



June 29, 2026



Waltham golden retriever goes viral while bringing neighbors together



Waltham lights up the sky with early Independence Day celebration



Waltham waives \$1.6 million in fees to keep Boston Dynamics in town



Four more Moody Street restaurants get outdoor dining permits

Waltham lights up the sky with early Independence Day celebration

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • COMMUNITY • JUNE 29, 2026



Fireworks lit up the sky around 9:15 p.m. Sunday as thousands of Waltham residents gathered to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the nation's independence at an event held ahead of July 4.

Preparations began in the afternoon as police and fire officials worked to secure the area around the Riverwalk.

"Currently, we have a lot of personnel on the Riverwalk. We have the state police here who have done some bomb sweeps. We have done some checking in all our trash receptacles. We are going to cordon off the Riverwalk itself so people can't be there when there's a fallout when the fireworks go off," said Anthony Vasquez, a Waltham police captain.

There has also been [controversy](#) about the celebration being a week before July 4. Randy Mullin, chief of the Waltham Fire Department, explained the reasoning behind the earlier date.

"We cannot do this on the Fourth of July. The state will not give us a permit on the third, the fourth or the fifth, and that's because we do them in the river. We need a permit to do them in the river and the Riverwalk, but all the state police assets are tied up in Boston on those days, so we can only do it before or afterwards," Mullin said.

Alongside city officials and first responders, volunteers were present at the event, including Zachary Bourque, founder of the [Hydrate Our Heroes](#) initiative. At the celebration, he handed out water to first responders and attendees.

“For first responders, it’s free water. I am suggesting a \$2 donation from anybody who might want water tonight. It will go toward my operation called Hydrate Our Heroes,” Bourque said.

The event also included food vendors, live music and children’s toy vendors.

Waltham residents shared their favorite parts of the annual Independence Day celebrations, highlighting the event’s significance. For some, it was their first time celebrating Independence Day in the United States.

“It’s the U.S.’s 250th Independence Day that I am excited about. This is the first time I am celebrating U.S. Independence Day here, in the U.S.,” Anant Rose said.

Several residents said they enjoyed the sense of community at the celebration.

“I am excited about the fact that we get to see so many people who live here. My daughter has already run into about seven different people she goes to school with, which is amazing, and it makes you feel like you are part of a community,” Kylie McCarthy said.

“I am super excited for the fireworks, but also every year, I love seeing all of Moody Street be closed down so we can have the festivals. I love hanging out with my friends and stuff, so much good food, so many good toys and trinkets to get. It’s a great spot,” Derek Dowcett said.

Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy said the fireworks reminded her of past celebrations in the city.

“I like the fireworks, honestly. You know, it’s always good to have fireworks around the Fourth here. And it reminds me of when I was a kid, when we used to have them at Leary Field,” McCarthy said.

For children, the celebration brought its own excitement. Some said they were most excited about the bubbles, the fireworks and seeing their friends as families gathered across Moody Street for the celebration.



ALLIE LADJEVA

Allie Ladjeva is a student at Brandeis University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Education Technology & Policy and Politics. Originally from Bulgaria, she is a news reporter for The Waltham Times, a communications intern at Philanthropy Massachusetts and a copy editor for The Justice, Brandeis University’s independent student newspaper. Her interests include local journalism, education policy and community storytelling. In her free time, she enjoys learning new languages, taking photos and exploring local coffee shops.

AbbVie to acquire Apogee Therapeutics in \$10.9B deal

BY NEWSROOM • BUSINESS • JUNE 23, 2026



[AbbVie](#) announced Monday it will acquire [Apogee Therapeutics](#), a biotechnology company with operations in Waltham, in a deal valued at about \$10.9 billion. Neither company has stated whether Apogee will be moving out of Waltham following the acquisition.



Apogee Therapeutics – Waltham location. Photo thanks to Google Maps

The North Chicago, Illinois-based drugmaker said it will pay \$135.11 per share in cash for Apogee, which is developing new treatments for inflammatory diseases such as eczema and asthma. The deal is expected to close in the third quarter of 2026, pending shareholder and regulatory approval.

Apogee's leading drug candidate, called zumilokibart, is designed to block a protein in the body that drives inflammation. The treatment is being studied for atopic dermatitis, commonly known as eczema. In mid-stage clinical trials, about two-thirds of patients saw clearer skin and less itching after 16 weeks.

The company is also developing a combination therapy for asthma that targets two key triggers of lung inflammation. Early studies suggest the treatment could be given as infrequently as twice a year.

AbbVie said the acquisition will strengthen its portfolio of immune-related treatments and expand its presence in respiratory diseases.

Company executives said the deal could help bring new treatment options to patients while delivering long-term value to shareholders.

Price tag grows as Fernald athletic developments move ahead

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 23, 2026



As the city develops the site of the former Fernald State School, it's learning more about the property — and encountering new, sometimes unexpected costs.

The City Council's Finance Committee this week approved a total of \$285,513.32 in additional funding for planning and repair work in a section of the property [reserved for future athletic use](#).

The city plans to turn Howe Hall — built in 1933 as a [central community event space](#) at the Fernald — into [a municipal pool](#). The building itself, however, requires significant repair work; last summer, City Council [approved a \\$6.4 million loan](#) for renovations to the exterior of Howe Hall and Administration Building.



Since these renovations [started](#), Recreation Director Kim Hebert said contractors have discovered an additional \$35,403.72 in damage to the building that was previously concealed by broken gutters and vegetation.

Hebert also requested \$242,959.60 to extend the scope of the project. Since these renovations involve abatement for hazardous materials on the outside of the building, she proposed bundling some interior abatement work into the same project to save the city money in the long term.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy said she'd look into whether the city could begin other hazardous materials abatement in the building at this stage.

Hebert told councilors that the nearby athletic area — [phase two](#) of the city's long-term recreation development plan for the Fernald — also requires some revisions after the discovery of an underground steam tunnel on the property.

Councilors approved \$17,150 to modify the athletic area plans to avoid building on top of the tunnel, which will remain underground and inaccessible to visitors.

Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

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

Comments (2)



PAUL WILBUR • JUNE 24, 2026 AT 1:54 PM

How long have these buildings vacant? Every year they deteriorate more and more. If Waltham had a wise Mayor, a master plan for the Fernald would have been developed and implemented within a few years after Waltham took over this property.

Decisions made on which buildings to keep and repurpose and which to demolish. The building that were slated for reuse would have been secured and temporary measures take to stabilize them. Instead they sit for years open to the weather and water infiltration. Making renovation much more expensive.

How can existing steam tunnels be a surprise? When the city took control, did the city engineers meet with the state to obtain all of the information that they had on this complex site? I'm sure someone on the state's payroll knew of the existence of these tunnels, or at least could have provided access to drawings and records. This would of happened during a proper site evaluation and master planing done when the site was acquired by the city.

This proves the old saying "poor planing preceeds poor performance"

Reply



BOB • JUNE 24, 2026 AT 10:25 PM

I agree! Like everything in this city. Nothing is planned well and is just costing us more and more money. I have heard horror stories about nonsense that goes on in this city. Even the new buildings are having major problems because there is no accountability and no one knows what's going on. We need a professional company to come in and make a 100-year plan. Not a city position with someone who knows someone. An actual company and do it right.

Reply

Final bell, big smiles: Students head into summer

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • JUNE 23, 2026



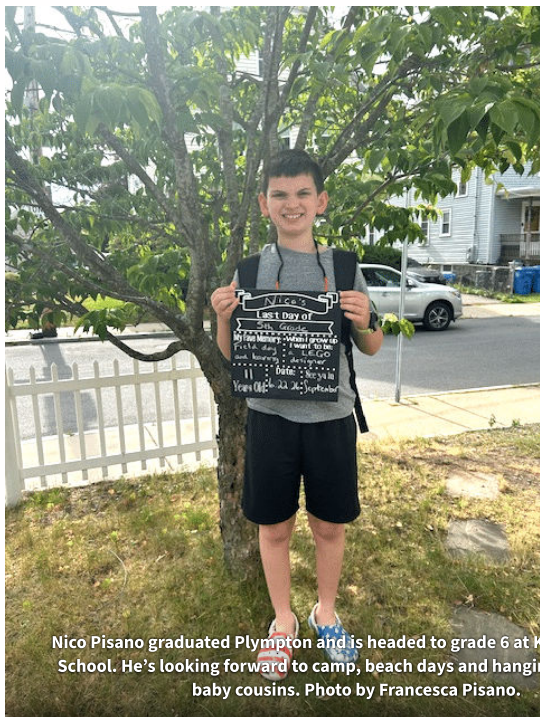
Remember the intense excitement at the start of the school year? The only thing more exciting may be when school lets out for the summer. These smiling faces are a vision of joy and anticipation. Congratulations to all on completing another school year!



