



June 22, 2026



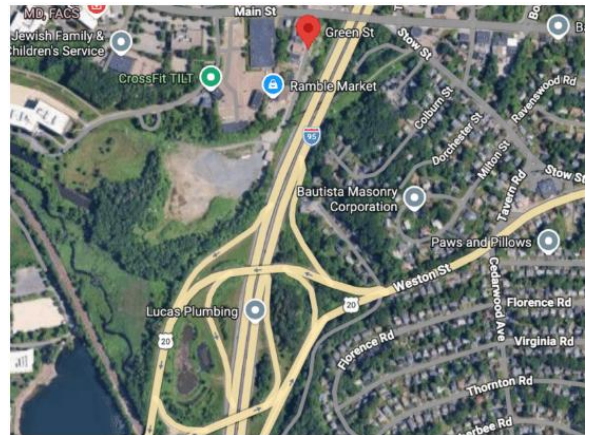
**RiverBeat takes off,
drawing people downtown
with music, vendors**



**Waltham Boys & Girls Club
youth get World Cup
experience at Gillette**



**Waltham celebrates
Juneteenth with music,
children's activities and a
reading by Anita Hill**



**Long-term visions for West
End traffic start to take
shape with Green Street
extension**

RiverBeat takes off, drawing people downtown with music, vendors, pet parade

 walthamtimes.org/2026/06/22/riverbeat-takes-off-drawing-people-downtown-with-music-vendors-pet-parade

June Kinoshita

June 22, 2026



The Waltham Times co-hosted a story-telling booth with We Are Waltham. Photo by Ray Chow.



Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy with friends.

Photo by Joseph Sharkey.



Gusts lift the canopy tents on the Moody Street Bridge. Photo by Ray Chow.

Waltham's newest festival, RiverBeat, debuted Saturday, drawing crowds to the Moody Street Bridge and Riverwalk for a day celebrating the city's arts, food and local businesses.

The event, which follows the former RiverFest, unfolded under bright skies as visitors from Waltham and beyond filled the downtown area. Periodic strong gusts of wind challenged vendors, but most secured their booths with added weights and cables, avoiding major disruptions.

Vendors sold a variety of handmade clothing, soaps, hot sauces, jewelry, pet treats and more. Artists worked in the open air. Sparks of hot iron flew at the tent of the Prospect Hill Forge.

A lineup of live bands performed throughout the day, with clear, well-balanced sound carrying across downtown and over the river.



Singer songwriter Toby. Photo by Melissa Honig.

Public safety report: Man fights off attackers in attempted armed robbery on the Riverwalk

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JUNE 21, 2026



An attempted robbery on the Riverwalk last week ended with the target fighting off his attackers.

On June 13 at 1:41 a.m., police responded to the Riverwalk path along the Charles River. The man who called in the incident was using the Riverwalk to get home from work when two men on e-bikes approached him.

The men knocked the caller to the ground and tried to take his bag. They were armed with a box cutter. The caller was able to fight off both men, who got on their e-bikes and rode away. Police are investigating the incident.



The Riverwalk was the scene of an attempted robbery last week. Photo courtesy of Sonja Wadman.

A summary of additional police activity from June 10 to June 16 is as follows:

On June 11 at 1 p.m., police responded to reports of a scam at a residence on South Street. The caller said that he had received a phone call from someone representing themselves as “Apple security” who said that the man had an outstanding balance of \$1,500 that needed to be paid in Apple gift cards. The caller ultimately paid the alleged balance before realizing it was a scam. Police are investigating the incident.

On June 11 at 2:57 p.m., police responded to reports of a larceny on Main Street. Someone had taken a prescription medication bottle from a man’s bag while he was at work. There are currently no leads on suspects.

On June 12 at 8:28 a.m., police responded to reports of a dagger with blood on it at a location on Charles Street. Police investigated and found a rusty kitchen knife, which they discarded.

On June 12 at 7:34 p.m., police responded to Drake Playground. A caller reported seeing a bag with white powder. Upon investigation, police found a popped exercise ball.

On June 14 at 1:54 p.m., police responded to a residence on Hibiscus Avenue. The caller said that a patio set valued at \$300 was missing. A neighbor came forward and said he'd taken the patio set because he believed it had been put out for trash.

On June 15 at 1:54 p.m., police responded to the dog park on Metropolitan Parkway. Two parties using the dog park had a verbal dispute. Police spoke to all of the people involved.

On July 16 at 7:55 p.m., police responded to the Extended Stay Deluxe on Fourth Avenue. The call was reporting someone who owned thirty cats but was unable to care for them properly. The issue was referred to the Animal Control Officer.

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

The week ahead: Council to finalize FY2027 budget before summer break

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 21, 2026

As June comes to a close, City Council is finishing off its hectic annual scheduling dance to pass its budget before the new fiscal year and complete its work before its summer break.

The council will take a vote on budgetary matters — including a last-minute addition to Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy's proposed School Department budget — at its final scheduled June meeting Monday. Before the meeting convenes, the Finance Committee is scheduled to hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. to go over possible cuts to the budget prior to sending it to the full council for approval.

After the council meets at 7:30 p.m., it will split into subcommittees to discuss any new items. At the end of the night, it will reconvene as a full council to vote on any final unresolved matters.

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled this week, June 22 through 27.

City Council and committee meetings

Before the budget discussion, City Council has a long list of business to get to Monday night.

It will review a \$1,592,866 building permit fee reimbursement to Boston Dynamics and the Hyundai Motor Group, proposed by McCarthy to get the companies to stay in Waltham. It will consider a total of \$285,513.32 in funding requests for improvements and abatements to the Fernald State School property's Howe building, which [will house a new public indoor pool](#), and new athletic area; discuss a \$10,000 request to replace windows at City Hall; and consider accepting a \$105,000 state grant for improvements to the Robert Treat Payne Estate.

It will revisit locations for [a new bike-sharing program in Waltham](#) and vote on business [discussed in its committees last week](#), including finalizing [plans for three west Waltham Zoning districts](#). It will discuss funding transfers around the city, decide on this year's recipient of the Kevin M. Ritcey Public Service Award, consider accepting a donation of stuffed animals for Waltham First Responders to distribute, and listen to a resolution from McDevitt Middle School's eighth grade civics class.

City Council and its committees will meet on Monday, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Registrars of Voters

The Board of Registrars of Voters, overseen by the City Clerk's office, is tasked with maintaining an up-to-date voter registry, training workers and maintaining voting machines in advance of election day, and maintaining election integrity in the City of Waltham.

The board will meet this week at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, in the City Hall's Hoover Committee Room, to discuss early voting and appoint election workers for the 2026 state and senate elections.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

The board has the power to grant project-specific variances to the code, overrule judgments made by the building inspector and grant specific types of special permits.

This week it will hear a case from tiny home company Brady-Built Inc. for a house at 24 Rando Lane.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Arthur 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 hold a special meeting to further discuss the FY2027 School Department budget, discuss measures of success set by Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa and approve a contract for the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

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

Young entrepreneurs shine at Waltham Children's Business Fair

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • BUSINESS • JUNE 21, 2026



Families gathered on Waltham Common on Saturday for the International Children's Convention 2026, an event celebrating youth entrepreneurship, creativity and cultural exchange.

The convention featured the Waltham Children's Business Fair, where young entrepreneurs presented products, artwork and educational projects. Among them was V Square (V²) Design, created by brothers Ved and Vansh, who showcased 3D artwork inspired by everyday objects.

Another business, Bestie Bars, was launched by 10-year-old friends Abigail and Ella. Their booth featured oversized stuffed chocolate bars in a variety of flavors, highlighting the participants' creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

The event was hosted by Mamai Art Gallery as part of its 10th anniversary celebration, with support from the Waltham Cultural Council. It also included cultural exhibits, performances and activities that drew families and community members for a day of learning and engagement.



Conservation Commission signs off on plans for two new developments on Main Street

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 21, 2026



The Conservation Commission signed off on two development prospectuses during its meeting Thursday night. Both development prospectuses were represented by Michael Connors of Connors & Connors LLP.

The first prospectus is located at 995 Main St., a former overflow parking lot at the corner of Main Street and Prospect Hill Road. The proposed use for the lot is the construction of a Service Credit Union building.



