 South St., on April 29

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The restaurant needed to exterminate rats around the dumpster.
- The compressor and dumpster areas required cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to thaw ice buildup in its walk-in freezer.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Three Fortunes, 179 Willow St., on April 30

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- An area of the floor and pipes in the kitchen, some burners, the deep fryer and the floor surrounding the deep fryer required cleaning.
- The restaurant's freezers needed to be reorganized to prevent cross-contamination.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

Brandeis Usden Student Center, 415 South St., on May 7

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The ceiling tiles in some dishwashing areas needed to be cleaned of paint flakes.
- The floor under a grill in the food serving area required cleaning.
- The building needed to replace some broken, missing and loose ceiling tiles.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

The 921 at Bentley Student Center, 175 Forest St., on May 7

Inspectors identified the following instances of noncompliance with Waltham's safety regulations:

- The floors in the walk-ins needed cleaning.
- The restaurant needed to exterminate drain flies.

The owners were given five days to address these issues, which were corrected by the time of publication.

About Health Department inspections

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

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

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

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

Paul Brasco departs Brasco Family Funeral Homes

BY WILLIAM HOLDER • COMMUNITY • MAY 31, 2026



Waltham City Councilor Paul Brasco has left the local family funeral home business he joined in 1995 for Eaton Funeral Homes, a multigenerational funeral home business serving Needham and Newton.

Brasco, who serves as a councilor-at-large, could not be reached for comment about the reason for the change.

He is one of the third-generation Brascos to join the business. Leo and Mildred Brasco opened Brasco Funeral Home in 1943 on Moody Street. In 2026 Kerrie Brasco Smith became the most recent member of the family to join, and the business was renamed as Brasco Family Funeral Homes, with locations on Moody Street and Trapelo Road.



Paul Brasco

Eaton Funeral Homes welcomed Brasco with a brief note on its home page. In its staff listings, the firm noted that Brasco is a 1993 Waltham High School graduate and one of the youngest individuals ever elected to Waltham City Council, where he has served on nearly every standing committee and held leadership roles. He and his wife Stacy are residents of Waltham and have three children.

Eaton Funeral Homes has been in business since 1818 and says it is “one of the oldest family-owned funeral directorships in all of the United States.” Its history spans six generations of Eatons.

The week ahead: Mayor calls special City Council meeting for first look at budget

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 31, 2026



Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy will meet with City Council this week to submit her budget recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year.

City Council will convene before the Committee of the Whole meeting this Monday, at 7:45 p.m., to receive the budget, along with various communications with the mayor.

The mayor has compiled recommendations for the budget from requests that city boards and departments have submitted to her over the past few months. After it receives the mayor's recommendations, the council will schedule [full-day meetings to discuss the upcoming year's budget in more detail](#) before it [takes its summer break in July](#).

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled this week, June 1 through 5.

City Council committees

City Council will also hold regular committee meetings on Monday beginning at 6 p.m.

The Veterans Services Committee will continue discussing how to restore city monuments, with input from former Councilor-at-Large Sally Collura. The Economic and Community Development Committee will discuss trash initiatives in the city; the Committee of the Whole will [discuss Pride Day](#); and the Public Works & Public Safety Committee will consider a request to open a street to install a private home sewer line and hear an [update about construction projects on Waltham's streets](#).

The Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee will discuss seven requests from the Community Preservation Committee on how to use Community Preservation Act funding over the coming year. The Licenses and Franchises Committee will discuss [gas main replacements on Main Street](#) by National Grid as well as an outdoor dining and a fortune teller license. The Finance Committee will consider [a series of funding requests from the mayor](#), and the Ordinances and Rules Committee is expected to discuss [three proposed residential neighborhoods](#) in western Waltham.

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

The Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, created by the city ordinance to fund affordable housing, is overseen by a board of trustees.

This week members of the board will receive updates on ongoing affordable housing projects, including the residences at the former Hardy Elementary School, projects [at Cardinal Cottage](#) and other Fernald buildings, and the [former Elks Club building](#).

Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday in the basement conference room of City Hall.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

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

This week it is discussing two large projects. The Alexan Winter Street project, a Chapter 40B apartment building proposed in the Totten Pond neighborhood, is [in its final stages](#). It has faced criticism from [neighbors and some city departments](#) for the residential population the building would bring to the mostly commercial area.

The board will also discuss a proposal from the owners of the Watch Factory Lofts who plan to expand the property's residential component with a new building that would [reuse an underused parking lot](#) — a project that has also seen [pushback from neighbors and praise from some housing advocates](#).

The board will also consider extending the time for construction on a 2024 garage variance on Bacon Street and a petition to allow a new drive-thru ATM at the 881 Main St. Bank of America .

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

Parks-Recreation Board

The Parks-Recreation Board is an eight-person board that oversees the city's public recreational spaces and programming. This week it will consider a proposed youth organization schedule for the upcoming year.

The board will meet on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Waltham Recreation Department at 510 Moody St.

Board of Survey and Planning

The Board of Survey and Planning regulates public and private ways and makes decisions on the status and boundaries of lots in the city.

This week, it will hear a request to withdraw a petition to repave Fir Avenue, a project that has been [delayed multiple times](#) and has [drawn objections from residents](#) over communications and potential impacts. It will also hold an election for board positions for the upcoming year.

The board will meet at 6 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 receive out-of-district staff requests for the upcoming year, listen to civics projects from McDevitt Middle School and review conditions for receiving funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It will also hear an update from Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa on district personnel and enrollment.

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

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.

It will hold a meeting over Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday. An agenda and link for the meeting will be provided on the [commission's page](#) on the city website at least 48 hours in advance.

Disability Services Commission

The Disability Services Commission is a seven-person board that works to make Waltham more accessible for residents with disabilities. It advocates and distributes funds for projects related to physical accessibility, signage, interpretation services and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

The commission will hold its meeting over Zoom at 8:30 a.m. on Friday. Participants can request meeting information from DSC Chairperson Mark Johnson at markj@walhouse.org.

Waltham falls behind schedule on planned Bluebikes launch

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 31, 2026



City Council is not on track to meet its spring 2026 implementation date to bring Waltham into the local Bluebikes bike-sharing program.

Councilors [voted in October](#) to join the program after more than three years of discussion on bike-sharing programs and [lengthy contentions about the vendor-selection process](#). The Traffic Commission [recommended the city use Bluebikes](#), a program already in use by municipalities including Boston, Cambridge and Somerville after a presentation by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council last September.



Bluebikes. Creative Commons [license](#).

After resolving to implement the program by spring 2026, the council discussed it again briefly in November when it [considered possible locations for “hubs”](#) on public land where residents could borrow and return the bikes. Councilors voted to use a list of locations proposed in 2017 by a private bike-sharing company and add additional locations recommended by ward councilors.

The council hasn't discussed bike-sharing since.

Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur, who introduced the resolution, said that based on the November discussion, she thought the city's Planning Department was working on implementing the program but as of early May hasn't been able to get in touch with the department. Planning Director Robert Waters said his department was not involved with the program, saying it was within the purview of the Traffic Commission. A spokesperson for the commission confirmed it hadn't discussed the project since the September meeting when it made its recommendation.

Council President and Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan said Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy would be including the bike-sharing program in the city's budget for fiscal 2027 and that he didn't know any more about its progress.

McCarthy confirmed that she's working on a list of bike-sharing hubs. She said her work on it had been sidelined until she completed her budget recommendations, which she is submitting to [City Council this Monday](#). She added that as of May 25 some councilors had sent in recommendations for hubs in their wards and some had not.

Under [the Bluebikes program](#), municipalities own bikes and hubs where residents can pay to borrow these bikes for a set amount of time, after which they need to return the bike to another hub in the system. The day-to-day management of the system is [outsourced to a private company](#).

Bradley-MacArthur first proposed this bike-sharing plan to the council in 2022. At previous council meetings, McCarthy expressed hesitation on implementing the program because of a previous experiment with [the LimeBikes program in 2017](#), which didn't have set locations to borrow and return bikes, and drew some complaints from residents because of [Limebikes littered around town](#).

Waltham Valor High School celebrates Class of 2026 graduation

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • MAY 31, 2026



Cheers and applause filled the auditorium at 617 Lexington St. on Thursday, May 28, as [Waltham Valor High School](#) celebrated the graduation of 26 seniors.

The ceremony was led by interim Principal Linda Flueckiger, with Spanish translation provided by school counselor Berta Padilla.

Flueckiger praised the graduates for overcoming personal and academic challenges to reach graduation day.