Natalie graduated from Pre-K at Stanley Elementary School. She is looking forward to trips to Canobie Lake Park, Southwick Zoo and Quebec City. Photo by Mabel Setow.



Giovanni completed transitional kindergarten at Our Lady's Academy. He is looking forward to a busy summer filled with fun camps, visiting a drive-in movie theater and spending plenty of time outside with his dog, Luna. Photo by Jennifer Magazzu.



Nico Pisano graduated Plympton and is headed to grade 6 at Kennedy Middle School. He's looking forward to camp, beach days and hanging out with his baby cousins. Photo by Francesca Pisano.



Gabriella Pisano is heading into the 8th grade at Kennedy Middle School. She's looking forward to being a leader at camp, shooting some more scenes for her TV series and pool time. Photo by Francesca Pisano.

Zane just completed 1st grade at Whittemore Elementary School. He will be

Alma graduated pre-K at the YMCA and will be starting kindergarten at the

City Council passes \$403 million budget, school budget finally resolved

BY LEA ZAHARONI & ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 23, 2026



The City Council passed Waltham’s budget of \$403,238,842 for the upcoming fiscal year, marking an end to an unusually brief but tumultuous budget season.

After an update from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy at Monday’s council meeting, councilors agreed to all of the mayor’s FY27 budget recommendations. The overall city budget represents a 6.7% increase over FY26.

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	24.38	24.31
Fire Department	18.58	19.08	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.

McCarthy revised her original budget proposal, which had [included more cuts](#) to the School Department budget initially passed by the city’s School Committee.

After [weeks of back-and-forth](#), McCarthy and Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa came to an agreement that preserved the majority of the School Department’s requested budget. However, it eliminated some funding that apparently came from a miscalculation in the department’s special education needs.

In a last-minute filing to the council, McCarthy requested a raise to the School Department budget for the upcoming year to a compromise number of \$132.8 million — a 7.7% increase from last year’s school budget.

Other city departments’ budgets passed with no changes to McCarthy’s original proposals. The council preliminarily approved changes to Waltham’s ordinances for proposed new positions and raises around the city.

The road to compromise

The disagreement between McCarthy and Mendonsa culminated in a compromise at the School Committee’s June 17 meeting, as both sides significantly narrowed the \$7.7 million gap that had defined their dispute.

Mendonsa moved first. In a revised budget presentation, she made two corrections to her special education out-of-district projections that reduced her request by approximately \$3.6 million: extra contingency funding built into the out-of-district budget the department hadn’t counted on, and a miscalculation in the amount of state reimbursements for unusually high-cost special education expenses.

“My commitment to transparency requires that I share this information openly and make corrections when necessary,” Mendonsa said.



The School Committee voted to amend its request to City Council to reflect the lower figure.

McCarthy also revised her recommendation upward by \$3.7 million, adding funding for transportation, utilities and other operating costs she initially had [held flat](#) from the previous year.

The mayor also added funds for an HVAC teacher for Waltham High School’s career and technical education program, two teachers at Stanley Elementary and an English as a second language coach at the high school. McCarthy still excluded from her calculations funding for new [administrative positions](#) proposed by Mendonsa, funding that drove the pair’s initial disagreement.

It’s still an open question, however, how the School Committee will use its personnel funds. The City Council appropriates a lump sum of funding to the School Department, but unlike with other city departments, it has no control over individual line items; the School Committee retains the authority to decide how the money is spent.

Confusion in the council

After hearing conflicting numbers from McCarthy, Mendonsa and the School Committee for weeks, city councilors initially expressed confusion at their June 22 meeting about what exactly they were voting to pass.

“This is kind of new for me, having been on the [Finance] Committee for seven years,” said Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci, describing the back-and-forth of the school budget process.

LaFauci also complained that councilors only received the mayor’s budget proposals [at the beginning of June](#). “This is the first time we’ve ever done [budgeting] this late in the season,” he added.

After some discussion and procedural fixes, the council finally adopted McCarthy’s School Department budget proposal with the agreed-upon increase.

Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris requested Mendonsa provide councilors with the department’s long-term plan and a clear idea of the changes that residents can expect to see as a result of new additions to the School Department budget.

Councilors applauded the mayor and the superintendent for working together to find a joint solution, but they also expressed frustration at the last-minute changes, inconsistencies and lack of clarity throughout the process.

“Our city deserves a budgeting process that connects spending with outcomes,” Harris said.



Authors



LEA ZAHARONI

Lea Zaharoni is a recent graduate of Brandeis University, where she majored in American Studies and Journalism. She spent most of her time at school working as General Manager of the student radio station WBRS 100.1, which broadcasts live 24/7 on Waltham FM radio. She's also written for Brandeis' student newspaper, the Justice, as well as the Irish Independent in Dublin and Dig Boston. Lea loves exploring new places in town and returning to old favorites, and counts herself very lucky to be a part of the Waltham community.



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.

Comments (1)



BRAD ONKEN • JUNE 27, 2026 AT 4:09 PM

I am glad to see a compromise finally reached for our schools and city budget—thank you to the councilors and school officials who worked hard to get this across the finish line for Waltham's families.

While the final resolution is great news, this rushed, down-to-the-wire process shows a challenge with our current budgeting process. Our community, our teachers, and our students deserve a budget process that is transparent, collaborative, and deliberate from day one—not sorted out at the last minute.

Councilor LaFauci's point is a good one. Everyone involved should use this moment as a steppingstone to build a more proactive, open, and predictable process for next year. We have a fantastic city, and if our city leaders can plan ahead collaboratively, maybe they might achieve even better results.

Reply

For seniors: Spanish coffee hour, drawing and 250 years of American song

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • COMMUNITY • JUNE 23, 2026

Waltham's Council on Aging operates out of the William F. Stanley Senior Center at 488 Main St. The spacious, well-equipped center offers an abundant series of programs for exercise, music, classes and socializing. Check out [the newsletter](#) for a full listing. Call 781-314-3499 with questions and to register for programs.

The center provides File of Life cards to keep important information in one handy location. Use the card to list emergency contacts, medications, health issues and medical history. The card comes in a red plastic magnetic holder that can be placed on a refrigerator. A smaller version is available to carry with you. The COA requires you to carry this card on their day trips.



Hora del café, coffee hour for Spanish speakers, takes place Wednesdays 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 24, 11 a.m. — Drawing with Fred. Fred Grandinetti is a cartoonist from Watertown with a cable access series called Drawing with Fred. He will teach participants how to draw classic characters including Popeye, Olive Oyl, Wimpy and Fred Flintstone. Cost: \$2 per person due at sign up. Please register.

Friday, June 26, 11 a.m. — Flowers with Ernie. Celebrate our country's 250th anniversary with a patriotic flower arrangement of fresh red, white and blue blooms. Cost: \$10 per person due at sign up. Please register.

Friday, June 26, 1 p.m. — 250 years of music. John Clark presents historical and cultural music commemorating 250 years of American music as the nation observes its 250th birthday. His program will include songs from across the land, from traditional to rock 'n' roll. You'll learn about our country's history from these tunes. Cost: \$2 due at sign up. Please register.

Author

PRISCILLA ELLIOTT

Priscilla Elliott is a volunteer with The Waltham Times and liaison to the Council on Aging. A respiratory therapist, Priscilla worked nights at the Waltham Hospital. Later, she helped smokers learn how to become smoke-free, leading to healthier lives. Priscilla's volunteer experiences include reading to blind people through the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, fostering cats for The Cat Connection and being a healthy control in Parkinson's Disease clinical trials with The Michael J. Fox Foundation. She counts baseball, classical music and following politics among her hobbies.

Comments (1)



MAUREEN KING • JUNE 25, 2026 AT 5:06 PM

Priscilla is a great person. It's so good to see her here as part of your staff. Priscilla is a helpful, compassionate person full of integrity ..and plenty of humor.

City Council in brief: Waltham waives \$1.6 million in fees to keep Boston Dynamics in town

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD & STEVE MILMORE • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 23, 2026



The Boston Dynamics headquarters in Waltham. Courtesy photo.

The City Council is refunding some administrative fees to Boston Dynamics for the expansion of its Waltham headquarters, as part of a bid to incentivize the company to stay in the city.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy visited the council's Finance Committee at its Monday meeting to ask the City Council to agree to waive \$1,592,866 in fees for three Boston Dynamics building permits.