995 Main St.

The project requires a special permit acquired through City Council because there is a planned drive-through lane with an ATM facility. All commissions and boards need to sign off on a special permit development prospectus. The commission voted to allow conservation agent Julia Abbott to sign the prospectus because it is out of the commission's jurisdiction.

The second prospectus is located at 70 Marketplace Drive. Cava Group Inc., owners of the Cava restaurant chain, is petitioning to occupy a newly constructed building on the site. Sweetgreen Inc. has also petitioned to occupy the site, though it is unclear which restaurant will ultimately be in the building. The area is zoned for fast food use and is previously developed. The commission determined the area to be outside of their jurisdiction and authorized Abbott to sign the prospectus.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a notice of intent for the removal and reconstruction of stairs and a retaining wall as well as the construction of a second retaining wall and expansion of an existing parking area at 32 Riverview Ave.
- Approved a notice of intent for the demolition and reconstruction of a single-family home at 339 Bacon St. The newly constructed house will feature a stormwater mitigation system and an

erosion sediment control system to prevent run-off and debris from entering a nearby brook.

- Approved a certificate of compliance for a memorial, chipping range and disc golf area at 190 to 282 Trapelo Road. The project did not happen, so the certificate of compliance is a formality to close out the project.
- Continued discussion of a request of determination of applicability for an underground stormwater management system installation and repaving of an existing parking area at 153 Second Ave. The applicant is going to discuss the project with the City of Cambridge due to the project's proximity to the Cambridge Reservoir.
- Approved a certificate of compliance for the replacement of a culvert over Beaver Brook on Trapelo Road. The applicant installed the recommended improvements including the addition of woody shrubs to the area.
- Created a committee to discuss use of a \$50,000 grant from the Community Preservation Committee. The grant was intended for creating a forestry management plan at the Robert Treat Paine Estate, but that project hasn't come to fruition yet. If there isn't a possibility of use for the money, the commission plans to give it back to the CPC.
- Elected commission officers for the 2027 fiscal year. The commission will keep all officers as is, with Bill Doyle as the commission chair, Lisa Limoncello as the vice chair, Gerry Dufromont as the secretary and Anja Shafer as the CPC liaison.

Waltham celebrates Juneteenth with music, children's activities and a reading by Anita Hill

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • COMMUNITY • JUNE 21, 2026



Strong winds blew across Waltham Common as members of the community gathered to celebrate Juneteenth, a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States and honoring Black freedom, history and culture.

The Juneteenth celebration, hosted by the Waltham Boys & Girls Club, began at 11 a.m., with tables and activities were set up across the Common. Families could enjoy slushies from Z-n-Z Slushies and More, while children took part in activities, including a crafting station and a colorful inflatable bouncer.

Music featuring Black artists played over the speakers throughout the event. Volunteers danced on the grass as children and parents joined in.

Invited to speak was Anita Hill, the Brandeis professor famed for testifying about alleged sexual harassment by US Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas in the 1991 Senate confirmation hearings. Hill read an excerpt from "Ida: A Sword Among Lions," a biography of Ida B. Wells, an investigative journalist, civil rights activist and suffragist.

Through the reading, Hill emphasized the importance of celebrating Juneteenth and remembering the people in American history who fought against slavery and injustice.



“It is a reminder, one, that the country can change, but also a reminder of the harsh nature of slavery, and how we shouldn’t just think it’s all over. Emancipation isn’t just an act of one day. It takes decades and decades for emancipation to be real,” Hill said.

For attendees, the celebration was also a way to reflect on the meaning of Juneteenth with their families and the broader Waltham community.

“We celebrate every year. We do a couple of activities. We come out in the City of Waltham and do like this year’s activity in the park, and then, we usually go to a celebratory event — that’s where they explain more about the whole purpose of Juneteenth,” Patrick Palmer said.

“I am here, [at Waltham Common], today to celebrate Juneteenth and interact with other members of the community,” Chio Yokose said.

Families also highlighted the importance of Waltham recognizing Juneteenth and hosting community celebrations.

“I think it’s a day that acknowledges and celebrates a lot of members of our community, and that Waltham should do more to uplift our immigrant and Black American and BIPOC community,” Zoe Reiches said.

“I am pleased by the continuity that Waltham has brought to the table,” Stephond Goler said. “I think that in the future, I would personally, and I think the community, would like to see a larger celebration.”

This is the fourth year the WBGC hosted the Juneteenth gathering. Executive Director Erica Young said the idea for the event came from the organization’s goal of recognizing holidays through education and community building.

“We wanted to do more for education and community building, and so those three events are Juneteenth, MLK Day and Indigenous Peoples’ Day,” Young said.

When considering ways to celebrate Juneteenth, the nonprofit worked to make the event community-centered, fun and accessible.

“[The block party idea] is the best way to celebrate, have joy around us, support local businesses,” said Madison Falzon, director of program operations at WBGC. “And so we want to just get people on the Common, right in the middle of the city — very visible to everyone and very accessible to everyone.”

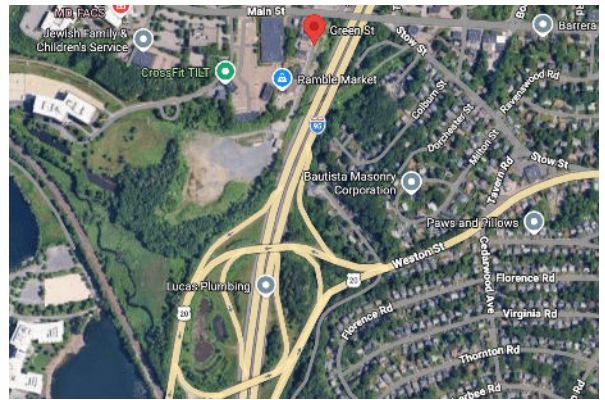
Long-term visions for West End traffic start to take shape with Green Street extension

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 21, 2026



Though some of Waltham's immediate plans to improve the area have [temporarily screeched to a halt](#), residents of the city's West End are starting to see a coherent timeline for roadway improvements to relieve traffic in their neighborhoods.

At Thursday's Traffic Commission meeting, the city heard more details on the upcoming [Green Street connector project](#) before it goes out to bid in July. The project involves extending a short road jutting down from Main Street just west of I-95, called Green Street, down to the Weston Street highway exit. It's expected to be completed sometime in 2028 or 2029.



Satellite view of the Rte. 20 interchange. The Green Street extension would provide a connector running between Rte. 117/Main Street and Rte. 20. Google maps.

This project is tied to plans for [two real estate companies to build new residential neighborhoods](#) in the area around I-95. The city hopes this new connector road will ease traffic in the West End by providing a direct path between Main Street and the Route 20/Weston Street highway exit without cutting through residential neighborhoods.

Civil engineering firm VHB's Director of Transportation Planning and Operations Rob Nagi presented schematic designs for the project. Its construction phase will involve widening the existing segment of Green Street to add a shared walking and biking path, rearranging the parking lots of existing businesses to create a new municipal lot and making safety improvements around the Weston Street exit involving new traffic signals and lane restructuring.

The Green Street project will involve installing two new traffic signals, two Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons, five new crosswalks, a new stop sign and wiring improvements to coordinate local Main Street traffic signals. It's estimated to cost \$30 million, and real estate company BXP Inc. [has agreed to pay any remaining costs](#) after the project goes through its \$15 million in state grants.

Another local real estate company, 1265 Main Street LLC, has provided a legal easement for some of Green Street's path.

Future phases of the project

Once Green Street is constructed, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation can start another project on its list: The redesign of the nearby Route 117 bridge where Main Street crosses the highway. This project will be entirely state-funded, and has just begun its design phase; MassDOT aims to start construction by 2030, with a projected completion date in 2031 or 2032.

The redesign of the bridge will open up the Green Street area to further improvements. Nagi said the city will temporarily have to restrict left turns from Main to Green Street until the bridge is widened to allow a left turn lane, at which point pedestrian infrastructure at the intersection can also be improved.

This would make Green Street a more viable path between Main and Weston streets. After the bridge is completed, the city plans to dead-end the residential Stowe Street to discourage vehicles cutting through it for that purpose.