“Earning your high school diploma is no small accomplishment. Each of you has faced challenges along the way that may have made your path seem uncertain at times, and yet here you are,” Flueckiger said. “Today is a celebration of all your hard work.”

That message of perseverance continued throughout the evening as Waltham Public Schools Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa encouraged students to carry the lessons they learned at Valor into adulthood.

“I encourage you to keep those core values close to you as you grow as adults, as you start your careers, and as you become strong community members,” Mendonsa said. “I think you know that the folks here on stage believed in you the moment you walked through the doors.”

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy echoed those sentiments, applauding the graduates for their academic and personal growth.

“Congratulations to all the Valor High School graduates here tonight,” McCarthy said. “We’re very proud of your accomplishments and determination, and I look forward to seeing you again in the next leg of your educational journey.”

Valor Awards

A key staff member and several students were honored with awards recognizing leadership, creativity and dedication to the school community.

* Sara Hamerla, administrator of the multilingual department at Waltham Public Schools, received an appreciation award for her advocacy and support of multilingual learners.

*The Life-Long Learner Award was presented to Baye Toure for his curiosity and drive to continue learning beyond the classroom.

* Zaida Lupita Flores del Cid received the Valor Award for leading by example and inspiring classmates through her perseverance and leadership.

* Jaden Lee Aponte was recognized for his creativity and school spirit through his design of Valor Pins, which students earn upon completing academic modules.

* Stiven Obel Corzo Arana received recognition for his positive character and dedication to the school community.

Now in its second year, Valor High School offers a different path for students whose responsibilities outside the classroom require a more flexible approach to education. Many students balance jobs, family obligations or other challenges while completing their studies.

Through personalized schedules and individualized support, the school aims to help students earn a diploma and prepare for college, careers and life beyond graduation.



City budget up 28% in four years, driven by schools, city benefits

BY WILLIAM HOLDER • GOVERNMENT • MAY 31, 2026



With additional analysis by Lorraine Moon.

Total Budgets — 15 Largest Departments (FY2022–FY2026) in millions

Column2	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
City Auditor (Fixed/Debt)	94.70	102.11	103.50	112.55	127.31
School Department	94.10	98.78	105.71	115.24	123.34
Police Department	20.68	21.07	22.46	24.36	24.31
Fire Department	18.58	19.09	21.04	22.28	22.47
Consolidated Public Works	14.70	15.05	15.88	16.50	16.54
Library	3.14	3.16	3.32	3.65	3.82
Park & Recreation	2.01	2.36	2.45	2.70	2.92
Information Technology	1.89	1.92	2.02	2.23	2.27
Building Department	3.74	1.03	1.10	1.18	1.19
Health Department	0.94	0.95	1.02	1.04	1.11
Planning Department	0.11	1.05	1.07	1.13	1.09
Human Resources	0.76	0.82	1.00	1.06	1.09
City Clerk	0.51	0.88	0.96	1.01	1.05
Mayor's Office	0.74	1.05	0.73	0.85	0.87
Assessors Office	0.72	0.72	0.75	0.75	0.78

Image by The Waltham Times.

City expenditures have grown faster than inflation in recent years, according to an analysis by The Waltham Times as city officials head into budget season.

According to annual city budgets posted on Waltham's website, expenditures have grown from \$296.8 million to \$380.6 million from fiscal 2022 to fiscal 2026, a roughly 28% increase that

outpaces overall U.S. inflation of about 13.8% in that period.

Waltham's fiscal growth is attributable to several structural forces: investment in city and school infrastructure, rising fixed costs such as health insurance and pensions, collective bargaining agreements and various inflationary pressures, according to Paul Katz, chair of the City Council Finance Committee.

In the fiscal 2026 budget, Waltham's big-ticket items are the auditor's section (which includes bond redemption, medical insurance and pensions, among other expenses) at \$127.3 million, schools at \$123.3 million, police at \$24.3 million, fire at \$22.4 million and public works at \$16.5 million.

The factors that drive up Waltham's budget are familiar to municipalities, which have seen inflation increase the cost of everything from utilities and purchasing construction material to negotiating contracts with public employee unions. (There are nine collective bargaining units in Waltham.)

Health insurance and contractual obligations represent fixed costs mostly baked into the budget.

However, some fiscal obligations — notably those associated with building the new high school — represent deliberate investment decisions. The costs are easy to see: Since 2020 Waltham has issued \$238.9 million in bonds for the high school, which accounts for about 73% percent of bonds issued by the city. This represents a debt service that the city will carry for years to come.

In some respects Waltham residents have not felt the full force of the budget increases. Residential taxpayers benefit from the city's commercial and industrial tax base, which accounts for nearly half of Waltham's total tax levy. Waltham's residential tax exemption, which provides substantial relief to homeowners, is the maximum 35% allowed by state law. The city also benefits from a strong bond rating (AA+ from S&P)

The average tax bill in Waltham is \$5,189, according to the state Department of Revenue, while residents in some of the neighboring towns pay more than triple that rate annually.

Additionally, in contrast to some area communities, the state's Proposition 2½ law (which caps annual property tax growth at 2.5%) has not forced the city to seek tax overrides to meet its obligations.

Waltham, for instance, was able to build its new high school without seeking an override, unlike neighboring Lexington, where residents voted to approve a tax override to fund a \$660 million new high school, the most expensive in the state.

Waltham budgets conservatively, said Katz, asserting that city leaders work to spend money wisely. The city could raise taxes and stay within the constraints of Proposition 2½ but has chosen not to do so, he added.

“We’re not doing tax overrides. We’re not going to the voters for more. We’re very conservative about our tax increases and our tax rate. We have a strong commercial base, but we can’t take that for granted,” Katz said.

“The mayor and council wish to keep residential taxes relatively low, and we manage our budget accordingly,” he added. “While Waltham does retain some unused levy capacity, the city still faces legal limits on tax growth, and any decision to increase taxes beyond current policy choices is ultimately a policy and political decision.”

Waltham’s budgeting process

The annual city budget originates with the mayor in consultation with city departments. Waltham has a strong mayor form of government, meaning the mayor has primary authority over budget formation, and the role of the City Council is primarily review, oversight and approval.

By state law the City Council can accept the budget as submitted by the mayor or reduce specific line items, but the council cannot add to the budget. If councilors feel an increase is warranted, they must ask the mayor to propose one.

The role of the City Council Finance Committee is “more about transparency than it is about number crunching,” Katz said. Department heads meet with the Finance Committee in June over two days (not necessarily consecutive) in a series of public hearings where councilors review spending requests, ask questions about previous spending and discuss priorities before forwarding recommendations to the full council.

“This is our opportunity to poke holes, with the department heads coming before us, to ask questions such as, ‘Why are we doing this?’” Katz said. Committee members often ask about open positions, significant changes in line items and unused funds.

Katz said he likes to ask whether a department head really wanted to do something but cannot with the amount the mayor has budgeted. Typically, he said, the answer is no.

Citizens who would like to learn more about the city budget have a resource through the state’s [OpenGov website](#). The site provides extensive budget information and uses data visualization tools to make the information easily comprehensible.

The best opportunity for citizen input into the budget is through ward councilors, Katz said, adding, “That’s the most important thing someone can do.” He fields questions and requests from constituents throughout the year.

Similarly, budgeting is a continual process, Katz said, not reserved for specific times when votes are taken or hearings held.

The one thing that should not happen in the June hearings, he stressed, is to hear a surprise request from a councilor for a budget item.

“Over the course of the year, we need to be talking to city departments and getting them to make those asks and build a case,” he said.



Author



WILLIAM HOLDER

Bill Holder retired as director of communications at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he also served as editor of the university’s alumni magazine. He began his career at a small-city newspaper in Connecticut and later worked as a science writer at Cornell University. He moved to Waltham in 2021, and he particularly enjoys learning about Waltham history.

Waltham Crash Sends Two to Hospital

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 26, 2026



Two vehicles sustained significant damage in a collision on Trapelo Road, May 25, 2026. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Waltham Police, Fire and Armstrong Ambulance responded to 122 Trapelo Road around 3:30 p.m. Monday for reports of a two-vehicle crash with possible entrapment.

Upon arrival, emergency crews determined no one was trapped, but one driver had sustained a head injury. That driver was transported to a local hospital, along with a passenger from the second vehicle.

Both vehicles sustained significant damage as crews worked to assist the injured and clear the scene.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation. No further information was immediately available.