Although she said the city had offered incentives to keep companies in Waltham in the past, this was an experiment for her to support commercial growth here. "I haven't done this before, honestly," she said.

McCarthy said this rebate was part of an unspecified incentive package from the state to encourage parent company Hyundai Motor Group to keep Boston Dynamics headquartered in Waltham, as opposed to moving elsewhere.

Boston Dynamics plans to expand its headquarters to the other side of the highway, building up the north part of 1601 Trapelo Road beside the [recently opened Welch's headquarters](#).

Building Inspector Brian Bower estimated the company would be investing \$72.3 million in work on the new headquarters and bringing additional commercial tax revenue to the city.

Multiple committee members praised McCarthy for her creativity in designing this incentive, asserting it would create a significant return on the city's investment.

"I think this is outstanding," said Ward 6 Councilor Sean T. Durkee. "We have to be competitive, we have to be nimble, and I think this is really outside-the-box thinking."

Other big development plans for Waltham

At a special session, councilors this week also gave final approval to a zoning amendment that would [allow companies BXP and 1265 Main Street LLC to build mixtures of housing, retail and offices](#) at three lots around the city.



Before proceeding with the construction of any new housing or commercial projects, the two companies will have to return to the City Council to seek additional special permits. Representatives of the developers said they'd share more details on plans for the three sites at the Ordinances and Rules Committee's Aug. 1 meeting.

Additionally, the City Council:

- Accepted a \$105,000 state grant for ongoing work to rebuild the patio and roof of the Stonehurst estate.
- Accepted a donation of stuffed animals for first responders to distribute to children with special needs in emergency situations.
- After an update from McCarthy, passed a \$403.2 million budget for the City of Waltham in fiscal 2027. It also approved an additional \$18,000 for the city's parking program responding to rising lighting costs, and transferred money to the city's stabilization fund, a temporary reserve for unforeseen city costs over the summer.
- Allowed the owners of the Pizzi Farm lot to withdraw [an ongoing case to rezone it to residential property](#). A lawyer representing the property told councilors the Pizzis plan to refile the case in the fall after further discussions with the city's Law Department.
- Approved \$10,000 to design a project to replace the windows at City Hall.
- Approved \$285,513.32 of further construction and design work for future athletic facilities at the site of the former Fernald State School.
- Approved a three-month license for Roadshow Concepts LLC to hold buying events at the Embassy Suites in Waltham twice this summer, from July 7 to 11 and Aug. 18 to 22. The company will have to reapply for a full license in September.

- Approved a warrant announcing Sept. 1 as the date for the primary elections for senate, state and county races.
- Approved business [resolved by council committees last week](#).
- Granted final approval for the city to [purchase two houses on Mount Walley Road](#) to turn into affordable housing targeted at veterans.
- Heard a proposal from McDevitt Middle School civics students to mitigate litter on the Riverwalk by installing a Bigbelly trash compactor at its Moody Street entrance. The Public Works and Public Safety Committee sent the proposal to the Public Works Department for further review.
- Heard from Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned, who said she is updating plans for [the repaving of private ways Buxton Lane, Mount Pleasant Street and Marion Street](#) to be ready for the council to review at its Aug. 3 meeting.
- Suggested conditions for future National Grid work on South Street, asking the company to review them before it returns to City Council. This is the first of two phases of work on South Street; National Grid split the project up in response to traffic concerns from neighbors [in December 2024](#). The Licenses and Franchises Committee asked National Grid to first complete [ongoing work on Felton Street](#), get a traffic plan approved by the Traffic Commission and identify a secured staging area for construction materials.
- Passed a mental health resolution [originally proposed in May 2025](#) after hearing from five mental health service providers operating in Waltham. Durkee said he'd introduced the resolution to reduce stigma around mental health crises and encouraged constituents to reach out to Waltham's Health Department for resources on the subject.
- Postponed awarding [the Kevin M. Ritcey Public Service Award](#) to later in the summer, giving councilors more time to review nominees before their Aug. 3 meeting.
- Postponed further work on implementing a [Bluebikes bike-sharing program](#) in Waltham until the council's Aug. 3 meeting, after McCarthy told councilors she had not had the chance to review their suggestions for bike rack locations.
- Reappointed Erika Oliver Jerram, Loretta McClary and Amanda Thibodeau to the Community Preservation Commission.

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.

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Eaton Mackay Funeral Home welcomes Paul J. Brasco, formerly of Brasco & Sons, to the Eaton family of funeral homes

BY PARTNERCONTENT • SPONSOR CONTENT • JUNE 25, 2026



Eaton Mackay Funeral Home is proud to announce that Paul J. Brasco, a respected third-generation funeral director with more than 30 years of experience, has joined the Eaton family of funeral homes in both our Newton and Needham locations. Paul is looking forward to continuing to serve his Waltham, Belmont and Newton families at the Eaton Mackay Funeral Home – just minutes away in our Newton location.

A lifelong resident of Waltham, Paul has dedicated his career to guiding families through some of life's most difficult moments with compassion, dignity and unwavering care. His deep roots in the community and long-standing commitment to public service have made him a trusted and familiar presence to countless families.

Paul is a graduate of Waltham High School, Class of 1993, and continued his education at Mount Ida College before earning his funeral service degree from the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service in 1995. Since then, he has built a career defined by professionalism, empathy and a steadfast dedication to excellence in funeral service.



Paul J. Brasco. Courtesy photo.

In 2000, Paul married his high school sweetheart, Stacy Power, and together they have raised three children — Samantha, Patrick and Cameron — while remaining deeply involved in the Waltham community they proudly call home.

Paul's commitment to service extends far beyond his professional work. In 1999, he became one of the youngest individuals ever elected to the Waltham City Council, where he served on nearly every standing committee and held leadership roles as both Vice-President and President. His decades of civic involvement have earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and residents alike.

He is also an active member of several local organizations, including the Waltham Lodge of Elks, the Sons of Italy Dante Alighieri Club and the Village Club of Needham. Throughout his life, Paul has remained guided by a strong sense of community responsibility and a genuine desire to help others.

Known for his kindness, steady presence, and compassionate spirit, Paul brings these same values to the Eaton funeral home family. He joins Laurence “Skip” Eaton, Kevin Greene, and Bob Timmerman in continuing a tradition of service that spans more than 200 years.

Paul will continue to serve the families at both our Eaton Mackay location in Newton and our Eaton location in Needham. Together, we all remain committed to supporting families in Waltham, Newton, Belmont, Watertown, Wellesley, and Needham.

We are honored to welcome Paul to the Eaton Funeral organization and look forward to the care, experience, and heartfelt dedication he brings to the families we serve.



Eaton & Mackay Funeral Home, Newton, Mass. Courtesy photo.

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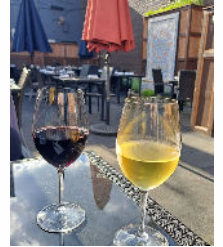
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Savor the season: 10 favorite outdoor dining spots

BY LISA FRUITT AND GARY MARKOWITZ • FOOD • JUNE 25, 2026



Summer is fleeting around here — we have just a few short months to shake off the winter grime and revel in blue skies, bright sun and warm breezes. All the more reason to take advantage of Waltham's lively outdoor dining scene, when restaurants open their cafe windows, dress up their patios, and set up shop on sidewalks and streets. Since the pandemic, Moody Street has been a mecca for outdoor dining, but you'll find hidden patios, rooftop bars, and packed cafes all over town. Here are 10 favorite summer dining spots so you can get out there and enjoy these precious summer months.



*The patio at
Gustazo Cuban
Kitchen & Bar.*

Brelundi

185 Crescent St. / 781-788-8807

Dining al fresco near the banks of the Charles ... what beats that on a summer night? Brelundi boasts a romantic setting and an all-star Italian menu. Start with the famous arancini, followed by any of the house-made pastas. Top off the night with a shot of limoncello and a traditional cannoli. Close your eyes ... are you in Sicily?

Gustazo Cuban Kitchen & Bar

240 Moody St. / 855-487-8296

Spirited Latin music ushers you into Gustazo's private oasis, where you're immediately charmed by the patio's chill attitude and tropical vibe. Everything shines on this menu, but favorites include the roasted heirloom beet salad, camarones a la plancha and croquetas de hongos. Pair your meal with a mojito or margarita or order from the surprisingly robust wine list.