The layout of the Weston Street highway exit will also see changes in the long term. MassDOT plans to move one of Weston Street's two northbound onramps to I-95 up to Main Street. Nagi said that as traffic in the area may increase with new residential development, MassDot hopes to add additional safety improvements around the traffic circle

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation also has plans to use Green Street to connect the Weston and Waltham arms of the Massachusetts Rail Trail. The DCR has plans to develop the adjoining old railroad bridge as a way for trail users to cross the highway, although Nagi said that project is currently stalled.

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Other West End improvements

These changes are still pretty far on the horizon, but the Traffic Commission also discussed more immediate changes to improve traffic around the West End.

In response to [the 2024 West End traffic improvement study](#), the Traffic Commission previously voted to [coordinate traffic signals along Main and Prospect streets](#) to improve traffic flow, encouraging vehicles to stick to these major roads.

This week, Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin told the commission that Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy [has refused to authorize a bid for the project](#) until the department finishes other previously scheduled improvements around the city.

In the meantime, the Traffic Commission discussed smaller changes it could make to reduce traffic bottlenecks along Prospect Street. It considered options to create turn lanes or limit left turns that hold up traffic, and finally voted to ban left turns onto Highland Street. It also requested the Police Department ramp up parking enforcement along the street to make it easier for cars to make turns.

As part of the city's ongoing review of traffic lights around the city, Garvin additionally recommended the commission make significant repairs to the Vernon Street traffic signal, whose signal arm — including its emergency vehicle detector, designed to give right-of-way to first responders — was broken and temporarily replaced with a post.

Although Director of Wires Tim Kelly told commissioners he did not currently have the resources to replace a broken signal arm at the intersection, the commission voted to accept Garvin's recommendations, repairing pedestrian and vehicle signals and replacing the arm when possible.

Waltham High, Bentley grads witness U.S. World Cup win

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • JUNE 21, 2026



A lucky draw in FIFA's World Cup ticket lottery sent four longtime friends, connected through Waltham High School and Bentley University, to Seattle to watch the United States beat Australia.

Matt Milmore and Matt Cedrone, both Waltham residents and Waltham High School graduates, joined friends Ryan "Dunk" Dressel of Philadelphia and Kelley Ross of Connecticut at Seattle's Lumen Field to watch a young U.S. squad dominate the Aussies in a 2-0 victory.

All four friends graduated from Bentley University, which is now serving as the official [team base camp for the French National Team](#), who are cup favorites.



U.S. beat Australia 2-0 in World Cup match in Seattle. Courtesy photo.



Matt Milmore, Matt Cedrone, Ryan Dressel and Kelley Ross at World Cup game. Courtesy photo.



The foursome will head to Gillette Stadium on Friday to watch France take on Turkey. Courtesy photo.

Milmore and Cedrone both played for the WHS boys soccer team from 2001 to 2005 under coach Kelvin Bernard and captained the Hawks as seniors. One of their favorite memories was a draw against Everett, then one of the top-ranked teams in the state. Cedrone now coaches with Waltham Youth Soccer.

After the World Cup matches were announced, all four marked Dec. 11 as soccer D-Day. That was the date of FIFA's Random Selection Draw, the official ticket lottery for purchasing World Cup tickets at face value.

They each applied for four tickets per match and hoped for the best. With thousands of soccer fans doing the same, they didn't have high hopes. It came as a huge surprise two months later when Dressel called the others with the good news — he was selected and had four tickets in hand for two cup games.

They booked tickets to Seattle the next day, and soon found themselves immersed in one of the world's biggest sporting events.

"I've attended some unforgettable sporting events including the Red Sox World Series-clinching win at Fenway in 2013, the Bruins' first game after the Marathon bombing, and Rob Gronkowski's three-touchdown win over Pittsburgh. But this World Cup topped them all," Cedrone said. "The atmosphere, the passion and then energy around the stadium was extraordinary. It was the best sporting event of my life."

With the win, the U.S. Men's National Team advanced to the knockout round after winning their first two Group D matches in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The trip isn't over yet.

The foursome will head to Gillette Stadium on Friday to watch France take on Norway in another World Cup group-stage match.

Dressel is looking forward to game two, and isn't shy about their lucky draw. "I've reminded them a few times about who won the raffle, but I'm happy to share the experience with good friends," he said.

Disclosure: Matt Milmore, who is featured in this story, is the son of Waltham Times editor Steve Milmore.

City Council in brief: After three years, residents see some progress on paving private ways

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD & STEVE MILMORE • NEWS • JUNE 16, 2026



More than 72 private way residents will soon see progress on their requests to resurface their streets.

Between early 2023 and May of last year, residents of 12 private ways requested that the city repave their streets. The City Council has discussed some of these projects for years without a clear end date, but on Monday Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned visited the Public Works and Public Safety Committee to give a timeline for repaving six of them.

For these six requests, Learned said the city was able to verify that more than half of the neighbors on these streets agreed to the project, which is the first requirement for such a project to go forward. In total, these repaving requests will cost the city an estimated \$637,170.

The Law Department has already reviewed three of the projects – Buxton Lane, Mount Pleasant Street and Marion Street – and is ready to present them at next week's City Council meeting. The Engineering Department is still reviewing the other three – Kenmore Road/Kenmore Terrace, Milner Street and Blossom Street.



Learned estimated the Law Department would be ready to present the latter three projects at the council's Aug. 3 meeting and recommended that councilors vote on the repaving requests as a group at that meeting.

Even with an August start date, Learned said the city would be able to pave some of the private ways without underground gas lines this construction season. Some of these proposals have recently hit delays, she explained, because the city learned that utility companies had planned maintenance on the roads. In cases where utility companies will be doing work on private ways in the near future, the repaving may have to wait until next spring after that work is complete.

Private ways are not owned by the city, and the city is not legally responsible for maintaining them. Still, because of the high cost of roadwork, if more than half of residents on a private way agree to redo their street, they can submit a request to the city. If accepted, the city will determine the cost of the street paving and pay two-thirds of that cost. The other third is divided between landowners on the private way according to how much their lots are on the street.

Additionally, the City Council:

- Applauded Sunday's [Pride Day celebrations](#). (Committee of the Whole)
- Got a first look at proposed plans for new Department of Public Works headquarters at the site of the former Fernald State School. (Committee of the Whole)
- Heard an update on the city's [potential purchase of a building at 600 Main St.](#) Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy said the Law Department was still negotiating with the building's owner about details of the sale. (Committee of the Whole)
- Postponed [discussions of a citywide bike-sharing program](#) to next week's committee meetings. (Committee of the Whole)
- Unanimously agreed to [a request from McCarthy to buy two single-family houses](#) to redevelop into affordable housing using previously approved Community Preservation Act funds. These houses, to be named Mac's Place and Arrigo's Place, will be targeted toward veterans. The full council will vote to ratify this decision next week. (Committee of the Whole, Licenses and Franchises)
- Heard a presentation from the first responders' and veterans' mental health organization 22Mohawks detailing [its community mental health care and outreach programs](#). (Economic and Community Development.)
- Discussed a \$125,000 funding request to pay for city utilities from the past fiscal year. Director of Building Maintenance Jon Millian said costs have surged, and water and electricity bills from the first eight months of the past fiscal year matched or exceeded the previous year's budget. Councilor-at-Large Randall J. LeBlanc asked Millian to investigate whether the city's utilities usage has gone up in the past year. (Finance)
- Preliminarily accepted donations to City Hall's museum room: two Waltham High School reunion yearbooks from the class of 1940, centennial scholarship materials from the 1980s and photographs of Waltham landmarks. (Finance)
- Preliminarily accepted three emergency services grants McCarthy said the city had received in previous years: a \$20,524.80 emergency medical dispatch and a 911 training grant of \$123,557.52 for the Police Department, as well as \$275,871 for 911 program support. (Finance)
- Agreed to grant Minwoo Park a license to operate an online fortune telling business out of his private home. Since Park plans to move the business into an office space at the end of the summer, the committee set the license to expire early and asked Park to reapply at the new office in September. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Agreed to renew two licenses for lodging houses at 107 Adams St. and 77 Prospect St. The committee also approved a short-term license for a lodging house at 94 Adams St. but asked the owner to reapply in the fall so councilors could inspect it. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Preliminarily approved outdoor dining licenses for Guanachapi's Bar and Grill and Pho & Spice Waltham. (Licenses and Franchises)
- Passed a motion to send amendments to the city's compensation ordinances raising pay for the human resources director and payroll supervisor and creating new assistant fire chief and senior park ranger positions to the Law Department for review. These were part of [McCarthy's budget proposal for the upcoming year](#). (Ordinance and Rules)

- Passed a motion to send an updated proposal to residentially [rezone 495 Lincoln St.](#), the current [Pizzi Farm Market property](#), to the city solicitor for review. The owners agreed to limit housing on the lot to 13 units. (Ordinance and Rules)
- Sent a proposal to [expand the Riverfront Overlay District over 181-185 Felton St.](#) to the Law Department for review. (Ordinance and Rules)
- Voted to send proposals to [create three overlay districts around Route 128](#), designed to encourage mixed-use housing development from companies BXP Inc. and 1265 Main Street LLC, to the full council for final approval after receiving a positive judgement on them from the Board of Survey and Planning. It sent a request to expand one of the districts to include the lot at 1432 Main St., owned by Ferris Development Group LLC, to the Law Department for review. (Ordinance and Rules).