Walk, run, give back at Waltham Community Day Center 5K

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • MAY 26, 2026



Runners and walkers can still register for the Community Day Center of Waltham's second annual Mission MetroWest road race, set for Sunday, May 31, at Prospect Hill Park. The event is from 8 a.m. to noon, with the race beginning at 8:30 a.m. Organizers ask participants to arrive between 7:30 and 8 a.m.

The race marks the culmination of the month-long "Mission MetroWest: A Mile a Day in May" fundraising campaign. Throughout May, participants have pledged to walk or run at least one mile each day while collecting donations from sponsors and supporters to benefit the center.

Funds raised through the event will go toward repairs for the building that houses CDCW's overnight shelter program. Organizers say the building is in critical need of improvements. The center provides meals, clothing, showers, laundry services and case management for some of the community's most vulnerable residents.

According to the organization, the deteriorating condition of the building could place the overnight program at risk in the coming years if repairs are not made.

"We hope that our friends and neighbors will come out and have fun with a walk/run at Prospect Hill Park," said CDCW caseworker Rich Seale. "Their participation in this worthy cause goes a long way. It allows us the resources that we might not otherwise have to reach out and connect with our neighbors in need."

Register by scanning the QR code in the flyer or click [here](#).



Water shutoff scheduled Wednesday on Charles Street

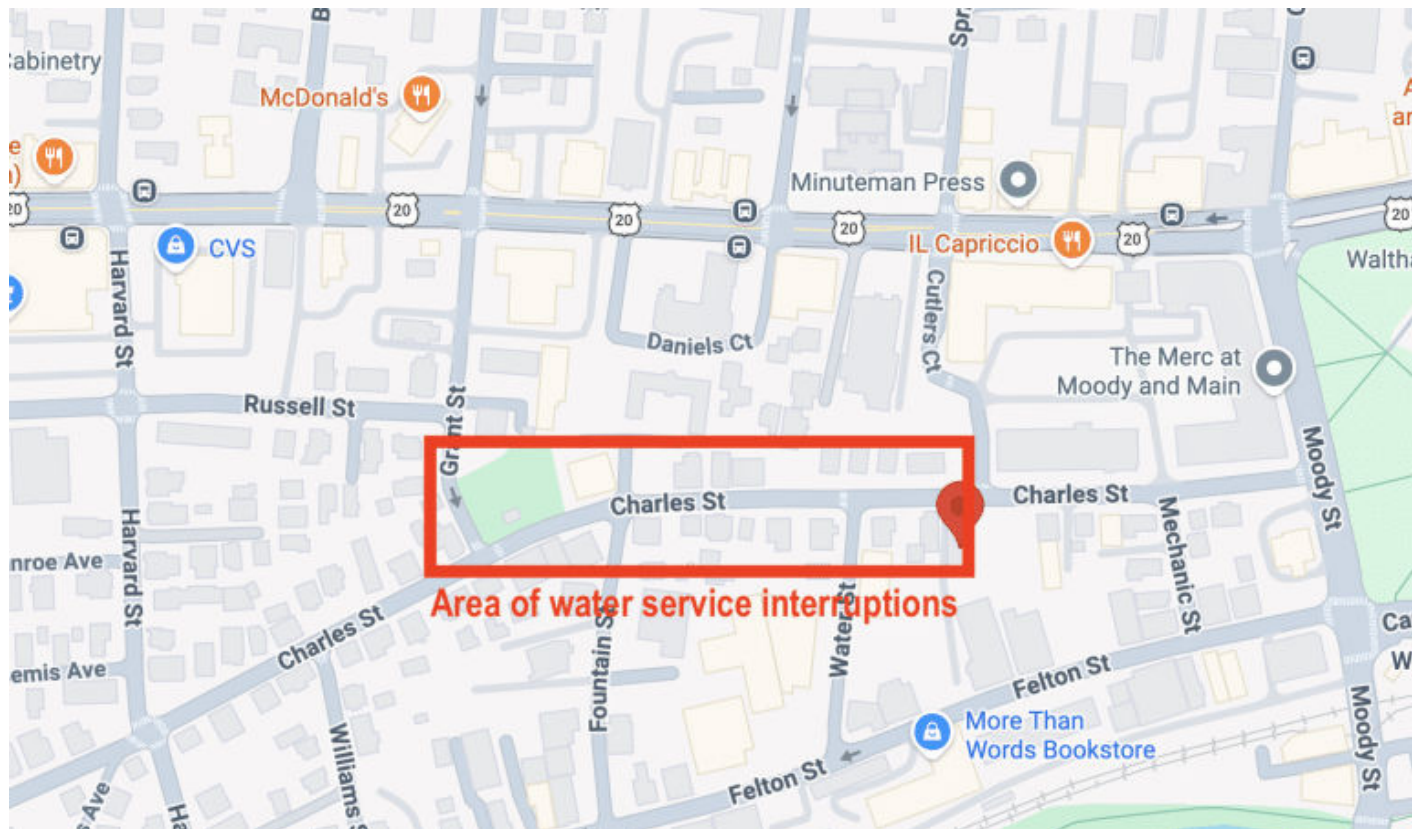
BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • MAY 26, 2026



A scheduled water shutdown will affect part of Charles Street on Wednesday, May 27, beginning at 9 a.m., city officials said.

The shutdown is necessary to complete water system improvements. Service will be interrupted on Charles Street from Grant Street to 44 Charles St.

Residents with questions can contact the Water and Sewer Division at 781-314-3855. Officials thanked residents for their patience.



The red rectangle indicates the neighborhood between 44 Charles St. and Grant St. slated to experience interruptions in water service on May 27. Google maps.



Armstrong Ambulance crew honored for life-saving response to Waltham mass overdose

BY NEWSROOM • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 26, 2026



Armstrong Ambulance Paramedic Lian Grissino and EMT Aaron Dalpe received the prestigious 2026 Circle of Excellence Award. Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Ambulance Association.

Two Armstrong Ambulance Service responders have been recognized with a top statewide honor for their response to a multipatient overdose in Waltham last year.

Paramedic Lian Grissino and EMT Aaron Dalpe received the 2026 Circle of Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Ambulance Association, one of five crews across the state honored last week for outstanding emergency medical service.

The award stems from their actions during an early morning call on Sept. 28, 2025, initially dispatched as a single overdose. Upon arrival, Grissino and Dalpe encountered three critically ill patients, including two in cardiac arrest and a third in severe respiratory failure.

The situation quickly escalated into a mass casualty medical emergency, requiring rapid triage, advanced clinical interventions and coordinated teamwork under intense pressure.

As additional responders arrived and began CPR, Grissino assumed clinical command of the scene. She performed advanced airway management, provided ventilatory support, administered medications and directed cardiac arrest care for multiple patients simultaneously. During the response, she also managed a difficult, partially obstructed airway while continuing resuscitation efforts.

Dalpe supported patient care and scene coordination, assisting with life-saving interventions and helping ensure continuous attention to all three patients.

Officials said the crew's actions reflected a high level of composure, clinical skill and teamwork during one of the most challenging scenarios emergency responders face.

"These honorees represent the very best of what EMS looks like in Massachusetts," MAA President Dennis Cataldo said in a statement. "Their actions remind us why this work matters. They speak for the thousands of EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers and support professionals across the state who show up every day ready to do whatever it takes for the people in their care."

Comments (1)



KELLY • MAY 30, 2026 AT 3:37 PM

God bless these (& all) these first responders.

Reply

Waltham High quiz bowl team competes in first national tournament

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • MAY 26, 2026



The Waltham High School quiz bowl team made school history over Memorial Day weekend, competing in its first-ever national championship tournament in Atlanta.



WHS quiz bowl team (left to right) Suzara Khadka, Sai Ramesh, Willow Bhargava, Will McBrine, Josie Proskoczilo and Kevin Groot-Fekkes. (Back row) Coaches Michael Russo and Reba Tierney. Courtesy photo.

The team participated in the National Academic Quiz Tournaments' High School National Championship Tournament, one of the country's largest academic competitions, featuring 320 schools and 1,593 individual competitors from across the U.S.

Waltham finished with a 4-6 record during regular competition, narrowly missing additional victories in two close matches, before posting a strong 3-1 record in the consolation rounds. The Hawks ultimately placed 217th overall in their national debut.

Three Waltham students placed in the 400s individually among nearly 1,600 competitors, an impressive accomplishment in a field filled with some of the nation's top academic teams. But the individual standings do not fully capture the strength of the group.

In quiz bowl competition, points scored after toss-up questions are credited to the team rather than individual players, highlighting the importance of teamwork. All six students contributed significantly throughout the tournament.