Gustazo Cuban Kitchen & Bar

Joe Sent Me

849 Main St./ 781-894-3153

Shhh ... it's a secret. Joe Sent Me's hidden back patio is a tranquil space just steps from the buzz of Main Street. Have some wings and a pint, a burger (we love the Boilermaker) and fries, or just sip a martini and watch the sun go down at this secluded urban refuge.

ADVERTISEMENT



Mighty Squirrel Brewing Co.

411 Waverley Oaks Road / 781-839-9242

When Mighty Squirrel opened in 2018, it was a scrappy newcomer to the craft beer craze. Today, the company has three locations and a seasonal biergarten. We're partial to the original venue, with its enormous outdoor spaces, live music and, oh yes, beer. It now has in-house food, with a full kitchen serving soups, salads, tacos and sweets.

Shopper's Café

731 Moody St. / 781-893-1180

The last time we were at Shopper's, the café windows were flung wide open and revelers spilled out onto Moody Street. This comfortable neighborhood spot is always crowded, and summer brings out the best in its all-American menu (we're stuck on the steak tips), extensive beer list and sports bar vibe.



Shopper's Café

Stazione di Federal

123 Moody St. / 781-891-0100

Did you know Waltham has a rooftop bar where you can watch the Charles River roll by while feasting on classic Italian food? It's hidden from the street, but those in the know head straight for Stazione's roof on summer evenings. We especially like the insalata arancia and the lobster ravioli, paired with wines from the mostly Italian wine list.

Taqueria Mexico

24 Charles St. / 781-650-4847

In our house, summer equals the patio at Taqueria Mexico. Decked out with colorful Mexican pottery, tropical plants and twinkly lights, the patio is a lively spot for enjoying homemade chips and salsa, tacos, enchiladas and, of course, a cerveza or two. As authentic as it gets and just a few steps off Moody.

Tempo

474 Moody St. / 781-891-9000

This Moody Street stalwart serves up consistently great food, with a diverse menu that appeals to all tastes. Tempo goes all-out in summer, throwing open its street-side windows and setting up an al fresco dining area

bedecked with flowers, colorful seating and big café umbrellas. Our favorite items are the bacon Brussels sprouts and the cashew-encrusted Icelandic cod.

Trencito Taqueria & Deli

3 Carter St. / 781-977-9376

On warm summer nights, the patio at Trencito is bustling with kids, couples and families. A recent addition to the South Side's food scene, Trencito serves up freshly made Latin street food, along with traditional deli subs and sandwiches.

Waku Waku Ramen

456 Moody St. / 617-906-8070

This buzzy, stylish ramen joint is fun all year round, but in summer, it rocks. Big café windows open up onto Moody Street, where you can slurp your soup, sip your sake and people watch day or night. And be sure to check out the pork gyoza, the best on the street. Waku Waku is always crowded, but it's easier to snag a table at lunch.



Waku Waku Ramen



Author



LISA FRUITT AND GARY MARKOWITZ

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

Comments (1)



MARYELLEN DENNISON • JUNE 28, 2026 AT 7:22 AM

You forgot one of the best restaurants in Waltham, Amuleto Mexican Table. Seriously Joe Sent me 🤔

Reply

Taqueria Mexico's co-founder celebrates 89th birthday

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • AROUND TOWN • JUNE 25, 2026



Family and friends gathered in Waltham on Saturday to celebrate the 89th birthday of Rogelio Serratos of Taqueria Mexico. Serratos founded the family-owned restaurant with his wife, Maria del Refugio Serratos, in 1992.

The celebration brought together three generations of the Serratos family, honoring a legacy that began more than three decades ago when Rogelio and Maria opened the restaurant with a vision of sharing authentic Mexican cuisine and culture with the Waltham community.



Rogelio Serratos

Over the years, Taqueria Mexico has grown into one of Waltham's most beloved family-owned restaurants, serving generations of customers while remaining rooted in the traditions and values on which it was founded.

Rogelio celebrated the milestone birthday while reflecting on a business that has become a fixture in the community.

“Our family has always believed that good food brings people together,” Rogelio’s son Javier Serratos said. “Seeing three generations gathered to celebrate my father’s 89th birthday reminds us how grateful we are for the love and support the Waltham community has shown us over the years.”

Rando Lane home expansion passes without difficulty at ZBA

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 25, 2026



The Zoning Board of Appeals approved a petition allowing Richard and Maria Iannetti to extend their Rando Lane home to include a sunroom that would straddle zoning-mandated setbacks on the property.

Kevin Kieler from the construction firm Brady-Built Sunrooms presented the case to the board. He said because the house's patio had been removed, the Iannettis wanted to create an outdoor living space that was better screened from insects.

As a result of the slanted shape of their lot, however, any rectangular sunroom that resembled the construction of neighboring houses would extend the house closer to the property line than allowed by zoning.

After confirming that the Iannettis had talked to their neighbors and hadn't heard any opposition to the project, the board unanimously allowed the variance.



Kevin Kieler from the construction firm Brady-Built Sunrooms presented the case to the board. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.

Waltham Fire, Police get new partners in comfort

BY STEVE MILMORE • PUBLIC SAFETY • JUNE 25, 2026



A group of furry first responders is joining the Waltham Fire and Police departments.

Waltham-based Deciphera Pharmaceuticals on Wednesday donated more than 50 “Comfort Buddies” stuffed animals, giving first responders another way to calm children during emergencies such as house fires, medical calls and car crashes.

WFD Chief Andrew Mullin said stuffed animals have long been used by firefighters and police as a simple but effective way to comfort children.

“If we come across an incident that involves a child or special needs person, whether it be a fire, a medical incident, a car accident, the traumatic impact is weighing on their minds,” Mullen said. “The moment you give them that stuffed animal, they stop crying and focus on that.”

“We wanted to find a local charity, and the idea came up of donating to the police and fire,” said Stephanie Bryant, head of global patient advocacy and engagement at Deciphera Pharmaceuticals. “Being a part of the community, we’re always looking for options to give back, and Waltham Fire was very receptive.”

Bryant worked with Lt. Michael Murphy, WFD’s public information officer, to make the donation happen.

A group of Deciphera employees and patients assembled the stuffed animals at the company’s headquarters at 200 Smith St. and attached messages of hope and encouragement to tiny T-shirts for each animal to wear.

Firefighters can now keep a small supply in their trucks so they’re ready when a call comes in.

While the stuffed animals may seem like a small gesture, Waltham first responders said they make a significant difference during a child’s worst day, offering comfort, distraction and a reminder that someone cares.



Jeff Ciccone, Peter Magliarditi and Michael Leone at the headquarter drop off. Photo by Steve Milmore.



Firefighter Steve Douglas with a new Comfort Buddie. Photo by Steve Milmore.

Four more Moody Street restaurants get outdoor dining permits

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 25, 2026



Four businesses – Deep Ellum, Lizzy’s Ice Cream, Peppino’s Dosa and Farmer’s India Market – were approved for outdoor dining on Moody Street at the License Commission meeting this week. The City Council and Traffic Commission had already approved the applications before sending them to the License Commission for final approval.



Peppino’s Dosa in summer with its outdoor dining area. Google Street View.

The permit allows restaurants to block off parking spaces in front of their shops and use that space for outdoor dining. The outdoor dining season lasts from May 22 until Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. Applications have been late this year despite their being [available since March 23](#).

The commission approved all applications with no further questions. The next step is for restaurants to set up their barriers and call the city’s building department for an inspection and final approval.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a one-day all alcohol permit for for a reception at Bentley University on Sept. 18.
- Approved a one-day beer and wine permit for beer trucks to be present at an event in September at CBRE Property on Second Avenue.
- Decided to not place anything on file regarding a medical incident at Mighty Squirrel on Waverly Oaks Road that took place in May. The incident was not due to the customer being overserved, so the commissioners decided to make a note of the incident rather than place the police report in the company’s file.
- Heard communication from David Gordon, co-owner of Gordon’s Liquors, regarding a free liquor license he had been granted in 2023. The license had been intended for use at a property on Main Street where Gordon wanted to open Sonny’s Restaurant in honor of his late grandfather. [Gordon told the commission in March](#) that he would submit permits for the project by June 1. Gordon informed the commission via email prior to the commission’s June meeting that he will be returning the license, as the project is not moving forward. The commission requested that Gordon appear in person to discuss the matter, but he was not present.

Green Water Wizards invade Waltham

BY MAUREEN KING • AROUND TOWN • JUNE 25, 2026



At Woerd Avenue’s boat launch on Saturday, the refrain might as well have been “Me and my Mercury,” as members of the Green Water Wizards fishing club crowded the ramp with sleek, low-slung bass boats.