Authors



ARTIE KRONENFELD

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



STEVE MILMORE

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

Comments (1)



TONY MANGINI • JUNE 17, 2026 AT 11:06 AM

please be advised that the plan to finally pave some private ways is being adopted. sadly rose hill way is not among the candidates being considered. the residensts of rose hill way have appeared before the city council on two occasions within the last 10 years. even tom murphy past managing editor of the waltham tribune wrote an editorial on rose hill way as being one of the worst in the city. additionally a Globe article also was printed in this regard. wish we could find a way to get us back on the "high" priority list. at age 96, i've been a resident of rose hill way sine 1960 and would love to see the road resurfaced before i leave the planet soon. anthony mangini, 54 rose hill way, waltham

[Reply](#)

Construction project uncovers soil and groundwater contamination near new apartment complex

BY CYD ABNET • ENVIRONMENT • JUNE 18, 2026



A plot behind the Alexan Waltham apartment complex at 73 Pond St. is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly abbreviated as PCBs, a known carcinogen.

The affected area sits between the newly constructed complex and the Mass Central Rail Trail. A sign warns that the fenced-off area is contaminated.

A [June 5 report](#) submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by GEI Consultants Inc. says the contamination was discovered during the construction of the apartment complex.

In an email to the Waltham Land Trust, Gerald Autler, director of trails and greenways at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, said the land belongs to the MBTA and DCR is not responsible for the contamination.

“We don’t know the MBTA’s timeline for remediation. MassDEP requested fencing and signage and the MBTA asked DCR for assistance because they didn’t have a simple contract mechanism for getting that done in a timely manner and we did,” Autler said.

Testing confirmed a plume of PCBs affecting the soil and groundwater in the area, with some present in the air in underground portions of Alexan Waltham but at a level below what is considered to be harmful. According to maps included in the report, the fenced-off area is where the highest concentration of PCBs is located. However, PCBs are present in the surrounding soil as well.

Ward 6 Councilor Sean T. Durkee said he has been aware of this contamination and thinks the mitigation systems in place will benefit residents. “Residents are much better off with the monitoring wells and filtration systems as opposed to a vacant lot just sitting there,” he said. “We can’t change the past, but we can mitigate the effects of bad prior practices.”

According to its report, GEI Consultants is creating a plan to excavate the contaminated soil from the site, dispose of the soil and encapsulate it so no more chemical leakage can happen.

Before implementing its plan, it will submit it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Some remediation efforts, including moving contaminated soil, injecting chemicals into the ground to neutralize the PCBs and installing a vapor mitigation system, have already been enacted.



The fenced-off land marked as contaminated behind the Alexan Waltham. Photo courtesy of Sonja Wadman.

ADVERTISEMENT



Neither Trammell Crow Residential, which owns Alexan Waltham, nor the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection responded to requests for comments.

PCBs are man-made chemicals put in industrial products as a flame retardant between 1930 and 1979. The United States in 1979 banned their production due to their toxicity to humans and the environment.

“Short-term exposure is not expected to cause serious problems. Long-term exposure is the biggest concern,” said Keri C. Hornbuckle, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Iowa who studies PCBs.

Long-term exposure to PCBs can cause various health problems including cancer Hornbuckle said, adding that the presence of PCBs at the site is most likely due to former industrial activity there.

According to Waltham Historical Society treasurer Marie Daly, a metal fabrication firm called Artisan Industries used to own the site where Alexan Waltham now sits.

Comments (2)



MARILYN RACETTE • JUNE 19, 2026 AT 12:48 PM

thank you for this story! I hope you will provide updates on any remediation work—or lack of!

Reply



DEBRA HERMAN • JUNE 19, 2026 AT 10:06 AM

Thanks for breaking down this complex issue into understandable points.

Reply

Department of Public Works presents plans for move to Fernald property

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 16, 2026

Waltham's Department of Public Works plans to move out and get its own space in a couple of years.

The DPW will move from 155 Lexington St. to the site of the former Fernald State School by early 2029, giving the city more space at the Lexington complex to [renovate the Police and Fire department headquarters](#).

The City Council had [heard stirrings for months](#) about a possible DPW move to the site of the former Fernald State School..

At its Monday meeting, the council got a first look at what the new DPW headquarters may look like and got an update on its construction timeline. It also learned how the project will fit into larger plans to renovate 155 Lexington St., which currently houses the DPW, police and fire headquarters.

Councilors heard a proposal for the new DPW headquarters' layout from Mike Richard of architectural planning firm Weston & Sampson.

Because of the irregular topography of the area, Richard proposed the headquarters would be split into two main buildings. One would house the DPW's administrative offices and workshops and have an attached covered garage to store the department's vehicles. The second building would serve as a vehicle maintenance and cleaning bay with additional materials storage areas, including a salt shed.

These new buildings will be housed at the southeast corner of the Fernald site, near [the former Phineas Lawrence Elementary School](#). They would be accessible from Waverley Oaks Road.

DPW Director Michael Chiasson said this location isn't as central as 155 Lexington St., but the move will give the DPW more space for its operations. "I think we get everything we want and a little bit more than we have now," he told councilors.

The architectural plan designated another smaller building on the site to be used as a recycling drop-off area. Richard said it wasn't large enough for a "swap shop" where residents could donate or pick up items, and Chiasson said the department hasn't made a final decision on how the recycling site will be used.

Multiple councilors also asked about the possibility of using the recycling site or other Fernald land for a city composting program.

"Area cities ... are jealous of the amount of land that we have to do something like [composting]," said Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur.

Use of and construction at the Fernald site presents several issues.

The site itself, Richard explained, is difficult to build on. It includes steep slopes and conservation-protected land, and Ward 6 Councilor Sean T. Durkee said some parts are “environmentally restricted” due to contamination from an adjoining power plant.

The location also has a [complicated history](#). The Fernald State School served as the country’s first publicly funded school for people with developmental disabilities. But it also has a documented history of human rights abuses happening there, and community and family members are [still trying to access and process records of the people](#) who lived on its grounds.

Councilors said the city did not use Community Preservation Act funding to purchase the segment of the Fernald property where the DPW complex will be built so it has more flexibility on what it can build there.

The city plans to [build a rink](#) just across the property’s border, at the former Lawrence Elementary, and create a 15-acre cemetery on the Fernald estate to the north and east of proposed DPW buildings.

What’s next

Richard said the firm will next create schematic designs and floor plans, hire subcontractors to survey the site and estimate total construction costs.

He said he expects to return to the City Council in September to ask for pre-construction funding so the project can go out to bid by October. This will be the first of two funding requests for the site; the firm will be back a second time next summer for construction funds.

Once the DPW moves out of the building, the Lexington Street renovation can pick up speed. The City Council could see a funding request for that work in October or November, with a final project completion date set for late 2030.

Comments (3)



PAUL WILBUR • JUNE 17, 2026 AT 12:20 PM

Any reason not to build more and affordable housing in Waltham will be the the policy of the Mayor and a majority of the city council.