The Waltham team was led by senior captain Willow Bhargava and included juniors William McBrine, Suzara Khadka, Sai Ramesh, Kevin Groot-Fekkes and Josie Proskoczilo.

The WHS Quiz team is coached by Valor High School teacher Michael Russo and Waltham librarian Reba Tierney. "I'm so proud of our students," Tierney said. "It's our first national tournament, and they did great under pressure."

The team and coaches also expressed special thanks to the many members of WHS and the community who supported the effort to travel to Atlanta. Community generosity and encouragement helped make the national tournament experience possible for the students, they said.

ADVERTISEMENT



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.

Parking presentation at City Council draws out city officials' concerns

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 26, 2026



At their meeting on May 18, city councilors discussed their hesitance to adopt current scholarship on residential parking requirements in the Boston area.

At the request of Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur, Travis Pollack, assistant director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, visited City Council to present results from his organization's long-time research on traffic and parking utilization around Greater Boston.

MAPC is a public research organization that helps cities and towns in the Metro Boston area with municipal planning and policy. The city has worked with MAPC on subjects like housing affordability, bikeshare programs and the city's 2007 Community Development Plan.



City Hall. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Pollack said colleagues' firsthand data collection around Greater Boston has shown that parking is largely overbuilt and underused in the area, sometimes by quite a lot.

In a 2023 study, the MAPC team found that, on average, municipalities in the WestMetro HOME Consortium — a collection of cities and towns west of Boston that includes Waltham — required developers to provide 1.45 spaces for every unit of housing, but residents only used about 0.92 spaces per unit.

Pollack said high parking requirements can mean higher development costs and less open space, adding that the governments of local municipalities such as Chelsea, Salem and Boston have been working to their own parking minimums.

He also gave some background information from MAPC's research, saying larger multifamily residential developments often require significantly less parking than single-family homes, and that municipalities can reduce it even further by fine-tuning neighborhoods' density, diversity of development and street network design.

Multiple councilors pushed back on whether MAPC's research could apply to Waltham. Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci pointed out that many of the cities MAPC researched were more central and more regularly served by the MBTA.

"Here in Waltham we have the commuter rail that runs intermittently and our bus routes have been reduced dramatically," he said. "When there isn't state support, what happens?"

Pollock said MAPC had studied municipalities all over Greater Boston, and had noticed consistent results throughout the area, even in areas like Sudbury that "do not have much transit at all."

ADVERTISEMENT

The advertisement banner features a green background with a large, faint clock face. On the left, there is a small inset image of the Waltham Times website. A red arrow points to the right with the text "CLICK to DONATE". The main text on the right says "Support local news!". At the bottom, there is a dark blue section with white text. On the left, it says "Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information." On the right, it says "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.

Support local news!

Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information.

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

Waltham Times

The group only looked at two locations in Waltham in its 2023 study of the area. Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris said the locations they chose were not representative of most multifamily developments in Waltham; she said that to paint a more accurate picture, the organization should

look at larger transit-oriented developments in the downtown area and housing in North Waltham that's inaccessible via the MBTA.

Harris added that in many locations, parking minimums particularly interfered with small businesses, which she said depend on being accessible to consumers from other communities. "Parking in the downtown is what makes the downtown thrive," she said.

Pollack said MAPC had studied situations with similar concerns to Waltham's downtown: When MAPC helped Burlington with improvements around the Burlington Mall, he said they used a "park once" premise to design the area so shoppers could feel comfortable parking their cars and then visiting multiple businesses by foot.

Pollack said MAPC had not examined commercial parking needs as a part of this study, but he could try to retrieve any other relevant information for the council, including, at Harris' request, copies of some of their planning departments for the Burlington Mall. He added that MAPC can work with municipalities to make more tailored requirements for their specific needs. "Every community is a little different," he said.

Comments (2)



DAVID NAUSS • MAY 28, 2026 AT 10:14 AM

I think the council is right to at least question this parking research and its applicability to our circumstance here in Waltham.

For example, if new developments charge an added fee for onsite parking it might contribute to its lack of use while adding a load on "free" street parking as people seek to avoid the surcharge.

The council should definitely take a serious look at both the data and the drivers behind the research that generated it. This would hopefully result in a well rounded decision.

Even better would be to have a master plan for the City so these decisions could be made in the context of an investigated and agreed vision for Walthams future!

Thanks Waltham Times for your great reporting!

Reply



TIMOTHY RILEY • MAY 27, 2026 AT 10:52 AM

Downtown parking is something that I hope a future economic development manager will study in detail. I suspect local business will actually do better when replace unused parking with future customers.

Reply

Council calls for update on city street construction in the face of Main Street gas work

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 28, 2026



The City Council wants a “clear update” on all planned construction projects on city streets to prepare residents for this year’s construction season.

Councilors have asked city departments to provide details on all public or private work that will impact roadways around the city through the summer and fall months, when companies and municipalities typically schedule construction projects due to the favorable weather conditions.

The request for this information went out at Tuesday’s City Council meeting.

Councilor-at-Large Tim King requested that Department of Public Works Director Michael Chiasson and City Engineer Robert Winn attend next Monday’s Public Works and Public Safety Committee meeting to detail ongoing and upcoming projects that will affect the city’s streets.

Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris requested they also provide updates on the projects’ [plans for rodent mitigation](#).

These requests came at the same meeting that utility company National Grid briefed councilors on its plans to install 2,105 feet of plastic piping under Main Street between Weston Street and 776 Main St., where the post office is located, and 205 feet of pipe on nearby side streets. The new pipes would replace older pipes, some of which date back to 1904.

National Grid representative Mary Mulroney said the company will follow all DPW requirements such as those for traffic control and replacement of damaged sidewalks and roads.

She said National Grid agreed to complete its [current pipe replacement project around Felton Street](#) before starting the Main Street work.

Mulroney said National Grid is working with the Police Department to devise a traffic management plan, adding that Main Street will never be completely closed during construction.

Mulroney said the company has not yet identified an off-street location to store construction equipment and materials but understands the council expects it to do so before starting the project.

The council's Licenses and Franchises Committee will further review the National Grid plans at its Monday meeting.



Comments (1)



BRAD ONKEN • MAY 30, 2026 AT 6:04 AM

This is an example of our city's reactive approach to infrastructure and utility coordination which results in a perpetual state of road construction. It would be great if we could shift toward a more proactive planning approach. The city needs to prioritize infrastructure investment over borrowing money to acquire real estate, such as the 600 Main Street property, which drains the capital budget. We would all benefit from a transition away from temporary fixes to a proactive, funded plan.

Reply

Waltham High hosts annual mock crash to promote safe driving

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 28, 2026



First responders assist accident “victim”. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Waltham High School students, first responders, school officials and community members participated in the school’s annual mock crash drill last Friday, ahead of senior prom and graduation.

The demonstration, held outside the new Waltham High School campus, aimed to highlight the dangers of impaired and distracted driving. The realistic scenario featured emergency response vehicles, student actors portraying injured victims and simulated rescue operations as firefighters, police officers and EMS crews responded to a staged crash.

Waltham police, fire and Armstrong Ambulance personnel joined school staff in coordinating the event, while students gathered outside to watch the presentation.

Several Waltham High students volunteered to take part in the demonstration, helping create a realistic scene intended to leave a lasting impression on their classmates.

The mock drill is part of a broader effort carried out at high schools across Massachusetts each spring to encourage safe driving decisions before end-of-year celebrations.



Outdoor dining approved for five restaurants, more applications in the works

BY CYD ABNET • FOOD • MAY 28, 2026



In a Pickle outdoor dining area. Photo by Scott Glazer.

The License Commission approved outdoor dining permit requests from six restaurants on Moody Street during its Wednesday meeting.

The requests came from Rassa Indian Cuisine at 470 Moody St., Bistro781 at 336 Moody St., In a Pickle at 265 Moody St., Tempo at 474 Moody St., Vinotta Restaurant at 361 Moody St. and Amuleto at 484 Moody St.

Outdoor dining was expected to return to Moody Street on Memorial Day weekend, but was delayed due to the application approval process. According to the License Department's administrative assistant Darlene Wansiewicz, the applications for outdoor dining permits have been available since March 23.

The applications have to gain approval from City Council and the Traffic Commission before being sent to the License Commission for a final approval. Wansiewicz attributed the holdup to other commissions' schedules, noting that the License Commission had tried to review and approve applications by its April meeting.

Wansiewicz said additional applications are in the process of being approved and will come before the License Commission soon.