The anglers arrived in force, double-parked along the launch in high-powered vessels outfitted with Evinrude and Yamaha engines pushing up to 250 horsepower. The boats, built for speed and precision, idled in line as competitors prepared to come off the water.

There was plenty of motion, and plenty of sound. Winches clicked in steady rhythm as trailers backed down the ramp, pulling boats snug against their frames. One angler summed up the day’s conditions in passing: “Plenty of wind.”

“There’s plenty of fish here, but you couldn’t tell by today,” said one Hudson bass fisherman, smiling as he reflected on the outing. Asked about the cost of the sport, he added, “It takes a few pennies to do this. We’re all fishing for the same fish, but we have more headaches.”

By early afternoon, competitors gathered for the weigh-in. At a station set up with a scale and wash basin, the weighmaster recorded each catch, the results flashing in red digital numbers. The best overall haul came in at 12 pounds, with the largest bass weighing 3.5 pounds.



Anglers carried their catches in sloshing bags — roughly four gallons of water and up to 10 pounds of fish — from the boats to the weigh station and back again. After being recorded, the fish were returned to the river, released from the dock to swim another day.

The crowd was as methodical as it was passionate: anglers tending to lures and live wells, comparing notes, and packing up gear. There was just enough time for a round of “Happy Father’s Day” wishes before the group dispersed.

Nearby, the tournament director paused amid the bustle to help an older couple lift a canoe onto their car — a small gesture at the end of a day defined by competition, camaraderie and the steady pull of the water.

Waltham YMCA scores big with new mini-pitch

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • JUNE 25, 2026



Parents and friends celebrate the grand opening. Photo by Steve Milmore.

The newest soccer field in Waltham isn't much bigger than a basketball court, but YMCA leaders expect it will have a big impact on local youth.

The Waltham YMCA celebrated the opening of its new mini-pitch Thursday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by city officials, board members and dozens of young soccer players eager to try it out.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, state Rep. Tom Stanley and YMCA board members joined residents for the celebration before local kids took to the pitch for a soccer clinic hosted by members of the Bentley University soccer team.

The mini-pitch is a compact, hard-court recreational space designed to make soccer more accessible. It requires far less space than a traditional soccer field and features permanent metal goals that need little maintenance, making it a cost-effective addition to the community.

The Waltham YMCA received a grant from the U.S. Soccer Foundation in May to bring the mini-pitch to the city, and construction was completed in just a matter of weeks.

"Our new outdoor mini-pitch expands opportunities for the community to connect through recreation, healthy activity and teamwork," said Lindsey Lerit, executive director of the YMCA of Greater Boston's Waltham branch.



Mayor McCarthy tests goalie Emmett Baker at the YMCA mini-pitch opening. Photo by Steve Milmore.

“Today is a time to celebrate an exciting new community space in Waltham.”

The mini-pitch is part of the U.S. Soccer Foundation’s [Safe Places to Play](#) program, which transforms underused spaces into modern soccer facilities that encourage physical activity, improve neighborhood safety and strengthen communities.

“We’re very excited with the mini-pitch opening, especially at a time when the World Cup is being played and everybody is tuning in,” said Lauren Reyes, chief operating officer of the YMCA of Greater Boston. “The YMCA team here in Waltham really stepped up to make this happen. It gives young athletes a dedicated space to play, practice and develop an appreciation for the game.”

As soon as the ribbon was cut, the new pitch was put to work, with young players dribbling, passing and taking shots on goal — offering an early glimpse of what the Waltham Y hopes will become one of Waltham’s busiest gathering places for soccer and recreation.



***Bentley University
soccer players Logan
Veloria, Owen
MacKinnon and Finn
Bride gave instruction
and support. Photo by
Steve Milmore.***

Waltham woman faces charges after incident at Connors Memorial Swimming Pool

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JUNE 25, 2026



A Waltham woman has been charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct after an alleged incident at Connors Memorial Swimming Pool last week.

On June 21 at around 3 p.m., a Massachusetts State Police officer responded to a trespassing incident at the state-run pool at 330 River St. According to the police report, the officer spoke to the pool manager, who identified Karina E. Alvarado, 27, of Waltham as “dancing in a sexually suggestive way.” The manager shared that Alvarado’s behavior had caused patrons to leave the area. Based on his findings, the State Police officer decided to arrest Alvarado.



Connors pool is open for the season. Photo courtesy of City of Waltham.

Alvarado pleaded not guilty on June 22 to charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct. She was released on personal recognizance by Judge Ellen M. Caulo and will face a pretrial hearing for the case on Aug. 8. The pretrial hearing will also address assault and battery and disorderly conduct charges Alvarado is facing from [an alleged incident in May](#).

Additional court activity

David Paul Ganley Jr., 49, homeless, of Waltham and Angel Joel Pratz Diaz, 28, homeless, of Waltham were both indicted on June 12 for charges of distribution of a class B drug, cocaine trafficking over 36 grams, possession with intent to distribute a class E drug, possession with intent to distribute a class A drug and conspiracy to violate drug laws. The charges were levied against them after an event in [February of this year](#) but have been put to rest via a nolle prosequi motion, meaning that the state decided not to pursue the charges. A nolle prosequi motion would allow the state to refile the charges within the statute of limitations of the crime.

Guinel Laurent, 35, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on June 18 to one count of malicious destruction of property valued at less than \$1,200 and one count of assault and battery on a family or household member. The charges are in relation to an incident that took place at a residence in Waltham. Laurent was released on personal recognizance by Judge Sarah Kennedy. A hearing to review the status of the case will be held June 30.

Anthony Rojas, 20, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on June 24 to two counts of assault and battery on a family or household member and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon. The charges are in relation to an incident that took place at a residence in Waltham. Rojas was released on \$5,000 bond and must comply with release conditions set by Caulo. A pretrial hearing for the case will be held July 30.

ADVERTISEMENT



Author



CYD ABNET

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

Comments (2)



RICHARD ROSEL • JUNE 27, 2026 AT 7:54 PM

What a shame that Waltham , especially downtown area is flooded with homeless people, a lot of whom get arrested for drugs and alcohol charges. Bringing poisonous, toxic people into the community. I wonder how many local kids end up getting involved in drugs, etc., because of these people

Reply



ALEX KISHBAUGH • JUNE 28, 2026 AT 11:58 AM

People experiencing homelessness are part of our community. You don't hear about the many people who are not causing any problems and are instead working their hardest to get things on the right track. Maybe instead of speculating about things you don't know much about you could read a book or touch grass?

Reply

Ahead of June 28 fireworks, Waltham residents question date, location and impact

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • COMMUNITY • JUNE 27, 2026



Fireworks burst over the Charles River as spectators watch on the Moody Street Bridge at the 2025 Independence Day celebration. Photo by The Waltham Times.

As Waltham's annual Independence Day celebrations are scheduled for Sunday, June 28, some residents are asking questions about the early date, the fireworks location and the environmental impact of the display.

The early date is [due to scheduling availability](#) from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, which oversees activity on the river, according to the mayor's office.

For many years, Waltham residents gathered at Leary Field to watch the fireworks from the turf, enjoy live music and celebrate with neighbors. But the city stopped using that site in 2023 after the field was redone with new artificial turf, which could be damaged by fireworks.

The fireworks' new riverfront location has drawn mixed reactions among residents. In response to a Facebook post seeking community input that received more than 90 comments, residents shared a range of views, with several expressing disappointment that the celebration will not take place on July 4.

Several commenters said July 4 holds special significance and expressed disappointment and frustration that the fireworks would not take place on that day.

“I am less inclined to go see them since they are not on July 4th,” Barbara Marriott wrote.

“A large fireworks display should be held each and every year on July 4 to commemorate our country’s independence. This is a special day to celebrate the greatest country in the world. We are privileged to live in it,” Mike Vasquez said.

However, some residents saw a silver lining in the earlier date.

“For those of us who like to see multiple shows, it’s nice to see the Waltham ones one evening and then still have the option to go into Boston for the 4th,” Jen Klein said.

Some residents also said they wished a larger celebration had taken place in Waltham.



“They could have an event on the Common before the fireworks, or close Moody Street all day and night and make it into a larger street festival,” Rachel Mallet wrote.

Several residents said they prefer Leary Field to the Moody Street Bridge, which can become overcrowded.

“I miss the days at Leary Field. No fighting for space to see,” Andrea Priest said.