Reply



EMILY HORTON-HALL • JUNE 17, 2026 AT 8:46 AM

So according to the plans this is undeveloped forested land that they are going to add a whole bunch of impervious pavement with no environmental mitigations? It’s really such a bummer how the leadership in Waltham cares so much that children have playgrounds and splash pads but no consideration for them to have clean air, water, or liveable climate.

Reply



RICHARD LAING • JUNE 17, 2026 AT 8:09 AM

I strongly support having a composting site at Fernald.

Reply

Open House at Waltham Boys & Girls Club Childcare Center

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • COMMUNITY • JUNE 16, 2026



Local families can visit the Waltham Boys & Girls Club Childcare Center at an open house on Thursday, June 18, to explore affordable, accessible options.

The event will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. at 760 Main St. and will allow parents to visit classrooms and learn more about the center's programs. Parents can meet with the leadership team and teachers to ask questions about enrollment and how the center supports children's development.



The center welcomes children aged 15 months to 5 years old, with toddler, preschool and pre-K classroom options. Enrollment for these groups is currently open. According to the center's website, toddler care starts at \$108 per day, while preschool and pre-K options start at \$80 per day.

The center aims to foster an inclusive and safe environment through games and self-discovery activities, and provide a space where children can learn, build confidence and develop a sense of curiosity.

[RSVPs](#) for the open house are recommended. Families can also learn more about the services available or schedule a tour by visiting walthambgc.org/childcare or contacting the center at childcarecenter@waltham.org or 781-899-2070.

School Committee gets first look at ideas for re-utilization of 617 Lexington St.

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • JUNE 18, 2026



The school committee heard first drafts of wide-ranging proposals at its June 17 meeting for the future of 617 Lexington St., which would turn the former Waltham High School campus into a hub for education, community programming and student support services.



The lot currently houses the superintendent's office, the Dual Language School and Waltham Valor School, but the 265,000 square foot space remains underutilized.

The 617 Committee, made up of parents, educators and community members and divided into four subgroups, spent about seven months developing their ideas. Raymond Porch, family and community engagement officer for the district, presented on the committee's behalf. He said the proposals represent a vision, not a finalized plan. No costs have been calculated, and the 617 Committee was encouraged to think of ideas "with no ceiling," Porch said.

The four subgroups of the committee represented the stakeholders with the most reasonable claims on the space: the Valor School, the Dual Language School, a proposed universal preschool and a community group that would focus on public programming for all ages.

The Valor School subgroup asked to remain in the back hallway of the building where it currently is, and requested a dedicated cafe, a fitness center, an art room with a kiln, a nursing suite for student mothers and an additional school entrance. Their portion of the presentation noted an intention to grow their enrollment to 75 next year, with an eventual goal of 125 students.

The Dual Language School presented the most ambitious expansion plan, proposing to grow from two to four sections per grade beginning in kindergarten, and eventually extending the program through eighth grade. This growth would require moving from the first floor where the school is now to the second and eventually third floor, along with a separate entrance, better elevator access, age-appropriate bathrooms and a second playground for older children. A parent survey conducted by the subgroup showed majority support for the K-8 model.

The community-focused subgroup envisioned the building as a neighborhood resource open beyond school hours, with space for adult education, cultural events, a community kitchen, recreational sports and expanded use of the Reagle Theatre.

Vondy Merisma, president of the Watch City Program, which runs recreational sports programming for young people, spoke in support of the plan. The subgroup noted in their part of the presentation that community programming would need to be revenue-neutral or generate income to cover staffing and custodial costs.

The preschool subgroup called for a full-day, Monday through Friday program for children ages 3 to 5. They set a tentative target of fall 2027 for implementation. Proposals included child-sized bathrooms, sensory and dramatic play spaces and a literacy area. The program would be housed entirely on the first floor given the students' age. Family surveys cited high demand, with one respondent noting that the cost of private daycare is "more than my mortgage."

Questions and concerns



School Committee members raised several practical concerns with the proposals. Elizabeth AlJammal asked how community members could safely access the building during school hours alongside young children. Debra Coleman cautioned that transportation costs would rise significantly if DLS expands, since the program draws students from across the whole city.

AlJammal said she would like to see "a more cohesive picture of how these things all fit together." She also reminded the committee that the building may eventually be needed as an additional public school given [ongoing housing development](#) in the city.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy expressed support for the pre-k proposal. "There is definitely a need for this," she said.

Porch acknowledged the proposals require more development, cost analysis and community input before any path forward is determined.

School secretaries and administrators press School Committee for contracts after yearlong stalemate

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • JUNE 18, 2026



Two Waltham Public Schools employee groups nearly filled the room at the school committee's June 17 meeting, calling on the committee to reach fair contract settlements after their members have continued to work without a negotiated contract since July 1, 2025.



Representatives from the Waltham School Secretaries Association and the Waltham School Administrators Association both addressed the committee, joined by parents and community members who spoke in support.

Derek Vandegrift, president of the administrators association which represents assistant principals and directors across the district, read a formal petition from the group aloud to the committee. According to the administrators' petition, they are among six employee units without contracts, including secretaries, MIS technicians, building trades workers, food service and custodial staff.

The only district employee union with a [currently ratified contract](#) is the teachers' union, which was finalized after 13 months of negotiations.

"For nearly a year, our members have continued to fulfill their responsibilities without a negotiated contract," Vandegrift read, noting that administrators regularly work beyond the traditional school day, including evenings, weekends and emergency responses.

The petition urged the committee to reach an agreement that provides "fair and competitive compensation that reflects the scope and complexity" of administrators' responsibilities, and called for a settlement that would help recruit and retain school leaders in Waltham.

The secretary association, whose contract also expired July 1, 2025, outlined specific points of contention with the district's pay-scale practices. Kristine Scheufele, president of the union and a nearly 15-year district employee, described what she called a wage compression crisis in which long-serving secretaries earn the same as or less than recently hired colleagues.

The pay-scale practice, she argued, has created a gap that punishes loyalty. Under the contract that expired last July, the district [retained discretion](#) to place new hires up to four rungs up the salary ladder from day one. Scheufele said that provision has left veterans financially worse off.

"This creates a shameful and negative seniority gap," she said, citing one example of a 26-year veteran earning nearly \$5,000 less annually than a hire with less than two years of experience. "In Waltham, those years of

loyalty are valued at exactly zero dollars,” the president said.

Scheufele also challenged a 2.5% raise proposed by the district in past negotiations, calling it a “mathematical illusion.” For an employee higher up the salary ladder, she said, the gross increase from that raise is effectively consumed by insurance premiums, mandatory contributions and inflation.

“We’re not asking for a windfall,” she said, “we’re asking for a correction.”

Several other secretaries also spoke, including one who spoke on behalf of a colleague who feared retaliation for speaking publicly.

“In my decade and a half here, I have never witnessed an atmosphere like this,” the president said of the tense climate during negotiations.

Emile Colon, a parent of a Waltham High School student, also addressed the committee in support of the secretaries. He described secretaries as “the front line of the school,” the first voice families hear when they call and often the first person who knows something is wrong with a student.

“Respect does not buy groceries,” he said. “Appreciation does not cover gas, insurance, childcare or medical costs,” emphasizing the importance of compensation.

Despite their frustrations, speakers made it clear the dispute is not about a lack of commitment to the district. “Could we find ourselves work for higher salaries? Absolutely,” said secretary association member Karen Lawn. “Why do we stay? Because we are committed to the Waltham public schools. We are committed to our students, and our community, and we love Waltham.”

Per meeting rules, the school committee did not respond publicly to contract-related comments. Negotiations between the district and various employee units are ongoing.

Comments (2)



STEPH • JUNE 20, 2026 AT 11:00 AM

Just a correction that the speaker was actually Karen Lawn. Karen Lyons is another union member, but did not speak.

Reply



JUNE KINOSHITA • JUNE 20, 2026 AT 9:24 PM

Thank you for alerting us. We have updated the article.

Reply

The Cat Connection seeks volunteers to meet summer care gap

BY THE CAT CONNECTION • COMMUNITY • JUNE 16, 2026



The Cat Connection is calling for volunteers to help care for cats during the busy summer months, when regular foster families and volunteers are often away on vacation.

The Waltham-based nonprofit said it faces a seasonal strain on resources each year, even as the number of cats needing daily care remains steady. The organization is seeking both temporary and longer-term foster homes, as well as onsite volunteers, to help bridge the gap.