In other business, the License Commission

- Announced the previous approval of a charity wine license for an April 23 Waltham Boys & Girls Club fundraiser at the Westin Hotel. Commission Chairman Wayne Brasco said the application had been submitted close to the fundraiser's date and was approved via email, as is customary for last-minute applications.
- Approved a request for a one-day all-alcohol permit for a VIP Reception Community Training Session event at Bentley University.
- Approved an entertainment permit for the Aegean Restaurant at 741 Moody St. The restaurant plans to host a "Greek Night" event with a live band and dancing. While the original time request for the license was from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m., Brasco said entertainment permits in the city only go until midnight.
- Tabled discussion about a medical incident at Franco's Pizzeria & Pub at 714 Moody St. According to a police report, a woman passed out at the bar after not eating all day and consuming several drinks. The License Commission found the restaurant not at fault and did not request action from the restaurant as a result of the incident.
- Tabled discussion of two assault and battery incidents that took place outside of Tempo at 474 Moody St. The License Commission told Nathan Siegel, owner of the restaurant, that he needs to instruct his employees to call the police after such incidents. Commission members did not request further action from the restaurant as a result of the incident.

Waltham youth eligible for Middlesex Safety Academy; registration opens June 1

BY NEWSROOM • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 28, 2026



Waltham youth can sign up beginning at 9 a.m. Monday, June 1, for the 2026 Youth Public Safety Academy, Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian announced.

The summer program is open to children ages 8 to 12 across Middlesex County, including Waltham. Teens ages 13 to 15 may participate as counselors in training.

Hosted at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Training Academy in Chelmsford, the program offers five one-week sessions featuring hands-on activities with law enforcement and other first responders. The curriculum focuses on public safety, teamwork and leadership.



2025 cadets from Newton and Waltham were joined by Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian, Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, and other Newton/Waltham public safety officials. Photo courtesy of Middlesex Sheriff's Office.

Waltham is included as a designated bus stop for the July 20–24 session, along with Newton. Participants may attend any week but must use listed bus stop locations for transportation.

Registration is \$125 per child per week and includes transportation from bus stops, meals and a weekly graduation ceremony. Space is limited, and registration closes at noon June 15.

Families must register and pay online at the time of sign-up. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Registration opens June 1 at the [Middlesex Sheriff website](#).

Conservation Commission in brief: Revisiting Fernald golf course plans

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • MAY 28, 2026



The city has abandoned plans to construct a driving range on the grounds of the former Fernald State School, but still intends to create a small pitch and putt golf course at the site.

This is according to landscape architect David LaPointe of Beals and Thomas, a firm the city has hired to develop the course. The new golf facilities

will involve shorter and more controlled putting opportunities and, LaPointe said, will be less likely to have stray golf balls fly off into conservation land.



A pitch and putt golf course has been proposed for the grounds of the former Fernald State School. Canva stock image.

LaPointe went before the Conservation Commission at its meeting last Thursday to get guidance on the permits his company required to proceed with the planning and construction process.

The commission had previously certified the city's driving range plans, which required commission review because they involved land located in conservation zones. The plans previously submitted to commissioners, however, also included other developments at the Fernald site, including the [200 Trapelo Road playground](#), which makes the project's next steps at the commission more complicated.

Some aspects of the golf plans remain unchanged from the city's original proposal, but some are changing significantly. LaPointe said he was unsure whether the commission's prior approval would still apply for the pitch and putt course or whether he would need to withdraw the whole application and start again.

Commissioners told him he should be able to withdraw the previous application after filing some paperwork, asking him to resubmit a simplified plan containing only the golf course and return to the commission to present on it in more detail.

Additionally, the commission:

- Approved the expansion of an invasive plant management zone, where a state Department of Conservation and Recreation-trained volunteer group will work to limit the habitat and spread of invasive plants.
- As the Board of Trustees of the city's Conservation Trust Fund, heard an update on its contents. The fund was established years ago with \$100,000 reserved for buying land for conservation purposes. Because of high land costs, the fund has been sitting unused since its inception, and has grown to \$111,853. Board member Gerard Dufromont said he has been working with the city's law department to find ways to use the money for other purposes, like restoration work at the Stonehurst estate's gardens.
- Heard an update that the board will soon receive notice to deliberate on a project at 32 Riverview Ave.



Comments (1)



CONSTANCE L STUBBS • MAY 30, 2026 AT 10:22 PM

Really? The plan for part of Fernald is GOLF? In the face of all the city's other needs? Stunningly disappointing.

Reply

Waltham man pleads not guilty to litany of charges after alleged robbery

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MAY 28, 2026



Brian D. Dunning, 44, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on May 20 to two counts of breaking and entering a building during daytime to commit a felony, two counts of receiving stolen property valued at over \$1,200, one count of unlawful deactivation or removal of a theft detection device and one count of vandalizing property.

On the morning of May 18, officers arrived at a building on Main Street undergoing renovation. The owner of the building was onsite and told officers multiple items were missing. According to the police report, plywood covering an opening had been pried away, creating an entryway that is believed to be how someone was able to access the building. The owner provided an inventory of tools and other construction-related items that were missing, valued at over \$12,000 in total. The owner said a blue jumpsuit, which he wore to work daily, was missing as well.



Waltham District Court. Photo by Isabella Lapriore.

On May 19 at 8:00 a.m., officers encountered a man, identified as Dunning, near the Christ Episcopal Church at 750 Main St. According to the police report, Dunning was wearing a blue jumpsuit and had a backpack full of tools similar to those that had been stolen from the building on Main Street. After officers spoke to Dunning, he left the scene, saying he was on his way to attend a methadone clinic on Bear Hill Road.

Officers next encountered Dunning at 10:47 a.m. after responding to a report of a male locked inside a dressing room stall at the Marshall's on Market Place Drive. Officers opened the dressing room to find Dunning surrounded by merchandise items and anti-theft detection devices that appeared to be forcibly removed from the items. Dunning was subsequently arrested. During

booking, Dunning appeared to be under the influence of an unknown substance and was unable to stay awake. He was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Dunning is also facing charges for a separate event in which he allegedly violated a no trespass order at Market Basket on Market Place Drive, during which he was wearing a blue jumpsuit. He pleaded not guilty on May 19 to that charge. Dunning was unable to post bail for the charges he was arraigned for on May 20, so he is being held at Middlesex County Jail. A pretrial hearing for both cases will be held June 15.

Additional court activity

Jose L. Monroy Morales, 32, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on May 22 to charges of assault and battery on a family or household member, strangulation or suffocation and destruction of property valued at over \$1,200. The charges are related to an alleged domestic violence incident in Waltham. Monroy Morales was released on personal recognizance by Judge Sarah Kennedy and is due in court for a hearing to review status on May 29.

Michael A. Guinta, 66, of Waltham pleaded not guilty on May 20 to a charge of assault and battery on a family or household member subsequent offense, as well as a charge of assault and battery on a person 60 years of age or older. Guinta allegedly punched his mother in the lip inside a Waltham residence. He was released on personal recognizance by Judge Amanda Ward. A pretrial hearing for his case is set for July 14.

Jorge L. Morales Mateo, 34, of Lynn, pleaded not guilty on May 19 to charges of intimidating a witness, juror or police or court official as well as a charge of violating an abuse prevention order. The charges are related to an alleged incident that took place in Waltham involving his wife, who had an abuse prevention disorder against him. Morales Mateo was released on personal recognizance by Kennedy and is due in court for a pretrial hearing July 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).

Priorities questioned: Roads vs. real estate in Waltham

BY GUEST WRITER • LETTERS • MAY 30, 2026

The Waltham City Council's recent order for an update on street construction highlights a systemic, problematic approach to our roads. While I appreciate our councilors trying to mitigate the impending summer gridlock on Main Street, it appears we are continuously playing catch-up with National Grid and other utilities. We wait for a major artery to get torn up, suffer through traffic, and then wonder why our cratered roads constantly damage our vehicles.

Our leaders should stop reacting to individual projects and start planning a proactive approach. Look at Newton, they implemented a data-driven, 10-year Accelerated Pavement Management Program using radar technology to map out road conditions before they fail. By securing a dedicated \$95 million infrastructure fund, they didn't wait for utility companies to dictate road quality. Councilor Paul Katz has rightfully pointed to this blueprint before.

Meanwhile, we rely almost entirely on state Chapter 90 funds, which, according to the online sources I found, bring in just under \$2 million a year to cover our 150-mile road network. Yet, the city is actively preparing to borrow over \$8.6 million just to purchase a single office building and parking lot at 600 Main Street.