“The trees along the riverbank hid the view from anywhere except the Moody Street bridge. It’s too crowded. Since people can’t go on the Riverwalk to view the fireworks, there is no other option than the bridge. It was much more accessible when it was at Leary Field,” Marriott said.

Some expressed concern about the impact of fireworks on wildlife living along the river.

“Fireworks are a Fourth of July tradition, but their impact on the environment is not gentle,” said Emily Norton, executive director of the Charles River Watershed Association. “The loud noise causes fear, stress and anxiety in wild animals, which can drive them out of their homes, into the path of cars or away from nests, abandoning their young.”

Residents also had mixed opinions about fireworks themselves, regardless of when and where they occur.

“The fireworks are such a bittersweet topic for me,” said Paul Nederhoed. “In my humble opinion, I love the tradition and explosive joy it brings me. However, I am also understanding of the pain it brings to many dogs, pets and veterans with PTSD. If we are celebrating our country and community, we should all be caring for each other during this time.”

Because of the potential harm to animals and people, “some communities around the world have banned fireworks or have switched to noiseless fireworks,” Norton said.

The Waltham Land Trust declined to comment.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy had not responded to a request for comment as of press time.

Waltham’s annual Independence Day celebrations will begin at dusk June 28. The fireworks will be set off from a barge near the Moody Street Bridge.



Author



ALLIE LADJEVA

Allie Ladjeva is a student at Brandeis University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Education Technology & Policy and Politics. Originally from Bulgaria, she is a news reporter for The Waltham Times, a communications intern at Philanthropy Massachusetts and a copy editor for The Justice, Brandeis University’s independent student newspaper. Her interests include local journalism, education policy and community storytelling. In her free time, she enjoys learning new languages, taking photos and exploring local coffee shops.

Comments (3)



GAIL WALKER • JUNE 27, 2026 AT 8:10 PM

Someone needs to proofread photo captions. “specators”? Thank you.

Reply



JUNE KINOSHITA • JUNE 28, 2026 AT 8:30 AM

Thanks for spotting the typo!

Reply



DIANE HUNTER • JUNE 27, 2026 AT 1:15 PM

I couldn’t help but feel concern for wildlife along the river during the fireworks display, especially in the context of the beautiful photo of the mother swan and her young that appeared in the Waltham Times on Wednesday. Thanks to the Times for this relevant and complete Saturday update.

Reply

Brandeis University plans new turf softball, baseball fields

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • SPORTS & RECREATION • JUNE 28, 2026



Brandeis University announced plans this Thursday to install a new synthetic turf softball field, along with a complementary turf enhancement to its baseball facility. These projects mark a significant investment in the future of its softball program and overall athletic infrastructure.

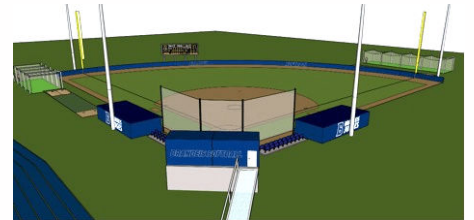
The new softball field will serve as the focal point of the project, providing a dedicated, high-performance competition and training venue designed to elevate the student-athlete experience and support long-term program success. The turf surface will deliver consistent playing conditions, reduce weather-related disruptions and allow for expanded practice and competition opportunities throughout the academic year. Completion of the softball field is expected by September.

In addition to the softball field, the project includes the installation of a synthetic turf surface on the baseball field. This enhancement will transform the space into a multipurpose facility capable of supporting baseball as well as a regulation soccer configuration, increasing its year-round usability for varsity athletics, club sports, intramurals and broader campus programming. Completion of the baseball field is expected by November.

“This substantial capital investment in both softball and baseball facilities at Brandeis reflects the critical need for high-quality, accessible facilities that support the full breadth of our athletic programs,” said Director of Athletics Jessica Chapin. “These projects will have a meaningful impact on our student-athletes by enhancing their daily experience, strengthening our programs’ ability to train and compete at a high level, and creating spaces that serve and connect the greater Brandeis community.”

The baseball and multipurpose field component is being made possible through a partnership with New England Football Club, which will serve as an anchor tenant for that space. This collaboration reflects a strategic approach to facility development, allowing Brandeis to expand and enhance its athletic offerings while maintaining priority access for its varsity programs.

“This partnership will provide NEFC players with access to a first-class, year-round training and competition environment that directly supports their continued development. Securing a long-term commitment for a training facility is a game-changer for our teams,” said Brian Mazar, president of NEFC. “Training and competing on a high-quality turf field in this environment will enhance the overall experience for our players, families and coaches.”



A design rendering of the proposed softball field at Brandeis. Courtesy photo.



The proposed baseball field with the soccer pitch overlay shown. Courtesy photo.

The week ahead: City boards slow down for the summer break

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 28, 2026



Although Waltham keeps running all year, its boards' meeting schedules slow down for the summer.

After [last week's meeting](#), City Council is officially on break until its special summer session on Aug. 3. Some boards, such as the School Committee, Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, keep meeting throughout the summer months, albeit more sporadically. Others take July and August off entirely, short of any special emergency meetings.

Below is a chronological rundown of city meetings scheduled this week, June 29 through July 3.

Council on Aging

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

Cemetery Commission

The Cemetery Commission oversees the finances and maintenance of Waltham's cemeteries. Its meetings are often not open to the public unless its members have special topics or projects to discuss.

The commission will meet this Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Cemetery Office at 203 Prospect St.

Public safety report: Email from billionaire sparks concern at Waltham business

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JUNE 28, 2026



A Waltham business this week received an email claiming to be from tech billionaire Elon Musk, sparking concern from police.

On June 19 at 8:57 a.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious incident at a business on South Street. The business had gotten an email from someone claiming to be Elon Musk, accusing the business of treating one of Musk’s employees unfairly.

“Personally, I don’t think it was from Elon Musk. It was just really mean,” said Detective Bill Champion.

Police documented the incident and are still investigating the source of the email.

A summary of police and fire activity from June 18 to June 23 is as follows:

On June 18 at 6:58 p.m., police responded to a report of an MBTA bus with a “CALL POLICE” message displayed on the digital screen outside the bus. The bus was stopped near the intersection of Main and Moody streets. The driver was unaware that that message was being displayed and said there was no emergency. The driver contacted MBTA maintenance to address the issue.

On June 21 at 5:02 p.m., police responded to reports of a larceny at Costco Wholesale on Second Avenue. A woman reported that someone had taken her car keys after she left them on a counter in the store. Upon investigation, officers determined that the keys had been mistakenly picked up by someone and turned over to local police.

On June 21 at 9:16 p.m., police responded to reports of a car and pedestrian colliding at the intersection of Main and Willow streets. According to the police report, both the driver and the pedestrian felt they had the right-of-way. The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital with a leg injury, and the driver was cited for a crosswalk violation.

On June 22 at 8:47 a.m., fire crews responded to reports of a fire at a residence on Virginia Road. There had been a fire on the rear porch of the house, but it had been extinguished before firefighters arrived. The crews checked for any possible extension of the fire with a thermal imaging camera but found nothing. The fire was determined to be accidental.

On June 22 at 3:26 p.m., police responded to reports of a car and pedestrian colliding at the intersection of River and Elm streets. According to the police report, the driver stated not being able to see the pedestrian in the crosswalk when turning onto River Street. The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

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

McDevitt civics class earns state recognition for sidewalk accessibility project

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • JUNE 28, 2026



Four students from McDevitt Middle School have received recognition from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their work on a student-led civics project addressing sidewalk accessibility in the city.

Jacob Belding, Isaac Hayward, Dylan Johanson and Cameron Devine, all members of Ryan Hanlon's eighth grade civics class, traveled to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate in Boston to present their project at a statewide civics competition. They were chosen by their classmates to represent McDevitt Room 324.

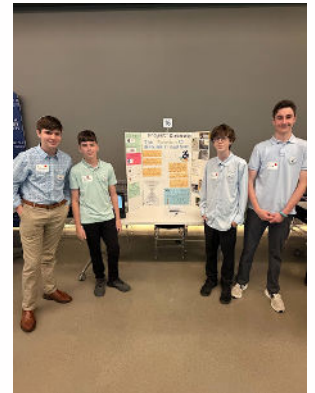
Their project focuses on damaged and missing sidewalks across Waltham, which the class identified as a barrier to pedestrian safety.

The class began the project after spending a week examining problems in their school community and city. With this winter's [heavy blizzards](#) fresh in their minds, concerns about icy sidewalks and unsafe bicycling routes came up often.