Fostering opportunities range from short-term placements lasting one to two weeks — covering for vacationing foster families — to longer stays of several weeks or months. “Every bit of space helps,” the organization said in its announcement, encouraging community members to consider opening their homes.



The Cat Connection is also recruiting volunteers to assist at its shelter at 167 Chestnut Hill Ave. in Brighton. Just two hours per week “can make a massive difference for our resident kitties,” it said. Volunteers help with feeding, cleaning enclosures and socializing cats to prepare them for adoption.

Volunteer shifts are available daily from 8 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

Those interested should apply online:

- [Apply to foster](#)
- [Apply to volunteer onsite](#)

The Cat Connection urged residents to share the opportunity, noting that consistent care and attention remain critical for cats in its shelter throughout the summer.

Traffic Commission: Signal equipment delays are holding back Waltham's traffic

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 18, 2026



Many city intersections are slowing down traffic because of fixable issues with their equipment, according to traffic engineer J. Michael Garvin.

Although traffic volumes have gone down in much of Waltham over the past decade, many intersections are still creating bottlenecks for passing cars. “The largest source of delays at traffic signals across the city is inefficient or broken traffic signal equipment, including detection signals,” Garvin told members of the city’s Traffic Commission on Thursday.

However, two commission-approved projects to improve traffic signalization have come to a temporary halt at Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy’s desk.

One of these projects is a [\\$365,000 funding request](#) that Garvin submitted to the mayor in March. This funding was earmarked for vehicle detection system repairs at eight traffic signals — three intersections along Main Street, four along Lexington Street and the intersection of Beaver Street and Waverley Oaks Road.

Garvin’s report said these repairs were part of the city’s long-term capital improvement plan. “If we are serious about improving traffic operations in Waltham, then securing adequate funding must be part of the solution,” he told commissioners.

Director of Wires Tim Kelly said he requested \$35,000 for these repairs in his department’s requests for the FY2027 budget, arguing the rest should be payable through the city’s traffic mitigation fund.

“We have a ton of money in mitigation funds,” Kelly emphasized. “The money is there.”

Commissioners voted to take stock of what other projects are drawing from the mitigation account and, if feasible, request funding from the account for the traffic signals.

Meanwhile, [another string of signal improvements](#) prompted by [the West End traffic study](#) also got a red light from the mayor. Garvin said McCarthy won’t allow the project to go to bid until the traffic engineering department completes improvements at the Beaver Street railroad crossing and at [the intersection of Main Street, Gore Street, Barbara Road and Warren Street](#).

“It’s disappointing because this study goes back years, we finally got it done — and now progress is just being halted,” said Ward 7 Councilor Paul Katz.

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The advertisement banner features a green background with a large clock face. On the left, there is a small inset image of a newspaper page. A red arrow points to the text 'CLICK to DONATE'. The main text reads 'Support local news!'. Below this, it says 'Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information.' and 'While our news is free to readers, it is not free to produce. Help keep it flowing! Thank you. Your support matters.' The Waltham Times logo is in the bottom right corner.

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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 upcoming [Green Street connector road](#), designed to ameliorate traffic in the West End, promises some additional hope of improvements for the area. Still, Katz asked commissioners to consider additional signage and intersection improvements: “That’s all I can ask for at this point,” he said.

Additionally, the Traffic Commission:

- Approved a traffic plan for [National Grid to replace gas mains underneath Main Street](#), a requirement for the [City Council’s approval of the project](#). The commission asked National Grid to delay the project until next year after the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority finishes parallel construction projects on Felton Street.
- Approved two fast food locations for Cava and Sweetgreen, who plan to occupy a building at the 1265 Main St. plaza near the Market Basket.

Comments (2)



JOHN S. ALLEN • JUNE 20, 2026 AT 9:36 AM

It’s troubling that traffic-signal problems are not rectified promptly in a city in such a strong financial position, but there are problems with obsolete design, not only maintenance. Specifically, the pattern of wires buried in the pavement for vehicle-detector loops (metal detectors) at most Waltham intersections renders them insensitive to bicycles, motorcycles and other single-track vehicles. Solving the problem costs nothing or next to nothing. City officials responsible for signal installations have expressed support and I am hoping that the problem will be resolved in connection with needed maintenance. For more details about the issue, please see this: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12FkNWjrVDITUNlzkWOl6tOU1vYBksiN5g3oLT5FRxF8/edit?usp=sharing>

Reply



JEREMY P • JUNE 19, 2026 AT 9:26 AM

Nothing will change for the better in Waltham until Mayor McCarthy is gone. She gets what she wants, when she wants, and anything else sits in the wastebasket by her desk. It doesn’t help that our councilors “beg” the mayor; they should be demanding updates on these stalled projects. Waltham residents deserve better. She was a good mayor in 1970 but times have changed.

Reply

Waltham Boys & Girls Club youth get World Cup experience at Gillette

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • JUNE 16, 2026



Waltham Boys & Girls Club members at Gillette stadium to watch a FIFA World Cup game. Courtesy of WBGC.

Twenty-seven young people from the Waltham Boys & Girls Club had the opportunity to attend a FIFA World Cup match at Gillette Stadium this weekend thanks to a statewide initiative announced by Gov. Maura Healey and coordinated through the Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

Earlier this year, Gov. Healey announced that 704 free tickets to matches hosted in Massachusetts would be distributed through Boys & Girls Clubs across the commonwealth. The initiative was designed to ensure that youth from communities across Massachusetts could experience one of the world's most celebrated sporting events and be part of a historic moment for the state.

The WBGC received 36 tickets to the Haiti vs. Scotland match, allowing 27 middle and high school members and nine adult chaperones to attend.

The trip provided club members with the opportunity to attend a world-class sporting event and experience the excitement, energy and international spirit of the FIFA World Cup firsthand.

"We are incredibly grateful to Gov. Healey, the Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and everyone involved in making this opportunity possible," said Erica Young, executive director of the WBGC. "Experiences like this create memories that last a lifetime. Beyond the excitement of the match itself, this was an opportunity for our young people to experience different cultures, connect with one another and be part of something much larger than themselves."

The Waltham Boys & Girls Club group reflected the diversity of the community, with youth and families representing many countries and cultures, including Haiti and Scotland.

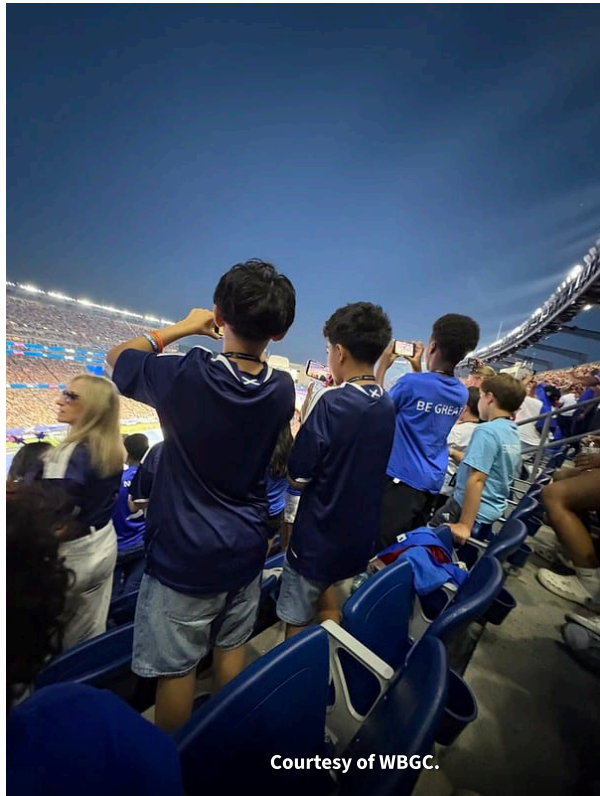
“Attending the World Cup was an amazing experience,” one WBGC member said. “The best part wasn’t just the game. It was being there with our club community and experiencing something so big together. It made me feel like I was part of something special.”

The club organized transportation, supervision and meals for participants, ensuring that the opportunity was accessible to all selected youth.