If my math and online figures are correct, that single, pending real estate deal represents more than four times our annual road budget. Every dollar we tie up in real estate acquisitions is a dollar that isn't fixing our streets. As taxpayers, we deserve a proactive, multi-year infrastructure plan that provides smooth, safe roads, not a perpetual cycle of emergency traffic meetings and more city-owned, underutilized parking lots.

Brad Onken
Cedarwood



TONY MANGINI • MAY 30, 2026 AT 10:03 AM

the boston globe featured an article about 25/30 years ago about the "worst" street in waltham. rose hill way has the distinction of such an honor. as a resident for over 60 years i have on a couple occasions to motivate the home owners to authorize improvements. the effort failed twice. so we still have the honor of the "worst" road in the city. shame on some of its residents. tony mangini. ps. a editorial about the road was written by editor tom murphy of the former waltham news tribune

The week ahead: Mayor calls special City Council meeting for first look at budget

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/31/the-week-ahead-mayor-calls-special-city-council-meeting-for-first-look-at-budget

Artie Kronenfeld

June 1, 2026

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy will meet with City Council this week to submit her budget recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year.

City Council will convene before the Committee of the Whole meeting this Monday, at 7:45 p.m., to receive the budget, along with various communications with the mayor.

The mayor has compiled recommendations for the budget from requests that city boards and departments have submitted to her over the past few months. After it receives the mayor's recommendations, the council will schedule [full-day meetings to discuss the upcoming year's budget in more detail](#) before it [takes its summer break in July](#).

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled this week, June 1 through 5.

City Council committees

City Council will also hold regular committee meetings on Monday beginning at 6 p.m.

The Veterans Services Committee will continue discussing how to restore city monuments, with input from former Councilor-at-Large Sally Collura. The Economic and Community Development Committee will discuss trash initiatives in the city; the Committee of the Whole will [discuss Pride Day](#); and the Public Works & Public Safety Committee will consider a request to open a street to install a private home sewer line and hear an [update about construction projects on Waltham's streets](#).

The Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee will discuss seven requests from the Community Preservation Committee on how to use Community Preservation Act funding over the coming year. The Licenses and Franchises Committee will discuss [gas main replacements on Main Street](#) by National Grid as well as an outdoor dining and a fortune teller license. The Finance Committee will consider [a series of funding requests from the mayor](#), and the Ordinances and Rules Committee is expected to discuss [three proposed residential neighborhoods](#) in western Waltham.

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

The Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, created by the city ordinance to fund affordable housing, is overseen by a board of trustees.

This week members of the board will receive updates on ongoing affordable housing projects, including the residences at the former Hardy Elementary School, projects [at Cardinal Cottage](#) and other Fernald buildings, and the [former Elks Club building](#).

Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday in the basement conference room of City Hall.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

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

This week it is discussing two large projects. The Alexan Winter Street project, a Chapter 40B apartment building proposed in the Totten Pond neighborhood, is [in its final stages](#). It has faced criticism from [neighbors and some city departments](#) for the residential population the building would bring to the mostly commercial area.

The board will also discuss a proposal from the owners of the Watch Factory Lofts who plan to expand the property's residential component with a new building that would [reuse an underused parking lot](#) — a project that has also seen [pushback from neighbors and praise from some housing advocates](#).

The board will also consider extending the time for construction on a 2024 garage variance on Bacon Street and a petition to allow a new drive-thru ATM at the 881 Main St. Bank of America .

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

Parks-Recreation Board

The Parks-Recreation Board is an eight-person board that oversees the city's public recreational spaces and programming. This week it will consider a proposed youth organization schedule for the upcoming year.

The board will meet on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Waltham Recreation Department at 510 Moody St.

Board of Survey and Planning

The Board of Survey and Planning regulates public and private ways and makes decisions on the status and boundaries of lots in the city.

This week, it will hear a request to withdraw a petition to repave Fir Avenue, a project that has been [delayed multiple times](#) and has [drawn objections from residents](#) over communications and potential impacts. It will also hold an election for board positions for the upcoming year.

The board will meet at 6 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 receive out-of-district staff requests for the upcoming year, listen to civics projects from McDevitt Middle School and review conditions for receiving funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It will also hear an update from Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa on district personnel and enrollment.

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

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.

It will hold a meeting over Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday. An agenda and link for the meeting will be provided on the [commission's page](#) on the city website at least 48 hours in advance.

Disability Services Commission

The Disability Services Commission is a seven-person board that works to make Waltham more accessible for residents with disabilities. It advocates and distributes funds for projects related to physical accessibility, signage, interpretation services and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

The commission will hold its meeting over Zoom at 8:30 a.m. on Friday. Participants can request meeting information from DSC Chairperson Mark Johnson at markj@walhouse.org.

Garden Club's gift to Waltham High seniors

The Waltham High School senior prom enjoyed an extra special touch of beauty this year, thanks to the Waltham Garden Club. Club members donated 40 gorgeous floral arrangements to go with the prom's theme of "A Night in Italy."

Members arrived at the Westin Hotel on Friday afternoon and set to work crafting the arrangements. The color scheme called for white and cream with abundant greenery. The Garden club chose white hydrangeas, white majolika, mini spray carnations, Italian ruscus, sprays of sea lavender, eucalyptus and olive branches.

"This community outreach began 20 years ago," said club member Nancy Manzon D'Ercole. Every year the club makes the offer but "it's up to the individual class to see if it's something they might be interested in," she said. "This year the class said yes."



John D. Grieci, 1960-2026

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/26/john-d-grieci-1960-2026

Waltham News Team

May 26, 2026



John David Grieci, 65, passed away peacefully on May 18, 2026, surrounded by family. Born on June 16, 1960, in Waltham MA (Johnny) carried his warmth, humor and unmistakable spirit throughout a life filled with friendship & humor. He most recently resided in Corona, CA. John was the beloved husband of Wendy Grieci, whose steadfast love, devotion & support over the last 12 years, allowed John to live his happiest, full life.

Together, Wendy & John created a home filled with laughter, music, incredible food and unwavering love. He was a devoted father to Emily Smith and Matthew Grieci and a proud grandfather to Stella and Maddie. He also shared a close and loving bond with Wendy's daughter, Testen Dolma and her husband, Liukai. John is survived by his siblings, Deborah Ogden of Jefferson ME; Anne and David Hatch of Hudson MA; and Patricia and James Mahoney of Billerica MA, along with many cherished nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Esther and Ronald Grieci, of Waltham MA.

John's professional life included being Senior Vice President of Customer Advocacy at Seagate Technology. Previous experience; Senior Director of Supply Engineering at EMC Corporation, and as a Development Engineer at Microcom.

John had a deep love for music and could often be found enjoying his favorite songs sitting at the pool side. He was passionate about food and wine, especially Wendy's cooking and never missed an opportunity to gather around a great meal. An avid fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers, John brought enthusiasm & humor to every game he watched. He was also known for his collection of wild & colorful socks which perfectly reflected his fun-loving personality.

To know John, was to know extreme generosity, kindness, loyalty & optimism. He was a devoted friend to so many and carried an infectious energy that drew people in instantly. His mischievous, crooked smile and signature greeting – a heartfelt (heeeeyyyy) made everyone feel welcomed & appreciated.

Waltham caregivers recognized in Boston Globe special section ‘Salute to Nurses’

walthamtimes.org/2026/05/28/waltham-caregivers-recognized-in-boston-globe-special-section-salute-to-nurses-2

Waltham News Team

May 29, 2026



Stephanie David, RN. Courtesy photo.

Two Waltham residents have been recognized for their leadership and exceptional patient care as part of a regional nursing honors program.

Stephanie David, a registered nurse and nurse manager at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Boston, and Jimmy Orangio, a nurse in the transplant unit at Boston Children's Hospital, were both named in the 2026 [“Salute to Nurses”](#) special report published in The Boston Globe in early May.

The annual feature highlights nurses across specialties whose work has saved lives and improved patients' quality of life.

David was nominated by Susan Graff Tolman, associate chief nursing officer at Hebrew SeniorLife.

“I am pleased to recognize nurse manager Stephanie David for her contributions to our team,” Tolman wrote in the nomination. “As a newer member of the leadership group, Stephanie has consistently demonstrated compassion, integrity, and dedication to both patients and staff.”

“She promotes a culture of collaboration, respect, and accountability,” Tolman wrote. “Stephanie brings a positive and steady presence to the workplace, helping to foster a supportive and productive environment. She exemplifies strong nursing leadership and is well-deserving of this recognition.”