Belding discovered an online tool called Project Sidewalk, developed by the Makeability Lab at the University of Washington's Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science. The platform uses Google Earth's street view to allow volunteers anywhere in the world to virtually walk city streets and label accessibility problems, including broken pavement, missing curb ramps and other obstacles.

Belding presented the tool to the class and his group was immediately on board. "I greatly enjoyed discovering and subsequently looking into Project Sidewalk as a solution to the sidewalk-related issues that pedestrians in Waltham have to deal with," Belding said.

Hanlon reached out directly to Project Sidewalk's founder, professor Jon Froehlich, who gave a live presentation to the class over Zoom.



Students at the state civics showcase, from left to right: Isaac Hayward, Jacob Belding, Dylan Johanson, and Cameron Devine. Courtesy of Ryan Hanlon.

“I was so impressed with the students,” Froehlich said. “They had a list of prepared questions. Each student would stand up, walk over to the camera, and read their question carefully and then listen attentively to my answer.”

The students shared his excitement for the impact they might be able to have. “I loved hearing what professor Froehlich had to say about developing this project and his advice for how we should implement it in Waltham,” Belding said of the Zoom presentation.

Because of the students’ project, Waltham became the 51st city in the world added to the Project Sidewalk database and the first in New England, joining Chicago, Mexico City, Amsterdam and São Paulo, among others.



A broken sidewalk identified by the students. Courtesy of Project Sidewalk.

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Over the course of the project, the class virtually examined more than 22 miles of Waltham streets, contributing 2,473 labels and 5,025 validations documenting accessibility problems. They also conducted a community survey on sidewalk accessibility with 593 respondents.

They found that while Waltham has curb cuts at many intersections, a number of them are angled incorrectly, directing wheelchair users into the street rather than into the crosswalk.

“It was quite eye-opening,” Hanlon said.

The next step for the class is to present their findings to City Council later this summer.

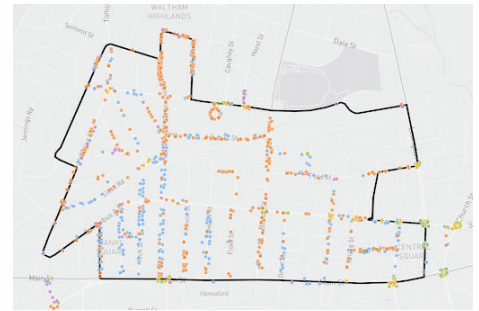
Action civics projects are required for all eighth graders in Massachusetts. At McDevitt this year, 12 projects were submitted. Judges selected five to represent the school at the state event, and Hanlon’s class was among them.

The class learned about their commendation during the final week of school. Each received a personalized letter from DESE Commissioner Pedro Martinez, and their project is now commended on DESE’s website for achievement in research and investigation.

“My favorite part was conducting all the research with my group and presenting our findings to such a diverse audience that included our elected officials,” Johanson said. “It was nice to know that we could cause a change in our community through this project.”

Hanlon said the project was a great way for the students to see the power of their activism, and the vast possibility of the impact they can make. “It was public acknowledgment of the work they did,” he said. “When we talk about action civics, it’s a slow-moving process, and it’s just being involved that’s important.”

The public can contribute to the effort by visiting [Waltham’s page](#) on Project Sidewalk and helping to label and map the city’s streets and accessibility issues, in hopes that more data will help direct municipal action and funding toward safer sidewalks.



An example of a neighborhood the students examined for their project. Each colored dot represents a different accessibility problem: orange for surface problems, blue for obstacles, pink for missing curb ramps, purple for no sidewalk and yellow for marked crosswalk. Courtesy of Project Sidewalk.



Author



LEA ZAHARONI

Lea Zaharoni is a recent graduate of Brandeis University, where she majored in American Studies and Journalism. She spent most of her time at school working as General Manager of the student radio station WBRS 100.1, which broadcasts live 24/7 on Waltham FM radio. She’s also written for Brandeis’ student newspaper, the Justice, as well as the Irish Independent in Dublin and Dig Boston. Lea loves exploring new places in town and returning to old favorites, and counts herself very lucky to be a part of the Waltham community.

Waltham company's shipping container keeps donor organs viable

BY WILLIAM HOLDER • BUSINESS • JUNE 28, 2026



A Waltham company is contributing to significant advances in organ transplantation by revolutionizing a seemingly mundane aspect of the process — the shipping container.

Paragonix Technologies, located at 950 Winter St., has significantly extended the time donor organs can be kept viable outside the body with high-tech containers that keep organs at constant, optimal temperatures, monitor their condition and even run fluid or air through organs to keep them pumping or inflated. As a result, organs that previously would have been discarded are now suitable for use, a boon to patients who sometimes must wait years for surgery.

More than 100,000 people in the United States were waiting for donor organs as of May 2025, according to Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network data.

The Paragonix containers enable donor organs to remain viable for significantly longer than packing in ice, which has typically limited viability to about four hours. Most important for donor heart recipients, this technology has resulted in a 50% reduction in four-year mortality, giving patients a far better chance at long-term survival, according to the company.

“Since the introduction of the SherpaPak in 2019, we’ve seen tremendous adoption across the transplant community,” said Lisa Anderson, president of Paragonix Technologies. “Last year, over 50% of all donor hearts in the U.S. were transported using our system.”

Paragonix has provided container technology for more than 20,000 transplants of hearts, lungs, livers, kidneys and pancreases. In March the company announced the 1,000th kidney transplant using the KidneyVault Portable Renal Perfusion System.



The Paragonix Kidney Vault. Image courtesy of Paragonix Technologies, Inc. All rights reserved.

Anderson said the KidneyVault system addresses “real-world challenges in kidney preservation, and this milestone reflects the collective commitment of the transplant community to continuous innovation in patient care.”

The company described a case in which surgeons declined a kidney at an out-of-state transplant center, and despite this surprise as well as multiple handoffs and two commercial flights, surgeons elsewhere successfully transplanted the kidney into a patient.

Recently, the company has funded a study to assess a new technique developed at the University of Washington that holds promise for significantly increasing the supply of donor hearts. Surgeons have typically used hearts from patients declared brain-dead but have been reluctant to use hearts from patients who died from circulatory failure (severe trauma, for instance). The new technique, which significantly reduces transplant costs, enables surgeons to determine if these hearts are suitable for transplant. Coupled with the Paragonix system, this technique could open a pool of previously unusable hearts and allow some patients to get access to a heart transplant faster.

As recently as seven years ago, Paragonix had 10 full-time employees. That number, according to the Boston Globe, has grown to 180, nearly half of whom work in Massachusetts. In 2024 Paragonix was acquired by Getinge, a Swedish medical technology company.

Privacy concerns persist over Waltham's Flock Safety cameras as Massachusetts passes new consumer data protections

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • GOVERNMENT • JUNE 28, 2026



As Massachusetts moves to strengthen consumer data privacy, officials and advocates continue to weigh who should control the data collected by automated license plate reader cameras in communities such as Waltham.

This past fall the Waltham Police Department contracted with Flock Safety to install 16 automated license plate reader cameras across the city under a two-year \$96,000 agreement. The department [purchased](#) the cameras using funds seized during court proceedings, meaning the purchase did not require City Council approval for financing.

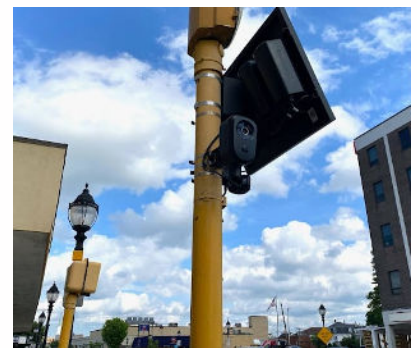
According to the department's transparency [portal](#) through Flock's website, the cameras capture license plate information to assist criminal investigations and alert officers to vehicles associated with ongoing investigations.

On June 4 the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously passed the Massachusetts Consumer Data Privacy Act, which would give residents greater control over their personal data and prohibit the sale of precise geolocation information by companies.

State Rep. Thomas M. Stanley, a Democrat, of Waltham said it remains unclear whether the Consumer Data Privacy Act will apply to automated license plate readers because license plate information is not currently classified as sensitive data.

"It all depends on the final language," he said.