“This experience is exactly what the Boys & Girls Club movement is about,” Young said. “Providing young people with opportunities they may not otherwise have access to, helping them build connections, broaden their horizons and create positive memories that they will carry with them for years to come.”



Waltham Boys & Girls Club staff and members walk toward Gillette Stadium. Courtesy of WBGC.



Courtesy of WBGC.

Waltham High School and Regis College launch early college partnership program

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • JUNE 16, 2026



Starting this fall, Waltham High School students will have a new way to earn free college credits before they graduate.

On May 22, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved a new academic partnership program with Regis College, adding to WHS's early college offerings with Framingham State and MassBay Community College. For the first time, though, students will have the opportunity to take courses on a college campus through Regis.



The partnership makes WHS the latest addition to a fast-growing statewide initiative aimed at giving high school students a head start on college.

Both institutions described the application process for state approval as lengthy and demanding. Amie Capodanno, Early College Program Manager at WHS, said she wrote more than 30 pages for the application, supported by 40 additional documents she compiled for the state. "I called it my doctoral thesis," she

said.

Carol Woolston, Early College Programming and Outreach Coordinator at Regis, said the college's portion of the application ran about 50 pages and required extensive planning across both faculties.

The process pushed both schools to think carefully about which academic pathways they were best equipped to offer, what students would need to succeed and how to effectively communicate with families in the languages they speak at home.

This fall, 10th-graders at WHS will be able to take a newly developed academic success course worth one college credit, designed jointly by both institutions. The course will be taught by a Regis faculty member and a high school co-teacher at the WHS campus as students acclimate to college-level expectations.

By their senior year, participating students will have the opportunity to take a bus to Regis at no cost and enroll in courses in health services or education — two of Regis's academic specialties.

Students in the program will also have access to guest speakers, postsecondary planning workshops, college tours and connections to financial aid resources. There are 40 seats available for the first year, with the goal of

having 120 students earn college credits before they graduate high school by the time the inaugural class completes the program.

While open to all students, the program is designed with an eye toward first-generation college students, and those who face barriers on the path to college. This includes students from low-income backgrounds, English language learners and those who may not see college as an accessible option. Capodanno noted the goal is to identify and reach these students early, giving them the support and exposure needed to see college as a realistic part of their future.

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The Waltham-Regis partnership is part of what the Healey-Driscoll administration [calls](#) the “largest early college expansion in state history.” Earlier this month, the administration approved 29 new early college partnerships statewide, adding nearly 1,700 seats for the coming school year.

The expansion builds toward Healey’s goal, [announced](#) earlier this year, of enrolling 100,000 high school students in early college programs by 2036. “We are bringing together high schools, colleges and employers to help students graduate with college credits, career experience and a strong foundation for the future at no cost to them or their families,” Healey said in a statement.

Regis is among several higher education institutions entering into early college partnerships. Linking with Waltham made sense, because Regis already had an existing relationship with the town. The college has previously worked with the city on initiatives including an affordable [dental clinic](#) run by students and [professional development](#) for WHS teachers. That history of collaboration, Woolston said, was critical to building trust for a program of this scale.

The state approval makes both schools eligible for a state funding grant starting in fiscal 2027, and DESE has indicated it is also reviewing a funding model for credit reimbursement to college partners going forward.

For Capodanno and Woolston, the statewide momentum suggests their partnership is just the beginning. “Given what the state of Massachusetts has put out there, there is tremendous opportunity for growth over the next decade,” Woolston said. By watching this first class experience all the partnership has to offer, both Regis and WHS will be able to mold their programming to best serve Waltham students for years to come, she said.



Waltham kids meet French national soccer players at Bentley practice

 walthamtimes.org/2026/06/16/waltham-kids-meet-french-national-soccer-players-at-bentley-practice

Artie Kronenfeld

June 16, 2026



French team players sign autographs for their young fans. Photo by Kevin Maguire for Bentley University.



Waltham city councilors were among the spectators. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

As the host of one of the top-ranked soccer teams in the world, Waltham was pulled temporarily into the global spotlight — and its residents into the thick of the excitement for the FIFA World Cup.

Some of Waltham's young soccer players got swept into the center of the action last week, when 10 Waltham Youth Soccer League players got an opportunity to see the French national soccer team at a Friday practice at Bentley University.

This was the French team's only practice open to the public while at Bentley, their [temporary home](#) during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Even in 90-plus degree weather, the bleachers were packed with fans. Other young soccer players — including two kids who wrote to Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy's office about their love of the French team — Bentley community members, friends of sponsors, local officials and sports journalists from around the world cheered on the French team and waved little French flags.

The practice was held after a soccer clinic run by Massachusetts Youth Soccer, the organization that coordinates WYS' tournaments. Young soccer players from around the state conducted their own practice while French team members and Gov. Maura Healey talked to sports journalists from around the world about hopes for the team — and the state — in the upcoming World Cup.

Waltham youth on the pitch

Peter Fekkes, a coach [at WYS](#), said the organization received a last-minute offer to send 10 players and a handful of coaches to the event as an opportunity to practice with other youth from across the state, meet the French team and watch them play.

Members of Waltham's boys and girls youth soccer teams spread across one of Bentley's practice fields to scrimmage, teach each other trick shots and chat with soccer players from other districts.

Many of the WYS players had been following the French team's progress, and eagerly listed French players they hoped to see on the pitch. Some said they'd be looking to the French team for ways to better their own skills, from practice exercises to footwork to finding better opportunities to take shots at the net.

The Waltham players were also excited to meet new players from across the state and play soccer with them: "Some of these people may be better at soccer, and [it's] a nice challenge," said Harley, one of the players from WYS.

Fekkes said around 1,000 students from pre-K to eighth grade participate in Waltham Youth Soccer. He said kids in the program have been feeling the hype for the World Cup, cheering for teams from all around the world.

Tom Geis, the technical director of Massachusetts Youth Soccer, said this is only one of a series of youth events the organization is holding in honor of FIFA, encouraging young soccer fans to come

to the kid-friendly [watch parties they'll be holding around the state](#).

A draw to Waltham

Gov. Healey welcomed the players onto the field and thanked them for choosing Bentley — and the Boston area — as their temporary home base, proclaiming the area “the number one sports town and sports state in the great United States.”

Fans in the bleachers — some from the Bentley community, some from Greater Boston and some who travelled across state or country lines to get there — cheered as the French team came out, first for stretches, then for their own scrimmage matches that eventually turned into scoring practice. Every time a player made a goal, the bleachers roared with French cheers.

“I honestly think it’s just kind of surreal, seeing people playing at the highest level on the field we play at every single day in the fall,” said Rachel Abbott, a member of the Bentley’s women’s soccer team, who showed up to watch the practice.

Traditionally, soccer has found [relatively fewer fans around Boston](#) compared to other sports — so playing host to one of the largest sporting events in the world is a particularly exciting chance for many local soccer fans to give their sport and their fan communities a moment to shine.

One New England College soccer player who came to the practice said he hoped Haiti’s participation in this year’s world cup would bring the Boston Haitian community together, as a bonding opportunity in the face of fears around increased federal immigration arrests.

Geis said the visibility of soccer in the U.S. has also grown significantly since the last time the country hosted the FIFA World Cup in 1994, and he has been delighted to see all the excitement around the tournament.

“I think that’s [what’s] really cool about the World Cup, is you just see all the departments and all the communities come together,” he said. “You don’t even see this for the Super Bowl!”

A last-minute scramble to prepare

The announcement that the French team was practicing at Bentley came [a couple of months ago](#), after previous reports that they might be practicing at another university.

“The way it happened was not traditional,” said Bentley’s Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams. “[But] we knew that we were great partners, and it’s great for the community.”

Abbott said there have been some disruptions to Bentley’s summer practice as a result of the French team’s arrival — her own soccer team isn’t able to use the university’s main soccer pitch — but that was a trade she was willing to make.

Waltham man faces charges after allegedly striking police officer with truck

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JUNE 18, 2026



A Waltham man is facing charges after allegedly striking a police officer with his truck. Steven J. Schofield, 58, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on June 15 to charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, failure to slow and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license subsequent offense.