[Orangio](#), who graduated from Waltham High School in 2020, was nominated by Elizabeth Bates, a parent of a child treated at Children's.

“From the very beginning of Griffin's diagnosis, Jimmy has been more than a nurse to our family — he has been a steady, compassionate presence during one of the most overwhelming seasons of our lives,” she wrote. She also noted Orangio's “exceptional clinical competency” and similarly exceptional communication skills.

“Jimmy has made a profound difference in our experience. His compassion, expertise, and unwavering dedication embody the very best of nursing. Our family will always be grateful for the way he has cared not only for Griffin, but for us as well.”

City Council in brief: Celebrating Waltham residents with youth sports, Pride resolutions

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/28/city-council-in-brief-celebrating-waltham-residents-with-youth-sports-pride-resolutions

Artie Kronenfeld

May 29, 2026

The City Council's Tuesday meeting focused on Waltham residents with a series of resolutions directly honoring community members.

Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur presented a resolution signed by most councilors for Waltham Pride day. The resolution calls for Waltham to “stand in solidarity” with the LGBTQIA+ community for the month of June and beyond. It celebrates the volunteers who run Waltham Pride celebrations and requests that the mayor’s office hang a pride flag on June 14 for Pride Day.



Councilors referred the resolution to next Monday’s Committee of the Whole meeting.

Bradley-MacArthur said part of the resolution’s purpose is to “listen with an ear toward empathy” to community concerns, highlighting some of the factors worrying parts of Waltham’s LGBTQIA+ community. She referenced the [wave of antitransgender legislation](#) across the United States over the last few years. The independent research group Trans Legislation Tracker has identified [50 bills passed so far this year](#) designed to exclude or target trans people or reduce protections and funding for transgender populations.

She also talked about Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in the area, pointing out that some LGBTQIA+ community members have fled unsafe circumstances in their native countries.

“When hate speech towards a marginalized group happens and is endorsed and repeated, it begins to continue the cycle of erasure and dehumanization,” Bradley-MacArthur said. “We know from history that dehumanization of people leads to violence towards people.”

She added, “Waltham leads with empathy, and we will not allow hate and dehumanization to happen here.”

Youth sports champions



Girls basketball team applauded at City Council. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.

Residents packed the council chambers early in the meeting to celebrate Waltham’s grade 6 girls’ and grade 3 and 4 boys’ basketball teams as well as their coaches, Jessica Bourne, Jeff Smith and Jeff Hynes.

Both teams finished first in their divisions this year. The grade 6 girls’ team repeated as champions for the second year running, and the grade 3 and 4 boys’ team completed an undefeated season.

Each teammate was given a copy of the resolution signed by councilors and a proclamation signed by Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy.

Additionally, the City Council

- Approved a long list of business items [discussed in committees last week](#), including preliminary approval for amendments to Waltham’s zoning code pertaining to affordable housing and pet grooming. The council also gave final approval for the purchase of an electrical substation at 200 Trapelo Road.
- Heard an update on an application from [a proposed hotel at 220 Moody St.](#) Philip McCourt, an attorney for the project, reported that the site’s owner has been refining its design with the Ordinances and Rules Committee and is in talks with the mayor about potentially using some city parking spaces. He said the parking plan needs Traffic Commission approval before proceeding and agreed to delay the close of the hearing until the council’s special meeting in August.
- Opened a public hearing for an application from National Grid to open up Main Street from Weston Street to the Main Street post office to replace old gas lines. The application will go to the Licenses and Franchises Committee meeting Monday.

- Opened a public hearing for an application to open up the roadway in front of 108 Greer St. The property's owners are rebuilding the lot's single-family house and requested the street opening to replace a sewer line, telling councilors they intend to repave the street and replace any sidewalk. The application will go to the Public Works and Public Safety Committee meeting Monday.
- Passed a resolution requesting updates on ongoing on-street construction work for Monday's Public Works and Public Safety Committee meeting.
- Referred five requests from McCarthy to Monday's Finance Committee meeting, including funding requests tied to union collective bargaining agreements, the city's Illicit Discharge and Detection Elimination program and noise meters for the Building Department, and acceptance of a state construction grant.
- Referred one outdoor dining and one fortune tellers' licence application to next week's Licenses and Franchises Committee meeting.
- Referred seven requests for a combined total of \$4,073,454 in Community Preservation Act funding from the [recent Community Preservation Commission meeting](#) to the Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee. These requests include funding for an inclusive playground at Northeast Elementary School, the restoration of monuments and city records, the creation of a new women's shelter, the acquisition of two homes to turn into affordable veterans' housing and administration for the program.
- Requested that Department of Public Works Director Michael Chiasson, social media coordinator Abby Auld and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Waltham Partnership attend Monday's Economic and Community Development Committee meeting to discuss trash management.

Recently closed Taste House restaurant to become Asian fusion joint

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/28/recently-closed-taste-house-restaurant-to-become-asian-fusion-joint

Cyd Abnet

May 29, 2026

The recently closed Taste House restaurant at 275 Moody St. is set to become an Asian fusion restaurant under new owners.

The License Commission approved requests for the transfer of a seven-day all-alcohol restaurant license, the transfer of a common victualer license and the change of manager from the former Taste House restaurant to J & C Kitchen.

A J & C Kitchen representative said the restaurant will feature both Japanese and Chinese food. The restaurant is co-owned by the manager and an additional business partner, who have worked together previously and have a combined 30 years of experience in restaurant and service industries.

It is unclear when the restaurant will open.

The owners of Taste House retired after buying the storefront and will rent the space to the new restaurant.



Hawks' tennis tournament run ends against powerhouse Lincoln-Sudbury

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/28/hawks-tennis-tournament-run-ends-against-powerhouse-lincoln-sudbury

Steve Milmore

May 29, 2026



WHS sophomore Guillermo Alcantara in action. Courtesy photo.

The Waltham High School boys tennis team saw its postseason run come to an end Thursday with a loss to perennial powerhouse Lincoln-Sudbury in the second round of the 2026 MIAA Division 1 State Tournament.

The Hawks advanced to the matchup after defeating Bridgewater-Raynham 3-2 in a Division 1 play-in match on Wednesday, extending what proved to be a positive and encouraging season for the program.

Waltham qualified for the state tournament for the first time since 2022 after finishing the regular season ranked No. 27 in the [Division 1 MIAA power rankings](#).

“It’s been a fun year,” said coach Steve Baccari. “We’ve had competitive matches, success along the way and seen growth in the program. Across both the boys and girls teams this year, we’ve had about 45 players.”

The Hawks recorded two varsity match victories this season — against Burlington and Cambridge — their highest total since 2022. The team also recorded 10 individual varsity match wins. Leading the way were senior co-captains Andrew Samios and James Agostino, who combined for five wins at first doubles. Senior co-captain David Maione added two victories at third singles, while the second doubles pairing of senior co-captains Dylan Haley and Aryan Rampel contributed two wins. Haley also teamed with sophomore Andy White for an additional second doubles victory.

At first and second singles, sophomores Guillermo Alcantara, Jacob Weitz and Kyle Antonucci rotated throughout the season against some of the strongest competition in Division 1. Coaches praised their effort and willingness to take on many of the state’s top-ranked players.

The team was coached by Alexi Joannidis and Baccari, who also leads Waltham's adult recreation tennis program.

The Hawks' postseason appearance caps a successful year for the rebuilding program, though the team will face a major transition next season. Nine players, including five regular varsity contributors, are set to graduate.



WHS varsity group winners: (Left to Right) Andrew Samios, James Agostino (1st doubles), David Maione (3rd singles), Aryan Rampal, Dylan Haley (2nd doubles.) Courtesy photo.

Public safety report: Man lies down in road during alleged road rage incident

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/31/public-safety-report-man-lies-down-in-road-during-alleged-road-rage-incident

Cyd Abnet

June 1, 2026

An alleged road rage incident that ended with a man lying down in the road drew police attention this week.

On May 25 at 9:50 p.m., police responded to reports of a road rage incident taking place on Willow Street. The caller described an event where one driver became upset with another vehicle on the roadway. It's unclear what the other vehicle did to make the driver upset.

According to the police report, the offended driver followed the vehicle before eventually getting out of his vehicle and lifting his shirt to reveal what the caller believed to be the handle of a firearm. After this, the driver laid down in the roadway. The caller left the area to call the police and didn't see what happened next. Police are still investigating the incident.

A summary of police and fire activity from May 19 to 24 is as follows:

On May 19 at 2:56 p.m., police responded to Middlesex Circle. A ReNew Waltham apartment complex maintenance staff member reported that more than \$3,500 worth of tools were stolen from his work vehicle. The vehicle was left unattended while he was working inside a building.