State Rep. Steven Owens, also a Democrat, of Watertown has filed legislation that would limit retention of automated license plate reader, also known as ALPR, data to 14 days while requiring



One of 16 Flock Safety automated license plate reader cameras installed across Waltham stands at the intersection of Main and Prospect streets. Photo by Charlie Johnson.

legal authorization for many searches. He has also proposed another bill allowing municipalities to use automated cameras for traffic enforcement under stricter privacy safeguards.

Massachusetts allows companies to collect location data on every driver through ALPR systems, but it does not allow municipalities to use similar camera technology to enforce many traffic violations.

“We’re in a situation now that is completely backwards,” Owens said. “We create a dragnet of everybody so that we’re watching everybody at all times, but we’re not able to use that same technology to enforce actual offenders.”

Waltham Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan has been a vocal skeptic of the Flock Safety cameras since their inception.

“Before we go using government surveillance, you really need to make sure that it’s absolutely necessary and all safeguards possible are in place,” he said.

Logan has asked the Waltham Law Department to draft a citywide surveillance ordinance. While he said police audits have found no misuse of the cameras, he believes broader safeguards are needed.

ACLU policy counsel Gideon Epstein said police audits often contain vague search reasons such as “investigation,” making it difficult to monitor how the technology is used. He said the larger concern is widespread data sharing between departments without statewide guardrails.

“These vendors encourage local police departments to engage in widespread, often nationwide, data sharing, and that kind of data sharing opens the door for potential abuse,” he said.

The master services agreement states that Waltham retains ownership of the data collected through the Flock Safety system while granting the company a limited license to use anonymized data to improve its products.

Epstein said the larger concern is not ownership but how data is shared. He said Massachusetts, despite having more than 80 police departments using automated license plate readers, remains one of the only New England states without statewide guardrails governing the technology.

Stanley said he hopes to see more consensus-building across the legislature for a hard-nosed posture on protecting data in the commonwealth.

“We’re making strides in protecting private information, and it’s not the end,” he said.

Waltham golden retriever goes viral while bringing neighbors together

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • COMMUNITY • JUNE 28, 2026



Driver, a golden retriever, sits at a front window just off Moody Street watching the world go by and greeting passersby who stop to feed him a treat and hang out.

About a year ago Haley Scott, Driver's owner, taped a "kissing booth" sign to the windowsill and opened the window for anyone who wanted to stop by and say hello.

"It was just something to brighten someone's day," she said.

For months the kissing booth remained a small neighborhood tradition until a few weeks ago when someone posted a photo of Driver in the Waltham Residents Facebook group.

"It just snowballed from there," Scott said.

Driver's Instagram following has grown from about 80 followers to 800 in a matter of weeks. After NBC10 Boston featured Driver, Scott was interviewed by USA Today, while companies began sending treats and other gifts. Scott said people now regularly message Driver's Instagram account asking where to find him.

On Thursday evening Scott opened the window once again. As people strolled down Moody Street, many stopped to greet Driver. One man pulled his car to the curb and walked over for a photo with the golden retriever before continuing on his way.

Scott had just finished a full day meeting with clients as a therapist. She works part time at a community mental health center in Waltham and also runs her own private practice in Lexington.

Driver's eyebrows raised each time someone approached the window. He placed his paws on the windowsill and perked up to receive them.



Haley Scott and her dog, Driver, at the window. Photo by Charlie Johnson.

Scott said Driver often accompanies her to her private therapy practice on Saturdays, where he works primarily with younger clients as a certified therapy dog.

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“He’s very aware of other people’s emotions,” Scott said. “He’ll really pick up on the person’s energy, and he’ll come over and be close to them.”

Scott brought Driver home as an 8-week-old puppy and named him in honor of her late father, a truck driver. Among truck drivers, “Driver” is commonly used as a term of respect. While Scott was in graduate school, her father promised to buy her a puppy once she completed her degree. Her father died suddenly before she graduated, and after commencement her aunt fulfilled his promise by buying Driver for her.

Scott’s upstairs neighbor, Adam Sack, also stopped by Thursday evening after taking Driver and his own dog, Archie, on an outing earlier in the day while Scott was at work.

“They’re definitely best friends,” Sack said. “Archie comes down every night and turns the corner and looks for Haley and Driver and waits patiently by the window.”

On her way home from dinner on Moody Street, Kelly Anson, who lives nearby, stopped to say hi to Driver. Anson’s dining companion had wondered whether the kissing booth might be open, and Anson was excited to find that it was.

“It brings a good sense of community, and makes you feel more welcome, more at home,” she said. “Just nice, lovely vibes.”

As Driver’s popularity has grown, Scott said she hopes visitors will continue to respect the neighborhood by only stopping when the kissing booth is open and by keeping its exact location a surprise.

“There’s something special about finding something unexpectedly,” she said.

School Committee accepts \$132 million from City Council, postpones final vote on administrative positions

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • JUNE 29, 2026



The school committee voted unanimously at a special meeting on June 23 to allocate a \$132,847,897 FY27 budget [approved](#) by City Council last week, though whether the [contested](#) administrative positions will be funded remains an open question.

The committee met specifically to approve a detailed breakdown of the district's full budget, including where each dollar from the total \$132 million would go. It did approve the total sum across four main sections used in the city's bookkeeping system: personnel, operating expenses, equipment and special items. But members said they could not verify the detailed breakdown without the May 29 budget book, which was not provided at the meeting.

"I'm hard pressed to be able to, with what we have here, give the superintendent the appropriate direction," said member Edmund Tarallo.

Assistant superintendent for finance & operations Chad Mazza, who prepared the detailed breakdown, told the committee that despite missing details, the breakdown reflected Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa's strategy.

"This document you have reflects the mayor who gave the funding, the city council who approved the funding, and the superintendent's vision and priorities," Mazza said. Committee members had [expressed](#) in past meetings that they supported Mendonsa's approach to running the district, specifically with regard to creating new administrative positions at Waltham High School.

Mazza confirmed that the personnel section for the high school includes several teaching positions that originally appeared in the mayor's budget, including an ESL coach and three reading teachers. It also included some from Mendonsa's budget, such as an HVAC teacher for the career technical education program.

However, committee members were not comfortable taking a final vote until all the documents aligned with one another.

In a second unanimous vote, the committee asked Mendonsa and her staff to return with a full budget book showing how every dollar is allocated across specific line items, and to make sure it corresponds with the May 29 budget book.

The extent of funding for administrative positions that Mendonsa and the committee members have fought for will only become clear when she returns with the final breakdown.

Mendonsa said she believed the current layout was appropriate but reserved the right to return to the committee if adjustments were needed. McCarthy confirmed that any such transfers would require School Committee approval.

As of press time, the committee has not scheduled an additional special meeting to address the budget. Its first summer session is scheduled for July 9.

Waltham home sales, June 15–18, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	6/15/2026	21-23 Lowell St	\$1,350,000	2/4	3617 sf
	6/15/2026	23 Robbins St Unit 3-1	\$460,000	1/1	630 sf
	6/15/2026	57 Bright St	\$811,000	4/2	1314 sf
	6/18/2026	64 Hillcrest Rd	\$790,000	4/1.5	1470 sf
	6/18/2026	713 South St	\$830,000	3/1.5	1440 sf
	6/18/2026	46 School Ave Unit 1	\$1,010,000	3/2.5	4521 sf

	6/15/2026	249 Robbins St Unit 2	\$1,215,000	5/3	3520 sf
	6/16/2026	115-117 Chestnut St	\$1,600,000	3/4	4407 sf
	6/17/2026	93-95 Riverview Ave	\$1,062,500	2/2	4280 sf
	6/18/2026	10 University Pk	\$870,000	3/2	1830 sf
	6/18/2026	123 Pine Hill Cir	\$920,000	3/1.5	2250 sf
	6/16/2026	20 Whitman Road Unit 2-1	\$430,000		
	6/18/2026	19 Miriam Rd	\$1,155,000		

Events Calendar

June 29-August 2

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

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Teen Pride Month karaoke	30 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pre-sunset yoga fundraiser at Hardy Pond	1 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting 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 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: Soft Touch	8 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	9 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm School Committee meeting 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 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Board of Health meeting 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Yoga at the Rose + 1 More	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: Beatles! All You Need is Uke!	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
27	28 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mercado de verduras Vegetable market	29 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	30 8:00 am - 10:30 pm Movies at the Mansion: 'Jurassic Park'	31	1 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market	2

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The advertisement has a dark blue background with a large, faint clock face. In the top left corner 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. 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 corner is another QR code with the word 'SUBSCRIBE' below it. The bottom right corner has the 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.



P.O. Box 540109 | Waltham, MA 02454

WalthamTimes.org | info@walthamtimes.org