On June 8 at 5:09 p.m., officers were at the intersection of Prospect Hill Road and Prentice Street responding to a motor vehicle collision. According to the police report, police attending to the collision encountered Schofield driving a gray truck, identifying him from multiple prior interactions with the police. Schofield drove up Prospect Hill Street, eventually striking an officer with his passenger side mirror. The officer was not injured. Officers were unable to stop the truck at the time.



Waltham District Court. Photo by Isabella Lapriore.

Schofield had received a previous citation for driving with a suspended license in October 2025. Schofield was ordered to be held at Middlesex Jail in lieu of posting bail by Judge Ellen M. Caulo. He will face a pretrial hearing July 9 for this case.

Schofield received an additional charge of assault and battery on a person over 60 or a disabled person for an unrelated incident in Waltham on June 9. It is unclear from the information on MassCourts how Schofield pleaded. Schofield will face a pretrial hearing July 9 for this case as well.

Additional court activity

Luis D. Trinidad Figueroa, 24, of Gardner, pleaded not guilty on June 11 to three counts of malicious damage of property valued at less than \$1,200 and one count of malicious damage to a motor vehicle. The charges are in relation to an event that took place at a residence in Waltham. Trinidad Figueroa was released on personal recognizance by Caulo and will face a pretrial hearing July 28.

Waltham was home to enslaved people

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • COMMUNITY • JUNE 18, 2026



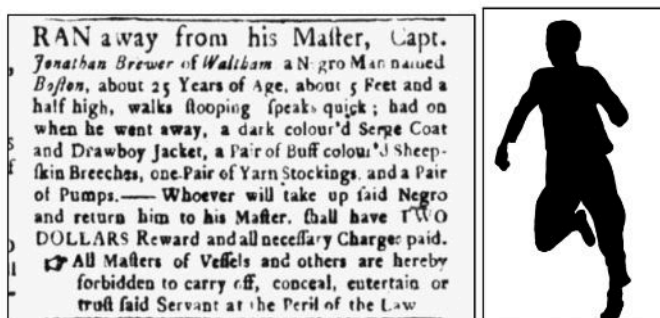
Waltham resident Marjanneke Wright is on a mission to document the lives of Black Waltham residents who were enslaved. Now retired from a career as a reference librarian at Wayland Public Library, Wright has been digging through some of the city's oldest records to find evidence of people who lived here before the founding of the nation. With the help of Wayne McCarthy of the Waltham Historical Society, she is creating a digital archive so future scholars and others will have access to them.

"This work is dedicated to the individuals whose names were long omitted from our town's official narrative: Kent, Jetty, Bristow, Prince, Lucy and others, both named and unnamed," she said. "The history of enslavement in Waltham is not just a collection of data — it is a story of human lives long obscured."

With the help of city clerk Joe Vizard, Wright has been able to access the city's vault to examine old, fragile records. "Touching these documents felt like touching history itself," she said. "Within these pages as well as in other records, I identified over 20 enslavers and, more importantly, over 20 names of enslaved individuals.

One of the enslavers has a name familiar even today: Jonathan Brewer. He operated a tavern on the grounds of what is now the Gore Estate. In the 1770s, his establishment served as a hub of activity, where local labor, municipal administration and the impending American Revolution intersected. It was at Brewer's Tavern that a bar maid, possibly an enslaved person, [overheard two British spies](#).

In 1774, Brewer placed an advertisement in the local newspaper seeking the return of a man named Boston. He is described as "About 25 years of age, about five and a half feet high, walks stooping, speaks quick. Had on when he went away a dark-coloured Serge Coat and Drawboy Jacket, a Pair of Buff Colour'd Sheepskin Breeches, one Pair of Yarn Stockings, and a Pair of Pumps."



The description of Boston: "About 25 years of age, about five and a half feet high, walks stooping, speaks quick. Had on when he went away a dark-coloured Serge Coat and Drawboy Jacket, a Pair of Buff Colour'd Sheepskin Breeches, one Pair of Yarn Stockings, and a Pair of Pumps."

Jonathan Brewer's advertisement seeking the capture and return of Boston, an enslaved man. Courtesy of Marjanneke Wright.

Brewer offered a \$2 reward for Boston's return, concluding with a stern legal threat: "All Masters of vessels and others are hereby forbidden to carry off, conceal, entertain or trust said servant at the peril of the law."

There were people in Waltham who opposed slavery. A year earlier, town representative Jonas Dix read a letter at a town meeting "setting forth the Barbarous unChristian and inhuman Practice of stealing and subjecting the poor Africans to perpetual Slavery." The issue was debated and the town "submitted the same to their Representative to act thereon as he shall judge proper."

Despite the town meeting's criticism of slavery, Brewer apparently had no qualms about advertising for the capture and return of Boston.

ADVERTISEMENT

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

CLICK to DONATE

Support local news!

Unbiased. Trustworthy. Waltham-focused news & information.

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Waltham Times

Comments (1)



ELISSA MUCCIOLI • JUNE 20, 2026 AT 5:55 PM

Thank you for this article!

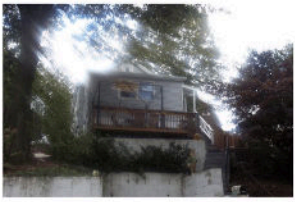
Reply

Waltham home sales, June 1–11, 2026

BY NEWSROOM • HOME SALES • JUNE 18, 2026



	6/1/2026	1105 Lexington St Unit 6-11	\$425,000	1/1	725 sf
	6/1/2026	8-10 Acorn St	\$835,000	2/2	1372 sf
	6/4/2026	10 Parsons Ave	\$780,000	3/1	1260 sf

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	6/2/2026	222 College Farm Rd	\$615,000	3/1	823 sf
	6/3/2026	28 Robbins St Unit 2	\$649,900	3/1.5	1500 sf
	6/3/2026	169 Chestnut St Unit 2	\$790,000	3/2	1491 sf

	6/3/2026	198 Lowell St Unit 1	\$1,230,000	3/2	4044 sf
	6/5/2026	61 Hall St Unit 303	\$1,270,000	2/2	1810 sf
	6/5/2026	15-2 Underwood Pk	\$750,000	3/2	2015 sf

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	6/8/2026	37 Upland Rd	\$667,400	3/1	800 sf
	6/11/2026	144 Moody St Unit 21	\$721,750	1/1	1331 sf
	6/11/2026	123-125 Chestnut St	\$1,240,000	4/4	3874 sf

	6/11/2026	28 Hibiscus Ave	\$635,000	3/1.5	948 sf
	6/11/2026	25 Barnes St	\$980,000	4/2.5	1680 sf

Events Calendar

June 22-July 26

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

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
22 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Waltham Lions Club 53rd annual charity golf tournament 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council meeting	23	24 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Teen summer STEM: Slime making at the Waltham Public Library 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm License Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	25 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Teen Dungeons and Dragons one-shot at the Waltham Public Library 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Puppet show picnic 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Regenerative farming walk and talk	26 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Waltham Boys & Girls Club summer kick-off 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Devil's in the Details evening tour 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm Acme Improv Company presents 'Camp'	27 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market	28
29 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Teen Pride Month karaoke	30	1 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	2 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham	3	4 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market	5
6	7	8 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	9 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm Movies at the Mansion: 'Finding Nemo'	10	11 9:00 am - 12:00 pm A Special Day in Waltham 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market	12
13	14 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mercado de verduras Vegetable market	15 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Board of Health meeting 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Yoga at the Rose 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	16 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm Movies at the Mansion: 'Mean Girls'	17	18 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market	19
20 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Watch City Ukers Every Month at the Waltham Museum	21 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mercado de verduras Vegetable market	22 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm License Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	23 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm Movies at the Mansion: 'How to Train Your Dragon'	24	25 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market	26

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Minuteman Press locations are full-service design, print and marketing centers serving the entire business community from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. Our customers are wide-ranging and include local organizations, government groups, non-profits, professional sports teams, businesses, entrepreneurs, consumers, and more. At Minuteman Press, we can produce anything you can put a name, image, or logo on!

The advertisement has a dark blue background with a large, faint clock face. In the top left is a small logo for 'The Waltham Times'. The main text in white 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. To the right of the dog is a QR code. Below the dog is an orange button that says 'GIVE TODAY'. In the bottom left is another QR code with the word 'SUBSCRIBE' below it. The bottom right has white text: '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.



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