On May 20 at 9:34 p.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious person at Shopper's Cafe at 731 Moody St. A caller reported seeing a man staring into the windows of Shopper's Cafe and said the man was making patrons uncomfortable. Officers located a man who matched the caller's description. Police believed the man to be intoxicated and placed him into protective custody.

On May 21 at 10:28 a.m., police responded to reports of vandalism at Veterans Memorial Skating Rink, though the incident was later determined not to be vandalism. A large truck had struck a fence in the parking lot while trying to turn around. Officers identified the driver, who was unaware that he had made contact with the fence.

On May 22 at 2:44 p.m., fire crews responded to Rhino Lounge at 11 Cooper St. where they discovered a chimney fire in the first-floor kitchen. The crew extinguished the fire using a fire extinguisher.

On May 23 at 1:06 a.m., police responded to reports of gunshots on Ash Street. Police investigated but did not find evidence of gunshots, noting that officers in the area at the time reported hearing fireworks going off.

On May 23 at 2:52 p.m., police responded to Chipotle at 1030 Main St. A caller reported a man yelling at people in the area. Officers located the man, who told police he was upset about the service he had received in the restaurant. Police sent the man on his way.

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.

A night to remember: Waltham High class of 2026 celebrates prom

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/31/a-night-to-remember-waltham-high-class-of-2026-celebrates-prom

Joseph Sharkey

June 1, 2026

Waltham High School seniors marked one of their final milestones Friday night, gathering for the Class of 2026 Senior Prom in a celebration filled with music, laughter and fun.

Students arrived dressed in formal attire, stepping out of cars and greeting friends as they made their way into the venue. Groups paused for photos, capturing the moment in gowns and suits before heading inside to join classmates for an evening of dining and dancing.

Inside, the atmosphere was energetic and festive. The dance floor stayed busy for much of the night, with students moving between songs, conversations and photo opportunities with friends and dates.

The prom brought together students from across the senior class, offering a chance to connect and celebrate the nearing end of the school year. For many, the evening served as both a celebration and a farewell to shared high school experiences.

Waltham Police officers, school staff and event organizers were on hand throughout the evening to help ensure the event ran smoothly and safely.



Whittemore Elementary celebrates 100 years of learning and community

 walthamtimes.org/2026/05/31/whittemore-elementary-celebrates-100-years-of-learning-and-community

Steve Milmore

June 1, 2026



Principal David Sweder and students bury the Whittemore time capsule. Photo by Saul Blumenthal.

The Henry Whittemore Elementary School celebrated its 100th anniversary on Friday with a full-day event honoring students, teachers and the community.

Decorated from floor to floor to showcase 10 decades of teaching and learning, students welcomed residents for guided classroom tours and book read-alongs throughout the day.

Guests were also invited to lunch, providing an additional opportunity to connect with teachers and staff and reflect on the school's long history in the community.

Later in the day the centennial celebration featured a Whittemore School sing-along led by former principal Patricia Vasquezi, the burying of a time capsule and a spirited "Happy Birthday" countdown by students, teachers and visitors.

100-year history

The school was built in 1926 and named after Henry Whittemore, a member of the prominent Whittemore family that had deep roots in Massachusetts civic and business life during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

It underwent a major renovation and expansion in the 2000s as part of a broader modernization of Waltham's public schools.

Today Whittemore is known for serving a diverse student population from Waltham's South Side and for its strong community focus. The school emphasizes its core values of being "responsible, respectful, and ready." Its mascot is

a bee. Community events such as playground cleanups, PTO activities and student programs have become a major part of the school culture.



Students and staff greet visitors to the centennial celebration. Photo by Steve Milmore.



Whittemore teachers (L-R) Elizabeth Knott, Michelle Mount, Doria Summerfield, Allison DiMedio and Carli Kusiolek. Photo by Steve Milmore.

May 26, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	5/18/2026	91 Bowdoin Ave	\$890,000	2/1	912 sf
	5/18/2026	49 Lincoln St	\$1,425,000	5/3.5	4388 sf
	5/18/2026	10 Washington Ave Unit 2	\$580,000	2/1	934 sf
	5/19/2026	126 Bright St	\$855,000	2/2	1310 sf
	5/20/2026	8 Dobbins St	\$1,460,000	3/4	3304 sf
	5/21/2026	19 Everett St Unit 2	\$1,000,000	3/2.5	2000 sf
	5/21/2026	55 Azalea Rd	\$1,315,500	3/3.25	2243 sf

Advertisement

Events Calendar

June 1-28

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

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hovey Players present Ruby Rae Spiegel's 'Dry Land' 📅						
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Waltham City Council committee meetings 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm 'Enzo' North American premiere	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 📅 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 📅 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm 📅 Parks-Recreation Board meeting 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 School Committee meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 📅 Free outdoor Zumba class	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm 📅 Sunset Latin Dance Series 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Massachusetts 250th with Waltham American Legion Band 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Conservation Commission meeting + 2 More	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Acme Theater presents 'Losing Patients' by A. Duke and Virginia Cate 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm 📅 Hovey Players present Ruby Rae Spiegel's 'Dry Land'	9:30 am - 2:00 pm 📅 Waltham Farmers' Market 9:30 am - 4:00 pm 📅 Hosta and perennial sale 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Open house at Historic New England's Lyman Estate + 4 More	9:00 am - 11:00 am Coffee social at the Café 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm 📅 Hovey Players present Ruby Rae Spiegel's 'Dry Land' 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📅 Acme Theater presents 'Losing Patients' by A. Duke and Virginia Cate
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Hovey Players present Ruby Rae Spiegel's 'Dry Land' 📅						
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 📅 Historical Commission meeting 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Waltham City Council meeting	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pride Game Night	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 📅 Free outdoor Zumba class	9:30 am - 11:30 am Free health screening 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm 📅 Board of Library Trustees meeting 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm 📅 Hovey Players present Ruby Rae Spiegel's 'Dry Land'	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Dementia information session 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Acme Theater presents 'Losing Patients' by A. Duke and Virginia Cate 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm 📅 Hovey Players present Ruby Rae Spiegel's 'Dry Land'	9:30 am - 2:00 pm 📅 Waltham Farmers' Market 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Acme Theater presents 'Losing Patients' by A. Duke and Virginia Cate 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm 📅 Hovey Players present Ruby Rae Spiegel's 'Dry Land'	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Waltham Pride 2026 Festival On The Common 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Waltham Pride: Show up & celebrate together 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📅 Acme Theater presents 'Losing Patients' by A. Duke and Virginia Cate
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Waltham City Council committee meetings 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 📅 Watch City Ukers Every Month at the Waltham Museum		10:00 am - 11:00 am Exercise and stroke recovery 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm 📅 Board of Health meeting 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Yoga at the Rose + 3 More	10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Traffic Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm 📅 Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham	7:30 pm - 9:00 pm 📅 "Disney's Frozen" at ACTS 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Acme Theater presents 'Losing Patients' by A. Duke and Virginia Cate	9:30 am - 2:00 pm 📅 Waltham Farmers' Market 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Needle felting workshop: Painting with wool 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm 📅 "Disney's Frozen" at ACTS + 2 More	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm 📅 "Disney's Frozen" at ACTS
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
7:30 pm - 10:00 pm 📅 Waltham City Council meeting		7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 📅 License Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 📅 Free outdoor Zumba class	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Puppet show picnic 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Fiber arts night	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Devil's in the Details evening tour	9:30 am - 2:00 pm 📅 Waltham Farmers' Market	

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The advertisement has a dark blue background with a large, faint clock face. In the top left is the 'The Waltham Times' logo. The main text reads 'It takes many hands to deliver trusted local news. Won't you add yours?'. A golden retriever dog is the central figure, wearing a black baseball cap with 'Waltham Times' on it and holding a red octopus toy. There are two QR codes: one in the top right with a 'GIVE TODAY' button below it, and one in the bottom left with a 'SUBSCRIBE' button below it. The bottom right text says 'Get the latest Waltham news, FREE in your inbox'.

The Waltham Times is Waltham's local news publication, currently available online only. This printed compendium of articles is produced by volunteers for readers who prefer hardcopy. We aim to have an official printed edition of The Waltham Times in the future, dependent of raising sufficient revenue through donations, grants and advertising to cover the cost of printing.



P.O. Box 540109 | Waltham, MA 02454

WalthamTimes.org | info@walthamtimes.org